



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **USM DOCTORAL CANDIDATE TO SPEAK ON ‘THE RISE OF MOBILE STREET’ AT USO WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19**

**HATTIESBURG (April 7, 2017)**—On Wednesday, April 19, Eve Wade will be at the African American Military History Museum to give a public lecture on “The Rise of Mobile Street, 1884 – 1920” at 5:30 p.m.

This event, which is co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of the Gulf South, features the 2017 Baird Research Fellow, Eve Wade. Wade, a native of Chicago, is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History at the University of Southern Mississippi. The public lecture is a segment of Wade’s dissertation “Becoming Bronzeville: The Origin of the Black Metropolis in a Southern City,” which explores broad questions about African American migration and urbanization.

The lecture explores the development of the African American community in Hattiesburg and what she argues could be the First Great Migration. From 1880 to 1920, thousands of African Americans left the rural South and settled in nearby Southern cities, creating “Black Metropolises.” The lecture looks at how this segregation forced the creation of bustling business and entertainment districts where residents lived decades before migrating North in what is commonly known as the Great Migration.

“We are delighted to have Eve join us at the museum and listen to the unique information she has about the settlement of African Americans in Hattiesburg. We expect this lecture to be very interesting,” Latoya Norman, general manager of the AAMHM, said.

The public is invited to attend the free event.

*The African American Military History Museum's regular hours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, and from 12-4 p.m. on Saturday with special appointments available. The USO Club opened on March 22, 1942 and was constructed by community volunteers who invested more than 40,000 hours in the project. It is currently the only surviving restored USO built exclusively for African American soldiers and in 2003 was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. More than 150 years of African American military history is on display in the Museum.*

*The African American Military History Museum is a Hattiesburg Convention Commission Facility. Since 1991, the Hattiesburg Convention Commission has been developing, operating and promoting tourism-related facilities for the Hattiesburg area. For more information, call 601.450.1942 or visit [HattiesburgUSO.com](http://HattiesburgUSO.com).*

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