DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE BLUES

OCTOBER 4, 2019
Welcome to Delta State University, the heart of the Mississippi Delta, and the center of Blues country!

Delta State offers a wide array of educational, cultural, and athletic activities. Our university plays a key role in the leadership and development of the Mississippi Delta and of the State of Mississippi through a variety of partnerships with businesses, local governments, and community organizations.

As a university of champions, we boast talented faculty who focus on student instruction and mentoring; award-winning degree programs in business, arts and sciences, nursing, and education; unique, cutting-edge programs such as aviation, geospatial studies, digital media arts, and the Delta Music Institute; intercollegiate athletics with numerous national and conference championships in many sports; and, a full package of extracurricular activities and a college experience that help prepare our students for careers in an ever-changing, global economy.

Delta State University’s annual International Conference on the Blues features academic and scholarly activity and a variety of musical performances to ensure authenticity and a direct connection to the demographics surrounding the “Home of the Delta Blues.”

Whether you are a scholar, musician, industry guru, historian, demographer, tourist, or just a casual listener of the music that “grew up” in the Mississippi Delta, Delta State University is pleased to welcome you to the “Blues Mecca.”

I hope you enjoy your time on campus. Welcome to Delta State Blues University!

Very best regards,

William N. LaForge
President

A MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Welcome to the International Conference on the Blues. We are first and foremost a music conference, but we also provide programming that engages Blues enthusiasts as well as scholars. As we review the conference programs from the last five years, we are delighted that the Blues has opened dialogues on gospel, literature, jazz, fiber arts, funk, photography, folk, psychedelia, soul, rock and roll, hip hop, the music business, protest music, printmaking, and the ethics of cultural tourism, just to name a few. It is our guiding principle that the Blues fosters larger conversations about the worldwide influences of African American music, history, and culture.

We are grateful for the hard work and dedication of our Blues “Dream Team” as we continue great programming for future conferences.

Cordially,

Shelley Collins and Don Allan Mitchell
Co-Chairs
WELCOME TO THE

INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
ON THE
Blues

Please wear your name badge at all events. It will serve as your ticket to all conference activities.

INTERNET ACCESS
Network name:
DSU Guest (no password)
Guest WiFi is available at the DMI.

FIND US ONLINE
deltastate.edu/blues

SOCIAL MEDIA
Share your favorite conference updates and pictures on Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook using the hashtag #bluesDSU.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS
Delta State University’s Division of Continuing Education will be offering Continuing Education Credits (CEU) for conference attendees. Educators who wish to receive CEU credit must register for the conference. CEU credits will be assessed a separate fee, payable at the completion of the conference. For more information on receiving CEU credits, please contact Marilyn Read at 662-846-4874 or mread@deltastate.edu.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS
DSU Switchboard: 662-846-3000
University Police: 662-846-4155
The Delta Center: 662-846-4311
Mississippi Grounds: 662-545-4528
Cleveland Taxi Service: 662-719-7433
Cab McCain: 662-588-2564
Events are held in several locations at Delta State University and downtown Cleveland. Please consult the schedule for details.

THURSDAY: Pre-Conference Concert: Kool and the Gang

FRIDAY: Daytime events are at the Delta Music Institute, and evening events are in downtown Cleveland.

FRIDAY, OCT. 4, 2019

REGISTRATION
8 AM–3 PM | DMI Lobby
Join us for coffee and donuts from 8-8:30 AM. The registration and CD/book tables will be open from 8:15-4 PM. Musicians and writers are invited to bring items to sell.

OPENING RECEPTION: Meet and Mingle
8:30–9 AM | Studio A
Welcome Remarks and Announcements
Dr. Shelley Collins and Prof. Don Allan Mitchell, co-chairs
Dr. Rolando Herts, Director, Delta Center for Culture and Learning
Join us for coffee and get acquainted with other attendees.

PAPER SESSION: The Blues Abroad
9–9:50 AM | 201
One Sound, Two Worlds: The Meaning of the Blues in a Divided Germany
Prof. Michael Rauhut
University of Agder, Kristiansand, Norway
The presentation refers to the development of the Blues in a divided Germany between 1945 and 1990 to illustrate how political and social conditions shape the meaning of this music.

