

SOUTHERN RURAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

“Modification and Adaptation in Rural Sociology”



**January 31 – February 3, 2009
Atlanta, Georgia**

**Southern Rural Sociological Association Meeting
January 31 – February 3, 2009**

Westin Peachtree Plaza, Atlanta, GA

“Modification and Adaptation in Rural Sociology”

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**Editor (2006-2009)
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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

8:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.

REGISTRATION

Augusta Balcony (L7)

8:15 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.

SRSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Augusta II

9:45 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Augusta II

Innovative Programs for Rural Areas

Organizer:

Gene Theodori, Sam Houston State University

Using Leadership Development Curricula to Create and Implement Community Level Strategic Planning

Rachael Carter, Mississippi State University Extension

Alan Barefield, Mississippi State University Extension

Rural Studies: Answering the Call to a New Perspective on Community

Tyrie J. Smith, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

PAPER SESSION

Augusta III

Forestry in the Southern Region

Moderator:

Courtney Flint, University of Illinois - Champaign

The Economics of Timber Planting and Harvesting by Small Woodlot Owners

Godfrey Ejimakor, North Carolina A&T State University

Ralphael Okafor, North Carolina A&T State University

Harry Sutton, North Carolina A&T State University

Land Covers, Land Ownership, and Human Well-Being in the Forest-Dependent Counties of the West-Central Region of Alabama

Buddhi Gyawali, Alabama A&M University

Rory Fraser, Alabama A&M University

James Bukenya, Alabama A&M University

John Schelhas, Alabama A&M University
Swagata "Ban" Banerjee, Alabama A&M University

Forest Landowners, Wood and Bioenergy: Preliminary Survey Results from Lee County, Alabama

Ana Luiza de C. Paula, Auburn University

11:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

PAPER SESSION

Augusta II

The Significance of Social Spaces and Places

Moderator:

Douglas Clayton Smith, Western Kentucky University

South Louisiana's Above-Ground Concrete Vault Burials

Gerald T. McNeill, Southeastern Louisiana University

Geophagy: Environmental and Health Implications

Kellen Gilbert, Southeastern Louisiana University

Bonnie Lewis, Southeastern Louisiana University

A "Disadvantaged Class": Ownership Characteristics of Heir Property in a Black Belt County

Janice F. Dyer, Auburn University

Conner Bailey, Auburn University

Nhuong Van Tran, Auburn University

Return Migrants, Stem Families, and Willingness to Stay in Appalachia

Amber Roberts, Western Kentucky University

D. Clayton Smith, Western Kentucky University

Phyllis Puffer, Big Sandy Community and Technical College

Queer(y)ing Rurality: Beyond Metrocentric Constructions of Space and Place

Chris Stapel, University of Kentucky

Natural Resources: Consumption and Conservation Issues

PAPER SESSION

Augusta III

Moderator:

Douglas Constance, Sam Houston State University

Water Planning and Water Conservation in Texas: A Sociological Analysis

Gene Theodori, Sam Houston State University

The Social and Economic Impacts of Consumptive Use in an Agricultural Area: Estimating Water Resources in the Lower Flint River Basin

Donna-May Sakura-Lemessy, Albany State University

Ian Sakura-Lemessy, Albany State University

To Drill or Not to Drill in the Continental Shelf?: An Explanation of Public Perception
Nicole Miller, Sam Houston State University

Levels of Ownership and the Perception of the Energy Industry in the Barnett Shale
Travis Miller, Sam Houston State University

Straight from the Public: Views on Desalination of Oilfield Brine
Mona Avalos, Sam Houston State University

An Empirical Analysis of Gasoline Price Movement in the Southern United States
Fitzroy White, Alabama A&M University
James O. Bukenya, Alabama A&M University

12:30 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.

Lunch (on your own)

1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

PAPER SESSION

Augusta II

Rural Development and Quality of Life

Moderator:

Terrence Thomas, North Carolina A&T State University

A Study of Economic Development Efforts in a Small Rural Mill Town in Louisiana
Bonnie Lewis, Southeastern Louisiana University
Holly Watts, Southeastern Louisiana University
Willis Hawkins, Southeastern Louisiana University
Patrick Legette, Southeastern Louisiana University

Gender Differences in Views Toward Economic Development for a Small Louisiana Community

Holly Watts, Southeastern Louisiana University
Bonnie Lewis, Southeastern Louisiana University
Patrick Legette, Southeastern Louisiana University
Willis Hawkins, Southeastern Louisiana University

Transportation Limitations and Ethno-Racial Change in Tennessee

Sarah E. Hendricks, University of Tennessee – Knoxville
Stephanie A. Bohon, University of Tennessee – Knoxville

Non-Parametric Testing for Wage Convergence in Alabama

Cedric L. Davis, Alabama A&M University
James O. Bukenya, Alabama A&M University

Perceptions of Racial Reconciliation from the Emmett Till Memorial Commission of Tallahatchie County, Mississippi

Alan W. Barton, Delta State University

PAPER SESSION

Augusta III

Adventures in Alternative Agriculture

Moderator:

Keiko Tanaka, University of Kentucky

Assessing the Rural Development Potential of Cellulosic Biofuels in the Rural South

Conner Bailey, Auburn University

Janice Dyer, Auburn University

Larry Teeter, Auburn University

Identifying Potential Organic Producers in Texas: Facilitators and Barriers

Douglas H. Constance, Sam Houston State University

Jin Young Choi, Sam Houston State University

Local Leaders' Knowledge of and Willingness to Support Value-Added Agriculture Enterprises in Alabama

Latravi Brazil, Alabama A&M University

James O. Bukenya, Alabama A&M University

Consumer Perceptions on Value-Added Fruits and Vegetables in North Alabama

Brandi Broughton, Alabama A&M University

James O. Bukenya, Alabama A&M University

3:00 PM – 3:30 P.M.

Southern Rural Sociology Editorial Board

Augusta II

3:30 – 5:00 P.M.

SAAS Opening Session

Vinings I & II

5:00 P.M. - Onward

Reception/ and Super Bowl Party with SAAS

Peachtree Ballroom

Monday February 2

7:45 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

REGISTRATION

Augusta Balcony (L7)

8:00 A.M. – 9:15 A.M.

PAPER SESSION

Augusta II

University Extension: Assessing Programs and Strategies

Moderator:

Brooklyn Anderson, Mississippi State University

Exploring the Access to Social Capital of GGAVATT Participants in Veracruz, Mexico

Sebastian Galindo-Gonzalez, University of Florida

Measuring the Net Benefits of Volunteers in Youth Development Organizations: Results from Florida

Bryan D. Terry, University of Florida

The Influence of Agent/Client Homophily On Client Perceptions About Florida Extension's Quality of Service

Robert Strong, University of Florida

Glenn D. Israel, University of Florida

Obtaining Responses from Extension Clients: Exploring Web and Mail Survey Options

Glenn D. Israel, University of Florida

PAPER SESSION

Augusta III

Rural Community Health Challenges

Moderator:

Amber Roberts, Western Kentucky University

Balancing Work and Health Challenges in Low-Income Rural Families

Patricia Hyjer Dyk, University of Kentucky

Jessica Kropczynski, University of Kentucky

What Are the Risks of Consuming Food Away from Home?

Fisseha Tegegne, Tennessee State University

Surendra Singh, Tennessee State University

Enefiok Ekanem, Tennessee State University

Leslie-Speller Henderson, Tennessee State University

The Importance of Rural Journalism in Promoting Community Health

Laura H. Downey, University of Southern Mississippi

Al Cross, University of Kentucky

National Energy, Local Health: A Community Experience in Coal Mining

Natalie Glynn, Auburn University

9:15 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.

BREAK

Hallway by Augusta II & III

9:30 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.

PAPER SESSION

Augusta II

Crime in Rural America: Challenges and Opportunities

Moderator:

Kellen Gilbert, Southeastern Louisiana University

Methamphetamine Abuse and Treatment in Rural America

Professor Kimora, The City University of New York

The Meth Epidemic: A Descriptive and Comparative Analysis of Response Programs

Terri L. Earnest, Francis Marion University

Lisa A. Eargle, Francis Marion University

An Evaluation of a Rural Work Release Program

Tessie Haynes, Southeastern Louisiana University

Gauging Media Consumption and Fear of Crime: A Comparison of Various Parishes in Louisiana

John Boulahanis, Southeastern Louisiana University

Bonnie Lewis, Southeastern Louisiana University

PAPER SESSION

Augusta III

Sociological Inquiry and Collaboration

Moderator:

Anna Kleiner, Southeastern Louisiana University

Complexity and Systems Thinking: Applications of Social Problem Solving

Terrence Thomas, North Carolina A&T State University

Paula Faulkner, North Carolina A&T State University

Victor Ofori-Boadu, North Carolina A&T State University

A Research Note on Scientific Methodology vs. Sociological Imagination as Craft

George Floro, Sul Ross State University

Collaboration: The View from the Field

Terrence Thomas, North Carolina A&T State University

Benjamin Gray, North Carolina A&T State University

Paula Faulkner, North Carolina A&T State University

Victor Ofori-Boadu, North Carolina A&T State University

Participatory Innovation Development: Adapting Conventional Agricultural Extension and Research Methodology

Marta M. Hartmann, University of Florida

11:15 A.M. – 12:45 P.M.

SRSA LUNCHEON AND PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Augusta I

Modification and Adaptation in Rural Sociology

SRSA President:

Gene Theodori, Sam Houston State University

1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

PAPER SESSION (WITH SAAS)

VININGS ROOM

Biofuels: Prospects and Challenges in Development and Policy

Moderator:

Thomas W. Gray, USDA, Rural Development - Cooperative Programs

Cooperative Approaches for Implementation of Dairy Manure Digesters

Carolyn Liebrand, USDA, Rural Development - Cooperative Programs

K. Charles Ling, USDA, Rural Development - Cooperative Programs

Conflicting Environmental Claims: Analysis of the Discourse Surrounding Biofuels Development

Albert Iaroi, Kansas State University

Gerad Middendorf, Kansas State University

Theresa Selfa, Kansas State University

Biofueling Redevelopment?: Prospects and Challenges at Local and Global Scales

Theresa Selfa, Kansas State University

Uma Sarmistha, Kansas State University

Renewable Energy and the Financial Crisis: Weathering the Storm

Anthony Crooks, USDA, Rural Development - Cooperative Programs

Leveraging Farm Policy History to Understand Biofuels and Trade Dynamics in the 2008 Farm Bill

Nadine Lehrer, Washington State University

POSTER SESSION

Peachtree Balcony (L8)

Public Perception of the Threats to the Quality of Drinking Water in Rural North Carolina

Benjamin Gray, North Carolina A&T State University

Terrence Thomas, North Carolina A&T State University

Ellen Smoak, North Carolina A&T State University

Robert Williamson, North Carolina A&T State University

Marquisa Edmond, North Carolina A&T State University

Leadership for Utilizing Contributions to Passion and Craft

George Floro, Sul Ross State University

“What’s Your Concern About Food?”: Shopper Survey at Five Food Retail Sites in Lexington, Kentucky

Rebecca Som Castellano, University of Kentucky

Niki King, University of Kentucky

Julia Hanna, University of Kentucky
Sarah Hunt, University of Kentucky
Keiko Tanaka, University of Kentucky

Food Safety Behavior: It's More Than Just "Concern"

Michelle R. Worosz, Auburn University

FILM SESSION

Augusta II

Appalachia in the Academy: The Making of Eastern Kentucky Scholars

Chris Stapel, University of Kentucky

2:30 P.M. – 2:45 P.M.

