

## James D. Slack, Ph.D., Ph.D.

James D. Slack is a professor in the Department of Public Policy and Administration, College of Public Service, at Jackson State University. He holds the doctorate and master's degrees in political science from Miami University, the B.A. in government from The Ohio University, and a second doctorate in Christian Counseling from the National Christian Counseling Association (NCCA) through Cornerstone University. Dr. Slack is a licensed (NCCA) pastoral counselor working with the homeless, women who are victims of human trafficking, and men on death row. At the University of Alabama-Birmingham, he held secondary appointments as a Senior Scientist at the Center for AIDS Research in the medical college and, in the school of public health, as a Senior Scholar in the Lister Hill Center for Health Policy.

Professor Slack's research flows from two streams. One stream centers on ethics and the intimate consequences of public policy. Constructing a normative framework based on the theocentric understanding of the Founders and the political thoughts of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, he uses phenomenology to explore the intimate consequences of Life Policy and Death Policy in the American society. This exploration has resulted in two editions (and a second printing of the first edition) of *Abortion, Execution, and the Consequences of Taking Life* (Transaction).

The other stream pertains to workplace discrimination and health/disabilities policy. Professor Slack's publications include two editions of *HIV/AIDS and the Public Workplace* (University of Alabama Press). His *Public Administration Review* (PAR) article, "The Americans with Disabilities Act and the Workplace: Management's Responsibilities in AIDS-Related Situations," was reprinted in a volume of *ASPA Classics* on "public personnel administration and labor relations." His *Review of Public Personnel Administration* article, "From Affirmative Action to Full Spectrum Diversity in the American Workplace: Shifting the Organizational Paradigm," is reprinted or highlighted in several public administration text books. Dr. Slack won the national Laverne Burchfield Award for his PAR article, "The Public Administration of AIDS." According to *Questia Library*, three of Professor Slack's works have been ranked in the top 15 most important publications in the area of "Workplace Ramifications of HIV/AIDS."

To date, Dr. Slack is author or co-author of eight books and approximately 55 articles and book chapters, including seven articles in PAR -- the journal-of-record in the field of public administration. His publications can also be found in Indian, Canadian, and Russian scholarly journals, as well as *The John Marshall Law Review*.

Professor Slack is (or has been) a member of the editorial boards of several journals, including *Public Administration Review*, *The International Journal of Public Administration*, the *Annual Review of Urban Affairs*, and *Public Organization Review: A Global Journal*. He is also a member of the Executive Advisory Board of the *Ralph Bunche Journal of Public Affairs*.

Dr. Slack is (or has been) a consultant for public, nonprofit, and private organizations on public policy, legal and organizational issues relating to the workplace ramifications of HIV/AIDS, other disabilities, diversity practice, and basic personnel practices (job analysis, compensation &

classification, performance appraisal). He conducts workshops on grant-writing and diversity training. He also conducts workshops for high school seniors on, "How to be Successful in a College Classroom" (which is an in-progress book manuscript).

Professor Slack is active within the local and national public service communities. He has served on the executive board (and is a former volunteer chaplain) of the Wellhouse, Inc., a faith-based NPO in Birmingham, Alabama that supports women who are victims of human trafficking. He has been an executive board member of the Urban Ministry, Inc., a faith-based NPO in Birmingham, Alabama that feeds the poor on the west side. He has been a member of the Board of Stewards of the Church of the Reconciler, a United Methodist inner-city church dedicated to serving the homeless population in Birmingham, Alabama. In the Hampton Roads (Virginia) area, he was involved in serving the homeless through Oak Grove United Methodist Church, as well as general population inmates at Greenville prison through the Kairos International prison ministry. Dr. Slack remains actively involved in the death row Kairos ministry at Alabama's Holman prison and, separate from Kairos, has served as a spiritual advisor in preparation for execution.

Dr. Slack has served on numerous committees of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), and is past president of the Northeast Ohio chapter of ASPA and the West Texas chapter of ASPA. He has served on numerous committees of National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA). He was directly involved in successful NASPAA accreditation and re-accreditation efforts at five universities with which he has been affiliated. He has also served as an external consultant for several MPA programs in the NASPAA review or pre-review stages.

Most important in Dr. Slack's life are faith and family. He is blessed to be married to a loving wife, Janis, for nearly 35 years. Mrs. Slack is the Director of the Intercampus Interactive Telepresence System (IITS) in the Chancellor's Office for the three-campus University of Alabama System. The Slacks have two beautiful children, Sarah and Samuel, and they are blessed with a wonderful son-in-law, Brandon. Sarah has a B.A. from Auburn University and is earning the MSW degree at the University of Alabama. She is pursuing a career of helping children, especially in the adoption processes. Sammy has a B.A. from Auburn University and is a project coordinator at a software firm. He is also co-owner of a company that links physical exercise with DNA. Sammy is an Eagle Scout. Brandon is a sports journalist for a major newspaper in central Alabama. The Slacks are Christians, worshiping at Bluff Park United Methodist Church in Hoover, Alabama. Dr. and Mrs. Slack are members of the Emmaus Community, and Dr. Slack is a member of the Kairos prison ministry.