

2021

Program of the 2021 Mississippi Historical Society Annual Meeting

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Recommended Citation

Rolph, Stephanie R. (2021) "Program of the 2021 Mississippi Historical Society Annual Meeting," *Journal of Mississippi History*. Vol. 83: No. 3, Article 6.

Available at: <https://aquila.usm.edu/jmh/vol83/iss3/6>

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Program of the 2021 Mississippi Historical Society Annual Meeting

By Stephanie R. Rolph

The Mississippi Historical Society (MHS) held its annual meeting virtually on March 5, 2021, in response to COVID-19 pandemic. The program began on Friday morning with the board meeting and annual business meeting both occurring online.

The opening session started with a welcome by Marshall Bennett, president, MHS. The morning session was titled Mississippi as Architectural Trendsetter and featured four presentations: “Robert Edgar Bost: Natchez’s Most Prolific Twentieth-Century Architect and Builder” by Chase Klugh, Historic Natchez Foundation; “Mississippi Midwestern State Capitol” by Jennifer V. O. Baughn, Mississippi Department of Archives and History; “Monument and Memory: The Illinois Memorial at the Vicksburg National Military Park” by Bill Gatlin, independent scholar; and “His finest and purest thinking’: The Mississippi Retreats of Louis Sullivan” by Jeff Rosenberg, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

Charles Westmoreland, Delta State University, presented the Book of the Year Award at lunchtime to Nancy Bristow, University of Puget Sound, for *Steeped in the Blood of Racism: Black Power, Law and Order, and the 1970 Shootings at Jackson State College*. She made an online presentation from the state of Washington. Her book recounts the death of two young African Americans, Phillip Gibbs and James Earl Green, and the wounding of twelve others when White police and highway patrolmen opened fire on African American students in front of a dormitory at Jackson State College in May 1970.

The first online afternoon session was titled Student Activism in the Civil Rights Movement. It featured three presentations: “The Civil Rights Movement in Jackson Mississippi: Newspapers as Frames of Black Protest from 1961–1963” by Randrika Henderson, University of Southern Mississippi; “Planting an Alternative Newspaper: *The Kudzu* and Community Building in Mississippi, 1964–1972” by Wayne Dowdy, independent scholar; and “Young, Black, and Powerful: Student Protests at Ole Miss during the Age of Black Power” by Jasmine Stansberry, University of Mississippi.

The final scholarly session was titled Resistance and Memory:

Free and Enslaved Laborers in Mississippi and featured two online presentations: “‘Almost in a state of insurrection’: The Slave Rebellion on Mrs. Polk’s Plantation” by Lisa C. Childs, University of Arkansas; and “The Global Impact of Mississippi Delta Cotton: The Cotton Pickers’ Monument Project” by C. Sade Turnipseed, Jackson State University.

To conclude the virtual meeting, Marshall Bennett, outgoing MHS president, introduced Stephanie R. Rolph as the new incoming president, and she adjourned the meeting. The Mississippi Historical Society is grateful to Al Wheat, director of education at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, for his technical help with the online meeting. In addition to the March 5 meeting, Wheat produced an awards video announcing award winners in lieu of an awards luncheon. This video was distributed on social media channels.



Incoming MHS President Stephanie R. Rolph with outgoing MHS President Marshall Bennett.