

Southern Conference on African American Studies, Inc. 2026 CONVENTION



Continuing the
Black Freedom
Struggle
1776-2026

February 5-8, 2026
Montgomery, Alabama



On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Southern Conference on African American Studies, Incorporated (SCAASI), I welcome you to the 2026 convention in Montgomery, Alabama. SCAASI has been in operation since 1979 and continues to highlight the achievements of African Americans, preserve the stories of people and communities who are often forgotten and educate the next generation of scholars. During the convention this year, we will honor and remember the legacy of Dr. Carter G. Woodson as we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Black History Month.

This year the convention theme is **Continuing the Black Freedom Struggle: 1776-2026**. Montgomery, Alabama serves a powerful reminder of how people can come together and demand representation and freedom. It also serves as the ideal representation of Ujima: Collective Work and Responsibility. With Ujima, the community addresses problems together and solves them together. SCAASI embraces this ideal and works to highlight the value and strength of this concept.

We are excited to host the conference in the Elevation Convening Center and Hotel. The hotel is part of the burgeoning Peace and Justice Memorial sites in Montgomery, Alabama. In addition, it is our honor to have Alabama State University serve an active role in participation in the convention by supporting faculty, staff and student participation. SCAASI could not be successful without the participation and contributions of educational partners and supporters. We acknowledge all of the colleges and universities who are working with us to ensure that our stories continue to be told and make space for research and scholarship on the African American experience.

Thank you to our local planning committee, Dr. Alecia D. Hoffman, Chair. Please enjoy all of the panel sessions, roundtable discussions, individual presentations, shared meals and networking with colleagues and friends. Take time to visit the historical sites in Montgomery and reflect on the convention theme. Together, we will continue to change the world for the better!

Sharron Y. Herron-Williams

Sharron Y. Herron-Williams, Ph.D.
President, SCAASI

Thursday, February 5, 2026

Opening Libations Ceremony, 47th Annual Conference

12:00 PM | At the King Statue

OPENING LUNCHEON

12:15 PM — 1:30 PM Mountaintop Room

SCAASI President's Greetings

Women's Round Table and Keynote Address:

Alabama State Senator Merika Coleman

Alabama State Representative Marilyn Lands, District 10

PANEL SESSIONS

Panel One **2:00 - 3:15 PM | RISE A ROOM**

Black Leaders in Alabama in the Nadir 1890-1920

Chair: Darius Young, Ph.D.

Bertis English, Ph.D.: “Leading from Tuskegee: Booker T. Washington and the Movement for Black Liberation”

David Jackson, Jr., Ph.D.: “In the Lion’s Mouth: Emmett Jay Scott’s Wizardry in the Alabama Blackbelt: 1890-1920”

Paulette Robinson, Ph.D.: “Leading through Legacy: Principal Self-Efficacy and the Continuation of the Black Freedom Struggle in ‘Alabama’s Black Belt’”

Panel Two **2:00 - 3:15 PM | MOUNTAINTOP ROOM**

The Montgomery Bus Boycott Arrest Records Digital Resource: A Lesson in Collaboration

Chair: Janice R. Franklin, Ph.D.

Janice R. Franklin, Ph.D.: Panelist

Raegan Stearns: Panelist

Hassna Ramadan: Panelist

Tara White, Ph.D.: Panelist

Panel Three **2:00 - 3:15 PM | RISE B ROOM**

Correcting Inequality and Unjust Agreements through Legal Frameworks

Chair: Alecia D. Hoffman, Ph.D.

Lacretia Williams and Brenda Gill, Ph.D.: “The Carceral Economy: Unfree Labor and the Production of Social Inequality”

Katrice Crawford, Ph.D.: “The Reconstruction Era, Jim Crow Laws, and the Development of Systemic Injustices within the Criminal Justice System”

Alecia D. Hoffman, Ph.D.: “International Legal Instruments and their Implications on Migration and Human Trafficking: An Examination of the Lomé, Cotonou, and Updated Samoa Agreement(s)”

JOIN THE DISCUSSION: PICK YOUR OWN ROUNDTABLE

Panel Four **3:30 - 5:00 PM | RISE A ROOM**

Environmental Justice and Stewardship as Envisioned by ASU's Gulf Sustainers Program

Chair: Marcia Rossi, Ph.D.

Marcia Rossi, Ph.D.: Panelist

Mary Soylu, Ph.D.: Panelist

Seela Aladuwaka, Ph.D.: Panelist

Alecia D. Hoffman, Ph.D.: Panelist

Panel Five **3:30 - 5:00 PM | RISE B ROOM**

Are We Citizens

Chair: Ron Goodwin, Ph.D.

Ron Goodwin, Ph.D.: Panelist

Malachi Crawford: Panelist

Melanye Price: Panelist

Marco Robinson: Panelist

Panel Six **3:30 - 5:00 PM | MOUNTAINTOP ROOM**

Bursting at the Seams: Reenvisioning the Carceral State Through Correctional Reform

Chair: Katrice Crawford, Ph.D.

