The past year was certainly busy and there is hardly a question that during 2009–10 the pace of activities will accelerate.

We will continue to strengthen all aspects of the institution and reach out to an ever-growing regional audience. Even as we expand our vision, we will never alter the spirit of Delta State: a focus on the academic experience, educating the whole person through a commitment to service, personal attention, and outstanding academic programs.

I acknowledge the recent economic climate will continue to present challenges. But with challenges come opportunities. We are steadfast in our mission of providing an excellent educational opportunity for our students and moving forward in a manner that assures Delta State University stands on strong financial footing and remains accessible to a diverse student population.

I set a goal when I first embarked on this journey that Delta State University will be the best regional university in America. We continue to work toward this goal.

John M. Hilpert
President
WHAT ARE OUR STUDENTS DOING?
Delta State University is committed to supporting the aspirations of its students.

That commitment is reflected in our focus not only in academics, but in athletics, the arts, and service to the community. Delta State University is about the whole person, that is, we think about educating students in multidimensional ways.


Delta State’s core curriculum is at the heart of the undergraduate academic experience and we continue to evolve in ways that reflect both new knowledge and the enduring commitment to developing critical thinking skills.

NOTABLES

▶ Kirsten McBride was a key member of our women’s basketball team that made the Final Four for the second time in two years. She also won the 2009 Psychology Faculty Award. Kirsten is one of 85 Delta State student-athletes who made Gulf South Conference All-Academic teams last year.

▶ Kate Kinnison graduated this spring after a great adventure as a congressional fellow in Senator Thad Cochran’s office, complete with a chance to attend President Barack Obama’s Inauguration. She is a law school student this fall.

▶ Andrew Martin, spring graduate, Davlon Miller, current graduate student, and Neal Kiihnl, BSN graduate in 2002, have all served military duty in the Middle East. Andrew and Neal both completed two tours, and Davlon, who finished his undergraduate degree after returning from Iraq, will leave for Afghanistan in 2010.

▶ At the end of the fall semester last year, Tonya Longest learned she had breast cancer. During the spring semester, while undergoing chemotherapy, she continued as a full-time student and graduated in May with a master’s degree in secondary education with an emphasis in art.

▶ During her junior year, Kaitlyn Mize lost her mother in an automobile accident. Despite helping with two younger sisters, she graduated from Delta State in the spring of 2008. Now she has completed her first year in Medical School.
Delta State prides itself on the excellence of its faculty—as scholars, artists, teachers, and innovators.

Academic leadership and notable faculty have energized the University. Research and intellectual innovation transform our understanding of the world around us.

Delta State has strengthened its commitment to diversity as a crucial element of a vital academic community, helping to enhance experiences for all members of the campus community.

NOTABLES

► The Center for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Information Technology was called upon by the federal government to team with the U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Geological Survey, Tele Atlas, and TerraGo Technologies to help secure then President-elect Barack Obama’s inauguration ceremonies by creating a detailed mapping of the Washington D.C. area to aid responders in the event of a disaster.

► Dr. Billy Morehead, Chair of the Division of Accountancy, Computer Information Systems, and Finance, became the first Mississippian and the first academician elected as National President of the Association of Government Accountants, an international organization with 15,000 members.

► The Thad Cochran Center for Rural School Leadership and Research studied results from its exemplary Educational Leadership Cohort Program where practicing teachers and administrators can earn graduate degrees. The research showed 122 of 139 program completers serving in Delta school districts.

► Delta State University President, Dr. John M. Hilpert, was elected the 2009 Vice Chair of the Commission on Colleges for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) at the annual conference held in San Antonio, Texas.

► The math faculty adopted a model of course redesign developed by the Center for Academic Transformation using innovative technology-based strategies that have proven effective on campuses across the nation.
WHAT ARE OUR FACULTY DOING?

- Faculty and staff completed the preliminary work for a Foundations of Excellence project that relies on a model from the Policy Center on the First Year of College.

- The Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, and Education, and the School of Nursing all had an outstanding year of scholarship. Faculty produced more than 450 publications, presentations, exhibitions, and performances.

