It is with great excitement that I welcome you to the 11th Discerning Diverse Voices Symposium. There are not many communication colleges in our state or nation that can attest to having consistently sponsored an event focused on diversity scholarship and creative activity for more than a decade. We are deeply indebted to Dr. Caryl Cooper, former assistant dean, for launching this event in 2010, and to Dr. Suzanne Horsley for shepherding the event this year. Discerning Diverse Voices is one of many events that has helped to position the College of Communication and Information Sciences as a leader in diversity, equity and inclusion at The University of Alabama.

All of us in C&IS recognize the important role Discerning Diverse Voices plays in providing a platform for students, faculty and staff to showcase the new knowledge being created in this all-important area of study. Several books, book chapters and journal articles now in print were originally presented at this symposium. Clearly, we have created a very effective vehicle for showcasing and advancing the good work of scholars in our college and across the nation.

A special thanks to Dr. Mary Meares and Dr. Dianne Bragg for giving leadership to the organizing committee for this year’s event. We thank them for their hard work and dedication to this effort.

Thank you for being a part of the activities today and best wishes for an excellent symposium!

Sincerely,

Mark D. Nelson, Ph.D.
Dean & Professor
College of Communication & Information Sciences

Learn more about college and university-wide diversity initiatives at cis.ua.edu/diversity
**REGISTRATION, BEVERAGE TABLE CAMELLIA ROOM**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**CAMELLIA ROOM**

**PAPERS ON DIVERSITY IN ACCESS AND STIGMA**
**MODERATOR: MIRIAM SWEENEY**

“‘But Think of the Children!’: Drag Queen Story Hour and the Queer Potential of the Public Library”
**ELIZABETH BURTON**

“Opioid Consumer Health Information Literacies (o-CHIL) in Alabama’s Public Libraries: An Exploratory Website Content Analysis”
**BHARAT MEHRA AND BAHEYA JABAR**

“Fifty Shades of Exclusion: An Examination into Tuscaloosa Public Library and its Apparent Omission of LGBTQIA+ Materials and the Utilization of Inclusive Catalog Subject Headings”
**SAMANTHA HUFF**

**SARAH F. PRICE, SIM BUTLER AND RICHARD MOCARSKI**

**YELLOWHAMMER ROOM**

**PANEL: WHAT DIVERSITY MEANS TO ME: A FIRST-YEAR STUDENT’S PERSPECTIVE**
**MODERATOR: GEORGE L. DANIELS**

How do the newest members of the college community approach the study of diversity and difference? This panel features first-year students telling their diversity stories. Their narratives were created as a part of the CIS 495 Special Topics course “The Media, Diversity and Me.”

“My Differences Do Not Define Me”
**CHASE WILLIAMS**

“I Feel That I Stand Out in a Crowd”
**ROBERT HERNANDEZ**

“Diversity is Not a Straight Line”
**KERI WESTERFIELD**

“Just Let People Be Who They Are, Do What They Do”
**NICHOLAS LEWIS**

“Being An Advocate for Diversity”
**KAT PULS**

**PAPERS ON DIVERSITY IN ACCESS AND STIGMA**
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**POSTER SESSION YELLOWHAMMER ROOM**

**A Nation of Mankillers: Assessing Perceptions of Cherokee Women’s Similarity and Associated Stereotypes as Perpetuated in Popular Media and Advertising**
**ALYSSA ADAMSON**

“African Americans Erasing the Stigma Surrounding Mental Health Care**
**CHALISE MACKLIN**

“An Analysis of Cultural Differences in the Taiwanese Movie ‘Baby Steps’”
**HSIN HAN (SEAN) LEE**

“Apology and Historical Reconciliation: A Comparative Analysis on Government-Issued Apologies for Slavery”
**KENDAL ALDRIDGE**

“Campus & Community Engagement: How Libraries and Librarians Can Contribute”
**MICHAEL FITTS**

“Communal PRIDE: Structural Pluralism and Newspaper Coverage of the LGBTQ Community”
**NICK BUZZELLI**

“Cultural Misappropriation and Prevalent Stereotypes”
**AISHWARYA IYER**

**ELIZABETH HORNESBY**

“Legalizing Gender: The Official Recognition of Non-Binary Identities by State Governments”
**TRISTEN LARSON**

“Motivations of Local Participants in an International Pairing Program”
**CAITLIN KELLEY**

“Pompous Portrayal: A Rhetorical Analysis of Southern Marriage Culture in Television”
**BRAIDYN LAZENBY**

“O Be Careful Little Hearts Whom You Trust”: LGBTQ+ Identity Within Non-Affirming Conservative Christianity
**MISHA VIEHOUSER**

“Post-Social Conflict in Maluku: How People See Diversity”
**CLAUDIA BERNADETTE BAWOLE**

