

# Community Development Society 41st Annual International Conference

*Celebrating Community: Creating Hope in Uncertain Times*

*The Role of Women in Community Development: Opportunities, Challenges and Stories of Successful Projects*

*Tuesday, July 28, 2009*

*Marriott Hotel – Heritage Room, Salon IV*

*11:00 am – 2:00 pm*

*Welcome and Introductions*

**Martha Perine Beard**

*Senior Branch Executive*

*Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis – Memphis Branch*

*Guest Presenter*

**Dr. Paulette Meikle**

*Assistant Professor of Sociology/Community Development*

*Delta State University*

*Panel Discussion*

*Facilitator:*

**Teresa Cheeks Wilson**

*Associate Community Development Specialist*

*Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis – Memphis Branch*

*Panelists:*

**Lyn Haralson**, *Community Development Specialist*

*Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis – Little Rock*

**Carla Ross**, *Regional Coordinator*

*Center for Community and Economic Development, DSU*

**Mechelle Wallace**, *Research Assistant*

*Delta State University*

**Dr. Sally French Paulson**, *Asst. Professor of Communication*

*Delta State University*

**Carley Jefcoat**, *Research Assistant*

*Delta State University*

**Regan Hall**, *Operations Coordinator/Adjunct Faculty*

*Save the Children Federation/University of Memphis*

*Table Discussion*

*Closing Remarks*

**Martha Perine Beard**

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## *Participant Bios*

**Dr. Paulette Meikle** is an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Community Development, Delta State University (DSU). She is a native of Jamaica with 17 years of experience in developing, implementing, and evaluating community development projects that build social capital and enhance community capacity. Also, she has conducted extensive field work in international settings on issues related to integrating aspects of resource management and information technology with research in community development. She is knowledgeable of and has published articles on the role of social capital in community development and on the impact of globalization processes on farmers and rural communities. Her research interests include sociology of community, civic engagement, globalization and its impact on rural and marginalized communities, livelihood, global stratification, gender, and grassroots natural resource management. She founded the Gender Studies Group at DSU and served as its first Chairperson. She has taught several Community Development courses at DSU and she has directed Community Development Master's theses. She has published in the *Journal of Extension*, *Community Development: Journal of the Community Development Society*, and in *Caribbean Geography*.

**Teresa Cheeks Wilson** is an associate community development specialist for the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Memphis Branch. She provides advisory services to community organizations, government agencies, bankers and others on community and economic development issues. Before coming to the Federal Reserve, Wilson worked at The Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis, where she was responsible for assisting in development and marketing activities. Wilson earned her undergraduate degree in business marketing from the University of Memphis.

**Lyn Haralson** is a community development specialist at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Little Rock Branch. She is responsible for promoting community and economic development and fair and equal access to credit. Before coming to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Haralson worked for the Arkansas Department of Rural Services, a state agency focused on community development in rural areas of the state. Haralson received her bachelor's degree from Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, Ark., and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

**Carla Ross** is the regional coordinator for America Reads Mississippi Program at the Center for Community and Economic Development, Delta State University. America Reads Mississippi is the largest AmeriCorps program in the state of Mississippi. Carla has a Masters Degree in Community Development from Delta State University and a Bachelors Degree in Family Human and Development from Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, MS.

**Mechelle Wallace** is a 2008 graduate of the Community Development masters program at Delta State University where she was awarded a Hearin Graduate Fellowship in 2007. Currently, she serves as Research assistant at the Institute for Community Based Research, Delta State University. Her community research interests include community organizing and community health. She is a Mid-South Delta leader and the director of Friends of the Environment, Alligator, and Mississippi.

**Dr. Sally French Paulson** attained her PhD in Rhetoric/Critical Studies from the University of Memphis in December of 2008 and her JD from the University of Kentucky in 1990. Dr. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Communication at Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi. Dr. Paulson's interest in Fourteenth Amendment "equal protection" law emerged from her legal work with Individual With Disabilities Education Act and hostile environment sexual harassment cases. Her current research focuses on analyzing the role the inherent rhetorical/legal dynamic within all American citizenship rights played in key twentieth-century Supreme Court of the United States school desegregation cases including its 1927 *Gong Lum v. Rice* decision as well as the NAACP's 1930's, 40's and 50's school desegregation cases.

**Carley Jefcoat** is currently a graduate of the Community Development masters program at Delta State University where she was awarded a Hearin Graduate Fellowship in June 2008. Currently, she serves as research assistant at the Institute for Community Based Research, Delta State University (DSU). Her community research interests include gender studies and community health. She is president of the Community Development Student Organization at DSU, and she recently completed gender related fieldwork in Grenada West Indies.

**Regan Hall** is a 2008 graduate of the Community Development masters program at Delta State University where she was awarded a Hearin Graduate Fellowship in 2007. Currently, she serves as Operations Coordinator for the South Central region of Save the Children Federation. She is also an adjunct faculty in the Department of Sociology, University of Memphis. Her community research interests include downtown revitalization and social interaction in rural communities.