

**Masters of Science  
in  
Community Development  
at  
Delta State University**



**A multi-disciplinary program  
offered through the  
Division of Social Sciences  
in collaboration with  
The School of Graduate Studies,  
The College of Arts of Sciences,  
The College of Business,  
Institute for Community-Based Research, and  
The Center for Community and Economic Development**



**See inside for information about  
one of the nation's top graduate programs in Community Development.**

## **Facts about the MSCD Program**

The Masters of Science in Community Development (MSCD) was created in 1996, as the first graduate program in community development in the South. It is designed to prepare graduates for successful careers as professional practitioners in private and public sector organizations. The program enrolls students from the Delta, State of Mississippi, and the Mid-South. To date, graduates are from 11 states throughout the nation and two are internationals. Seminars are held on campus during the day and evening. Individuals who are employed full time may enroll as part-time students and take up to six graduate hours per semester. See comments about the MSCD from several graduates and faculty at other universities later in this brochure.

The MSCD program requires a 36 semester hour curriculum, including six hours of thesis or practicum research. To remain in good standing, graduate students must maintain an overall graduate grade point average of "3.0" or B. Decisions for awarding fellowships are made by the Division's MSCD Graduate Faculty Committee. Some applicants may be required to take one or more undergraduate courses prior to formal admission to the MSCD program. The MSCD Graduate Faculty Committee may request formal interviews with prospective students prior to formal acceptance.

## **MSCD Graduate Assistantships and Other On-Campus Support**

- The Graduate School, the Division of Social Sciences, and the Center for Community and Economic Development usually have Graduate Assistantships (GAs) available to full-time students with a superior work ethic and a GPA of 3.0. GA's include a waiver of tuition in lieu of 15 hours of work per week. GA's who work on funded projects receive a monthly stipend.
- Community organizations in the Delta region and the Center for Community and Economic Development have sites available for graduate students to participate in practicum experiences or conduct thesis research.
- The W. B. Roberts Library has resources available for research related to coursework.
- On-campus smart classrooms and access to state-of-the-art computer technologies are available to enhance learning and teaching.
- The Center for Community and Economic Development has data bases, resources available and numerous outreach and action research programs of interest to students.

## Hearin Fellowships

- Five Hearin Fellowships are awarded each year to MSCD students through a grant from the Robert M. Hearin Foundation. Potential Hearin Fellows *must* have a minimum GPA of 3.00 in an area of study related to community development, such as economics, education, finance, geography, political science, social work, or sociology. Preference is given to students with interest in working in Mississippi after graduation.
- Hearin Fellows must submit a written statement describing why the candidate wishes to enter the program and how the MSCD program will lead to career success, preferably in Mississippi.
- Hearin Fellows must devote full time to study in the MSCD graduate program.
- The Hearin Fellowship provides full-tuition, a ten-month stipend of \$9,600, up to \$600 for books and fees, \$2,000 for medical insurance, and funds to support participation in off-campus academic conferences.
- While engaged in graduate study, Hearin Fellows also work with faculty in various action research and service projects.



Spring on the DSU Campus

## Required and Elective Courses

### MSCD Required Courses

SOC 575, Sociology of Community  
SOC 600, Community Development  
in Theory and Practice  
SOC 624, Leadership Development  
SSC 669, Quantitative Research  
and Statistics  
COD 680, Community Development  
Research Methods  
COD 698, Practicum in Community  
Development, (6 hrs.) or  
COD 699, Thesis Research, (6 hrs.)

\* For required courses in Economic  
Development Track, see later section.  
COD 695, Special Projects, i.e., The  
Art and Science of Proposal Writing

### MSCD Elective Courses

SOC 521, Sustainable Development  
SOC 522, Environment and Society  
SOC 526, Delta in Global Context  
SOC 567, Sociology of Development  
COD 574, Applied Rural Sociology  
COD 580, Social Organization and Change  
COD 585, Population and the Environment  
COD 630, Financing Community  
Development Projects  
COD 635, Community Development

Planning, Implementation and Evaluation  
SOC 670, Sociology of Rural Poverty

### Sustainable Development Track: Required Courses\*

COD 521, Sustainable Development  
COD 522, Environment and Society  
COD 526, Delta in Global Context  
COD 580, Social Organization and Change  
\* Plus the required MSCD Courses listed  
above

### Economic Development Track: Required Courses\*

ECO 560, Economic Development  
ECO 612, Management Economics  
ECO 623, Public Finance  
ECO 652, Business Conditions Analysis  
\* Plus the required MSCD Courses listed  
above

### Economic Development Track: Recommended Elective Courses

ECO 550, International Trade and Finance  
ECO 600, Management Problems  
ECO 605, Human Resource Management  
FIN 600, Financial Management

## Admission, Fees, and Enrollment

An application must be prepared and submitted to the Dean of Graduate Studies at DSU prior to formal admission by the MSCD Graduate Faculty Committee. Contact the DSU Director of Graduate Studies, Room 151, Kent Wyatt Hall, or write P. O. Box 3124, DSU, Cleveland, MS 38733. See the latest D.S.U. *Graduate Bulletin* for tuition and a description of the curriculum.

