“Our Common History: A Public Humanities Series at the Tuskegee History Center”

Auburn University
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Project Period
September 1, 2014 – June 15, 2015

Date Submitted
May 15, 2015

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Final Report Narrative
Title of Project: Our Common History: A Public Humanities Series at the Tuskegee History Center

Grant Period: February 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Grantee Name: Auburn University

Project Director: Mark Wilson

NOTE: The final report should document that all elements of your institution’s individual, approved project proposal have been addressed, in addition to requirements of the Scope of Work (see attached).

Description of Project:

Growing out of relationships developed through past ATP projects, the 2015 project assisted the Tuskegee History Center with the development and execution of a public humanities series on local history and culture—the first series of its type—and provided students an opportunity to work alongside community members and guests for the success of the series. We executed six public programs in total, plus a seventh public program not billed as part of the series but one that grew out of past oral history ATP projects. In addition but related to the series, students assisted with smaller research components on issues related to history and culture, all within the intent of capacity building for sustainable cultural development.

Activities:

Please include full details regarding all activities, including the conference presentation, poster, and the following requirements of the 2014-2015 Scope of Work:

Friday, August 19, 2014
Two trips to Tuskegee History Center, morning and afternoon, for an introduction to the space, staff, and volunteers. We worked a couple of hours to move boxes from the multipurpose room to storage to allow room for the Our Common History series.

Friday, August 26, 2014
Traveled to the Tuskegee-Macon County Public Library from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to work on a bulletin board for the series.

Tuesday, September 9, 2014
To the Tuskegee History Center to set up and execute the first public program on the Tuskegee National Forest. Forty in attendance.

Tuesday, September 9, 2014
Student traveled to Tuskegee to advertise the series at the Ministers’ Council. Distributed postcards and flyers and invited ministers, especially, to attend Richard Bailey’s program on the role of the black church in antebellum Alabama.

**Sunday, September 22, 2014**
Student traveled to Tuskegee to meet Shari Williams, non-profit leader, and tour the South Macon School Site for research related to an application to the Alabama Historical Commission to add the site to the Alabama Historic Registry.

**Tuesday, September 24, 2014**
To the Tuskegee History Center for execution of Linda Kenny Miller program. Seventy in attendance.

**October 8, 2014**
To the Tuskegee History Center for execution of Richard Bailey program. Fifty in attendance.

**October 21, 2014**
To the Tuskegee History Center for execution of Joe Caver program. Fifty in attendance.

**October 31, 2014**
Student meeting at Tuskegee History Center to discuss research related to nominating a Tuskegee individual to a postage stamp.

**November 6, 2014**
To the Tuskegee History Center for execution of Robin Banks program. Fifty-five in attendance.

**November 10, 2014**
Student presentations in Nostasulga 4th grade classes using Tuskegee History Center materials and classroom exercises developed by students.

**November 14, 2014**
To the Tuskegee History Center for execution of Dana Chandler program. Forty-five in attendance.

**November 17, 2014**
To Tuskegee for execution of Mosaic Theatre production of the performance “Integration of Tuskegee High School,” which was the topic a previous Appalachian Teaching Project.

**December 12, 2014:**
**FINAL REPORT TO STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS**
Report to Tuskegee History Center staff and volunteers on the series. At this meeting, a THC board member who had attended several suggested that the series should not stop and that he would be willing to support financially and through time and effort the execution of three public programs in the spring.
Although students were unable to participate in the spring, we were able to offer three public programs as a result.

December 2014
ATP SYMPOSIUM, WASHINGTON, D.C.
Students delivered presentation and poster.

February 25, 2015
AUBURN UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE PRESENTATION
The Auburn University Outreach Division holds an annual Outreach Scholarship Symposium, and our project was selected for a concurrent session. At the session, we overviewed the Appalachian Teaching Project and the model that has sustained the effort for over ten years. We reported on the fall project, as well as presented how the projects over the past several years have built on one another.

NOTE: One students became a volunteer at the Tuskegee University Archives as a result of his participation in ATP and made several trips to the school not reflected in this list.