Keith Ray, Ph.D.: Panelist

LaShawnda Alexander, Ph.D.: Panelist

Katrice Crawford, Ph.D.: Panelist

DINNER ON YOUR OWN IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA!

Friday, February 6, 2026

BREAKFAST

8:00 AM — 9:15 AM Mountaintop Room

AUTHOR'S CORNER

Malachi Crawford, Prairie View A&M University
Ronald E. Goodwin, Prairie View A&M University
Alecia Hoffman, Alabama State University
August Malveaux, Southern University
David Jackson, North Carolina Central University

STUDENT QUIZ BOWL

9:30 AM — 11:30 AM

LOCATION: RISE A AND RISE B

PANEL SESSIONS

Panel Seven 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM | RISE A ROOM

Narratives in Black Freedom

LaTrenda Williams-Clark: “Grasping Things at the Root: Radical Black Feminism from Suffrage to Now”

Christy Garrison-Harrison, Ph.D.: “A Place in the Narrative”

Panel Eight 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM | RISE B ROOM

The Future of the Griot

Chair: Ron Goodwin, Ph.D.

Ron Goodwin, Ph.D.: Panelist

Tracey Moore, Ph.D.: “Crafting Identity: The Role of Design in Advancing African American”

Tracey Moore, Ph.D.: “The History Box Experience: Engaging Digital Media Arts Majors in Digital Humanities and Historic Preservation”

**MORNING EXPLORATIONS
ON YOUR OWN OR THROUGH ELEVATION HOTEL**

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

(suggested sites listed in the back of the program)

LUNCH

1:00 PM - 2:15 PM Mountaintop Room

Plenary Speaker:

Alabama State Senator Robert Stewart

PANEL SESSIONS CONTINUED

Panel Nine 2:30 - 3:45 PM | RISE A ROOM

Black Cultural Reality and the Freedom Struggle Continues

Chair: Sheena Harris, Ph.D.

Sheena Harris Hayes, Ph.D.: “Continuing the Black Freedom Struggle, 1776-2026”

Brian Robinson, Ph.D.: “Black Cultural Reality: How African-Derived Philosophy Shaped African American Historical Experience”

James Jones, Ph.D.: “From Civil Rights to Black Power: How Young Black Activists Redirected the Fight for Black Liberation”

Panel Ten 2:30 - 3:45 PM | HILLTOP ROOM

Communicative Methods in our Collective Memory

Chair: Carlos Morrison

Wynter Rudolph: “The Mic is Ours: Campus Media and Creative Resistance”

Carlos Morrison, Ph.D.: “(Re)examining Resistance and Afrocentric Concepts through the Lens of the South African Gumboot Dance”

Kennedy Pitcher, Ph.D.: “Who Said That? Exposing Fake Black Voices in Online Political Life”

Panel Eleven 2:30 - 3:45 PM | RISE B ROOM

Black Freedom Fighters

Chair: Abel Bartley, Ph.D.

Abel Bartley, Ph.D.: “Asa Phillip Randolph: Labor Leader, Activist, and Freedom Fighter, the Unsung Hero of the American Civil Rights Movement”

D. Cohen, Ph.D.: “Who is the Real Richard Gibson: Author/Literary Critic, Black Culturalist/Black Nationalist, and CIA Spy”

August Malveaux, Ph.D.: “Black Godfather & His Boot: The Remarkable Influence of a Louisiana Icon, J.K. Haynes”

Panel Twelve 4:00 - 5:15 PM | RISE A ROOM

Interventions of Social Justice

Chair: Eunice Matthews-Armstead, Ph.D.

Eunice Matthews-Armstead, Ph.D.: “A Dialectical Approach to Diversity and Oppression”

Tamara Blackledge Burr, Ph.D.: “It Takes a Village: A Community Led Maternal Health Equity Initiative”

D'Linell Finley, Ph.D.: “The Increasing Use of Religion for Cultural, Ideological, and Political Control”

PANEL SESSIONS CONTINUED

Panel Thirteen 4:00 - 5:15 PM | RISE B ROOM

Women in Power and Resistance: Then and Now

Chair: Ashla Hill Roseboro, Ph.D.

Ashla Hill Roseboro, Ph.D.: "Deans of Women at Historically Black Institutions"

Shala Washington: "Ophelia Devore Mitchell: Beauty was Her Business"

Olivia Lockett: "Black Women in America's Impact and Development in History"

Panel Fourteen 4:00 - 5:15 PM | HILLTOP ROOM

Global Warming or Burning House: Perspectives from Social Sciences and STEM Concepts

Chair: Robert White

Robert White, J.D.: Panelist

Ram Alagan, Ph.D.: Panelist

Egbuna Obi: Panelist

Sediqua Davis: Panelist

Andrea C. Dorch, Esq.: Panelist

Seela Aladuwaka, Ph.D.: Panelist

STUDENT POSTER BOARD PRESENTATIONS

5:30 PM - 6:15 PM

DINNER

6:30 — 8:30 PM Mountaintop Room

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Howard Robinson

Alabama State University, University Historian

Presidents' Round Table

Saturday, February 7, 2026

BREAKFAST

&

BUSINESS MEETING

8:30 AM — 9:45 AM Mountaintop Room

Yearly Report

Elections

Griot Presentation

PANEL SESSIONS

Panel Fifteen 10:00 AM - 11:45 AM | HILLTOP ROOM

Institutions and the Collective Experience

Chair: Sharron Herron-Williams, Ph.D.