- Dr. John J. Green, Chair of the Division of Social Sciences and associate professor of sociology and community development, was presented the Excellence in Extension and Public Outreach award during the Rural Sociological Society’s (RSS) annual meeting held in Madison, Wisconsin.

HOW ARE WE HELPING OUR REGION?
There is an extraordinary breadth and depth to the ways in which the University – through the work of its students, faculty, alumni, and staff – and the Delta region affect and reflect one another.

Through community partnerships and service programs, employment opportunities and economic impact, basic and applied research, intellectual and cultural contributions, Delta State and the Delta region are woven together into the fabric of academic, economic, and cultural life.

NOTABLES

▶ The Healthy Campus/Community Initiative is the direct result of a collaboration between Delta State University and the Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation which awarded a $700,000 grant to Delta State’s College of Education to spearhead the initiative. Through this program, Delta State will transform the culture of its campus and become the flagship health and wellness university in the region.

▶ Teach For America chose Delta State University to host a Charter Summer Institute in 2010 with the expectation of becoming a permanent site thereafter. Over the twenty years of the existence of this organization, seven previous sites have come on line – all at larger universities and all in major urban centers. Delta State became the first partner university located in a rural area.

▶ The Corporation for National and Community Service honored Delta State University with a place on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts and service to America’s communities. Honorees for the award were chosen based on a series of selection factors including scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

▶ Delta State University welcomed 200 college presidents, vice presidents, and administrators from throughout the state for the 75th annual Mississippi Association of Colleges and Schools (MAC) Conference.

▶ Delta State hosted a naturalization ceremony on the quadrangle where approximately 110 new citizens from 38 countries took the oath of citizenship.
Fasten your seat belts. If this is to be another outstanding year, we must accomplish even more.

**NOTABLES**

- This is the year to work closely with our new IHL Commissioner, the IHL Board, legislators, and other state policy makers to build greater awareness of the University’s contributions and to map a positive course through the threats of damaging funding cuts.

- This is the year to get a running start on our new strategic plan, *Engaging Excellence*, maybe we can move through more milestones than expected. That’s been characteristic of us in the past.

- This is the year to continue strengthening services to the region through such efforts as the Delta Health Alliance, our collaborative organization with three other universities and the Delta Council. It has now expanded to 28 programs with an annual budget that has grown in six years from $2.5 million to more than $25 million. Early indications are that we could exceed $40 million for next year’s budget.

- This is the year we must redouble our efforts to assure a strong enrollment going into the future. Each person must accept responsibility for recruitment and retention, if we are to continue our success.
PRIVATE FUNDING GROWTH

Cash giving through the Delta State University Foundation reached an all-time high during the 2009 fiscal year. Cash gifts increased 27% from fiscal year 2008 and 62% over fiscal year 2007. Cash gifts reflect only cash deposited and do not reflect pledges.

Fiscal Year Cash Gifts Comparison

$4,251,549
$3,340,152
$2,621,377

Cash Deposits

FY 2007  FY 2008  FY 2009

NOTABLES

► The Delta State School of Nursing was named in honor of Robert E. Smith in recognition of his generous gift of 2.2 million, the largest gift by an individual to the University.

► Chair and Professor Emeritus of Mathematics Dr. Rose Strahan’s gift of $750,000 is the largest planned gift of any employee of the University.

► Mary and Hartley Peavey of Peavey Electronics provided a $55,000 musical equipment grant to support the curricula of the Delta Music Institute.
Delta State University is a public institution providing a comprehensive undergraduate curriculum. It offers 12 baccalaureate degrees in 38 majors and seeks to meet the need for advanced training in certain fields by providing programs of study for nine master’s degrees, the Educational Specialist degree and the Doctor of Education degree.

Serving as the cultural and educational center of the region, Delta State University is located in Cleveland. The Mississippi Delta, a 20-county, northwestern region of the state, rich in various ethnic and cultural groups, provides almost 75 percent of the University’s enrollment. Almost 15 percent of the students attend from other parts of the state, while 10 percent of the students reside outside the state. Accordingly, the University identifies the Delta as its primary public service region, while acknowledging the importance of research and service that also benefits the state and nation.