

# JARVIS BENSON

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## EDUCATION

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**BA University of Mississippi**

International Studies, Summa Cum Laude, Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, 2019

Thesis: [“The Haves and the Have Nots: Segregation and Marginalization in Puebla, Mexico”](#)

**BA University of Mississippi**

Spanish, Summa Cum Laude, 2019

**El Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, Puebla**

Semester Exchange, 2018

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**8/20- Andrew Goodman Foundation, Program Manager**

- Program Managers are the face of AGF to national Campuses. The Program Manager’s work is to advance widespread student civic engagement, voting rights, and social justice. Serve as an advisor to 18 campuses in the AGF network.

**8/20- Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice, Policy Team**

- Research and create materials for political education; facilitate and plan for Moral Policy in a Time of Crisis Conference in Fall 2020

**7/20- Study and Struggle, Political Education Curriculum Committee**

- Identify reading materials and build curriculums in an ongoing project to organize against incarceration and criminalization in Mississippi through political education and community building.

**2/20-8/20 Congressional Hunger Center, Emerson National Hunger Fellow**

- Kairos Center, Washington, D.C.: Conducted an analysis of what issues push low-income voters to the polls and what forces that have been constructed to keep them away from the polls. Informs the Poor People’s Campaign’s capacity to address systemic issues present in this country.

**8/19-2/20 Congressional Hunger Center, Emerson National Hunger Fellow**

- Alabama Possible, Birmingham, Alabama: Advised the state 2020 Census outreach plan; created a lesson plan on the history of poverty in Alabama; piloted the lesson plan in 8 university classrooms

**Summer 2019 All Stars Project NYC, Activists for Social Development Fellow**

- Studied the field of Afterschool Development as an approach to fighting poverty; led execution of summer outreach and fundraising; directed 100 hours of phone banking.

**5/17-12/17 Mississippi Votes, Lead Community Organizer**

- Action-based training on voter registration and effective canvassing etiquette; Oversight of weekly execution of local events; Recruitment and retention of over 100 volunteers

**5/18-5/19 Black Student Union, President**

- Presided over weekly meetings of the organization; selected and directed 15-member cabinet; implement; spearheaded creation of *The Minority*, Black-led campus newsletter

- 4/17-4/20 Associated Student Body Government, Senator**
- Inclusion and Cultural Engagement Committee; Co-wrote legislation on behalf of students of color
- Summer 2018 North Mississippi VISTA Project, Summer Associate**
- Supported a common reading program for students from low-income families interested in improving their reading levels; Assisted in planning and implementation of all summer programs
- 1/16-8/16 University of Mississippi Admissions Office, Orientation Leader**

#### **OTHER WRITING**

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- 2020 [“UM Students: We Asked For The Relocation Of The Statue. Not The Glorification Of The Confederacy”](#)  
*Mississippi Free Press*
- 2019 [“Working With—Not For—The Community: Ending Hunger in Alabama”](#) *Congressional Hunger Center*
- 2018 “State of the Black Student Union” *The Minority*, University of Mississippi

#### **HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS**

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- 2020 University of Oxford Barry Scholarship Nominee
- 2019 Bancroft Award for Outstanding Academic and Public Service, Croft Institute for International Studies, University of Mississippi. \$500
- 2019 University of Mississippi Hall of Fame
- 2019 Taylor Medal Academic Excellence Recipient
- 2019 Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society, University of Mississippi
- 2018 Rhodes Scholarship Finalist
- 2018 Truman Scholarship Finalist
- 2017 Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society, University of Mississippi
- 2018 Honors Fellowship Recipient, Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, University of Mississippi. \$750
- 2016 Penny Leeton Service Award, Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, University of Mississippi
- 2016 Outstanding Student in Spanish Department
- 2015 Croft Institute for International Studies Scholarship Recipient, \$32,000

#### **PROFESSIONAL MEETING ACTIVITY**

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- 2020 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference. Washington, D.C.
- 2019 Alabama Summit on Reimagining Justice. Birmingham, Alabama
- 2019 State of the Black Belt Summit. Demopolis, Alabama.
- 2018 National Society for Minorities in Honors 3rd Annual National Conference

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**INVITED TALKS, PANELS, AND PRESENTATIONS**