### Who Employs DSU's Community Development Graduates?

More than 66 individuals have completed the MSCD at DSU. Among the organizations where they work are: Agencies of Local, Regional, State, and the Federal Government, Businesses, Community Action Agencies, Chambers of Commerce, Community Colleges, Cooperatives, Economic and Industrial Development Organizations, Hospitals, Not-for-Profit Community Organizations, and Universities.

## Faculty Teaching and Research Interests



**Alan W. Barton, Ph.D.** Dr. Barton earned the Ph.D. at Cornell University. He is Assistant Professor of Sociology and Community Development, and Faculty Associate in the Center for Community and Economic Development, where he leads the Delta Rural Poll project. His teaching interests are sustainable development, demography and environmental sociology. Research interests are global issues and heritage tourism.



**John Green, Ph.D.**, University of Missouri, MSCD Graduate Program Coordinator, is Assistant Professor of Sociology and Community Development, and Faculty Associate in the Center for Community and Economic Development, where he leads the Institute for Community-Based Research. His primary teaching interests are community development research and issues in community development. His research interests are issues related to rural poverty.



**Benton Cooper Johnson, Ph.D.**, University of Mississippi is Chair of the Division of Management, Marketing, Office Administration, and Business Education. His research and teaching interests include violence in the workplace, issues related to genetic screening, resource exchange theory, and technology applications in higher education



**Gokhan Karahan, Ph.D.**, University of Mississippi and Assistant Professor of Economics.



**Michelle Matthews, Ph.D.**, University of Mississippi is Assistant Professor of Economics.



**Albert B. Nylander, III, Ph.D.**, Mississippi State University, is Chair, Division of Social Sciences and Professor of Sociology & Community Development. His primary teaching research interests are in Asian studies, educational sociology and research methods. His current research is on school board members in the U.S. He has published in *The Community Development Journal*, *Sociological Spectrum*, and JAI Press.



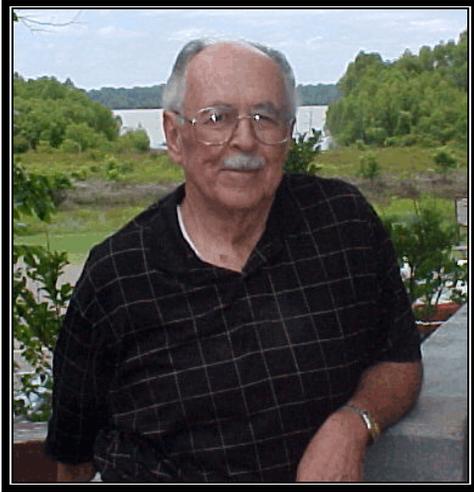
Dr. Meikle completed the Ph.D. at Mississippi State University and the M. Philosophy, University of the West Indies, Mona. She is Assistant Professor of Sociology and Community Development. Her primary teaching interests are in community development, social theory, social research methods, and leading study abroad programs. Her research interests are in civic engagement, social capital, community development, and global stratification. She has published in *Caribbean Geography*, *The Journal of Extension*, and other sources.



**Debarashmi Mitra, Ph.D.**, University of Connecticut is Assistant Professor of Sociology and Community Development. She earned the MA at the University of Surrey, United Kingdom. Her teaching interests are gender, globalization, social change. Her research interests are gender issues, such as women in work, social change, and social movements.



**Billy C. Moore, Ph.D.**, University of Mississippi, is Dean of the College of Business and Professor of Finance His interests and expertise are in business finance, the role of financial institutions in economic development and the influence of the Community Reinvestment Act on community and economic development in the Delta.



**Jerry Robinson** earned the Ph.D. at Mississippi State University. He is Distinguished Professor of Rural Sociology, Emeritus, Delta State University and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He led the effort to create the MSCD program and was founding director of the Center for Community and Economic Development. His teaching and research interests and expertise are in leadership development, community development and organizational development. He has written a dozen books, about 100 community action modules, and published in numerous academic journals. Served twice as editor of *The Journal of Community Development* and was co-editor of *Community Development in Perspective*, and *Community Development in America*, two texts published by Iowa State University press. He has received more than 15 regional and national awards from professional organizations.



**Myrtis Tabb, Ed. D.**, Delta State University, is Assistant Vice President Special Projects and Partnerships, Office of the President. Earlier she served as Associate Director and Director of the Center for Community and Economic Development. Her primary interests in leadership development are implemented through leading the Mid-South Emerging Leaders Program.

