

Welcome

Talking Trash: Garbage in Society and the Environment

is the theme for the 19th Annual Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium to be held Tuesday and Wednesday, November 2nd and 3rd, 2010 in the James Union Building at Middle Tennessee State University. All events are open to the public and free of charge.

The symposium will open Tuesday, November 2nd with student research paper presentations that will continue throughout the two-day symposium. Although **Talking Trash: Garbage in Society and the Environment** is the central Symposium theme, papers are accepted on any social topic. Papers presented by students will include a variety of topics, for example, immigration, social problems, social and cultural theory, hate crimes, race and ethnicity, Appalachian studies, health, family, and work, and experiential learning in archaeological studies and study abroad. Given the relevance of this year's theme the event is expected to draw over 1,000 participants from MTSU and across the state.

Call for Papers:

Undergraduate students with interests in social inquiry are invited to present papers at this year's Symposium. If you are interested in presenting, please submit the title of your paper, your university affiliation, along with your contact information (email and mailing address) by mail or email to: Dr. Brian Hinote at bhinote@mtsu.edu or Dr. Meredith Dye at mdye@mtsu.edu no later than Wednesday, October 27th. If you wish to submit a hard copy of the information, please mail it by that date to: Middle Tennessee State University, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Dr. Brian Hinote, PO Box 10, Murfreesboro, TN 37132.

Student Paper Competition:

We are also pleased to announce the Symposium's Third Annual Student Paper Competition. To enter the paper competition, please submit complete papers to Rebecca Carter at rkarter@mtsu.edu no later than Wednesday, October 27th. If you wish to submit a hard copy, please mail it by that date to: Middle Tennessee State University, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Rebecca Carter, PO Box 10, Murfreesboro, TN 37132. In addition to the student paper competition, we will have a **poster competition**. Please email Dr. Brian Hinote, bhinote@mtsu.edu or Dr. Meredith Dye, mdye@mtsu.edu for further information.

This year's film will be ***Garbage: The Revolution Starts at Home***

Garbage! The Revolution Starts at Home is a feature documentary about how the family household has become one of the most ferocious environmental predators of our time.

Concerned for the future of his new baby boy Sebastian, writer and director Andrew Nisker takes an average urban family, the McDonalds, and asks them to keep every scrap of garbage that they create for three months. He then takes them on a journey to find out where it all goes and what it's doing to the world.

From organic waste to the stuff they flush down the potty, the plastic bags they use to the water they drink out of bottles, the air pollution they create when transporting the kids around, to using lights at Christmas, the McDonalds discover that for every action there is a reaction that affects them and the entire planet.

Everyday life under a microscope has never been so revealing. By the end of this trashy odyssey, you are truly inspired to revolutionize your lifestyle for the sake of future generations.

Garbage: The Revolution Starts at Home, will be screened at Tuesday, November 2 at 4:15 p.m. in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building, and the public is invited to attend. For more information on the film please contact Dr. Shannon Hodge at shodge@mtsu.edu or by phone at 615-494-7681.



Keynote Speaker: Dr. William J. Rathje

In keeping with this year's theme of **Talking Trash**, we have invited Dr. William J. Rathje to serve as our Keynote Speaker. William Rathje (Ph.D., Harvard, 1971) specializes in the social history and the burials of the ancient Maya. For the past 25 years, Dr. Rathje has focused his research and public presentations on the archaeology of modern garbage. Dr. Rathje will be speaking at 6:00 on

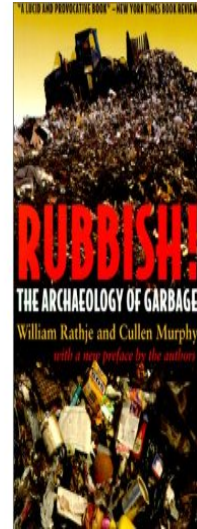
Tuesday, November 2nd in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. His talk will be followed by a book signing. The public is encouraged to attend this highly anticipated event. For more information, please contact Dr. Brian Hinote at bhinote@mtsu.edu or by phone at 615-494-7914.