“Soccer in Cleveland: Community Building Through Soccer”
**MATTEO ZENGARO**

“Speaking of Womanism: Bridging the Womanist Gap Between the Academy and the Every Day Black Woman”
**SHALONDA CAPERS**

“Speaking Their Language: The Cultural Communication of Black Women through Fashion Magazines”
**RACHEL PARKER**

“Trying My Best to be Healthy”: International Sojourners’ Health Plan in the Host Country
**EUNHUI KIM**

“Images and Portrayals of Black Families on Social Media and News”
**MARKELIA ROBERSON**
DEAN’S WELCOME AND KEYNOTE  
CAMELLIA ROOM

DEAN MARK NELSON
College of Communication and Information Sciences

MIA MOODY-RAMIREZ
Dr. Mia Moody-Ramirez is professor and chair of journalism, public relations and new media in the Baylor University College of Arts & Sciences. She is the former Head of the Minorities and Communication Division and Secretary for the Commission on the Status of Women.

Her research emphasizes mass media representations of women, minorities and other underrepresented groups.

She received her B.A. in journalism from Texas A&M University, M.A. in journalism from Baylor University, M.S. in Educational Psychology and her Ph.D. in journalism from the University of Texas at Austin.

KEYNOTE: GENDER, RACE, POLITICS AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN THE AGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA
The talk will explore issues of gender and race, crisis management, image repair and social media in the 21st Century. Dr. Moody-Ramirez will discuss how social media platforms, such as Twitter, have been used to repair the image of individuals and corporations using Benoit’s typology of image repair. While social media responses are not a replacement for true image restoration tactics such as mortification and corrective action, they provide a platform to help tackle tough issues that might aid in the image restoration process of an individual or a company.

LUNCH FOR PRESENTERS  
YELLOWHAMMER ROOM

DIVERSE ALUMNI PANEL  
YELLOWHAMMER ROOM

Profiles in Courage: Strategies for Personal and Professional Resilience in Today’s Media Profession

MODERATOR: CARYL COOPER

Diverse media professionals with more than 15 years’ experience have demonstrated their mastery of the writing, communication and technological skills required for excellence in the field. However, today’s professional is at the epicenter of a political and philosophical shift in our nation. Journalists work in an increasingly hostile and pessimistic social environment that includes charges of “fake news,” death threats and, sometimes, the murder of colleagues. Politicians, pundits and other talking heads have turned “truth,” an established ethical standard, on its head by using disinformation tactics and perpetuating unsubstantiated claims of media bias. To weather the storm, media professionals may find themselves in need of another skill set: strategies for resilience. Today’s professionals will share their strategies for personal and professional growth, and discuss their perspectives as minorities on how to prepare for the future of media.

MODERATOR: BHARAT MEHRA

PAPERS ON DIVERSITY AND FRAME PERCEPTIONS

CAMELLIA ROOM

PAPERS ON DIVERSITY AND NAVIGATING PROFESSIONS

MODERATOR: PETER JENSEN

“On the Hunt for Unicorns: The Quest to Find Black Librarians”
TIFFANIE JETER

GEORGE DANIELS

JAMIE JEFFERSON

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

YELLOWHAMMER ROOM

PAPERS ON DIVERSITY AND FRAME PERCEPTIONS

MODERATOR: DIANNE BRAGG

“From Tulsa to Rosewood: Media Coverage on the Road to Reparations”
BRITTANY COLLINS

“Narratives of the Philippine Presidency in the Context of Post-truth”
ORVILLE TATCHO

SARAH KIMBALL STEPHENSON

YELLOWHAMMER ROOM

PAPERS ON RACE AND NAVIGATING PROFESSIONS

MODERATOR: JENNIFER BECKER

PANELISTS: XIAOTI FAN, KHADIZA TUL JANNAT AND OLUWADAMILOLA OPAIYEMI

Three international graduate teaching assistants will discuss how they incorporate diversity, equity and inclusion in their COM 220 Interpersonal Communication classroom. Panelists will discuss how they define diversity, equity and inclusion. Additionally, they will discuss how they promote these concepts in their course design, instructional activities and personal embodiment as international GTAs. Panelists will address the significance and applicability of diversity, equity and inclusion across communication and information courses.

CAMELLIA ROOM

PAPERS ON DIVERSITY AND FRAME PERCEPTIONS

MODERATOR: BHARAT MEHRA

PANELISTS: BAHEYA JABER, RACHEL PARKER AND MISHA (MICHAEL) VIEHOUSER

This panel will engage the audience in an interactive discussion around the integration of social justice and inclusion advocacy in the communication and information professions. It will elicit their response about issues surrounding the training of future researchers, scholars, educators, administrators and practitioners as movers-and-shakers wanting to make the world a better place for all via information and/or communication-related scholarship actions across disciplines in their organizations and communities.