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Dr. Katrina Caldwell
UM Vice Chancellor for Diversity
and Community Engagement

Just pause...

IT STARTS WITH MEEK
April 19-25, 2017

Special thanks to:
Emily Bowen-Moore
Dr. Brad Schultz
Debbie Woodrick Hall

Photographer: Stan O’Dell
Program design: Emily Bowen-Moore
Logo design: Grace Baird and Austin Dean
In Memory of: George Street and Virginia Hamilton
**Meek School students:**

Be sure to write your name in your program and keep the same one all five days. Each time you attend an event, get your program stamped. You can show your teachers your stamped program to prove you attended an event. You can also get a free T-shirt the day of the festival if you get at least two stamps before the festival day.

**Your name ________________________________**

Please stamp by session time.

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<th>Wednesday, April 19</th>
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**Monday, April 24**

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**Welcome**

*Just pause.*

Just pause before you assume you know me. Just pause before you stereotype me. That’s what we’re asking you to do for five days.

Just pause before you judge people based solely on one factor. It might be their race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, disability, mental illness or other factor.

Welcome to It Starts with (Me)ek, five days of events designed to remind us that one factor does not define all of who we are. For example, women once were stereotyped as only being qualified for secretarial, teaching or nursing jobs. Once we quit stereotyping women, their roles and careers have changed drastically.

Even Mississippians are often stereotyped by people from other areas of the country. And look at how many outstanding Mississippians we have!

Too often, we fall into that easy trap of stereotyping people based on their outward presentation without bothering to discover the many things we share in common with that person.

So please join us as we all seek to understand together how to approach each person with understanding, dignity, respect and inclusion. We all have more in common than you think.

Robin Street
Senior Lecturer in Public Relations
It Starts with (Me)ek Chair
**Thursday, April 20**

**A Day in My Life**
The joys and challenges of the lives of diverse publics at UM

Throwback Thursday: Look for throwback photos of faculty members posted on their office doors.

**9:30 a.m. From James Meredith to Millennials: Race Relations at Ole Miss**
*A panel of UM students discuss the state of race relations on campus*

Moderator: Shawnboda Mead, director, Center for Inclusion and Cross Cultural Engagement. Panel members: Bianca Abney, IMC major; Brittany Brown, broadcast journalism major; Nekkita Beans, president, Black Student Union; Tysianna Marino, president, UM chapter of NAACP

**11 a.m. Red, Blue and Rainbow: An Inside Look at Being LGBT at UM**
*Panel members who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender discuss their experiences*

Moderator: Rachel Anderson, journalism major and ISWM events co-chair. Panel members: Danica McOmber, general manager, Gear Gaming; Dylan Lewis, broadcast journalism major; Mykki Newton, staff member, Meek School; Susannah Sweeney-Gates, project coordinator, Center for Continuing Legal Education, with her spouse, Hayden Gates

**1 p.m. Building Trust Within Professional and Personal Communities: A Workshop**
*Dr. Jennifer Stollman, instructor and academic director of racial reconciliation, William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation*

**2:30 p.m. Sometimes I Feel Invisible: Living with a Disability**
*Panel members who have a disability discuss their experiences*

Moderator: Dr. Kathleen Wickham, professor of journalism. Panel members: Stacey Reycraft, director of student disability services; Adam Brown, sports editor, Hotty Toddy.com; students Jessie, Trenton, Timber, Martha-Grace, Josh and Jeremy.

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**Wednesday, April 19**

**“It” Starts today!**

**10 a.m. Opening Ceremony**
Welcome from Robin Street, senior lecturer in public relations.
Introduction of committee. Announcement of competition winners and logo creators.

**Welcome and remarks from:**
Dr. Charlie Mitchell, associate dean and professor of journalism, Meek School of Journalism and New Media
Dr. Donald Cole, assistant provost & associate professor of mathematics
Shawnboda Mead, director, Center for Inclusion and Cross Cultural Engagement
Recognize: Dr. Katrina Caldwell, vice chancellor for diversity and community engagement

**11 a.m. Other Moments: A Class Photography Exercise in Honoring Difference at Ole Miss**
Dr. Mark Dolan, associate professor of journalism and new media, and his students.

**1 p.m. Making a Difference by Engaging with Difference**
Dr. Jennifer Stollman, instructor and academic director of racial reconciliation, William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation

**2 p.m. Tell Me a Story: Using Personal Narratives to Navigate Cultural Difference**
Dr. Katrina Caldwell, vice chancellor for diversity and community engagement

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**It Starts with (Me)ek**
Panel members are UM students and faculty unless otherwise noted. Speakers are correct as of press time; any changes will be announced.
5:30 p.m. Spoken Word Performance
A relaxing night of spoken word expressing stories, thoughts and aspirations on stereotypes, respect and inclusion from members of the Ole Miss community

Friday, April 21
Bringing it All Back Home
Alumni return to share their experiences

10 a.m. Race in America: A Journalist’s Perspective
Jesse Holland, race and ethnicity reporter, Associated Press

11 a.m. Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow
A panel of black Meek School alumni discuss their experiences as students and professionals (This panel repeats at 1 p.m.)
Moderator: Jesse Holland, Associated Press race & ethnicity reporter. Panel members: Gabriel Austin, video editor, Mississippi Today; Ashley Ball, communications associate, Siemens Corporations; Poinesha Barnes, news producer, WREG; Kim Dandridge, attorney, Butler Snow; Kells Johnson, assignment editor, WZTV Fox 17; Selena Standifer, deputy public affairs director, Mississippi Department of Transportation

1 p.m. Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, Session II
A panel of black Meek School alumni discuss their experiences as students and professionals (Repeat of 11 a.m. panel)
Moderator: Rose Jackson Flennoral, manager of global citizenship, FedEx Services. Panel members: Gabriel Austin, video editor, Mississippi Today; Ashley Ball, communications associate, Siemens Corporations; Poinesha Barnes, news producer, WREG; Kim Dandridge, attorney, Butler Snow; Jesse Holland, AP race & ethnicity reporter; Kells Johnson, assignment editor, WZTV Fox 17; Selena Standifer, deputy public affairs director, Mississippi Department of Transportation

2 p.m. Red, Blue and Rainbow Alumni
A panel of LGBT Meek School alumni discuss their experiences as students and as professionals

Moderator: Shepard Smith, chief news anchor, Fox News. Panelists: Martin Bartlett, PR strategist, Barracuda Public Relations; Hays Burchfield, attorney, Burchfield Law Firm; Kells Johnson, assignment editor, WZTV Fox 17 Nashville; Sid Williams, executive director, Pensacola Little Theatre and Cultural Center

3 p.m. My Journey from Farley Hall to Major News
Events Around the World
Shepard Smith, chief news anchor, Fox News

4 p.m. Reception for speakers and Meek students

Monday, April 24
Mind, Body & Spirit Monday

9 a.m. Normal Does Not Exist, Mental Illness Does
Mary Beth Duty, licensed professional counselor and owner, Soulshine Counseling and Wellness

10 a.m. From the Bible Belt to Baghdad: what today’s IMC and journalism professionals need to know about the world’s major religions
Dr. Sarah Moses, assistant professor, Dept. of Philosophy & Religion

11 a.m. Keeping the Faith
Members of the Jewish and Muslim faiths discuss their religion and the challenges they are facing in 2017
Moderator: Dr. Will Norton, dean, Meek School. Panel members: Dr. Mahmoud A. ElSohly, research professor and professor of pharmaceutics; Dr. Richard Gershon, professor of law; Katherine Levingston, president, Hillel

1 p.m. Mental Health and Me
Panel members discuss their personal experiences with mental health issues
Moderator: Debbie Hall, instructor in IMC. Panel members: Lindsay Brett, doctoral student, School of Education; Mary Beth Duty, owner, Soulshine Counseling and Wellness; Justin Geller, child & youth outreach coordinator, Communicare; Hailey Heck, IMC major; Tysianna Marino, public policy major; Abby Vance, journalism major
2 p.m. Role of Individual and Institutional Accountability in Doing Diversity and Equity
Michèle Alexandre, professor of law and Leonard B. Melvin, Jr. lecturer

3 p.m. Keeping it Real on Social Media: Guidelines for Handling Diversity Issues
Ryan Whittington, assistant director of public relations for social media strategy

5 p.m. Unity in Diversity
Fashion show and entertainment in the Farley Hall front yard
Rain location: Overby Auditorium

6 p.m. Racial Politics in Memphis
Otis Sanford, holder of the Hardin Chair of Excellence in Economic and Managerial Journalism, University of Memphis

Tuesday, April 25
Farley Festival Day

Meek School students are asked to wear purple and faculty and staff to wear '60s outfits today to show their support for the It Starts with (Me)ek campaign

10:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. Farley Festival
Join us on the front lawn of Farley Hall for entertainment, information, prizes and fun. The festival celebrates the '60s because of the many movements that gained strength that decade such as civil rights, gay rights and women’s rights. Rain location: inside Farley Hall

Students wearing purple to the tent get a free Chick-fil-A treat.
Students bringing a program stamped with at least two events they attended get a free T-shirt as long as supply is available.