Painting Clarksdale Something Other Than Blue: Colombian Street Art in the Delta
Dr. Clay Motley
Florida Gulf Coast University
Clarksdale residents recently brought internationally renowned street artists from Bogota, Colombia to town to paint large murals downtown. This presentation examines how the project challenges Clarksdale’s identity as the “Birthplace of the Blues” and connects the Delta to the Global South.

PAPER/PERFORMANCE SESSION: International Perspectives
9–9:50 AM | 202
Roots to Rock - Heritage and Hybrids
Betraying the Blues: An Australian Musical Perspective
Mr. Steve Grieve
Western Sydney University, Australia
Blues musical tonality and its relationship to genre hybridity are poorly delineated in the literature. These themes will be explored in the context of Blues and roots hybrids and the diaspora.

Playing the Blues with Chinese Traditional Instruments
Ms. Amely Zhou
York University, Ontario, Canada
Through a combination of lecture and performance, influences of the Blues in contemporary Chinese instrumental music will be revisited and explored.

Moderator: April Mondy

PAPER/WORKSHOP: Teaching and Performing the Blues
10–10:50 AM | Studio A
From the Delta to Harlem: Enslaved Africans’ Musical Retentions in Hammond B3 Jazz Organ Music
Mr. David Cosby
Besant Hill School
Soul Jazz is strongly rooted in music going back to the music sung by enslaved Africans in the fields. Though recordings, analysis, and performance, this musical continuum is clearly elucidated.

Blues Voice: Sourcing African American Culture for Authenticity in Blues Performance and Education
Mr. Eli Yamin
Lehman College, Stony Brook University
Eli Yamin presents an interactive workshop demonstrating how African American vocal characteristics and the shuffle beat define the genre more than anything else.

Moderator: Dr. Julia Thorn
PAPER SESSION: Identity and Appropriation in the Blues
10–10:50 AM | DMI 202

From Cornbread to Country: Appropriation as Oppression in the American Country Music Industry
Ms. Nicole Sonneveld
Roosevelt University
Tackling issues of identity, racism and cultural appropriation, From Cornbread to Country explores the country music industry’s pathological denial of Black artists’ contributions to the genre.

“Nobody Leaves This Place Without Singin’ the Blues”: Appropriation in Adventures in Babysitting
Dr. Barton Price
Purdue University Fort Wayne School of Music
This presentation addresses cultural appropriation during a scene in the film Adventures in Babysitting. It looks at the performance of the Blues by white middle-class teenagers before a black audience in the southside of Chicago that reveals the myth of racial harmony mediated by the Blues.

Moderator: Dr. Brian Becker

PAPER SESSION: The Blues in West Tennessee
11–11:50 AM | DMI 202

What Made West Tennessee Rich in Blues Harmonica Performance Practice
Dr. Mitsutoshi Inaba
Austin Peay State University
The presentation explores the tradition of harmonica performance practice in West Tennessee from the 1920s to 1940s. The study developed from an inquiry from Charlie Musselwhite, famed harmonica player from Kosciusko, MS.

How She Made That Guitar Talk: Memphis Minnie and the Lead Guitar in Early Blues Music
Dr. Kate Lewis
Brunel University, London (UK)
One of few women to play lead guitar on early records, Memphis Minnie holds a unique position in Blues history. This paper will focus on her playing style and influence on the development of the Blues.

Moderator: Dr. Bret Pimentel
PAPER SESSION: The Blues as Narrative
1–1:50 PM | DMI 202

The Mississippi Delta Blues: Communication and Community Involvement
Mr. Geoff Latham
Coahoma Community College
How can artists use the Blues used as inspiration for narrative works of visual art? This presentation teaches art students to explore the Blues as a way for communities to interact and connect.

Exploring the Performance and Expression of Gender and Violence in Nina Simone’s “Mississippi Goddam”
Madeleine Bohnett
Shenandoah University
This paper examines the performance and expression of gender in Nina Simone’s “Mississippi Goddam.” Written in the 1960s, this song is an act of protest against a culture of rape and murder.
Moderator: Dr. Shalando Jones

THE BLUES, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH
1–1:50 PM | DMI 201

Focus on the Future: The Importance of the Blues from a Sociological and Historical Perspective
Prof. Fernando Jones
Columbia College Chicago & Blues Kids Foundation
This presentation discusses Blues in music education, pedagogy and career readiness, and the Blues beyond the standard chord progression I-IV-V.

