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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
March 6, 2018

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION ON MARCH 15 AT 12:00
THE PAPER AND THE PREACHER: THE SOUTHERN COURIER AND MARTIN LUTHER KING JR
PRESENTED BY SCOTTY E. KIRKLAND AND MEREDITH MCDONOUGH

Montgomery, AL (3/6/2018)- *Food for Thought* continues another year of fascinating lectures on the rich history of Alabama at the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) on **Thursday, March 15 at 12:00** when Scotty E. Kirkland and Meredith McDonough present ***The Paper and the Preacher: The Southern Courier and Martin Luther King Jr.***

In publication from 1965 to 1968, *The Southern Courier* was a Montgomery-based weekly newspaper devoted to civil and economic rights. During its short but important three-year publication history, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. loomed large within the *Courier's* pages. Its reporters covered his campaigns in Alabama and throughout the country, and published excerpts from his most important speeches. Following his assassination in April 1968, the newspaper devoted two full issues to King's life and work. During this presentation, ADAH staff members Scotty E. Kirkland and Meredith McDonough will share some of the *Courier's* articles and photographs that comprise a fascinating memorial record of the slain civil rights leader and his funeral in Atlanta.

Scotty E. Kirkland is exhibits and publications coordinator at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. He holds degrees in history and political science from Troy University and the University of South Alabama. His work on Alabama and the Modern South has received research and writing awards from the Gulf South Historical Association, the Alabama Historical Association, the Lillian Smith Center, and the Friends of the Alabama Archives. The author or co-author of three books, Scotty writes frequently for *Alabama Heritage* magazine.

Meredith McDonough has been an archivist at the Alabama Department of Archives and History since 2006. She currently manages the new Digital Assets section at the department, overseeing scanning projects and the online digital collections. Meredith graduated from Samford University in 2005 with a degree in history, and she received a master's degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of Alabama in 2006.

Admission to *Food for Thought* presentations is always **FREE**. The public is invited to bring a brown bag lunch. Complimentary beverages will be provided. **For additional information call (334) 353-4689.**

Food for Thought 2018 is sponsored by the Friends of the Alabama Archives and made possible with support from the daughters of Judge Alex A. Marks, in his memory.

The Alabama Department of Archives and History is the state's government records repository, special collections library and research facility, and is home to the Museum of Alabama, the state history museum. It is located in downtown Montgomery, directly across the street from the State Capitol. The Archives and Museum are open Monday through Saturday, 8:30 to 4:30. The EBSCO Research Room is open Tuesday through Friday and the second Saturday of the month from 8:30 to 4:30. To learn more, visit www.archives.alabama.gov or call (334) 242-4364.

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