

What do *you* see?

Raising awareness of ethnic/racial/gender stereotyping through nonverbal or visual cues

A workshop by Dr. Rick Kenney, Georgia Regents University, U.S.A.



Question: Who is this man?

- a. composer of a “golden” symphony
- b. maître d at a banana restaurant
- c. champion barefoot water-skier
- d. tuxedo designer who favors yellow
- e. eccentric owner of a canary pet store

If you guessed that (c) was even a possibility, then maybe you are able to overcome the biases that most of us have when we see a person who we think looks a certain way or a certain age or is a certain race or gender or nationality. This man, “Banana George” Blair (1915-2013), was a champion barefoot water-skier who remained active and the world’s best in his age group past the age of 75.



American culture critic Walter Lippmann’s landmark 1922 book, *Public Opinion*, addressed the problems that arise when “the pictures inside people’s heads do not automatically correspond with the world outside.” In fact, Lippmann coined the word *stereotype* in the modern psychological meaning. His book is considered the foundation of modern media studies in the West.



This interactive discussion, led by communication scholar and media ethicist **Dr. Rick Kenney**, will challenge the assumptions we make based on the pictures in our heads. After a discussion of Lippmann’s ideas (and those of the audience and other scholars in response), the audience will be invited to participate in a competitive exercise, matching faces of people to their real occupation or accomplishment.



Will the results surprise you or confirm your assumptions?

Join us at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, June 11th, 2015, in Hall in Center for Academic and Cultural Exchange Building at Aichi Prefectural University.