Maxie’s Juke Joint: The Act of Edutaining
Ms. Stacey Wilson and Ms. Ida Bea Tomlin
Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Experience
Edutain: to educate and entertain. Using Maxie’s Juke Joint, an exhibit and music venue, we teach the Juke Joint’s importance to community and music through interactive exhibits and live performances.
Moderator: Dr. Vernell Bennett

PRESENTATION:
Blues and the Spirit
2–2:50 PM | DMI 201

“Why Don’t You Live So God Can Use You?” Religious Songs Collected Outside of Church Settings in the 1941-1942 Coahoma Study
Prof. Scott Barretta, University of Mississippi and Delta State University

Alan Lomax and John Wesley Work III captured performances of religious songs by musicians including Muddy Waters, as well as recollections of older styles including hymns, spirituals, and shouts.

Moderator: Dr. Gabriel Scala

**OPEN REHEARSAL: DSU Jazz Ensemble**
2–2:50 PM | Studio A
The Delta State Jazz Ensemble, a student lab big band, will hold an open rehearsal/masterclass. Come observe, sit in and sight read (horn and rhythm section players), and/or offer feedback.
Eli Yamin and Tom Zlabinger, clinicians

Dakota Young - alto saxophone
Ethan Baker - alto saxophone
Chloe Oldenberg - alto saxophone
Will Pearce - tenor saxophone
Jackson Moore - tenor saxophone
Rogers Varner - tenor saxophone
Jordan Holland - baritone saxophone
Tristen Gooden - trumpet
Adriana Ezekiel - trumpet
Howard Tate - trumpet
Josh Davis - trumpet
Jose Meraz - trombone
Catheryne Booth - trombone
Pierre Mamon - trombone
Brandon Brister - trombone
Ethan Pope - tuba
Semi Dong - piano/keyboards
Tony Espercto - bass
Brenden Riedlinger - drums/percussion
Kenneth Polk - drums/percussion

Director and Moderator: Dr. Bret Pimentel

**MASTER CLASS: Singing the Blues**
3–3:50 PM | Studio A
Eli Yamin, author of So You Want to Sing the Blues, will work with DSU vocalists.

DSU Voice Students
Neshun Holmes, Gabriel McGee, Timothy Peoples, Antonio Rojano, Libby Switzer

Moderator: Dr. Douglas Mark

**DINE AROUND TOWN**
4–7 PM | Cleveland (on your own)
Suggestions provided by the Cleveland-Bolivar Chamber of Commerce; reservations recommended.

**MAIN PERFORMANCE**: Free Concert at the Courthouse: The Como Mamas
7–8:30 PM | Downtown Cleveland Courthouse Grounds, 200 S. Court Street
Limited seating; you are encouraged to bring a chair or blanket. Rain Location: DMI Studio A