Project Outcomes:
Participation in the six public programs totaled 310. We received 209 written evaluations of programs, and 89% of those persons rated the programs excellent. The evaluations also revealed important information related to future topics and additional ways to advertise in the future. The evaluations revealed that most people were informed about programs through personal relationships.

Sixty of the 209 persons who completed evaluations reported that the program was their first visit to the Tuskegee History Center. We were pleased with this total, since it represents community members who will now be on the Center’s mailing list and hold potential as future contributors.

Although the programs were free, we encouraged the sale of books by speakers, and we encouraged donations to the Center. We do not have a total for financial contributions, but we know that contributions were given.

The project allowed for collaboration between another unit on campus, the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities, which provided refreshments and in-kind support for the series. This relationship allowed us to leverage additional campus resources.

Additionally, a schoolteacher from an adjacent county attending a fall program, her first visit to the Center, and was impressed the Center’s historical exhibits. She arranged for 40 high school students to visit the Center recently (May 6), which resulted in a paid group visit for the Center ($4 per person).
Problems Encountered:

We had hoped to develop a relationship with Tuskegee University students as part of the project, and while we did have some participation from a student, his schedule did not work with the project time commitments. We continue to look for a way to collaborate with Tuskegee University.

Students participated in ATP as part of the course Introduction to Community and Civic Engagement. While the course is a good fit, since not all of the students participate in ATP, project meetings must occur out of class. This creates scheduling challenges. For the next ATP proposal, we have created a Practicum in Liberal Arts course which will be dedicated to ATP.

We anticipated more opportunities for students to advertise the series through public meetings in the country, but the opportunities were few and student schedules are challenging for those kinds of visits.

Program Continuation and Sustainability:

The most exciting outcome of the project related to continuation and sustainability came at the final report meeting with the Tuskegee History Center staff and volunteers. One board member was so impressed with the series and its potential for developing the Center as a community asset that he offered to support financially the honoraria for three spring semester programs. We were able to execute three spring programs as a result.

Staff resources at the Tuskegee History Center continue to be a challenge, and a future series is dependent on the Center’s ability to provide a point person for managing these programs. The Auburn University Draughon Center remains a willing partner for programs, and we hope that the THC will be able to continue the series in the fall.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

1) Continue identification of networks for publicity. We learned from evaluations that social and professional networks are the best form of publicity for public programs in Tuskegee and Macon County. We need to continue to identify local clubs and groups.

2) Continue identification of Tuskegee University faculty who teach classes related to topics. We made progress connecting with faculty and inviting students to attend programs, many of whom were first-time visitors to the Center. We need to continue to develop these relationships.

3) Identification of speakers in agencies and organizations who have content related to Macon County. One of our speakers in the series required no mileage reimbursement or honoraria because his participation was part of his job duties and mission of his organization. We need to identify persons from similar organizations...
who can present on Macon County history and culture. The Alabama Department of Archives and History and the Alabama State Council on the Arts are two possible organizations.

**Attachments (in PDF format):**

Include such items as the following:
- Our Common History Summary Sheet
- Flyer
- Postcard
- Clipping from newspaper, etc.
- Photos of students in action
- Auburn University Outreach Scholarship Symposium
2014 Our Common History Series

Tuesday, September 9, 4:00 p.m.
“History of the Tuskegee National Forest"
Bob Pasquill, Heritage Program Manager, National Forests in Alabama

Attendance = 40

Wednesday, September 24, Noon
“The Life and Work of John A. Kenney, M.D.”
Linda Kenney Miller, Author of Beacon on the Hill: A Novel

Attendance = 70

Wednesday, October 8, Noon
“Rock in a Weary Land: The Black Church in 19th-Century Alabama”
Dr. Richard Bailey, Alabama Humanities Foundation Road Scholar

Attendance = 50

Tuesday, October 21, 4:00
“Tuskegee Airmen Illustrated”
Joe Caver, Archivist and Historian

Attendance = 50

Thursday, November 6, 4:00 p.m.
“Rockin’ the Character of Booker T. Washington”
Robin Banks, educator and great-granddaughter of Booker T. Washington

Attendance = 55

Friday, November 14, Noon
Dana Chandler, Tuskegee University Archivist

Attendance = 42

Some Outcomes

• Over 300 attendees
• 209 evaluations received
• 89% reported “excellent” to describe the programs
• 60 reported visiting the center for the first time (29% of respondents)
• Top three ways people found out about event: friend, poster/card, teacher
OUR COMMON HISTORY

REFLECTING ON MACON COUNTY’S UNIQUE AND IMPORTANT HISTORY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 4:00 P.M.
“History of the Tuskegee National Forest”
Bob Pasquill, Heritage Program Manager, National Forests in Alabama

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, NOON
“The Life and Work of John A. Kenney, M.D.”
Linda Kenney Miller, Author of Beacon on the Hill: A Novel

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, NOON
“Rock in a Weary Land: The Black Church in 19th-Century Alabama”
Dr. Richard Bailey, Alabama Humanities Foundation Road Scholar

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 4:00 P.M.
“Tuskegee Airmen Illustrated”
Joe Caver, Archivist and Historian

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 4:00 P.M.
“Rockin’ the Character of Booker T. Washington”
Robin Banks, educator and great-granddaughter of Booker T. Washington

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, NOON
Dana Chandler, Tuskegee University Archivist

All events are free and open to the public and will be held at the Tuskegee History Center, 104 South Elm Street, Tuskegee.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: CALL (334) 844-6198 OR VISIT AUBURN.EDU/OURCOMMONHISTORY

Sponsored by the Tuskegee History Center, Tuskegee University Department of History and Political Science, and the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University, with funding from the Alabama Humanities Foundation, state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.
OUR COMMON HISTORY
Reflecting on Macon County’s Unique and Important History

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 4:00 P.M.
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**Robert Pasquill**, Heritage Program Manager, National Forests in Alabama

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**Dana Chandler**, Tuskegee University Archivist
All events are free and open to the public and will be held at the Tuskegee History Center, 104 South Elm Street, Downtown Tuskegee.

Sponsored by the Tuskegee History Center, Tuskegee University Department of History and Political Science, and the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University, with funding from the Alabama Humanities Foundation, state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information, call (334) 844-6198 or visit auburn.edu/ourcommonhistory.
OUR COMMON HISTORY

Wed, September 24
12:00 Noon / Free
104 South Elm Street, Tuskegee, AL

Linda Kenney Miller, granddaughter of author John A. Kenney, M.D., will discuss his groundbreaking work on race, health, and the medical community in Tuskegee with the release of her new novel, "Beacon on the Hill: A Novel."

Our Common History Series continues at Tuskegee History Center.

Visit our website or call 334-843-6966 for more information on the series.

For more information on the Tuskegee History Center, please call 334-843-6966.

For more information on the Tuskegee University, please call 334-843-6966.
OUR COMMON HISTORY
Noted Alabama Historian to Discuss
Black Church in 19th-Century Alabama
Wednesday, October 8th
12:00 Noon / Free
Tuskegee History Center
104 South Elm Street, Tuskegee, AL

Butler Chapel AME Zion Church

Dr. Richard Bailey, Road Scholar for the Alabama Humanities Foundation, will discuss the role of the black church in 19th-century Alabama—including the significance of Tuskegee's own Butler Chapel AME Zion Church. During the days of slavery and freedom, the black church was the most significant institution in the black community, and a minister served as teacher, legislator, counselor, psychologist, and in any other role required.

For more information on the series, please call 334-844-6198 or visit auburn.edu/ourcommonhistory.
Our Common History

History of the Tuskegee National Forest

Tuesday, September 9
4:00 p.m. / Free

Tuskegee History Center
104 South Elm Street, Tuskegee, AL
Presented by Bob Pasquill:
Heritage Program Manager for the National
Forests of Alabama

The program will discuss Macon County land and
history-makers, including depression era worn-out
land, relocated sharecropper families, Tuskegee
Institute president Robert Moton, long time Tuskegee
National Forest staffer, Luther Hunt, and the United
States government, who all played an integral part in
the making of the Tuskegee National Forest.