Sarah Stouffer-Lerch, Ph.D.: "The McClendon Hospital and Mapping Black Medical History"

Michael Hemphill: "The Christainburg Institute" (Documentary)

Reginald Bess, Ph.D.: "Black Resistance and Resilience in the Nineteenth Century in Frederick Douglass's The Heroic Slave"

Panel Sixteen 10:00 AM - 11:45 AM | RISE B ROOM

Social Action, Resistance, and Liberation: Continuing the Black Freedom Struggle 1776-2026

Chair: Alecia D. Hoffman, Ph.D.

Kevin J. Hales, Ph.D.: "The Foundational Black American Delineation Movement"

Jermaine O. McCalpin, Ph.D.: "Ancient Harm, Modern Trauma: Reparations and the Long Resolution of Enslavement in the Americas"

Jarrett Luter, Ph.D.: "History of Urban Protests and Social Movements in Baton Rouge"

John Bessai and Sandra Creighton: "Radical History: The Ward (Playable Memory, Black Survival, and Urban Belonging)"

LUNCH

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Mountaintop Room

SCAASI President's Address:

"The Purpose of Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)"

PANEL SESSIONS CONTINUED

Panel Seventeen 2:00 - 3:30 PM | RISE A ROOM

The Black Freedom Struggle

Chair: Jessica Lawal, Ph.D.

John Wesley: "How Black People are Still Being Oppressed"

Josalyn Waters: "The Complex Structure of Christianity During Slavery"

Lauren Otis: "Policing Practices Then and Now"

The Butler Memorial Group: "The Connection Between High Slave Populations in the Past and High Crime Rates Now"

NETWORKING AND RECEPTION

4:00 - 5:00 PM

EXPLORATIONS

ON YOUR OWN OR THROUGH ELEVATION HOTEL

(suggested sites listed in the back of the program)

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

5:00 PM - UNTIL

EXPLORE MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

SUGGESTED SITES BELOW:

- Equal Justice Initiative—122 Commerce Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104 Equal Justice Initiative Webpage
- 10:00 AM Alabama State University 126th Founder's Day Convocation—ASU Acadome. 915 South Jackson Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36101. Guest Speaker, Mr. Orlando Jones.
- Southern Poverty Law Center Civil Rights Memorial Center—400 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama 36104 SPLC Civil Rights Memorial Center
- Alabama Department of Archives and History Museum. 624 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama 36130. (Self-guided tours or group tours available). Alabama Department of Archives and History Museum
- National Park Service Montgomery Interpretive Center. 1521 Harris Way (Campus of Alabama State University). Montgomery, Alabama 36106.
- Alabama Historical Commission. Montgomery Capital Tours. 600 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36130 Alabama State Capitol
- Alabama Historical Commission. Freedom Ride Museum. 210 South Court Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104. Freedom Rides Museum
- Dexter Avenue King Memorial Parsonage and Church Tours. 334-261-3270. Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church Tours and Dexter Avenue Parsonage Museum
- Mothers of Gynecology Park. 17 Mildred Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104. Mothers of Gynecology Park
- Montgomery Riverfront Park. 355 Commerce Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104 Montgomery Riverfront Park
- National Parks Service Tuskegee University Airmen Museum. 1616 Chappie James Ave Tuskegee, Alabama 36083 Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site (U.S. National Park Service).

Special Thanks To:

Alabama State Senator Merika Coleman

Alabama State Senator Robert Stewart

Alabama State Representative Marilyn Lands

SCAASI Conference Volunteers

The SCAASI Board of Directors

President - Dr. Sharron Herron-Williams

Vice President - Dr. Eunice Matthews-Armstead

Treasurer - Mr. Steve Miller

Secretary - Dr. Alecia D. Hoffman

SCAASI Poet Laureate - Dr. Leonard Slade, Jr.

Quiz Bowl Chair - Dr. Wali Kharif

Griot Journal Editor - Dr. Ron Goodwin

Elder Griot - Dr. David Jackson, Jr.

The Local Planning Committee

Dr. Alecia D. Hoffman

Dr. Howard Robinson

Mr. Felix Parker

Dr. Seela Aladuwaka

Dr. Ram Alagan

Dr. Kennedy Pitcher

Dr. Robert O. White

Dr. Kenley Obas

Thank You



All Panelists & Presenters

Ms. Sheron J. Rose

Ms. Michelle Trammer

Ms. Natalie Story





“Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history.”

-Carter G. Woodson