**VISIT MISSISSIPPI PRESENTS BLUES IN THE ROUND**
8:30 PM–Until | Mississippi Grounds, 219 S. Court St.
Open Mic/Jam Session:
Join David Dunavent for an intimate in-the-round acoustic event at Mississippi Grounds. A “pilgrim chair” will be open for invited conference guests to join in the music. Underwritten by Visit Mississippi.
1. Soccer Field
2. Softball Field
3. Statesman Park
4. Travis E. Parker Field/Horace McCool Stadium - Football
5. Billy Dorgan, Jr. Student Performance Center
6. Chadwick-Dickson Intercollegiate Athletic Building
8. Bryce Griffis Indoor Practice Facility
9. Dave "Boo" Ferriss Field - Baseball
10. Robert L. Crawford Center & Dave "Boo" Ferriss Museum
11. Tennis Courts
12. Darrell Foreman Golf Course - CLOSED
13. Walter Sillers Coliseum
14. Hugh L. White Hall
15. Kent Wyatt Hall
16. Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni-Foundation House
17. Grammy Museum Mississippi
18. Bologna Performing Arts Center
19. Hanks Residence Hall
20. Lawler Residence Hall
21. Hammett Residence Hall
22. Tatum Residence Hall
23. Cain Residence Hall
24. Fugler Residence Hall
25. William H. Zeigel Music Center
26. Thomas L. Bailey Hall
27. Hamilton-White Child Development Center
28. W.M. Kelley Hall
29. Fielding L. Wright Art Center
30. Holcombe-Norwood Hall
31. James W. Broom Hall
32. Kathryn Keener Hall
33. E.R. Jobe Hall
34. James M. Ewing Hall
35. Eleanor Boyd Walters Hall
36. Roy and Clara Belle Wiley Planetarium
37. R.L. Caylor/Jesse S. White Hall
38. Robert E. Smith School of Nursing
39. Brumby-Castle Residence Hall
40. O.W. Reily Student Health Center
41. Ward Hall
42. H.L. Nowell Union and Barnes & Noble Bookstore
43. Cleveland Residence Hall
44. Charles W. Capps, Jr. Archives & Museum
45. Gibson-Gunn Commercial Aviation
46. Wesley Foundation
47. Baptist Student Center
48. Intramural Fields/Walking Trail
49. E.B. Hill Family Apartments
50. Hugh Cam Smith, Sr. Facilities Management
51. Faculty and Staff Apartments
52. New Men's Residence Hall
53. Tennis Courts
54. Court of Governors Residence Hall
55. Young-Mauldin Dinning Hall
56. Foundation Hall
57. Forest Earl Wyatt Center for Health, Physical Education and Recreation
58. Ronald Mayers Aquatics Center
59. Odealer J. Morgan Laundry
60. George B. Walker Natatorium
61. Henry L. Whitfield Hall - Delta Music Institute
62. Lena Roberts Sillers Chapel
63. Roberts-LaForge Library
64. President's Home
65. Administrative Housing
66. Casmaly Hall
67. Administrative Housing
68. Administrative Housing
The Como Mamas

Born in Como, Mississippi with the spirit in their veins, sisters Della Daniels and Angelia Taylor and cousin Ester Mae Smith have expressed their passion through music for more than 50 years, through the church and the uplifting sound of their grandfather’s guitar. “Back then you had to go to church; it wasn’t a choice you made,” says Ester Mae. “We would go and sing in the choir but they didn’t have a pianist. That’s why it comes easy for me to sing without background music. I grew up without it.”

The Como Mamas share the Gospel through powerful and compelling vocals, driving both passion and grace into the words they sing. They have garnered much interest over the past years, especially from New York field recorder Michael Reilly of Daptone Records, who first heard the Mamas sing during a visit to Como in 2005. Since then the Como Mamas have released two albums with Daptone Records: Como Now: The Voices of Panola County, Mississippi in 2008 and Get an Understanding in 2013.

With two albums already under their belt, the Como Mamas certainly haven’t slowed down. Most recently, Daptone brought the Mamas to New York to try something new and record with the Menahan Street Band. They felt a connection with the band immediately and fell right into sync with the music.

Though it wasn’t necessarily what they had planned for the session, Reilly remembered hearing them sing “Well, Well” and “Out Of The Wilderness” when he was in Mississippi, and asked them to give it a try with the band. It didn’t take long to realize that they’d found something special. “We learned these songs growing up in church, but the beat really adds something to our music that I think everyone will love, especially the younger folks,” said Della.

This opportunity to deliver the message of their music to a larger audience has the Como Mamas beyond excited. “It’s different, but I think this kind of music will open the ears of the young folk,” claims Ester Mae. “We’re trying to capture everybody. We all need to know about Jesus and what He does for us every day.”
**PRESENTERS AND PERFORMERS**

**SCOTT BARRETTA** has taught Sociology of the Blues for the DSU Blues Studies Program and is an instructor of sociology at the University of Mississippi. He is a writer and researcher for the Mississippi Blues Trail; the host of the “Highway 61” radio program on MPB; and former editor of *Living Blues*.