“The GARBOLOGY of US”

For a preview see Rathje’s article in the

May ’91 issue of *National Geographic*, pgs. 116-134

In 1973, Bill Rathje founded the Garbage Project as a means to teach undergraduates archaeology, as well as a means for archaeology to contribute to an understanding of contemporary issues of public concern. Since then, the Garbage Project has studied fresh refuse to document household-level food waste, diet and nutrition, recycling, and discard of hazardous wastes. In addition, since 1987 The Project has excavated 21 contemporary landfills across North America to record the quantities of various types of buried refuse and what happens to these materials over time. The hands-on realities of refuse have often been different from what was expected; in other words, *what people say they do and what they actually do are often two different things*. “Garbology,” the term coined to describe Rathje’s research, is now in the *Oxford English Dictionary* and the *Encyclopedia Britannica*.



Come to the Rathje’s lecture on November 2 and

learn:

- ◆ **What foods & drinks we most mis-report consuming**
- ◆ **How our misunderstanding of foods affects our health**
- ◆ **What biodegrades and what doesn’t in modern landfills**
- ◆ **What is filling up the most space in our landfills**
- ◆ **Whether our society is currently decadent**
- ◆ **The easiest ways to decrease what we throw away**



This lecture will all be about garbage in our lives, and not “garbage in, garbage out.”

Thematic Panel: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Negotiating Consumerism and the Environment

The panel will be on Tuesday, November 2nd at 11:30 in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. Dr. Angela Mertig, Professor of Sociology, will be moderating the discussion titled: **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Negotiating Consumerism and the Environment**.

The panelists will be Dr. Cliff Rickets, Professor of Agriculture Education; Joseph Whitefield, Director of Center for Energy Efficiency at MTSU; Reggie Miller, TN Campus Coordinator, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE); Bruce Wood, President of BURNT (Bring Urban Recycling to Nashville Today); Bart McClain, General Manager of QRS Recycling, Nashville; and Dr. Ellen Donovan, Professor of English and Recycling Rutherford.

For more information on the panel, please contact Dr. Brian Hinote at bhinote@mtsu.edu, by phone at 615-494-7914 or Dr. Meredith Dye at mdye@mtsu.edu, by phone at 615-898-2690.

Senior Scholar Lecture: Dr. Duane Gill

This year we are excited to have Dr. Duane Gill as our Senior Scholar. He will speak at 12:40 on Wednesday, November 3rd, in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. The public is welcome to attend. For more information on the Senior Scholar Lecture, please contact Dr. Gretchen Webber at gwebber@mtsu.edu or by phone at 615-898-2519.

Oil Spill Déjà Vu: Social Impacts of the BP Gulf Gusher and the *Exxon Valdez* Disaster

On April 20, 2010 the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig leased to BP exploded and sank leaving a breached wellhead gushing an estimated 50,000 barrels of oil per day. Although capped in late July and permanently sealed in September, the spill affected several 'at-risk' industries along the Northern Gulf including commercial and recreational fishing, tourism, and other enterprises tied to natural resources. This event draws comparisons to the 1989 *Exxon Valdez* oil spill (EVOS) in terms of ecological, cultural, social, and economic damage and disruption, as well as potential long-term impacts. Over 21 years of research has documented human impacts of the EVOS with a focus on the community of Cordova, AK. This lecture examines social impacts of the BP gusher by comparing the community of Bayou La Batre, Alabama with Cordova, Alaska. Both communities are renewable resource communities and social and economic recovery is tied to restoration of damaged resources. Twenty-one years after the *Exxon Valdez* disaster the people of Cordova continue to struggle with the aftermath of that oil spill disaster. How will the situation differ for Bayou La Batre residents dealing with the fallout of the BP gusher?

Duane A. Gill is Professor and Head of Sociology at Oklahoma State University. He is part of a research team that has been investigating human impacts of the 1989 *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill in Alaska through a series of longitudinal studies. He was also part of a research team that conducted a study of community impacts of the 2004 *Selendang Ayu* shipwreck and oil spill in the Aleutian Islands.

More recently, he was part of a research team investigating how the 2007 *Cosco Busan* oil spill



in San Francisco Bay affected resource user groups in the area. These research activities seek to understand community preparedness for, response to, and recovery from disasters.

We would like to thank our generous sponsors at MTSU for their support:

College of Liberal Arts; Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Distinguished Lectures Series; College of Graduate Studies; Honors College; MTAS; Students for Environmental Action (SEA); Sociology Club and Student Activity Fees. For information please contact [Connie Huddleston \(chudd@mtsu.edu\)](mailto:chudd@mtsu.edu), Coordinator for the College of Liberal Arts or 494-7914 for the Directors of this year's program Dr. Brian Hinote and Dr. Meredith Dye, Department of Sociology and Anthropology.