During ISWM events, if you require special assistance relating to a disability, please contact Paula Hurdle at phurdle@olemiss.edu. Some accommodations, such as ASL interpreting, will require advanced notice to arrange so please request such services at least one week before an event.
It Starts with (Me)ek Committee Members
Listed alphabetically, with sub-group members and chairs

- Bianca Abney, events
- Rachel Anderson, events co-chair
- Emma Arnold, communications co-chair
- Grace Baird, communications co-chair
- Kayla Beatty, video co-chair
- Colbie Bowker, social and online media
- Kaitlin Childress, competition
- Allison Fazio, festival co-chair
- Faith Fogarty, costume chair
- Scarlett Fox, hospitality co-chair
- Reade Heredia, survey director
- Hailey Heck, festival co-chair
- Alex Hicks, social and online media co-chair
- Gabrielle Jackson, competition
- Chi Kalu, special consultant
- Dylan Lewis, hospitality co-chair
- Taylor Lewis, social and online media
- Kailen Locke, social and online media
- Callie Mayo, competition
- Zacchaeus McEwen, competition co-chair
- Grace Miller, throwback photo coordinator
- Bess Nichols, competition co-chair
- Hannah Pickett, social and online media co-chair
- Kendrick Pittman, video
- Billy Rainey, events co-chair
- Chloe Riley, program materials coordinator
- Kelsey Sims, events
- Robin Street, campaign chair
- Christina Triggs, events co-chair
- Rachel Vanderford, social and online media
- Kalah Walker, video co-chair
- Brittanee Wallace, fashion show chair

Group photo of committee. Pictured, left to right are:
Front row: Riley, Pickett, Childress, Street, Abney, Beatty, Fogarty
Second row: Bowker, Arnold, Nichols, Hicks, Fazio, Walker
Third row: Kalu, Heredia, Wallace, Mayo, Locke, Heck
Fourth row: Lewis, D., Lewis, T., Fox, Sims, Trigg, Anderson
Fifth row: McEwen, Miller, Vanderford, Rainey, Pittman, Jackson, Baird

Photo credit: Stan O’Dell
**Dr. Michèle Alexandre**
Professor Michèle Alexandre is Professor of Law and Leonard B. Melvin, Jr., Lecturer at the UM Law School. She joined the faculty in 2008 as an Associate Professor from the University of Memphis School of Law. Professor Alexandre is the first black woman valedictorian of Colgate University. She earned her Juris Doctor degree (J.D.) from Harvard Law School. Her teaching and scholarly areas include constitutional law, international law, civil rights law, disability law, critical race theory, human rights and gender. She is the author of Sexploitation: Sexual Profiling and the Illusion of Gender (Routledge, 2014). She was named one of Ebony Magazine’s Top 100 influential African Americans of 2013 and one of the 50 “Most Influential Minority Law Professors 50 Years of Age or Younger” by Lawyers of Color Magazine. She has received Fulbright and Watson Fellowships. Professor Alexandre also works on issues of sustainability and economic independence for small farmers in Mississippi’s Delta and other areas of the rural South. In the fall of 2012 and spring of 2015, she organized national conferences, hosted by the University of Mississippi, focused on issues of sustainability and social justice for poor populations of the rural South. Prof. Alexandre has published numerous law review articles, book chapters and op-eds. Her upcoming civil rights textbook is The New Frontiers of Civil Rights Litigation. (Carolina Academic Press.)

**Dr. Katrina Caldwell**
Katrina Myers Caldwell, Ph.D. has over 20 years of experience in higher education and has spent the majority of that time working on initiatives that increase access and opportunities for students. In her most previous role as the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, she oversaw the development of programs that reflected the university’s commitment to the recruitment, persistence, retention and graduation of diverse students. Dr. Caldwell has taught courses in Multi-ethnic Literature, African American History and Literature, Feminist Literature and Peace and Social Justice. She received her bachelor’s degree in English Literature from Spelman College and her master’s and doctorate in English Literature from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

**Mary Beth Duty**
Mary Beth Duty, originally from Tupelo, graduated from the University of Mississippi in 2004 with a broadcast journalism degree. After graduating from Southern Methodist University with a master’s of science in counseling in January 2015, she trained in psychodrama at Bridging Harts Institute and Psychotherapy, the largest Psychodrama Institute in The United States. Additionally, she is certified in Heart-Centered Hypnotherapy after completing training at The Wellness Institute in Issaquah, Washington. Duty created a Mindfulness Training curriculum for children, and teaches meditation to adults and children. She is the owner of Soulshine Counseling and Wellness. She also has counseling experience in a community mental health center, drug court intensive outpatient program, in-patient chemical dependency and mental health hospital, partial hospitalization program for mental health with adults and adolescents, as well as a private practice.