**MADELEINE BOHNETT** is a senior at Shenandoah University. They recently attended a musicology colloquium in Vienna where they investigated the musicological work on the sounds of EuroPride. Some of their research interests are the intersection of religion and women, gender and sexuality studies.

**DAVE COSBY** graduated with a B.M. in jazz studies from Rutgers University in 1992 and his M.A. in historical musicology in 2015 from UVA. In 1996, he won a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and in 2019 participated in the NEH-DSU workshop “The Most Southern Place on Earth.”

**STEVE GRIEVE**, a Ph.D. candidate at Western Sydney University, researches blues tonality and hybridity. His 2017 practice-led research master’s exploring jazz, roots, space, and hybridity resulted in the album *Caterpillar Maze*. He is the author of *Getting into Blues Guitar* (2002, Mel Bay).


**WILL JACKS** is a lens-based Delta artist. He is employed by Delta State and the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area, where he engages projects to develop a deeper understanding of the social, political, artistic, and historical dynamics of the Delta in order to foster positive change and economic growth.

**FERNANDO JONES** started playing blues on guitar when he was four years old. Today, he’s an internationally travelled performer and songwriter. Jones is also on faculty at Columbia College Chicago as blues ensemble director. During summers, he partners his Blues Camp for kids with institutes of higher learning.
**DEAN JULIUS** is a Mississippi native, a middle school English teacher, and the founding editor of *Juke Joint Magazine*. He earned an MFA from UNC Greensboro. His works have appeared in *Crab Orchard Review*, *Gulf Stream Magazine*, and *storySouth*, among other places. Julius earned an M.Ed. from Delta State.

**GEOFF LATHAM**, a Delta State alumnus, is an artist and art instructor at Coahoma Community College and Coahoma Early College High School in Clarksdale, MS. He began teaching in 2004 and has covered a variety of subjects for students from pre-K to college. Experimentation and visual truth are hallmarks of his creations.

**DR. KATE LEWIS** is a multi-genre guitarist, educator, and researcher based in the UK. Her research focuses on the role of the guitar in early popular music as well as issues of gender surrounding the instrument. With a Ph.D. in musicology from University of Surrey, she is lecturer in music at Brunel University London.

**DR. CLAY MOTLEY** is director of the Honors College and associate professor of English at Florida Gulf Coast University. He is principal investigator for “Beyond the Blues: Discovering and Preserving Clarksdale, Mississippi’s History,” a project awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities grant.

**DR. BARTON PRICE** is a continuing lecturer in the history of rock ’n’ roll at Purdue University Fort Wayne School of Music and director of the Centers for Academic Success and Achievement. He earned a Ph.D. in American religious studies from Florida State University and has also taught courses in American history.

**PROF. MICHAEL RAUHUT**, a music scholar, radio journalist, filmmaker, and founding member of the Center for Popular Music Research at Humboldt University in Berlin, teaches popular music at University of Agder in Norway and wrote *One Sound, Two Worlds: The Blues in a Divided Germany, 1945-1990* (2019, Berghahn).

**DR. JULIA SIMON** is a cultural historian focusing on the blues and 18th-century France and author of *Time in the Blues* (2017, Oxford University Press). Her current project, Debt and Redemption, examines the articulation of a call for justice in the blues regarding the imposition of debt as a form of bondage.
NICOLE SONNEVELD is a graduate student in bassoon performance at Roosevelt University. Her scholarly work speaks to her values: justice, equality, and advancement of the marginalized. She is creating an integrated arts curriculum for incarcerated women who struggle with substance abuse.

IDA BEA TOMLIN is director of operations for the Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Experience, overseeing finances and administration. She is the narrator and proprietor of Maxie’s Juke Joint, a permanent exhibit. Tomlin has more than 30 years of museum experience. She earned an MPA from University of Michigan.

DR. TAMMY L. TURNER, author of Dick Waterman: A Life in Blues (2019, University Press of Mississippi), teaches university courses such as jazz history and history and sociology of rock ‘n’ roll. She specializes in 20th-century American music, among others. She earned a Ph.D. in music history from the University of Mississippi.