Break

Hallway by Augusta II & III

2:45 P.M.—4:00 P.M.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Augusta II

**Black Belt Regional Studies and Leadership Development:
Preparing Leaders to Make a Difference**

Moderator:

Rosalind Harris, University of Kentucky

Panelists:

Sokoya Finch, Florida Family Network
Veronica Womack, Georgia College and State University
Dreamal Worthen, Florida A&M University

PAPER SESSION

Augusta III

**The Structure of the Agri-Food System:
Local to Global Consequences and Responses**

Moderator:

Glenn Israel, University of Florida

Regional Integration in the Poultry Industry: Tyson Foods and Labor Recruiting

Douglas H. Constance, Sam Houston State University
Travis S. Miller, Sam Houston State University

A Comparison of Conventional and Fair Trade Commodity Chains in the Banana Sector

Mona Avalos, Sam Houston State University
Terry Martin, Sam Houston State University
Nicole Miller, Sam Houston State University
Ben Robertson, Sam Houston State University

A Comparison of Conventional and Fair Trade Commodity Chains in the Coffee Sector

Chuck Collins, Sam Houston State University
Cheryl Hudec, Sam Houston State University
Travis S. Miller, Sam Houston State University
Meredith Ramirez, Sam Houston State University

Cross-Cultural Regulation: An Analysis of Pesticide Regulation in the U.S. and Japan

Elizabeth Ransom, University of Richmond
Josh Huffines, University of Richmond

The Threats and Opportunities of Globalization in Local Agricultural Communities: Case Study in Egypt

Ashraf Ragab EL-Ghannam, Agricultural Research Center, Egypt

The Analytical Study of Food Crisis in Developing Countries: Impact and Recommendations

Ashraf Ragab EL-Ghannam, Agricultural Research Center, Egypt

4:00 P.M.—5:15 P.M.

PAPER SESSION

Augusta II

Disaster Experiences, Outcomes, and Preparedness

Moderator:

Gerald McNeill, Southeastern Louisiana University

“Farming is a Hazardous Way of Life”: Agricultural Disaster Experience and Preparedness in Southern Illinois

Courtney G. Flint, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Lisa Pickert, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Lauren Williams, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Spatial Trends Associated with Hurricane Migration for Mississippi Counties

Brooklyn J. Anderson, Mississippi State University
Darrell L. Fannin, Texas A&M University
Garen K. Evans, Mississippi State University

Food Insecurity Among Families Affected by Hurricane Katrina

Andrew A. Zekeri, Tuskegee University

Rebuilding Lives After Hurricane Katrina

Andrew A. Zekeri, Tuskegee University

Organizational Capacity in the Disaster Context: An Action-Oriented Study of Community-Based Nonprofit Service Providers

Anna M. Kleiner, Southeastern Louisiana University
John J. Green, Delta State University
JoLynn P. Montgomery, University of Michigan
Katie Kerstetter, Delta State University

PAPER SESSION

Augusta III

Learning Essentials of Rural Education

Moderator:

Bonnie Lewis, Southeastern Louisiana University

The Rural Achievement Gap in Mathematics: An Analysis of Two National Probability Samples of High School Seniors

Edward B. Reeves, Morehead State University

Good Food at a Cheaper Price?: The Effectiveness of School Lunch Programs in Rural Schools

Cheryl Hudec, Sam Houston State University

Using Collaborative Learning Groups to Teach Sustainable Development

Alan W. Barton, Delta State University

“Tell Us Your Concerns About Food”: Shopper Survey as an Instructional Tool For a Rural Sociology Course

Keiko Tanaka, University of Kentucky

5:15 P.M — 6:15 P.M

SRSA BUSINESS MEETING

Augusta II

6:15 P.M.

SRSA PRESIDENTIAL RECEPTION

TBA

Tuesday, February 3

8 AM—9:30 AM

REGISTRATION

Augusta Balcony (L7)

8:30 AM —10:15 AM

PAPER SESSION

International Room G

Rural Leadership Development

Moderator:

Ed Reeves, Morehead State University

Past and Present Rural Leadership Development Successes Reflected through Collection of Mississippi Delta Oral Histories

Marna Weston, University of Florida

Glenn Israel, University of Florida

Nicole Stedman, University of Florida
Paul Ortiz, University of Florida

The Influence of Community Leadership Training on Volunteerism: The Results of a Mixed-Method Survey

Joshua J. Turner, Mississippi State University

Understanding Leadership Behavior in Developing Future Community Agricultural Leaders

Bryan Patterson, University of Tennessee

Strategies and Program for Training Local Leaders to Think Globally

Patricia Hyjer Dyk, University of Kentucky
Jessica Kropczynski, University of Kentucky

PAPER SESSION

International Room F

Farm Safety and Security

Moderator:

Thomas Gray, USDA Rural Development

Factors Influencing the Occurrence of Farm Injuries Among Black Farmers in the Southern Coastal Region

Kenrett Y. Jefferson-Moore, North Carolina A&T State University
Ralph Okafor, North Carolina A&T State University
Mohammed Ibrahim, North Carolina A&T State University
Anthony K. Yeboah, North Carolina A&T State University

Collaborating with Farmworkers to Develop New Safety Technology

Paul Monaghan, University of Florida
Sebastian Galindo-Gonzalez, University of Florida
Antonio Tovar, University of Florida
Glenn Israel, University of Florida

Risk Management Needs of Small and Limited Resource Farmers and Ranchers in Alabama

Duncan M. Chembezi, Alabama A&M University
E'licia L. Chaverest, Alabama A&M University

10:30 A.M.—12:00 P.M.

SRSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

International Room F

ABSTRACTS
(Arranged by day/time)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

9:45 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Augusta II

Innovative Programs for Rural Areas

Organizer:

Gene Theodori, Sam Houston State University

Using Leadership Development Curricula to Create and Implement Community Level Strategic Planning

Rachael Carter, Mississippi State University Extension

Alan Barefield, Mississippi State University Extension

Rural communities tend to face two distinct challenges in addressing issues faced by their residents. The first is the lack of an issue-based strategic planning process to identify core issues and develop objectives and strategies designed to confront challenges and exploit opportunities. The second is more systemic. Many rural communities do not have the capacity necessary to develop and/or implement a community-based plan. The Mississippi State University Extension Service (MSUES) has developed a unique combination of leadership development and strategic planning educational modules that have the goal of enhancing the capacity of community residents to develop and implement grass-roots based strategic plans focused on specific community issues. Workshop participants will analyze a specific community issue and participate in a round table discussion regarding the specific educational program components.

Rural Studies: Answering the Call to a New Perspective on Community

Tyrie J. Smith, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

With the changing global economic and energy landscape, the issues of localization and sustainability at the community level are becoming paramount. This is no more evident than in the rural communities of the US, where the “3,000-mile Caesar salad” and the outsourcing of smaller manufacturing jobs are leaving more and more Americans desperate for change. These issues suggest the necessity for a paradigmatic shift in the ways in which we conceptualize our spaces and how we negotiate everything from the daily commute to decisions about what foods to put on our table. It is for this reason that the need for individuals trained in understanding the issues facing rural communities is increasing. Addressing this need, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College has been working over the past year and half towards the creation of an undergraduate rural studies program. In October of this year, the University System of Georgia Board of Regents approved the program, which will begin in the fall of 2009. In this panel discussion, I will outline the program’s mission, structure, and methodology so as to begin a discourse with others in the Southeast as to how we can best serve our students and the communities they represent.

PAPER SESSION

Augusta III

Forestry in the Southern Region

Moderator:

Courtney Flint, University of Illinois - Champaign

The Economics of Timber Planting and Harvesting by Small Woodlot Owners

Godfrey Ejimakor, North Carolina A&T State University
Ralphael Okafor, North Carolina A&T State University
Harry Sutton, North Carolina A&T State University

This study assesses the relation between the logging of woodlots and selected characteristics of woodlot owners. In addition to the economic benefits, there are social benefits that accrue in the form of wildlife habitat and erosion control that woodlots provide as an environmental amenity. However, these social benefits may not be one of the reasons for owning woodlots. This implies that the provision of woodlots may be less than the socially desirable acreage. Small woodlots combine for a sizeable portion of land in many counties. A good understanding of the variables that affect the decision to own and/or log trees from small woodlots will help to prevent unnecessary logging, encouraging replanting of trees on logged lots. This study assesses the impact of owner characteristics on the acres of woodlots logged and the likelihood that a given woodlot owner will log the wood on his/her lot without replanting. The study will be based on data collected from a survey of woodlot owners in seven counties in North Carolina and Virginia.

Land Covers, Land Ownership, and Human Well-Being in the Forest-Dependent Counties of the West-Central Region of Alabama

Buddhi Gyawali, Alabama A&M University
Rory Fraser, Alabama A&M University
James Bukenya, Alabama A&M University
John Schelhas, Alabama A&M University
Swagata "Ban" Banerjee, Alabama A&M University

Forests and agricultural lands dominate Alabama's west-central region. Since the early 1900s, the region has experienced changes in landownership and management and use of agricultural and forestry resources in an effort to engage people effectively in the land-based income earning activities. In this paper, analyses of satellite imagery and U. S. Census data for 1980 and 2000 and landownership data for 2000 are used to understand the relationship between changes in the major indicators of human well-being and land cover types in different landownership types. The preliminary results indicate that human well-being has improved considerably in the areas where rapid changes in land cover types have occurred over the 20 years period. The results also suggest that changes in human well-being varied over space in response to the differences in landownership types, industry structures, and racial and infrastructural attributes.

