

Dr. Ernest E. Pegram Presents Research at the Smithsonian Crossroads Exhibition

On Wednesday, November 3, Dr. Pegram presented his research on The Great Migration as part of The Smithsonian Crossroads Exhibition on urbanization in America. Dr. Pegram says, “I was honored to present my research on The Great Migration at Smithsonian Crossroads Exhibition and engage the community in discussion. The Community Discussion highlighted the importance of documenting for historical archives the personal narratives from The Great Migration. It was wonderful to hear directly from people whose families were part of The Great Migration. The event was an extended classroom of learning. It was wonderful for students to hear directly from community participants’ narratives, reflecting on their personal family experience of The Great Migration. The Great Migration is part of the American Experience of Urbanization.”

<https://museumonmainstreet.org/content/crossroads>

Listed is the Smithsonian Program Announcement:

**Dr. Pegram/ African American Migration and its effects on the Rural Dan River Region.
Date: Wednesday, November 3/ Time: 3pm**

Averett Economic Professor Dr. Ernest Pegram reviewed the Crossroads exhibition and specifically addresses issues of urbanization: the migration from rural areas to cities. The shifting economy from an Agricultural-based economy to the Industrial/Technology-based economy where people moved from farms to cities to fill jobs in factories and technological/industrial complexes. He addresses African Americans’ integration into the U.S. economy after slavery, and discusses the Great Migration. The Great Migration was the relocation of more than 6 million African Americans from the rural South to the cities of the North, Midwest, and West from about 1916 to 1970. More than 6 million African Americans migrated from the rural south to the industrial North, Midwest, and West where they filled industrial jobs. The Great Migration was one of the largest movements of people in United States history.

The Crossroads exhibition is a wonderful connection that shows this African Americans’ migration. African Americans were part of the rural population where, “In 1900, about 40% of Americans lived in rural areas, by 2010, less than 18% of the U.S. population lived in rural areas.” African American migration histories are part of the Crossroads exhibition.

Contact info: Dr. Ernest Pegram / cell phone 540.423.8601 / eepegam@Averett.edu