For more information on the series, please call
334-844-6198 or visit auburn.edu/ourcommonhistory.

Nov. 14 program to discuss
new information about BTW

Tuskegee University
archivist Dana Chandler will discuss re-
cently discovered artifacts and documents
related to Booker T. Washington on Friday,
Nov. 14 — the 99th an-
niversary of Washing-
ton's death — at noon
at the Tuskegee History
Center (104 South Elm
Street) as part of the
"Our Common History"
series.

Although many people
believe they know the
full story of Washing-
ton's influence on
Tuskegee and Macon
County, recently discov-
ered artifacts and docu-
ments housed at the
Tuskegee University
Archives provide fur-
ther evidence of the
many contributions of
Washington that are
seldom discussed by
scholars.

Chandler will discuss
the treasure trove of
archival material that
illustrates the life and
work of one of the most
important educational
leaders in American
history.

The "Our Common
History" series is spon-
sored by the Tuskegee

Dana Chandler

History Center,
Tuskegee University
Department of History
and Political Science,
and the Caroline Mar-
shall Draughn Center
for the Arts & Humani-
ties in the College of
Liberal Arts at Auburn
University, with sup-
port from the Alabama
Humanities Founda-
tion, a state affiliate of
the National Endow-
ment for the Humani-
ties.

The events are free
and open to the public.
For more information
on the series, please
call 334-844-6198 or
visit auburn.edu/our-
commonhistory.
OUR COMMON HISTORY

What's New About Booker T. Washington?
Friday, Nov. 14 | 12 p.m./Free
Tuskegee History Center
104 South Elm Street, Tuskegee, AL

Tuskegee University archivist Dana Chandler will discuss recently discovered artifacts and documents related to Booker T. Washington on Friday, November 14 - the 99th anniversary of Washington's death.

Although many people believe they know the full story of Washington's influence on Tuskegee and Macon County, recently discovered artifacts and documents housed at the Tuskegee University Archives provide further evidence of the many contributions of Washington that are seldom discussed by scholars. Chandler will discuss the treasure trove of archival material that illustrates the life and work of one of the most important educational leaders in American history.

For more information on the series, please call 334-844-6198 or visit auburn.edu/ourcommonhistory.

OUR COMMON HISTORY

Great Granddaughter of Booker T. Washington in Tuskegee on Nov 6
Thursday, November 6th | 4:00 p.m. / Free
Tuskegee History Center
104 South Elm Street, Tuskegee, AL

Robia Banks holds degrees from Columbia College Chicago and Tuskegee University, and she is the author of the children's books Big Boy and Littlest and Black and White. Her latest book, Lil Jasmine's Sticks and Stones, tackles the important social issue of cyber bullying.

Robia Banks will discuss the character and legacy of her great grandfather Booker T. Washington on Thursday, November 6 at 4:00 p.m. at the Tuskegee History Center (104 South Elm Street) as part of the "Our Common History" series.

In a lively and engaging presentation titled "Rockin' the Character of Booker T. Washington," the audience will learn about one of the most influential leaders in American history while rockin' to familiar beats and strengthening their own character. "Character is the force that drives our choices," says Banks, who delivers the presentation to audiences around the country.

For more information on the series, please call 334-844-6198 or visit auburn.edu/ourcommonhistory.
‘Our Common History’ series begins in Tuskegee

"Our Common History," a series of talks reflecting on Macon County's unique and important history, is slated for the fall season at the Tuskegee History Center. The series will begin with a talk on the history and development of the Tuskegee National Forest on Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 4 p.m.