Forest Landowners, Wood and Bioenergy: Preliminary Survey Results from Lee County, Alabama

Ana Luiza de C. Paula, Auburn University

Based on land capacity and abundance of timberland, the state of Alabama is considered a strong potential source of wood-based bioenergy feedstock in the US. Since, on average, 95 percent of Alabama forest lands are privately owned, forest landowners may actually be the ones to dictate whether wood feedstock is available for energy or not. This paper presents preliminary results of a mail survey to evaluate the conditions under which forest landowners in Lee County, Alabama, would be receptive to making wood biomass feedstock available for energy generation.

11:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

PAPER SESSION

Augusta II

The Significance of Social Spaces and Places

Moderator:

Douglas Clayton Smith, Western Kentucky University

South Louisiana's Above-Ground Concrete Vault Burials

Gerald T. McNeill, Southeastern Louisiana University

South Louisiana is a culturally distinct area of the United States which has incorporated the use of above-ground burials for over two centuries. Many articles and websites write about burials in the southern part of the state, stating that it is a necessity to bury above-ground. Yes, in some low-lying areas of Louisiana, above-ground burials are a necessity, but in most cases, the above-ground burials are a choice. Sometimes the above-ground burials are choices family members have made based on traditions, religious connections, or necessity. Some of the above-ground burials are the family style tombs which are reused time and time again. But, another type of above-ground burial has emerged and is quite popular in rural or small town Louisiana – a simplistic type of burial termed concrete vault burials. You could say the opposite is now occurring, concrete vault above-ground burials are popular in areas of Louisiana where in-ground burials have dominated for long periods of time. This presentation explores these questions: 1) Are there any long-standing cultural or religious connections in choosing these types of burials? 2) Are there any other cultural, ethnic, racial, or socio-economic connections or reasons why above-ground concrete vault burials have become so popular?

Geophagy: Environmental and Health Implications

Kellen Gilbert, Southeastern Louisiana University

Bonnie Lewis, Southeastern Louisiana University

Geophagy, the deliberate consumption of earth or clay, is a common activity among certain African American women in southern regions of the United States. The practice has historical roots in rural southern populations and has medical and nutritional benefits as well as cultural significance. In a field study of residents living adjacent to a toxic waste site in northern Louisiana, we found that one of the activities of adult female residents was to collect clay from or near the site for personal consumption. The reasons the women gave for eating clay varied as did their collection and preparation techniques. The potential health risks and environmental implications of geophagy as practiced in non-rural industrialized environments need to be addressed as individuals continue to engage in this rural-based activity.

A “Disadvantaged Class”: Ownership Characteristics of Heir Property in a Black Belt County

Janice F. Dyer, Auburn University

Conner Bailey, Auburn University

Nhuong Van Tran, Auburn University

Heir property, land held communally by heirs of someone who has died intestate, is subject to economic disadvantages. While there is a substantial amount of literature on the ramifications of court-ordered sales of heir property (mainly in law journals), there is little quantitative evidence of the extent of heir property and potential wealth tied up in clouded titles. This study relies on tax records of self-reported heir property in one Black Belt county in Alabama (Macon). Quantitative analysis of more than 1,500 parcels reveals distinctive characteristics of and significant relationships between ownership variables, including taxpayer location, size and value of land, property improvements, and incorporation. Heir property has been called a “disadvantaged class” of ownership because of the economic and legal burden it places on rural African Americans. A better understanding of the extent and limitations of heir property can inform policies that have far reaching social and political implications.

Return Migrants, Stem Families, and Willingness to Stay in Appalachia

Amber Roberts, Western Kentucky University

D. Clayton Smith, Western Kentucky University

Phyllis Puffer, Big Sandy Community and Technical College

A vast literature exists on migration into and out of the Appalachian region. Work on return migration has focused mainly on economic and family conditions that facilitate individuals return to Appalachia. This research suggests that return migrants will likely be less skilled and in more transitional work. These characteristics may bring individuals back to Appalachia but may also make them more likely to leave again. This study examines a sample of return migrants and their fit with the existing research literature as well as their willingness to stay in Appalachia.

Queer(y)ing Rurality: Beyond Metrocentric Constructions of Space and Place

Chris Stapel, University of Kentucky

This paper elaborates a "metrocentricity" that prevents rural theoreticians from adequately conceptualizing space, and thus, the social processes of rural places. I argue that the metrocentric lenses through which scholars construct the social world result in rurality being defined in terms of dominant urban knowledge claims, including the presence of rigidly bounded rural "others" and the absence of inclusivity. If the rural is defined in terms of exclusion it follows, then, that the authentic (and arguably more inclusive) meanings of such places are lost. To illustrate, this paper examines lay and scholarly discourses of rural sexualities. I suggest that when scholars investigate rural queer social life they impose a metrocentric assumption that it mirrors the urban. As a result unique rural gay experiences are invisible to researchers and valid rural queer knowledge claims remain absent from the literature. In sum, I argue that modernist rural-urban dichotomies necessarily mask the complexities of rural spaces and places.

Natural Resources: Consumption and Conservation Issues

PAPER SESSION

Augusta III

Moderator:

Douglas Constance, Sam Houston State University

Water Planning and Water Conservation in Texas: A Sociological Analysis

Gene Theodori, Sam Houston State University

Water conservation in Texas is becoming a pressing issue as Texas struggles to meet current water demands while preparing for future needs. The population of Texas is expected to roughly double to 46 million by 2060. In the same time period, surface and ground water supplies are expected to decline by 18 percent, leaving a statewide shortage of 8.8 million acre-feet per year. The purpose of this investigation was to examine Texans' attitudes and behaviors on water conservation. Data for this paper were collected in a general population survey from a random sample of individuals in nine of the state's sixteen water planning regions. Two hypotheses were tested: (1) that differences in sociodemographic characteristics exist among individuals with variant positions on water conservation; and (2) that individuals with different positions on water conservation exhibit dissimilar levels of conservation behaviors. Both hypotheses received substantial support. Possible implications of these findings for policy-makers are advanced, as are suggestions for future research.

The Social and Economic Impacts of Consumptive Use in an Agricultural Area: Estimating Water Resources in the Lower Flint River Basin

Donna-May Sakura-Lemessy, Albany State University

Ian Sakura-Lemessy, Albany State University

The purpose of this research is to highlight recent developments in water resource engineering research in order to shed light on a relatively new method to estimate water use patterns in Southwest Georgia and their social and economic implications. The impetus, in part, stemmed from the urgent need for city, state and local authorities to pay more attention to assessing and

evaluating how water needs and usage impact critical hydrological processes in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin. Because agriculture accounts for the largest volume of water used in the Flint River Basin, reliable model estimation of water use is critical to the economic and social well being of communities that lie within proximity of the Flint Basin. We pose questions and policy recommendations that address the interconnectiveness of water resource engineering and social and economic policy research.

To Drill or Not to Drill in the Continental Shelf?: An Explanation of Public Perception

Nicole Miller, Sam Houston State University

The exploration and production of oil and natural gas in environmentally sensitive areas is a timely issue that continues to be debated. One environmentally sensitive area that has been at the center of the debate in this presidential election year is the continental shelf. Congress has restricted access to key parts of the continental shelf since the early 1980s. These governmental regulations inhibiting drilling on the continental shelf were lifted by President George W. Bush in 2008, urging Congress to follow suit. At the same time, environmentally-friendly drilling practices have begun to be implemented more frequently. Using data collected in a general population survey from a random sample of individuals in twelve Texas counties, I empirically examine issues associated with the publics' perception of opening up the continental shelf for exploration and production of oil and natural gas. The findings indicate that while most individuals do not want to see current governmental regulations eliminated, the large majority would like to see them relaxed. Differences in sociodemographic variables were also examined. Possible implications of these findings are proposed, as are suggestions for future research.

Levels of Ownership and the Perception of the Energy Industry in the Barnett Shale

Travis Miller, Sam Houston State University

The United States is almost unique in allowing private citizens to own mineral rights aside from surface rights of property and Texas is no exception. The Barnett Shale presents an unusual circumstance in that it extends below many residential and suburban areas instead of the normally rural environment encountered in oil and natural gas exploration; thus the contradictions of owning surface rights but not mineral rights and vice versa are becoming readily apparent to landowners, energy companies and lawmakers in that area. It is the purpose of this work to determine the correlation between the perception of the energy industry in the Barnett shale area and the ownership of mineral rights. After these are determined, this work will explore the demographic factors behind them. It is my hypothesis that there is a positive correlation between the level of ownership and perception of the energy industry, particularly with regards to mineral rights. The implications of this work include determining just what it means to own mineral rights in the Barnett shale area, determining the best way for those with a commercial interest in mineral rights to interact with prospective customers or surface owners, determining what demographic factors influence the manner in which split ownership disputes are arbitrated, and determining the best way for development to move forward in the Barnett shale area while minimizing negative public reactions.

Straight from the Public: Views on Desalination of Oilfield Brine

Mona Avalos, Sam Houston State University

Data collected in twelve Texas counties were used to replicate and extend previous research on public perception of desalinated water from oil and gas field operations. The data show that a small percentage of respondents were extremely familiar with the process of desalination. The data also reveal that survey respondents were more likely to agree that desalinated water from oil and gas field operations could safely be used for purposes where the likelihood of human and animal ingestion is lessened. Accordingly, a large percentage of respondents disagreed that desalinated water could meet human drinking water standards. Finally, the association between level of familiarity with the process of desalination and the proposed potential uses of desalinated water indicate that as the level of familiarity increased so did respondents' belief that

desalinated water could be safely used for each of the nine proposed purposes. Possible implications of these findings are advanced, as are suggestions for future research.

An Empirical Analysis of Gasoline Price Movement in the Southern United States

Fitzroy White, Alabama A&M University

James O. Bukenya, Alabama A&M University

Gasoline prices remain an important determinant of global economic performance; and given their importance, economists over the years have devoted considerable energy to trying to understand both the factors that play a role in oil price movements and their time series properties. This paper contributes to the literature by investigating the role of oil refineries on the dynamic behavior of oil prices in the southern US states. Particularly, we test the hypothesis that gasoline price movement in US southern states that have oil refineries differ from US southern states that do not have oil refineries. To test this hypothesis, comparable state data covering the period 1970 through 2007 were assembled and analyzed using correlation, regression, and cointegration methods. Overall, the empirical results support a long-term equilibrium relationship between gasoline prices in both states with and with no oil refineries over the studied period.