**Jesse Holland**
Jesse J. Holland is an accomplished author, novelist and journalist standing at the junction of African American history and literature for children and adults. He is the author of The Invisibles: The Untold Story of African American Slaves In the White House, which was named one of the Smithsonian Magazine’s top history books of 2016. He is also the author of the upcoming novel, The Black Panther: Who Is The Black Panther?, from Marvel Studios Books, the first adult novel featuring the nation’s first major black comic book superhero. Jesse is a race & ethnicity reporter for The Associated Press in Washington, D.C., and a former Supreme Court, White House and congressional reporter. He graduated from the University of Mississippi with a Liberal Arts degree with an emphasis in journalism. While there, he was the second African American editor of The Daily Mississippian. Jesse was named one of TheRoot.com 100 Most Influential African Americans in 2011 and is one the University of Mississippi’s Top 50 Journalism Graduates.

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Smith has covered virtually every major news story over the course of his career and has played a significant role in the network’s innovation of the way news is presented. On Shepard Smith Reporting, Smith anchors news coverage from The Fox News Deck, a state-of-the-art newsgathering studio with advanced technologies to help bring viewers the latest hard news from around the globe.

During his extensive career at Fox News, spanning over 20 years, Smith has covered numerous stories including the deadly attacks in Paris on November 13th, 2015, the riots following the shooting of civilian Michael Brown by a police officer in Ferguson, MO, as well as the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370. Additionally, he traveled to Ukraine to report on the unrest in Kiev and Crimea and covered the shooting at the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). Smith was also notably on site from Boston providing live coverage during the aftermath of the marathon bombing in 2013.

Prior to those events, Smith reported live from Rome during the election of Pope Francis, as well as on the retirement of Pope Benedict XVI. In 2011, he was on location from Japan following the devastating earthquake and tsunami and during the nuclear threats. During that same year, Smith provided extensive news coverage and analysis of the anti-government protests and civil unrest in Egypt and Libya.

Since the beginning of his tenure with FNC, Smith has covered other prominent news events, including Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, the Middle East conflict from the Israel-Lebanon border, 9/11 and the subsequent war in Afghanistan, Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Columbine school massacre, and President Clinton’s impeachment trial. He was also one of only two television correspondents to witness the execution of Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh in June of 2001. Early during his career at FNC, Smith held the position of a New York-based general assignment reporter and was then promoted to a senior correspondent. Prior to anchoring Shepard Smith Reporting, Smith anchored The Fox Report and Studio B, both of which ranked number one in their respective time slots, according to Nielsen Media Research.

Before joining FNC, Smith was a Los Angeles-based FOX News Edge correspondent, and previously gained extensive local news experience throughout the state of Florida, reporting for WSVN-TV (FOX) in Miami, the former WCPX-TV (CBS) in Orlando, WBBH-TV (NBC) in Fort Myers, and WJHG-TV (NBC) in Panama City, where he began his television career. He attended the University of Mississippi and is a native of Holly Springs, Mississippi.

Dr. Sarah Moses
Sarah Moses is Assistant Professor of Religion in the Department of Philosophy & Religion at the University of Mississippi. She holds a master’s degree from Harvard University and a Ph.D. from Boston College. She teaches courses in comparative world religions, religious ethics, and medical ethics. She is the author of Ethics & the Elderly, The Challenge of Long-Term Care (Orbis Books, 2015).

Otis Sanford
Otis Sanford holds the Hardin Chair of Excellence in Economic and Managerial Journalism at the University of Memphis. He also serves as the political commentator for WREG-TV Channel 3, the CBS affiliate in Memphis, and writes a weekly political column for The Commercial Appeal. In addition, he is co-host of “Informed Sources,” a weekly public affairs show on WREG-TV. And he is the author of the newly released book, “From Boss Crump to King Willie: How Race Changed Memphis Politics.” The book is published by the University of Tennessee Press. A native of Como, Mississippi, Sanford has more than 40 years of professional journalism experience and is a member of the Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame. Known for his longtime advocacy of freedom of the press and public service, Sanford is a nationally recognized leader in newsroom management, diversity, journalism ethics and the First Amendment. He graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1975 with a B.A. degree in journalism where he worked on The Daily Mississippian for two years.

Dr. Jennifer A. Stollman
Jennifer Stollman, Ph.D. is Academic Director at the Winter Institute. She is responsible for campus professional development, anti-oppression training, curricular and co-curricular development, crisis management, and is a consultant for detecting and eliminating institutional and interpersonal bias. She spent 18 years as a professor of history and gender and women’s studies. She specializes in issues related to the construction, projections, and deployment of individual and collective identities.

Ryan Whittington
Ryan Whittington has been Assistant Director of Public Relations for Social Media Strategy at the University of Mississippi since 2013. An early adopter of just about every social media platform (yes, even MySpace), @rmwhitti received both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in journalism from the University of Mississippi. He has worked in some form of communications or public relations for the past 12 years.