Presented by Bob Pasquill, Heritage Program Manager for the National Forests of Alabama, the program will discuss Macon County land and history-makers, including depression-era worn-out land, relocated sharecropper families, Tuskegee Institute president Robert Moton, long time Tuskegee National Forest staffer Luther Hurt, and the United States government, who all played an integral part in the making of the Tuskegee National Forest.

The “Our Common History” series will run through November. All talks will be held at the Tuskegee History Center (104 South Elm Street, Tuskegee).

- Tuesday, Sept. 9, 4 p.m.: "History of the Tuskegee National Forest," by Bob Pasquill, Heritage Program Manager, National Forests in Alabama.
- Tuesday, October 21, 4 p.m.: "Tuskegee Airmen Illustrated," by Joe Caver, Archivist and Historian.
- Thursday, Nov. 6, 4 p.m.: "Rockin' the Character of Booker T. Washington," by Robin Banks, educator and great-granddaughter of Booker T. Washington.

“Our Common History” is sponsored by the Tuskegee History Center, Tuskegee University Department of History and Political Science, and the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University, with support from the Alabama Humanities Foundation, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The events are free and open to the public.

All author talks in the "Our Common History" program series include the availability of books for purchase and signing at the conclusion of each program.

For more information on the series, please call 334-844-6198 or visit auburn.edu/ourcommonhistory.
Noted Alabama Historian to Discuss Black Church in 19th Century Alabama

Dr. Richard Bailey

Our Common History

Black Church — On Wednesday, October 8th at 8:00 pm in the Tuskegee University Alumni Center, Tuskegee History Center, Tuskegee, Alabama, Dr. Richard Bailey, noted Alabama historian, will discuss the significance of the black church in 19th century Alabama. Bailey will explore the role of the black church and its contributions to African American culture and history. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, please call 334-844-7198 or visit the Tuskegee University website.
Rare Photos of Tuskegee Alumn Tell Untold Story at October 21 Program

Joe Carver, Outlook for Oct. 21

Annie Bascomb, Jones of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Tuskegee, asks Dr. Richard Berry for more details on 19th century Macon County church history. The Tuskegee History Center, Tuskegee University, and History. He holds degrees from Alabama State University, with support from the Alabama Humanities Fundation. A State Affiliates of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Department of Archives and History, is sponsored by the Tuskegee History Center, Tuskegee University. The Tuskegee History Center is an affiliate of the National Endowment of the Humanities. For more information on the series, please call 334-84-6190. For Tuskegee University, please call 334-315-0151.

The Tuskegee Alumn Tel the Untold Story at October 21 Program

Joe Carver, Outlook for Oct. 21
WATTS NEW AT Utilities Board of Tuskegee

“Our Common History” talks held in Tuskegee
By Deborah Gray

This fall at the Tuskegee History Center, a series of public programs of author talks reflecting on Macon County’s unique and important history began in September and continues through November. From the land to the skies, program subjects focus on: the origin and development of the Tuskegee National Forest; the life and work of John A. Kenney, MD; the history and role of the Black Church in 19th century Alabama; seldom presented Tuskegee Airmen history; and Booker T. Washington personal reflections by his great-granddaughter; and contemporary perspectives by a Tuskegee University archivist.

Author talk presentations are followed by book signings, and have included award-winning author Linda Kenney Miller, who penned the novel “Beacon on the Hill”, and talked about her grandfather’s groundbreaking work in Negro history and medicine including the founding of the first full service hospital for Negroes in Tuskegee; noted historian Richard Bailey, Alabama Humanities Foundation Road Scholar on the Black Church in 19th century Alabama, including the significance of Tuskegee’s own Butler Chapel AME Zion Church; Maxwell Air Force Base’s Joe Caver, senior archivist and historian, traced the steps of the Tuskegee Airmen in photographs from training and deployment to combat.