1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

PAPER SESSION

Augusta II

Rural Development and Quality of Life

Moderator:

Terrence Thomas, North Carolina A&T State University

A Study of Economic Development Efforts in a Small Rural Mill Town in Louisiana

Bonnie Lewis, Southeastern Louisiana University

Holly Watts, Southeastern Louisiana University

Willis Hawkins, Southeastern Louisiana University

Patrick Legette, Southeastern Louisiana University

Many small towns across the country have struggled for some time in their efforts to use economic development to rebuild their once-thriving local economies. This particular small town under study is known for its once-strong paper mill industry. However, the town's poverty now overshadows the strengths the town may have had. In the summer of 2008 representatives from the city, the parish economic development foundation, and their chamber of commerce approached the university's business development center and the social science research center to assist them by conducting an area shopping survey. In October of 2008 a telephone survey was conducted of 363 randomly selected area residents. The purpose of this survey was to find out the extent to which area residents, both inside and outside the city limits, shopped locally. When they did not always shop locally, they were further asked to identify what stores they shopped in elsewhere for 12 commodity areas. They also were asked for general reasons for shopping elsewhere. Lastly, residents were asked in open-ended format what they liked and disliked about the town itself. The purpose of this paper is to analyze what the respondents saw as their likes and dislikes of the town to assist the business sector in their attempts at economic development. Coming from a conflict perspective, it is expected that people who are from impoverished conditions will have qualitatively different views of the community and efforts at revitalization as compared to persons who have greater ability to shop elsewhere. On the other hand, the efforts of the business community—mostly toward improving shopping access—may be seen as a positive effort at improving the quality of the lives of town residents.

Gender Differences in Views Toward Economic Development for a Small Louisiana

Community

Holly Watts, Southeastern Louisiana University
Bonnie Lewis, Southeastern Louisiana University
Patrick Legette, Southeastern Louisiana University
Willis Hawkins, Southeastern Louisiana University

In the summer of 2008, the Southeastern Business Development Center and the Social Science Research Center of Southeastern Louisiana University were approached by a committee of city representatives of a small rural community located in southern Louisiana. The objective of the meeting was to request the assistance of the research center in conducting a survey on shopping habits and on general opinions of those living in the community toward economic development. After working with this committee, a telephone survey was designed to obtain the views of the town's area residents. Between October 2 and October 8, the views of 363 residents were obtained. The purpose of this paper is to examine the views of these residents of the community and relate these views to the efforts of city representatives to strengthen the economy. These views will further be analyzed to see how they differ by gender. Using open-ended responses to the questions: "what do you like about this town" and "what do you see as major problems", it is expected that the different genders will perceive the problems and strengths differently. Several theoretical perspectives will be applied to determine which one/s provide/s a higher degree of salience.

Transportation Limitations and Ethno-Racial Change in Tennessee

Sarah E. Hendricks, University of Tennessee – Knoxville
Stephanie A. Bohon, University of Tennessee – Knoxville

The Tennessee Department of Transportation recently announced the creation of an Intercity Bus Demonstration Program. The program is primarily aimed at filling "existing gaps in service for our rural communities that currently have no intercity connections to the next major city." Communities must compete for these public and private use funds. The announcement of this Program creates a demand for information about the availability of transportation among those living in rural areas of Tennessee. Based on our previous research in Georgia, we hypothesize that the increase in Tennessee's minority population (particularly the increase in Latino immigrants) has led to an increase in the number of households without available transportation. Here we examine the relationship between population composition changes and changes in transportation availability. We also use geographic information analysis to map the availability of personal transportation across counties in Tennessee, particularly as it is linked to the changing racio-ethnic landscape.

Non-Parametric Testing for Wage Convergence in Alabama

Cedric L. Davis, Alabama A&M University
James O. Bukenya, Alabama A&M University

The paper examines the structure and trends in rural wages over the last thirty-five years in Alabama. By defining two groups of U.S. rural counties based on rural-urban location: adjacent counties which are rural counties that border a core metropolitan county; and distant counties which are rural counties bordering only other rural counties, the paper also seeks to utilize wage trends to examine the effect of rural proximity to metropolitan areas. To accomplish this, the paper employs three approaches: correlation analysis, sigma-convergence test, and time series analysis. The empirical results differ across the different approaches, but in general, the findings concur with the conclusions reached by previous studies that the convergence observed in earlier years was replaced by divergence in the later years.

Perceptions of Racial Reconciliation from the Emmett Till Memorial Commission of Tallahatchie County, Mississippi

Alan W. Barton, Delta State University

Rural Tallahatchie County, MS, like other areas of the Southern U.S., has a long history of racial stratification. Conditions in this county gained international attention in 1955, following the kidnapping and murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till, an African American youth visiting from Chicago, and the subsequent acquittal in a Tallahatchie courthouse of the two white men who were responsible. Fifty years later, the County Supervisors created the Emmett Till Memorial Commission, a group of 18 black and white community leaders, to address the racial separation and to develop heritage tourism in the county. Using qualitative techniques, I assess how members of this Commission define “racial reconciliation,” and how divergent definitions affect perceptions of how the Commission is achieving its goal of achieving reconciliation.

PAPER SESSION

Augusta III

Adventures in Alternative Agriculture

Moderator:

Keiko Tanaka, University of Kentucky

Assessing the Rural Development Potential of Cellulosic Biofuels in the Rural South

Conner Bailey, Auburn University

Janice Dyer, Auburn University

Larry Teeter, Auburn University

We explore the rural development implications of producing liquid transportation fuels from cellulosic feedstocks in the southeastern United States, a heavily forested region with over 200 million acres of timberland and an additional 135 million acres in production as grassland pasture and range. Considerable public and private investment is being made in cellulosic biofuels development, with several pilot projects under construction. Now, before the industry is fully established, is the time to start considering the social, economic, and political consequences of a cellulosic biofuels industry. Our paper is the product of an interdisciplinary exploratory study based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data were collected through a “Delphi approach” to utilize the knowledge of expert respondents.

Identifying Potential Organic Producers in Texas: Facilitators and Barriers

Douglas H. Constance, Sam Houston State University

Jin Young Choi, Sam Houston State University

Nationally organic food sector experienced double-digit growth, corresponding to consumers' increasing interest and demand for organic products. However, organic production is lagging behind the demand. The number of certified organic operations, particularly in Texas has remained relatively stagnant. The purpose of this research is to identify the characteristics of conventional producers in Texas, who are interested in adoption of organic farming, and their perceived barriers in organic adoption to provide possible strategies to promote the growth of organic production in Texas. Surveys were mailed to the Texas producers, selected by a disproportionate stratified random sampling method. A total of 871 conventional producers in Texas were included in the analysis. The findings indicated that conventional producers of livestock, dairy, vegetable, and greenhouse are more interested in organic production than crop producers. Conventional producers with less than 5 years of agriculture operation and \$500,000 of annual gross sales had high interest in organic production. Those who plan to expand their operation size within 3 years and who are not satisfied with their current operation were interested in adopting organic farming. The perceived financial viability and profits of organic farming and stability and reliability of organic markets are identified important facilitating factors for interest in organic adoption. The lack of marketing networks, distance to available markets, and uncertainty in obtaining organic price premiums are identified for marketing barriers. Production barriers include availability of organic processing facilities, pest-related production

loss, and high input costs.

Local Leaders' Knowledge of and Willingness to Support Value-Added Agriculture Enterprises in Alabama

Latravi Brazil, Alabama A&M University

James O. Bukenya, Alabama A&M University

Over the past decade, the trend of value-added agriculture has been sweeping the nation. Even though the concept is not new, its applications at the producer level of the agricultural marketing chain have only recently been explored on a large scale. This evolution of agriculture has prompted many states to provide technical and/or financial assistance to individuals, farmer cooperatives, and private industries so that further processing of that state's agricultural commodities would take place before the product left the state's borders. The conventional wisdom is that value-added enterprises can empower communities to create an institutional framework that facilitates wealth creation among smallholder farmers by promoting excellence through knowledge in value addition and investment in rural communities. In Alabama however, efforts to promote these enterprises has been relatively slow. The focus of this paper therefore, was to examine Alabama local leaders' knowledge of value-added agriculture enterprises; and to assess their willingness to attract and support these enterprises in the state.

Consumer Perceptions on Value-Added Fruits and Vegetables in North Alabama

Brandi Broughton, Alabama A&M University

James O. Bukenya, Alabama A&M University

As farmers struggle to find ways to increase farm income, interest in "adding value" to raw agricultural products has grown tremendously. The value of farm products can be increased in endless ways: by cleaning and cooling, packaging, processing, distributing, cooking, combining, churning, culturing, grinding, hulling, extracting, drying, and labeling. This paper analyzed consumer perceptions and their willingness to pay higher prices to purchase value-added fruits and vegetables. The paper is based on a contingent valuation survey data collected from consumers in Huntsville Metropolitan Area in Alabama. The survey results confirmed the existence of strong relationships between household characteristics and the willingness to pay higher prices for high value fruits and vegetables.

Monday, February 2

8:00 A.M. – 9:15 A.M.

PAPER SESSION

Augusta II

University Extension: Assessing Programs and Strategies

Moderator:

Brooklyn Anderson, Mississippi State University

Exploring the Access to Social Capital of GGAVATT Participants in Veracruz, Mexico

Sebastian Galindo-Gonzalez, University of Florida

The GGAVATT (Livestock Groups for Technology Validation and Transference) is a technology transfer program for livestock producers developed in Veracruz, Mexico in the early 1980s. In this Extension program, neighboring farmers get organized into groups of a minimum of 10 participants to receive technical advice from a research institution through a group advisor. Using social constructionism as its theoretical perspective, the present study explores how these farmers co-construct their identities as GGAVATT participants in terms of their access to different

types and forms of social capital. Qualitative data from 17 participants were collected through social interviews in 2007. Three collective stories were extracted from the data. A combination of narrative and discourse analyses was used to interpret these collective stories. Preliminary results have shown the important role that the social interaction within the GGAVATT plays in how its participants build up and access bonding, bridging, and linking types of social capital.

Measuring the Net Benefits of Volunteers in Youth Development Organizations: Results from Florida

Bryan D. Terry, University of Florida

The ability to utilize volunteers to meet an organization's mission, goals and objectives depends upon the effectiveness of the organization to manage, lead and educate volunteers. Given the commitment of time, energy and financial resources, program efforts to support volunteers should be evaluated to similarly to other outreach initiatives. Utilizing a net benefits framework, this study evaluated volunteer programs in Florida (N=67) to assess the net benefits of volunteer involvement. Findings showed that the overwhelming number of volunteer programs in this study had positive net benefits (82%), the net benefits of volunteers for this organization were lower compared to a similar study. Additionally, organizations that empower volunteers in indirect program support roles had as much as a 98% increase in net benefits compared to programs that did not. Finally, the findings provide some support for using the net benefits framework for targeting specific strategies for providing direct services to youth.