STACEY WILSON is a scholar, designer, oral historian, and curator of exhibitions at the Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Experience. She won the Southeastern Museums Conference Emerging Museum Professional Award in 2018. Wilson earlier was curator of exhibits at the Louisiana State Museum.

ELI YAMIN is a musician, educator, and author of So You Want to Sing the Blues: A Guide for Performers (2018, Rowman & Littlefield, with the National Association of Teachers of Singing). His videos for Jazz at Lincoln Center’s Jazz Academy have 1 million-plus views. He has been a cultural ambassador for the U.S. State Department.

AMELY ZHOU is an orchestral conductor and erhu performer in the Chinese music community. A Chinese emigrant to Canada, she received an Ontario Arts Council grant in 2015 and was the cover story in WholeNote magazine in 2017. She teaches in the ethnomusicology program at York University, her alma mater.

DR. TOM ZLABINGER is an assistant professor of music at York College/CUNY, where he teaches ethnomusicology and popular music. He earned a B.A. in music from Grinnell College, an M.A. in jazz performance from Queens College, and a Ph.D. in ethnomusicology from the Graduate Center/CUNY.
SPECIAL THANKS AND RECOGNITION

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STUDY THE BLUES AT DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY
One of DSU’s newest programs of study is the Blues Studies minor, which launched in 2015. Additionally, DSU is proud to announce the creation of the International Blues Scholars Program. This multi-disciplinary approach to the study of the Blues includes in-depth examination of the musical form and its influence in art, literature, history, and economic development. The International Blues Scholars Program is an online academic certificate program available to graduate and undergraduate students all over the world. For more information, visit deltacenterdsu.com.

THE DELTA CENTER FOR CULTURE AND LEARNING
The mission of The Delta Center for Culture and Learning is to promote greater understanding of Mississippi Delta culture and history and its significance to the world through education, partnerships, and community engagement. The Delta Center is an interdisciplinary program that focuses on the humanities and social sciences as they relate to the Delta. The Delta Center advances Delta State University’s participation in promoting and celebrating the unique heritage of the Delta while also addressing the longstanding social, economic, and cultural challenges that inhibit regional advancement. deltacenterdsu.com
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AUG 22  KANSAS
   Sponsored by Needle Specialty Products

SEPT  5  JASON ISBELL AND THE 400 UNIT
   Sponsored by Killenard Electric Company

SEPT  9  CRAIG MORGAN
   Sponsored by Cannon Motors

SEPT 24  DINO-LIGHT
   Sponsored by Bayer

OCT  3  KOOL & THE GANG

OCT 17  BALLETX
   Funded in part by SouthArts and the National Endowment for the Arts

OCT 24  MISS NELSON HAS A FIELD DAY

OCT 29  DREW HOLCOMB & THE NEIGHBORS

NOV 11  TEDESCHI TRUCKS BAND
   Sponsored by Pantex Band

DEC  3  A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS
   Sponsored by Bolivar Medical Center

JAN 15  THE SIMON & GARFUNKEL STORY
   Sponsored by Quality Steel

FEB  4  FINDING NEVERLAND

FEB 13  THE SNOWY DAY AND OTHER STORIES

MAR  5  AN ACOUSTIC EVENING with MARK CHESNUTT & JOE DIFFIE

MAR 25  PETE THE CAT

MAR 28  BEAUTIFUL THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL
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APR 23  THE ALLMAN BETTS BAND

MAY  4  THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL

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   To be sponsored by Wade Incorporated

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DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY is a public institution providing a comprehensive undergraduate and graduate curriculum to approximately 3,500 students representing all of the states and 50 different countries. Dozens of degree programs on the undergraduate level provide educational opportunities in the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, and Education and in the Robert E. Smith School of Nursing. Graduate programs on the master's, educational specialist, and doctoral levels provide advanced training in a broad range of disciplines.

Acknowledging its beginning as a teacher's college, the University sustains excellence in teacher education while continuing to expand offerings in traditional as well as unique programs of study. From the core disciplines such as arts, humanities, and sciences, to unique programs such as Commercial Aviation, the Delta Music Institute, and the nationally-recognized Geospatial Information Technology program, the University is committed to meeting the evolving needs of the students it serves. www.deltastate.edu
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International Conference on the Blues

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