## **Comments about the DSU MSCD Program from Our Graduates and Faculty in Other Universities**

**Corinne Berry, BA, University North Carolina, and MSCD DSU, 2006, JD Candidate, Class of 2009, Wake Forest University School of Law:** *“The MSCD Program at DSU provided me with a new set of lenses for viewing the world around me. As I begin my legal career, I recognize the energy and excellence that arises from collaboration across academic disciplines and the importance of developing partnerships with local businesses and organizations. On a more practical level, my course work and the excellent faculty at DSU provided me with a strong foundation for the analytical research and writing that I will encounter as a practicing attorney.”*

**Tomeka Harbin, BA, University of Mississippi, 2002, MSCD 2004. Currently Coordinator, Cleveland Youth Council:** *“The MSCD program allowed me to attend professional conferences in Montreal, Canada, Ithaca, NY, and Tuskegee to present and hear presentations from people all over the world.. I was able to work with faculty on community improvement projects which gave me in depth knowledge...This brought me into an elite group of students—the Hearin Fellows.”*

**Todd Holt, BA, University of Arkansas, MSCD, DSU, 2005, Currently, Project Manager, Life Sciences, State of Florida, Orlando:** *“The MSCD program at DSU provides an excellent opportunity to develop the skill sets necessary for one to be an effective economic/community developer. I have used the knowledge and exposure that I acquired from the MSCD program to become to be successful in a very competitive profession. I have great gratitude and admiration for the faculty who make the MSCD program successful. In brief, my time as a DSU graduate student was a blessing that enriched my professional development more than I ever anticipated.”*

**Sarah Leonard, BA, University of Michigan, and MSCD, 2006. Currently Research Associate, Social Science Research Center, Miss. State University:** *“As a research in the Institute for Community-Based Research, I developed a passion for community-based Social Science Research. This experience was extremely beneficial to my personal and professional development. ..I had the opportunity to present my work at prestigious conferences...which allowed me to develop professional networks. ”*

**Donielle Lovell, BS, and MSCD, DSU, 2005, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Missouri:** *“The DSU Community Development program provided a firm foundation for me. I entered the PhD program in Rural Sociology at the University of Missouri feeling confident in not only community development and research methods, but also sociological theory. The mix of theory and practical experience provided by each DSU faculty member serves me well in my doctoral program, and in my leadership consulting work. Finally, the MSCD faculty members are among the finest I have had the privilege to study under. They are both challenging and passionate about their work in the Mississippi Delta--an excellent combination for the classroom and the region.”*

**Josh Stovall, BS, 2003 and MSCD 2005, Ph.D. Candidate, Brigham Young University:** *“Because of the financial support that I received at DSU and the expertise of the community development faculty, my learning experience was invaluable... And, I was able to graduate without any debt.”*

**Kenneth Pigg, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, University of Missouri, Past President of The Community Development Society, and Treasurer and Business Manager, the Rural Sociological Society:** *“The Community Development program at Delta State University has quietly assembled an outstanding faculty that prepares students for the world of work as well as for additional education. The excellence of their program is demonstrated by the quality of their*

*product and the engagement of both faculty and students in professional endeavors. What's more, students are strategically engaged as the faculty extend their teaching into mentoring roles. It is hard to get much attention in the South except for great sports programs, but the MSCD program at Delta State is rapidly gaining a reputation for excellence and relevance in the U.S. and beyond."*

**Ralph Brown, Ph.D., Professor, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah:** *"As a potential student, you should realize that of the many things that can affect the quality of your education--besides your own effort and preparation--two things are paramount: (1) the quality of the faculty who will mentor you; and (2) the quality of the educational experiences the institution provides you. The community development program at DSU has assembled some of the most dedicated and accomplished faculty in the U.S. Their expertise covers all the basics from research design and methodology to theory and practical application. In fact, the quality of the MSCD faculty that DSU has been able to recruit and retain is amazing.*

*This brings me to my second point, as cited above. I believe the MSCD faculty remain at DSU because of the quality of their program and because the opportunities they have to put their craft into practice are more prevalent in the Mississippi Delta than anywhere else in the U.S. While chemists and physicists have labs in which to practice their craft, the community developer's lab is contemporary society itself in all its glorious and frustrating facets.*

*I can think of nowhere that a student can be better exposed to the realities, frustrations, and victories of community development than the Mississippi Delta. You will not only be practicing in a 'living laboratory' but you will come to realize that the thing that makes your craft as a community developer work is not only the science—the methods and the theories—but the human element. You will come to care for and about the Delta and its people. And in the process, you will find the skills you acquired at DSU are transferable to anywhere in the world.*

*I highly recommend the MSCD program at Delta State University to anyone who is serious about learning and honing their skills as a professional community developer."*

**For more information, go to [www.deltastate.edu](http://www.deltastate.edu), and click on academic programs.**

To request an application for admission to the MSCD program, you may also write:  
Dr. Albert B Nylander, III, Chair, Division of Social Sciences and Professor of Sociology  
& Community Development, Kethley 205  
Delta State University  
Cleveland, MS 38733

Or, e-mail Dr. Nylander at [Nylander@deltastate.edu](mailto:Nylander@deltastate.edu) In all correspondence, be sure to include your full name, your full mailing address, your home phone and work number, Fax number, if available, and, your e-mail address.

**For additional information, go to: <http://www.deltastate.edu/pages/3143.asp>**



**MSCD Students in Dr. John Green's Community Development Class, Fall 2007**