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- 2021 Panel Facilitator, “Student-led Efforts to Combat Voter Suppression”, 2021 Gulf-South Summit
- 2021 Invited Panelist, “Dialogues on Diversity: Protests in Higher Education”, University of Mississippi Division of Diversity and Community Engagement
- 2020 Keynote Speaker, “First Generation Student Celebration Week”, Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, University of Mississippi
- 2020 Moderator, “Study and Struggle: Abolition, Intersectionality, and Care”, Study and Struggle, Sponsored by Haymarket Books
- 2020 Invited Panelist, Scholarship Winners: “Highlighting the Combination of Big Minds and Big Hearts“, National Collegiate Honors Council
- 2020 Invited Speaker, “How to be an Effective Leader”, Long Island University, Global Studies
- 2020 Presentation/Facilitator Emerson National Hunger Fellow Professional Development Day: “History of Direct Action and Social Movements”
- 2020 Presentation, “[Alabama Counts: The Importance of the 2020 Census](#)”, Congressional Hunger Center, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.
- 2020 Invited Lecture, “Systemic Poverty in Alabama.” Department of Social Work, University of Alabama, Birmingham. Birmingham, Alabama.
- 2020 Invited Lecture, “Systemic Poverty in Alabama.” Department of Sociology, Samford University. Birmingham, Alabama
- 2019 Keynote Speaker, Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College Commencement, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS.
- 2019 Invited Panelist, “A Talk on Campus Race Culture”, Chi Alpha, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS
- 2019 Keynote Speaker, Black History Month Opening Ceremony, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS
- 2018 Keynote Speaker, Inaugural UM Community Day, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS
- 2018 Keynote Speaker, “State of the Black Student Union,” Black Student Union, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS.

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**COMMUNITY SERVICE**


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- 3/20- Black Youth Project, 100. Black Joy Book Club and Organizing Committee. Washington, D.C.
- 8/17- 5/19 English Language Learners: ELL Tutor, Oxford, MS,
- Summer 2017 Project Esperanza: Volunteer Counselor, Cabrera, Dominican Republic, Summer 2017

1/17-5/17 Leapfrog After School Tutoring: Tutor, Oxford, MS, January 2017-May 2017

### SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

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- 2020 [“How rural organizers are building community connections and power”](#) *The Forge*. August 24, 2020.
- 2019 [“The Artists and Writers Who Fought Racism With Satire in Jim Crow Mississippi”](#) *Atlas Obscura*. May 29, 2019.
- 2019 [“Mississippians At Odds Over Confederate Holiday”](#) *Mississippi Public Broadcasting*, April 29, 2019.
- 2019 [“Ten Seniors Inducted into UM Hall of Fame”](#) *University of Mississippi News*. April 6, 2019.
- 2019 [“Ole Miss Student and Faculty Groups Vote Unanimously to Relocate Confederate Statue”](#) *New York Times*. March 8, 2019.
- 2019 [“Ole Miss Students Vote To Remove A Confederate Statue From The Center Of Campus”](#) *Bustle*. March 7, 2019.
- 2019 [“Ole Miss students vote unanimously to remove Confederate statue from campus center”](#) *NBC News*. March 6, 2019.
- 2019 [“Ole Miss ASB unanimously votes to relocate confederate statue”](#) *The Oxford Eagle*. March 6, 2019
- 2019 [“‘What we stand for as an Ole Miss family’: Meet the students leading a multiracial, bipartisan movement to relocate the school’s Confederate monument”](#) *Mississippi Today*. March 1, 2019
- 2019 [“‘We Need Leadership’: Athletes’ Protest Draws Attention to Lingering Confederate Symbol at Ole Miss”](#) *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. February 25, 2019
- 2019 [“‘Oxford is more than what these individuals came to represent’: Confederate rally met with counter-protests, including by athletes”](#) *Mississippi Today*. February 23, 2019.
- 2019 [“Ole Miss students protest silently at Confederate statue during Black History Month March,”](#) *Daily Mississippian*, February 21, 2019
- 2018 [“Three and out: Vitter steps down after years of wrestling with Ole Miss’ image”](#) *The Daily Mississippian*. November 12, 2018
- 2018 [“History Makers: Three UM Students, 1 alumna among Rhodes Scholarship Finalists”](#) *University of Mississippi News*. November 12, 2018
- 2018 [“‘Protect the values we hold dear’: A closer look inside the Ed Meek, Ole Miss race controversy”](#) *Mississippi Today*. October 18, 2018.
- 2018 [“UM students volunteer in first Community Day”](#) *The Daily Mississippian*. October 15, 2018
- 2017 [“Students Celebrate Black History Through Song”](#) *The Daily Mississippian*. February 17, 2017
- 2016 [“Bancroft Fund Enters \\$5 Million, Five-Year Commitment to UM”](#) *University of Mississippi News*. May 11, 2016

2015 [“UM Croft Institute Awards Scholarships to 10 Exceptional Students”](#) *University of Mississippi News*.  
September 24, 2015

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

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**English:** Native Language

**Spanish:** ACTFL OPI Advanced Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing