

Alumnus recalls years

BY JOHN C. COX

Since November of 2008, I have had the pleasure of representing Delta State University as



President of the National Alumni Association. When the *Current* approached me about writing a guest column about my experiences, I figured that it would be very easy. However, it is very hard to describe the entire experience in 400-500 words. So, with that in mind, I will use a majority of this space to tell you a little bit about upcoming events for the Alumni Association.

The fall semester will bring our two biggest alumni events in Pig Pickin' and Homecoming. Pig Pickin' is celebrating its 25th birthday on September 25th this year, and what started as a small barbecue cooking in Shumate Park has now blossomed into a full-fledged Delta tradition. We will again welcome cooking teams and friends from all over the nation back to campus and our Young Alumni group is already planning a special event for Statesmen Park that weekend. I would encourage everyone to please come out and support the weekend. If you are interested in taking part in the cooking competition, then there are still spots

available. Tickets to the barbecue can be purchased at the Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni and Foundation House.

Homecoming 2010 has been set for the weekend of October 15-16, 2010, and I do hope that all of our alumni and friends will make a special effort to come back to campus to take part in the many, many activities planned for the weekend. The Alumni Association Board of Directors has decided to add a new event to the weekend. Instead of having a luncheon or brunch to honor our awards recipients, we are pleased to host a Homecoming Awards Gala Dinner on Friday night at Walter Sillers Coliseum. We will use Friday night to honor our awards recipients, as well as induct our latest class of Golden Circle members—our 50 year graduates. The social hour will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, October 15, and the dinner will begin at 7 p.m. I would like to personally invite all of you to come to the Gala Dinner, and to help us honor these special alumni of the University. There are many other activities throughout Homecoming weekend, and certainly the public is invited to take part in all of them. A more detailed schedule of events, as well as an announcement of all our award recipients, will be released in the next couple of weeks.

It has been an absolute thrill

and honor to serve as Delta State University's National Alumni Association President. When my friend Daye Dearing handed me the gavel in November of 2008, I had no idea of the ride that was ahead of me. Membership, both in dues and attendance, is now at an all-time high, and Alumni Affairs Director Jeffrey Farris, his staff, and our Alumni Board of Directors should be commended for their hard work. We have hosted events throughout the country, and I have had the pleasure of meeting alumni all over the United States of America. I can honestly say that there is still a burning desire and enthusiasm for Delta State University in our alumni and friends. I believe that we have accomplished a great deal during my term, and I have enjoyed every minute of my time.

I would be remiss if I did not tell a short story that sums up my feelings as my term comes to a close in October. Last September, the Alumni Association hosted a reunion for all former National Alumni Association Presidents. The late Mrs. Alyce Richardson was Alumni President during the 1970s, and we were honored that she came to lunch with us. I remember kneeling down beside her at lunch, and thanking her for coming to the reunion. She was as gracious as always, and I told her that it must have been a thrill

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to be the Alumni President during the great Lady Statesmen run of the Seventies. Mrs. Alyce just put her hand on mine, leaned in my ear and said, "John, it was great. I wouldn't trade those memories for the world. But it's your time now. So you better enjoy the ride be-

cause it will be over before you know it." Well, Mrs. Alyce was certainly right. I have enjoyed the ride, but it is now nearing its end.

I've always said that my name is not worthy of being included with all of the great men and women who have served as Alumni Association President, but I am humbled to have been a small part of our great his-

tory. I have no doubt that my successor, George Bassi of Laurel, will take us to new heights and I look forward to working with him during his term.

I am and will always be a Statesman.

John Cox is a local attorney and served the past year as president of the DSU National Alumni Association.