The Influence of Agent/Client Homophily On Client Perceptions About Florida Extension's Quality of Service

Robert Strong, University of Florida

Glenn D. Israel, University of Florida

Extension should continually ascertain clientele's satisfaction with their services. In the environment of increased accountability, it is paramount that extension's customers are satisfied with the service being delivered. According to Bonstingl (1992), an organization must first focus on their clients and providers because synergy plays a role between them. Rogers (2003) indicated when agent and client "are alike in personal and social characteristics the communication of new ideas is likely to have greater effects in terms of knowledge gain, attitudes formation and change, and overt behavior change." The purpose of this study was to determine whether agent and client homophily affect perceptions about the quality of service. Using Florida Extension clientele as the study population, we merged survey data from Extension clients who completed a customer satisfaction survey with data on agents' characteristics. A total of 1,466 clients and 157 agents were included in this study. When client's and agent's race were different, there was a small but significant decrease in satisfaction score for service than if their race was the same. Similarly, as the educational difference increased, clients were less likely to be satisfied with the service Extension provided. The findings show the need for strategies to overcome "the problem of heterophily." One strategy is to increase efforts to recruit minority agents. Another strategy is to increase attention in professional development seminars to building skills in teaching clients who different in one or more ways from the agent.

Obtaining Responses from Extension Clients: Exploring Web and Mail Survey Options

Glenn D. Israel, University of Florida

Surveys are an important tool for conducting needs assessment and evaluation studies. Choosing a mode to implement surveys has become difficult given the development of web-based surveys and changes in telephone technologies. Each must grapple with challenges of reaching the intended population, obtaining responses that are representative, and providing accurate data. Thus, important questions are "When can web surveys be used?" and "How does the data differ from those collected by other methods?" These questions are addressed by comparing three modes of delivery: mail only, mail preference with a web option, and web preference with a mail option. Using data from the annual satisfaction survey, I found that

response rates for the mail only and mail preference modes were nearly identical, while the web preference response rate was 10 percentage points lower. Extension clients who responded to the web version of the survey were somewhat younger than those who responded by mail. The former also were two times more likely to have visited FCES' Solutions for your life web site for information. The evidence suggests that researchers and extension professionals should consider how their results might be affected by methodological decisions.

PAPER SESSION

Augusta III

Rural Community Health Challenges

Moderator:

Amber Roberts, Western Kentucky University

Balancing Work and Health Challenges in Low-Income Rural Families

Patricia Hyjer Dyk, University of Kentucky

Jessica Kropczynski, University of Kentucky

Drawing from the NC1011 Rural Families Speak project, a multi-state research project that examines rural, low-income families with children in their individual, familial, and community contexts, this presentation will examine the relationship between mothers' employment status and family health challenges. Using a mixed methods approach with 3-wave family level quantitative and qualitative datasets along with a community level dataset, we examine individual and family health challenges that may serve as barriers to sustained employment for a sample of families from rural Kentucky, Louisiana, West Virginia, Ohio, and Maryland. Change in employment status is defined as a change in employment status across time varying from either employed or unemployed and from employer to employer. Analyses have revealed that the mental and physical health statuses of the mother as well as the other family members along with access to health care services are associated with rural families' economic well-being.

What Are the Risks of Consuming Food Away from Home?

Fisseha Tegegne, Tennessee State University

Surendra Singh, Tennessee State University

Enefiok Ekanem, Tennessee State University

Leslie-Speller Henderson, Tennessee State University

Recent data (USDA, 2007) shows increase in consumption of Food Away from Home (FAFH) among American families. The issue can be examined in relation to the general population or specific group such as the African American community. This paper focuses on the latter group residing in Nashville, Tennessee. Data was collected in the spring of 2008 from consumers with different socio-economic characteristics including age, education, and income using face to face method. Consumers were asked if they are aware that some foods consumed away from home contain excessive fat, calories, sodium etc and if they are aware that consumption of such food can be related to some diseases such as high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes. Majority of the respondents acknowledged the need to change their eating and exercise habits. They underscored the importance of nutrition education, tips and exercise facilities to make the transition. They also indicated the importance of regulations on food consumed away from home.

The Importance of Rural Journalism in Promoting Community Health

Laura H. Downey, University of Southern Mississippi

Al Cross, University of Kentucky

Media, particularly newspapers, have the potential to influence community change in numerous areas, including community health. In an effort to advance our understanding of rural journalism's

role in promoting community health, 22 journalists, editors, or publishers of newspapers that serve rural communities in Mississippi and Kentucky participated in a semi-structured interview between May and July 2008. Themes that emerged from transcript analysis centered on four primary areas of interest: the extent of coverage dedicated to health-related stories, the newspaper representative's perceived role in covering health issues, barriers to covering health related stories, and facilitators that could make health coverage possible. Although most of the participants voiced an interest in covering local health issues, lack of personnel and other resources prevented them from providing such coverage. Partnerships between small-town newspapers and university faculty or students were identified as a way to overcome the obstacles that rural journalists encounter as they seek to give more attention to health issues.

National Energy, Local Health: A Community Experience in Coal Mining

Natalie Glynn, Auburn University

The focus of this research was environmental and human health issues related to coal mining. This qualitative study aimed to explore the local understandings of the differential health effects of surface versus shaft mining in a rural Alabama community. Property owners, citizen activist organizations, county health officials, government agency employees, and Coal Company representatives were interviewed to elicit the residents' and officials' perceptions of divergent health consequences concerning the distinct mining techniques. Snowball sampling and selection based on community activism were used to identify potential interview subjects. Recently proposed mines have been opposed by community members for numerous economic and health related reasons. An examination of the power relations within the community and between the government and community members revealed evidence of disenfranchisement and reliance on community organization to resist external, and often internal, pressures.

9:30 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.

PAPER SESSION

Augusta II

Crime in Rural America: Challenges and Opportunities

Moderator:

Kellen Gilbert, Southeastern Louisiana University

Methamphetamine Abuse and Treatment in Rural America

Professor Kimora, The City University of New York

Methamphetamine is a highly addictive stimulant that can have serious effects on a user's physical, mental, and social health. The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) reports that nearly 12 million Americans have tried methamphetamine. Methamphetamine use as recorded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) National Survey on Drug Use and Health includes prescription preparations and non-prescription/illicit methamphetamine. For the purposes of this paper, the author will concentrate on the implications of illicit rural usage of methamphetamine. The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) reports that increased methamphetamine availability and production is being found in rural areas of the United States. The following avenues to reduce methamphetamine use in rural areas will be explored: cognitive behavioral interventions; as well as child and teen programs, such as high-quality pre-kindergarten, in-home parent coaching, and after-school activities.

The Meth Epidemic: A Descriptive and Comparative Analysis of Response Programs

Terri L. Earnest, Francis Marion University

Lisa A. Eargle, Francis Marion University

This presentation examines the features of programs developed to address the Methamphetamine epidemic. We compare and contrast programs on the following features: (1) program origin (an individual, community groups, or state government); (2) program targets (geographic span; public in general versus specific groups, such as drug users); (3) type and number of organizations involved in the effort; (4) methods used to reach targets (such as public service announcements, educational materials, or enforcement techniques); (5) length of program existence; (6) program location (rural versus urban; USA or another nation); (7) program goals and expected outcomes; (8) program successes, failures, and limitations; and (9) the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the program's operating area.

An Evaluation of a Rural Work Release Program

Tessie Haynes, Southeastern Louisiana University

Work release programs are successful in assisting offenders with making the transition from prison back to the work force. Certain eligible offenders may be admitted into the program from six months to three years prior to their release from incarceration. Offenders are required to work at an approved job and when they are not working, they must return to the work release facilities where they are monitored with shakedowns and random drug screenings. The purpose of this paper was to evaluate the work release program at the Pointe Coupee Parish Detention Center in the rural town of New Roads Louisiana. While the program itself seems to be running efficiently, no program is perfect. A concern of the facilities director is the high turnover rate in the inmates that are admitted into the program and those who actually complete it. Relevant information will be extracted from case records of both the successful and non-successful inmates in order to determine what patterns or similarities there are between the groups. This information will be helpful in determining how to improve the effectiveness of the program. The results will be discussed in the paper.

Gauging Media Consumption and Fear of Crime: A Comparison of Various Parishes in Louisiana

John Boulahanis, Southeastern Louisiana University

Bonnie Lewis, Southeastern Louisiana University

Using a social constructionist framework, this paper gauges public perception and fear of crime among residents in rural parishes of southeastern Louisiana by examining the reporting patterns of the media and their effects on public perception and fear of crime. Specifically, it is argued that the media, through their reporting patterns Post-Katrina and Rita, have socially constructed an atypical image of crime and, as a result, have resonated fear among those subscribing to their claims. It is further argued that the constructed fear has translated into various constraining behaviors and has affected overall quality of life.

PAPER SESSION

Augusta III

Sociological Inquiry and Collaboration

Moderator:

Anna Kleiner, Southeastern Louisiana University

Complexity and Systems Thinking: Applications of Social Problem Solving

Terrence Thomas, North Carolina A&T State University

Paula Faulkner, North Carolina A&T State University

Victor Ofori-Boadu, North Carolina A&T State University

In the post modern world, pressing problems that need our attention are complex; usually meaning that they are multifaceted and require contributions from more than one discipline, and

the involvement of several stakeholders in order to formulate a solution. The literature suggests that collaborative and participative techniques are popular approaches for addressing these problems. This paper seeks to provide a theoretical foundation rooted in complexity and systems thinking that justifies and broadens our understanding of collaborative and participatory approaches as they apply to complex problem solving. The paper concludes with a set of suggestions for guiding the practice of solving complex social problems.

A Research Note on Scientific Methodology vs. Sociological Imagination as Craft

George Floro, Sul Ross State University

The end sought in this inquiry can be to bring these two together to revitalize sociological inquiry, resulting in a more rapid producing of knowledge in the discipline. The paper draws upon participatory and other research studies that give attention to the complexities of what sociologists study. Public Sociology and Participatory Research which move in this direction were featured in the 2008 annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society. Most of the attention in the paper is given to outlining the craft alternative to methodology, since it is less prominent in current guidelines for the discipline. Louis Wirth, known for his urban studies but who thought they should be brought together with rural studies, Jane Addams, Charles Horton Cooley, C. Wright Mills, and Erving Goffman will be featured for penetrating social complexities and making a craftsmanship approach to the experience of social participants. Sociological work should be applied in forms that are applicable.

Collaboration: The View from the Field

Terrence Thomas, North Carolina A&T State University
Benjamin Gray, North Carolina A&T State University
Paula Faulkner, North Carolina A&T State University
Victor Ofori-Boadu, North Carolina A&T State University

The purpose of this study is two fold: first, to present a summary of practitioners' perspectives on the concept of collaborative problem solving; second, to present a qualitative comparison of practitioners' perspectives with the primary themes of collaborative practice reported in the literature. Data for the study were collected from six community-based organizations in east Texas, using the listening session technique. Practitioners reported on the problem situation that prompted groups to initiate collaborative partnerships and the features of collaborative partnerships that produced good working relationships. Although there were similarities with theoretical perspectives reported in the literature, there were some differences concerning, (1) what groups considered important in collaborative partnerships, and (2) the world view that informed their perspectives. Understanding the situation specific nature of collaborative partnerships is crucial, if we are to realize the potential of "collaboratives" to solve complex social problems.

Participatory Innovation Development: Adapting Conventional Agricultural Extension and Research Methodology

Marta M. Hartmann, University of Florida

Participatory innovation development (PID) is an unconventional Extension approach, which promotes an engagement in a process that strengthens the capacities of agricultural services to support community-led initiatives. PID represents an effective tool to help social actors organize themselves to address complex societal issues requiring higher levels of collaboration among stakeholders. It leads participants through an accumulative, interactive, experiential learning process generated by a problem appraisal; which culminates with the identification of potentially useful interventions through collaborative inquiry. The use of this approach in several rural communities domestically and abroad suggests an improvement in the output of agricultural Extension and research; it confirms its relevance and applicability as a methodology, as well as its adaptability to particular contexts. Furthermore, the approach constitutes an effective tool for

capacity building and knowledge empowerment on the part of all stakeholders.

11:15 A.M. – 12:45 P.M.

SRSA LUNCHEON AND PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Augusta I

Modification and Adaptation in Rural Sociology

SRSA President:

Gene Theodori, Sam Houston State University

1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

PAPER SESSION (WITH SAAS)

VININGS ROOM

Biofuels: Prospects and Challenges in Development and Policy

Moderator:

Thomas W. Gray, USDA, Rural Development - Cooperative Programs

Cooperative Approaches for Implementation of Dairy Manure Digesters

Carolyn Liebrand, USDA, Rural Development - Cooperative Programs

K. Charles Ling, USDA, Rural Development - Cooperative Programs

Anaerobic digestion of dairy manure produces biogas that can be captured and used for fuel while offering environmental benefits. Dairy farmer use of anaerobic digesters is not widespread due to challenges such as electricity rates and interconnection issues, system design flaws, limited number of digester providers and lack of information, additional time and skill required to manage the digester adequately, lack of ability to capture value from byproduct use or sale, high installation cost and/or difficulties in obtaining financing and/or funding. A cooperative approach may facilitate adoption of anaerobic digesters by lowering installation and operating costs, increasing returns from energy and byproduct sales, or both, while allowing milk producers to remain focused on milk production.

Conflicting Environmental Claims: Analysis of the Discourse Surrounding Biofuels Development

Albert Iaroi, Kansas State University

Gerad Middendorf, Kansas State University

Theresa Selfa, Kansas State University

Around the year 2000, low crude oil and natural gas prices, among other factors, lead to significant unemployment, out-migration, and tax revenue losses in Russell, a community of about 4,000 in central Kansas. The prospect of the construction of a modern ethanol bio-refinery promised to bring jobs and economic vitality to the community. Not surprisingly, this also generated significant interest in the local and regional media, which extensively covered the establishment of the plant and the regional biofuels industry over the past eight years. This paper examines the press coverage of the establishment of the ethanol plant in Russell and the development of the biofuels industry in the region. The approach is a content analysis of articles from two key regional newspapers – *The Hays Daily News* and *The Salina Journal*. Of particular interest is the framing of environmental claims for biofuels development.

Biofueling Redevelopment?: Prospects and Challenges at Local and Global Scales

Theresa Selfa, Kansas State University
Uma Sarmistha, Kansas State University

In addition to contributing to 'energy independence', one of the primary claims made in support of the recent growth of biofuels is its potential to revitalize declining rural communities in the developed world as well as bring new economic opportunities to poor rural communities in the developing world. The bioeconomy is driving high commodity prices and the expansion of biomass acreage in many rural regions of the US. This paper compares and assesses the rural development claims in both developing and industrialized country contexts through analysis of the policy documents, as well as through an in-depth case study of one rural community in Kansas, which draws on in-depth interviews, focus groups and a community survey.

Renewable Energy and the Financial Crisis: Weathering the Storm

Anthony Crooks, USDA, Rural Development - Cooperative Programs

It is pretty cold out there! Frozen credit markets and oil prices have created significant challenges for the economy as a whole and particularly so for renewable energy projects. Capital is scarce. Among banks that have money, the debate is about how to allocate what is available among sectors. But most banks are experiencing difficulty in finding capital to lend. The nine largest banks lost a total of \$323 billion over the last 18 months. In general, markets are in retraction toward stronger credit profiles and higher credit pricing to allow lenders to recover their costs of capital. The dirty little secret about the credit markets is not that primary lenders refuse to lend, but that buyers are demanding huge risk premiums in the secondary market. Among the biofuels refineries the bubble seems to have burst. The once farmer-owned biorefineries are now publicly-traded at well under two dollars a share (down from \$30-\$40 openings). And their financial challenges are mounting far beyond their equity losses. Biofuels refineries require significant amounts of operating capital which typically is borrowed 6-12 months in advance. And while many projects are continue to earn positive margins even as oil and ethanol prices are in decline, their working capital requirements are putting added pressure on both refinery and lender. On a brighter note, the election of President elect Obama has settled for now the debate about which US biofuels policy will be going forward. And the massive Wall Street rescue package signed by President Bush in October included significant tax incentives for renewable energy. So while the new Congress and Administration appear doubly committed to the long term growth and viability of the nation's renewable energy portfolio, surviving the near-term uncertainties of our financial winter of discontent may prove to be the individual firm's most formidable challenge. This presentation intends to explore the array of economic, financial, and institutional challenges and opportunities that beset the renewable energy sector as it endures to brighter days.

Leveraging Farm Policy History to Understand Biofuels and Trade Dynamics in the 2008 Farm Bill

Nadine Lehrer, Washington State University

Agricultural policy has changed incrementally over time; however, a few Farm Bills have produced dramatic changes. This raises two questions: What factors would cause policy to change one year and much less another year? And can understanding historical change drivers help groups advocate future policy change? This paper looks to farm policy history for Farm Bills that have produced moments of rapid change and asks why – what contexts, group strategies, frames, ideologies, and interactions combined to make change possible? This analysis finds that while difficult to isolate drivers consistently favoring change or stability, a unique ever-changing combination of interacting drivers can make for or inhibit change at a particular moment in time. This historical understanding of farm policy is used to understand reform efforts for the 2008 Farm Bill arising with trade pressures and receding with the biofuels boom, and provides a base for assessing future farm policy reform prospects.

POSTER SESSION

Peachtree Balcony (L8)

Public Perception of the Threats to the Quality of Drinking Water in Rural North Carolina

Benjamin Gray, North Carolina A&T State University

Terrence Thomas, North Carolina A&T State University

Ellen Smoak, North Carolina A&T State University

Robert Williamson, North Carolina A&T State University

Marquisa Edmond, North Carolina A&T State University

The purpose of this study was to explore rural residents' perceptions of their drinking water and expose potential threats to the quality of drinking water supplies. Increasing rural residents' awareness of water quality will improve their overall quality of life by uncovering potential hazards and other determining factors of a healthy and safe lifestyle. This study involved a telephone survey with a random sample of 250 adults residing in households in 39 rural counties in eastern North Carolina. The findings of this exploratory study indicated that age has the most impact on the perception of water quality, while education and income have slightly less significant impacts. Hazardous waste landfills were found to be the most hazardous to the drinking water of rural residents. Respondents rated perceived threats to the quality of drinking water at different levels when analyzed by the demographic variables used in this study.

Leadership for Utilizing Contributions to Passion and Craft

George Floro, Sul Ross State University

This poster was first accepted for presentation at the IGA conference in Queretaro, Mexico on August 31, 2008-September 4. The second exhibit was at a meeting of its sponsor Big Bend People & Goats. The third exhibit occurred at the Wisconsin Sociological Association meeting at Rockford, Illinois. An additional objective in this fourth exhibit of the poster is to increase its outreach to viewers. Challenge to do this came from disappointment at the first attempt. The poster was lost on the way to the 9th International Goat Conference in Mexico. What was presented in its place was a synopsis offered to visitors as a handout. The poster was replaced for a series of other presentations. A second handout, identified as a review, had been prepared for both the second and third scheduled exhibits. A third handout will be added for the fourth presentation. Covered will be a review of its outreach features: an odyssey approach to inquiry showing discoveries, making copies available through the internet when requested, restating characteristics of "participatory research" such as forms of collaboration between experts and producers, respect for producers, and proposing different sources of these in agriculture within developing and overdeveloped societies.

"What's Your Concern About Food?": Shopper Survey at Five Food Retail Sites in Lexington, Kentucky

Rebecca Som Castellano, University of Kentucky

Niki King, University of Kentucky

Julia Hanna, University of Kentucky

Sarah Hunt, University of Kentucky

Keiko Tanaka, University of Kentucky

As part of the course project in *SOC 517: Rural Sociology* at the University of Kentucky, a shopper survey was conducted in the first two weekends of October to investigate what concerns residents in Lexington, KY have about food and what they see as positive and negative aspects of the existing food system. Total 332 survey questionnaires were collected at five sites, including two sites of Lexington Farmers Markets, two Wal-Mart Supercenters, and Good Foods Market & Café (a member owned food cooperative). This paper discusses key findings from this survey. The first section briefly discusses key characteristics of Lexington, followed by a section on the survey design. Third, we present overall findings, and then compare differences in food concerns among shoppers by shopping site and socioeconomic background. The paper concludes with suggestions for changes in the survey design and recommendations for a proposal to create a food policy council in Lexington.

Food Safety Behavior: It's More Than Just "Concern"

Michelle R. Worosz, Auburn University

While studies show consumers to be increasingly concerned about food safety, they also find that many consumers fail to use the recommended handling, cooking, and storage practices that would reduce the likelihood of contamination. One explanation for this discrepancy is that consumers' views have not been fully captured in previous research using closed-ended questions. This research is based on an open-ended question, "*what comes to mind when you hear the term food safety,*" from a national telephone survey of U.S. adults (n=1,013). These data suggest that consumers view food safety as a range of (a) behaviors that prevent disease, (b) agents that cause disease, (c) actors responsible for thwarting disease, (d) consequences of disease, (e) vectors and vehicles that transmit disease, and (f) diet and nutritional issues that may lead to disease. Socio-demographic characteristics had the greatest influence on respondents' conceptualization of food safety.

FILM SESSION

Augusta II

Appalachia in the Academy: The Making of Eastern Kentucky Scholars

Chris Stapel, University of Kentucky

This film is a look at the experiences of three Appalachian students during their first year at the University of Kentucky, where they face unique challenges, and ultimately, successes. The documentary shares their histories, expectations, goals, and fears as well as those of their families and communities. Topics of family, community, education, religion and sexuality are explored. A KET Fund for Independent Production.

2:45 P.M—4:00 P.M.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Augusta II

Black Belt Regional Studies and Leadership Development: Preparing Leaders to Make a Difference

Moderator:

Rosalind Harris, University of Kentucky

Panelists:

Sokoya Finch, Florida Family Network

Veronica Womack, Georgia College and State University

Dreamal Worthen, Florida A&M University

This session builds upon the discussions of scholars and activists working together over the last four years to strengthen community-university partnerships for change within the Black Belt region. It will focus on strategies designed to enhance the capacities of the region's higher learning institutions in preparing a critical mass of leaders to skillfully examine the historical background, cultures and the current social, economic and political realities of the region in tandem with community-building research emphasizing viable, co-equal partnerships between students, scholar-researchers, and community-based participants.

PAPER SESSION

Augusta III

The Structure of the Agri-Food System:

Local to Global Consequences and Responses

Moderator:

Glenn Israel, University of Florida

Regional Integration in the Poultry Industry: Tyson Foods and Labor Recruiting

Douglas H. Constance, Sam Houston State University

Travis S. Miller, Sam Houston State University

The structure of the poultry industry as developed in the US South in the 1950s is advanced as the model of global agro-industrialization. The poultry industry in North America is characterized by increasing regional integration post-NAFTA. Not only are corporations such as Tyson and Pilgrim's Pride extending their influence in Mexico, but Hispanic labor has become the primary source of workers for the processing plants in the North. As northern capital flows South, southern labor flows North. In this paper we document this phenomenon in general and then focus on the case of Tyson Foods. Tyson Foods was recently involved in a lawsuit in which it was charged with illegally recruiting workers from Mexico to staff some of its poultry processing plants in the US. The case is analyzed using the concepts of global sourcing and the informalization of labor as part of the globalization project.

A Comparison of Conventional and Fair Trade Commodity Chains in the Banana Sector

Mona Avalos, Sam Houston State University

Terry Martin, Sam Houston State University

Nicole Miller, Sam Houston State University

Ben Robertson, Sam Houston State University

Commodity chains are a frequently used approach to study the creation and extraction of value in agrifood systems. Recently, Fair Trade commodity chains have been advanced as a positive alternative to conventional commodity chains dominated by transnational corporations. In this research we compare a conventional commodity chain to a Fair Trade commodity chain focusing on the banana sector. Chiquita bananas is used as the exemplar of the conventional commodity chain and Co-op America bananas is the exemplar of the Fair Trade chain.

A Comparison of Conventional and Fair Trade Commodity Chains in the Coffee Sector

Chuck Collins, Sam Houston State University

Cheryl Hudec, Sam Houston State University

Travis S. Miller, Sam Houston State University

Meredith Ramirez, Sam Houston State University

Commodity chains are a frequently used approach to study the creation and extraction of value in agrifood systems. Recently, Fair Trade commodity chains have been advanced as a positive alternative to conventional commodity chains dominated by transnational corporations. In this research we compare a conventional commodity chain to a Fair Trade commodity chain focusing on the coffee sector. Folgers Coffee is used as the exemplar of the conventional commodity chain and Starbucks Ethiopian Sidamo Coffee is the exemplar of the Fair Trade chain.

Cross-Cultural Regulation: An Analysis of Pesticide Regulation in the U.S. and Japan

Elizabeth Ransom, University of Richmond

Josh Huffines, University of Richmond

Pesticides have been a mainstay in industrial agriculture since the 1960s, yet the harmonization of pesticide regulation between developed nations has been the source of significant controversy over the past half century. As recently as 2006, Japan implemented a new regulatory policy for agricultural chemicals that is vastly different from the United States' method of regulation. Through an analysis of two Japanese and two United States newspapers over a ten year period (1998-2008), this work examines how Japan and the United States differ in their discussion and

approach to regulating pesticides, specifically focusing on the differences in scientific, economic and cultural discourses related to pesticides. Our findings demonstrate that Japanese consumers play a much more active role in the conversation surrounding pesticide regulations, while the food industry and the government are much more involved in framing pesticide debates in the United States. In an effort to explain the different regulatory patterns between these two nations, we conclude our study with a discussion of the agri-food landscape and the differing cultural values of the two countries and the ways this shapes national discourse related to pesticide regulation. The results of the research provide an analysis of the intersection of ethics and science based government regulation. Our work can provide a framework for considering the ways in which these two nations will most likely differ in their regulatory approaches to future agrifood technologies, such as nanotechnology.

The Threats and Opportunities of Globalization in Local Agricultural Communities: Case Study in Egypt

Ashraf Ragab EL-Ghannam, Agricultural Research Center, Egypt

Globalization is the growing integration of economies and societies around the world. It is an inevitable phenomenon in human history, But over the last decades, the pace of this global integration has become much faster. The objective of study is: to identify the effects of threats and the benefits of globalization on local agricultural communities. The study will answer the questions about where are we today. And what can we do? The answer of these questions includes possible solutions to avoid the effects of globalization. For method technique, the study will select some rural areas from Egypt. Secondary data were collected from available various sources. Frequencies and percentages are used as descriptive measures. Estimate the amount of threats and opportunities of globalization will be made by using regression analysis. The results will support interpretations and explanations of globalization. Also, it provide a potential framework for how to work with people, groups, and organization to avoid the globalization effects.

The Analytical Study of Food Crisis in Developing Countries: Impact and Recommendations

Ashraf Ragab EL-Ghannam, Agricultural Research Center, Egypt

The world is experiencing a dramatic increase in food prices. Although the food market situation differs from country to country and future evolution remains highly uncertain, best projections suggest that food crisis are likely to remain high in the next few years and are expected to affect most developing countries. The objectives of this study are to: identify the reasons of food crisis around the world and specifically in developing countries, identify the impact and recommendations of food crisis in developing countries. The study will deal and discuss the causes and consequences of the food crisis and conclude the possible actions to avoid it. For sampling technique, the study will select some developing countries that have available data about food crisis, especially from FAO organization data. The statistical methods will use are frequencies, percentages, and correlation coefficients. The results will provide some short and long term policy options to help mitigate the negative impacts of food crisis.

4:00 P.M—5:15 P.M.

PAPER SESSION

Augusta II

Disaster Experiences, Outcomes, and Preparedness

Moderator:

Gerald McNeill, Southeastern Louisiana University

“Farming is a Hazardous Way of Life”: Agricultural Disaster Experience and Preparedness in Southern Illinois

Courtney G. Flint, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Lisa Pickert, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Lauren Williams, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The agricultural sector is particularly vulnerable and exposed to the impacts of hazard events and risks inherent in changing environments, social dynamics, and economic conditions. Yet, there is a culture of self-reliance and mutual assistance among farmers that can influence local capacity to mitigate risk and respond to emergencies. This paper describes a study of the disaster experiences and preparedness efforts of farmers in Southern Illinois. In –depth interviews with 36 farmers from various types of production and farm sizes were conducted in summer 2008. Results revealed a broad interpretation of the meaning of “disaster” among farmers. There was a sense that Southern Illinois farmers were generally “on their own” in terms of disaster preparedness and that informal activities, planning, and connections were more influential than formal emergency preparedness efforts. A regional field theory perspective is used to interpret findings and outline a potential framework for promoting greater disaster resiliency among farmers.

Spatial Trends Associated with Hurricane Migration for Mississippi Counties

Brooklyn J. Anderson, Mississippi State University

Darrell L. Fannin, Texas A&M University

Garen K. Evans, Mississippi State University

While population migration has been studied by academic researchers for several decades, few studies have explored the spatial and directional migration trends associated with natural disasters, such as hurricanes. This paper uses Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to map migration trends for Mississippi counties, between 1983 and 2005, based on migration data obtained from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Because these data are collected and recorded on an annual basis, they allow for the identification of population shifts associated with Hurricane Katrina. Implications of both net and gross migration rates for rural Mississippi counties are discussed, and future research directions are proposed.

Rebuilding Lives After Hurricane Katrina

Andrew A. Zekeri, Tuskegee University

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall along the coasts of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. In Katrina's aftermath, the lives of thousands if not millions of families and communities along the Gulf Coast have forever been changed. The devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina left hundreds of thousands of families without food, water, shelter, clothing and medical supplies. The humanitarian effort after the disaster was tremendous and the outpouring of donations and support were great. However, after three years, many of those whose lives have been forever changed by Hurricane Katrina continue to face enormous obstacles. This paper examines what some people affected by the hurricane are doing in rebuilding their lives.

Food Insecurity Among Families Affected by Hurricane Katrina

Andrew A. Zekeri, Tuskegee University

The purpose of this paper is to report data on food insecurity (lack of access at all times, due to insufficient funds to purchase enough food to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle) among families affected by Hurricane Katrina. Though studies have found that food insecurity is a significant and ongoing problem in the United States, little is known about the food status of those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Organizational Capacity in the Disaster Context: An Action-Oriented Study of Community-Based Nonprofit Service Providers

Anna M. Kleiner, Southeastern Louisiana University
John J. Green, Delta State University
JoLynn P. Montgomery, University of Michigan
Katie Kerstetter, Delta State University

The physical, social and economic damage caused by Hurricane Katrina required collective action from the state, economy and civil society. The disaster also challenged the ability of local nonprofit organizations to meet people's immediate and long-term needs. These service providers have had to evaluate internal and external organizational issues, such as increased demand for services, limited resources, and vulnerability to future crises. Informed by a combined livelihoods and organizational capacity conceptual model, this paper describes the experiences, challenges, and recommendations of nonprofit service providers operating on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and in Louisiana. It is based on community-level "participatory" action research strategies that we implemented in this region. Also assessed are the capacity development strategies employed by five specific groups in the post-Katrina context. The paper concludes with insights on how organizations can become more responsive and expand their access to resources.