Upcoming November programs are:
- “Rockin’ the Character of Booker T. Washington” by Robin Banks, educator and great granddaughter of Booker T. Washington, who has written a new book for youth audiences which will be presented on Thursday, Nov. 6 at 4 p.m.;
- “Booker T. Washington: The Man and Myth Revisited” by Dana Chandler, Tuskegee University archivist, using newly-discovered documents, will present the latest perspectives on Washington’s development of Tuskegee and Macon County at 12 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 14, the 99th anniversary of Washington’s death.
- “Our Common History” is sponsored by the Tuskegee History Center, Tuskegee University Department of History and Political Science, the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University, with support from the Alabama Humanities Foundation, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. All “Our Common History” programs are free and open to the public.

The Tuskegee History Center, also known as the Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center, preserves, protects and promotes the history of Tuskegee and Macon County. For more information, see www.tuskegeecenter.org, or call (334) 724-0800.

Deborah Gray is the managing director of the Tuskegee History Center.

WATTS NEW AT Riviera Utilities

Crews at Riviera Utilities wear pink hard hats during Breast Cancer Awareness Month
By Miles McDaniel

During October, Riviera Utilities crews wore pink hard hats to show their support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

“This is the first time Riviera Utilities employees have worn pink hard hats, challenging the ‘rugged’ image of the utility business, supporting family, friends, colleagues, and customers who have been and could be affected by breast cancer,” said Tom DeBell, General Manager, Riviera Utilities. “At Riviera Utilities, the majority of our field employees wear a hard hat on a daily basis for personal protection, and we are proud of their commitment to wear a pink hard hat during Breast Cancer Awareness Month to help raise awareness of this disease and the importance of screening. As part of our community, we believe it’s important to support others going through difficult times and bring awareness to such a devastating disease.”

The “multiplier effect” continues, as passers-by to Riviera Utilities job sites see the pink hard hats and when employees take the pink hard hats home each night, they are seen by spouses, daughters, sisters, friends and neighbors.

So next year, grab some pink and join us and help show your support by spreading the word about Breast Cancer Awareness.

Miles McDaniel is manager of public affairs for Riviera Utilities.
Outreach Scholarship Symposium:
Advancing Transformative Engagement
keynote
Dr. Sharon Shields
Professor and Associate Dean
Peabody College of Education
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
Tues. & Wed.,
February 24-25, 2015
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Auburn University Student Center • Rooms 2222 and 2223
Room 2225 ■ Symposia Session

Our Common History: Collaboration for the Past and Future in Macon County, Alabama

Mark Wilson, AU Student Project Participant,
and Tuskegee History Center volunteer/staff

During the 2014 fall semester, the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University, the Department of Political Science and History at Tuskegee University, the Tuskegee History Center and the Alabama Humanities Foundation, assisted by students who participated in the Appalachian Teaching Project of the Appalachian Regional Commission, offered six free, public programs on topics related to Macon County history and culture. The presentation will describe the collaboration and outcomes for the program.

Room 2227 ■ Symposia Session

English as a Second Language for Health: Inclusive Approach to Health Education Outreach

Kathleen S. Tajeu and Cesar Bazo Quintana

“Staying Healthy in Alabama: ESL for Health” is a program implemented in 5 rural locales across Alabama. English language learners expand their knowledge of health literacy and chronic disease prevention while improving their English language skills.

Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) organized the program, hired outreach staff at the various locales, and worked in cooperation with community based organizations. Cooperative Extension has thereby worked with ‘non-traditional’ communities and provided ACES staff with new learning opportunities. A program description, developmental successes and challenges, preliminary evaluation results, and potential next-steps including campus based partnerships will be shared.

Nursing Care at Jordan-Hare:

Auburn University School of Nursing Engages in Community Health

Chandra Darden and Constance Smith Hendricks

Community nursing is necessary and has a great impact to the overall health of populations and presents unique opportunities to care for entire communities. In addition, it is important to develop culturally competent skills to care for a global community, regardless of their geographic location. The purpose of this presentation is to examine how community nursing has evolved over the years using evidence based practice to pursue a healthier community. In a collaborative approach, Auburn University School of Nursing has partnered with East Alabama Medical Center to provide health care services to the community even during times of fun at Jordan-Hare Stadium. Data are analyzed to support the evolution of community nursing along with the impact it has on the community.