PAPER SESSION

Augusta III

Learning Essentials of Rural Education

Moderator:

Bonnie Lewis, Southeastern Louisiana University

The Rural Achievement Gap in Mathematics: An Analysis of Two National Probability Samples of High School Seniors

Edward B. Reeves, Morehead State University

This paper explores the spatial inequality of mathematics achievement in American high schools. Achievement in math is strongly linked to postsecondary educational success and therefore to adult status attainment. Roscigno and Crowley (2001) developed and tested a theory of rural educational inequality. The present study tests an extension of this theory using the NELS 1992 and ELS 2004 cohorts of high school seniors. I examine how student demographics, private school attendance, family resources, and opportunity to learn in advanced math courses account for the geographic differences in mathematics achievement. The analysis is unusual in that it examines achievement across the distribution of math test scores, and not only at the mean. The analysis also tests for moderating and mediating effects of the predictor variables on math achievement scores. The findings suggest the rural math achievement gap can be substantially narrowed, or even closed, with school-related policies and strategies that enhance the opportunity to learn.

Good Food at a Cheaper Price?: The Effectiveness of School Lunch Programs in Rural Schools

Cheryl Hudec, Sam Houston State University

Rural areas are much more likely to possess the conditions that encourage reliance on food insecurity programs including School Lunch Programs. At the same time, the USDA is promoting programs to counter poor nutrition within the school systems. Most affected by these programs are children, more specifically and especially, rural children. Although there is great praise among implementers for the effectiveness of these programs, the gossip among students, parents, and teachers yields that these school lunches are highly unappetizing and sometimes even inedible. Policy makers are aware of the nutritional problems faced by children today, as reflected in the programs that they have implemented. However, if rural children are so highly affected by the problems of food insecurity and poor nutrition, should it not be of concern that these children actually consume the food that is suppose to improve their health? This paper examines the efficacy of these school lunch programs utilizing small surveys issued to the

student body and faculty within rural schools in Texas.

Using Collaborative Learning Groups to Teach Sustainable Development

Alan W. Barton, Delta State University

Collaborative Learning Groups provide a means of engaging students in learning through active participation in a variety of learning activities with other class members throughout the semester. I discuss how I used Collaborative Learning Groups in a course on Sustainable Development during Fall semester, 2008. Students participated in a semester-long project as members of groups that represented different perspectives on sustainable development. I assess how students perceived the overall project, its various components, and how the project encouraged engagement in the course material.

“Tell Us Your Concerns About Food”: Shopper Survey as an Instructional Tool For a Rural Sociology Course

Keiko Tanaka, University of Kentucky

SOC 517: Rural Sociology at the University of Kentucky is designed to help advanced undergraduate and graduate students survey rural sociology as an intellectual field within sociology as well as an institution for social change. This is the third time that *Lexington Community Food Assessment* is used as a course project for the instructor and students to apply sociological perspectives and tools to examine, understand, and address a “social problem” in our own community. This year, 15 students (10 undergraduate and 6 graduate students) carried out the survey of shoppers at five sites in Lexington and semi-structured interviews with community leaders. This paper discusses merits and limitations in using a course project surrounding a food security issue as an instructional and learning tool in a Rural Sociology course.

5:15 P.M — 6:15 P.M

SRSA BUSINESS MEETING

Augusta II

6:15 P.M.

SRSA PRESIDENTIAL RECEPTION

TBA

Tuesday, February 3

8:30 AM —10:15 AM

PAPER SESSION

International Room G

Rural Leadership Development

Moderator:

Ed Reeves, Morehead State University

Past and Present Rural Leadership Development Successes Reflected through Collection of Mississippi Delta Oral Histories

Marna Weston, University of Florida

Glenn Israel, University of Florida

Nicole Stedman, University of Florida

Paul Ortiz, University of Florida

A University of Florida Oral History research group visited Indianola, Mississippi (September 11-13, 2008) to record narratives from veterans of the Council of Federated Organization's (COFO) activities in Mississippi during the 1960's. The group traveled to Mississippi to learn how personal leadership was influenced by 1960's COFO civil rights experiences in the Mississippi Delta. COFO founded "Freedom Schools" or grassroots voter registration and literacy programs in Mississippi Delta communities. Through "Freedom Schools," a reciprocal process of education and advocacy emerged between locals and COFO volunteers. While supporting "Freedom Schools" COFO volunteers lived in, and became members of local communities. Veterans report after they left Mississippi, their lives remained framed within the context of their COFO experiences. Our research found that social interactions, including living among local people, and shared learning experiences, affected the development of further personal leadership strategies, in addition to promoting social change.

The Influence of Community Leadership Training on Volunteerism: The Results of a Mixed-Method Survey

Joshua J. Turner, Mississippi State University

Graduates of a community leadership program delivered to 21 rural South Dakota communities were surveyed on whether they believed the program met its intended goals and if the perceived outcomes of the program were associated with increases in volunteerism. Applying the social practice perspective to guide analyses, preliminary results from the quantitative section of the survey instrument indicate that perceived community progress, perceived increase in community awareness, and perceived increase in leadership skills were, at varying degrees, all positively associated with an increase in volunteerism. Results from the qualitative section of the survey instrument will also be visited.

Understanding Leadership Behavior in Developing Future Community Agricultural Leaders

Bryan Patterson, University of Tennessee

Agricultural leaders have traditionally played an important role in most rural communities and industries. With the agricultural field becoming more specialized and increasingly challenged, the need for leadership is greater today more than ever before (Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership, 2006). Beyond the agricultural industry, many agricultural communities also are being challenged. Many of the traditional agricultural communities are experiencing a decline in community development activities as compared to their urban counterparts (W.K. Kellogg Foundation, 2004). Thus there is a need for leadership, not just in agriculture, but throughout rural America as it competes in the global market place. Businesses and nonprofit organizations are finding it difficult to fill leadership positions due to a lack of properly trained leaders. Without capable leaders, agricultural firms and community organizations are prone to decay and failure (Hustedde, 1996). This study utilized quantitative measures to identify leadership behaviors of undergraduate College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) students at the University of Florida in Gainesville to examine the relationship between the students' past and present leadership experiences in relationship to their community leadership behavior. This study will examine how demographic variables are predictors of leadership behaviors of CALs students. It also examines gaps between CALs students' community leadership experiences and self-perceived leadership behaviors.

Strategies and Program for Training Local Leaders to Think Globally

Patricia Hyjer Dyk, University of Kentucky
Jessica Kropczynski, University of Kentucky

Some community-based leadership programs are refocusing efforts to prepare participants to not only be effective leaders in their local context but be equipped to position their communities in the global sphere. To gain a clearer idea of the programs and strategies being implemented, a

survey of community-based leadership training programs across the Southern region was conducted. Program leaders indicated whether their programs trained leaders to a) be globally aware, b) see the connection that what is done in their local community can have a global impact, and/or c) addressed the issue of globally branding their community/region as an economic development strategy? Findings from the study and implications for leadership and community development will be discussed.

PAPER SESSION

International F

Farm Safety and Security

Moderator:

Thomas Gray, USDA Rural Development

Factors Influencing the Occurrence of Farm Injuries Among Black Farmers in the Southern Coastal Region

Kenrett Y. Jefferson-Moore, North Carolina A&T State University
Ralph Okafor, North Carolina A&T State University
Mohammed Ibrahim, North Carolina A&T State University
Anthony K. Yeboah, North Carolina A&T State University

There has been limited information about the degree to which farm injuries occur among Black farmers in the South. In an effort to better understand the occurrence of farm injuries of Blacks in the Southern Coastal Region of the United States, a multi-state (VA, NC, SC, GA, AL, MS, and FL) study explore health and safety concerns of Black farmers. The objective of this study is to identify factors influencing the occurrence of farm injuries among Black farmers in the selected region using odd-ratios. Data were obtained through a representative sample of 1,005 Black farmers located in selected region identified for the study. Preliminary results indicate that an average farmer is 59 years of age, tends to be male, and has good health (although cholesterol and arthritis problems are present). Cuts tend to be the highest injury type among these farmers, followed by injuries caused by tractor and/or implements.

Collaborating with Farmworkers to Develop New Safety Technology

Paul Monaghan, University of Florida
Sebastian Galindo-Gonzalez, University of Florida
Antonio Tovar, University of Florida
Glenn Israel, University of Florida

Designing and evaluating technologies and programs to improve agricultural safety is difficult for farmworker populations due to the physical demands of harvesting, the crew leader system, the lack of regulatory oversight and cultural and legal barriers to reporting safety violations and increasing the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). An innovative camp health aide program was developed to reduce eye injuries among citrus workers in Florida and convince them to voluntarily adopt safety eyewear. An evaluation of the program in 2007 concluded that workers complained of increased sweat and fogging from safety glasses. This paper will describe three studies conducted with workers in the field to evaluate safety eyewear technology and the problems of heat and fogging. This includes a qualitative assessment of eyewear styles and a systematic observation of resistance to fogging using different types of lens coatings. We conclude with lessons learned from educational and behavioral approaches, the limits of appropriate technology and the need for collaboration with farmworkers to address the complex issues of agricultural safety.

Risk Management Needs of Small and Limited Resource Farmers and Ranchers in Alabama

Duncan M. Chembezi, Alabama A&M University
E'licia L. Chaverest, Alabama A&M University

Agricultural risk management is increasingly becoming a key issue for farmers and ranchers and continues to attract or receive significant political attention. Much of the research in this area has been oriented towards commercial agriculture (large farmers and ranchers). There is critical need for more research on understanding how small and limited resource farmers and ranchers, especially in underserved communities, make decisions under uncertain economic and market conditions. This type of information is necessary to better understand these producers' goals and motivations, and to focus educational programs directed toward their needs. This paper provides selected preliminary summary statistics from a survey of small and limited resource farmers and ranchers in Alabama. The results are based on a needs-assessment risk management survey conducted between October 2007 and March 2008. The population of interest consisted of farmers and ranchers with less than \$50,000 of sales during the 2002 Census of Agriculture. With this assumption, we were able to capture most, if not all, of the small and limited resource agricultural producers in Alabama. The major subject categories reported in this paper include: perceptions of various risks and the effectiveness of risk management tools, perceptions of farm policy alternatives, crop insurance participation, participation in and desire for risk management education, and use of pricing techniques.