Delta State's Legendary Coaches
Margaret Wade & Dave "Boo" Ferriss
A reunion for Alumni from the 1950’s, 1960’s and 1970’s

J. P. COLEMAN STATE PARK, IUKA, MISSISSIPPI

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When a Delta State University publication has a cover with pictures of Margaret Wade and Dave “Boo” Ferriss on it, there is one word that rushes to mind: TRADITION. It would be hard to identify two people more closely identified with institutional success, two who are more revered, or any pair more assured of being remembered so long as there are Statesmen and Lady Statesmen competing on courts or playing fields. Speaking either name, Wade or Ferriss, brings a shine to the eye of every alumnus or alumna and evokes a flood of memories. Usually there are stories to tell when these two legends come to mind. We’re lucky they are part of our tradition.

When we think of tradition, we often catalog it as a concept, along with memories or nostalgia, but I would suggest to you that tradition has more to do with who we are than with who we were. Think of all the things in the history of this institution that could have become a part of the tradition but didn’t survive the erosion of interest over time. Freshman beanies. Classes on etiquette for all new students. Awards for good posture. All of these things were important to one generation of students or another, but today they are nonexistent. Thousands of people have worked faithfully and honorably at the institution, but only a select few will be regularly held up as part of the living tradition. Again, it has to do with who we are.

That which is valuable lives on because we appreciate true quality. Margaret Wade did the impossible. She took a group of young women from a small southern college to the pinnacle of athletic success, winning the national basketball title in a day and age when teams competed against every school, no matter how large, and not just against those in their NCAA category of institutions. Her perseverance and demand for excellence brought out the best in her players. Boo Ferriss built a baseball program that would eventually win a national championship. He set in place the foundation of hard work, determination in the face of difficult odds, integrity, good sportsmanship, and the unwavering commitment of individual players to team success. In other words, his own sterling character became the character of the teams he coached, and everyone still respects and loves him for it.

Each of us wants success regardless of the hurdles that threaten to stop us. Each of us likes to believe we possess and exhibit integrity. Each of us hopes that hard work will mean a good outcome. The reason that Wade, Ferriss, and a few others in the history of Delta State University are included in the tradition is that they represent the best of who we are and who we want to be.

There is one other odd thing about tradition; namely, it is not uniformly defined and appreciated by each of an institution’s alumni. Of course, there might be four or five individuals who fit into everyone’s definition, but the experiences we have and the time of our active engagement with our university makes a tremendous difference. A beloved professor may exactly fit your idea of Delta State tradition, but she is not even remembered by someone else. A librarian who served forever may sit atop your fond memories as a paragon of values, while others may never have heard his name.

What is important is that we recognize and acknowledge the underlying values that appeal to all of us and that determine how we will live our lives. If your Delta State education resulted in an understanding and appreciation of tradition that underscores those values, you have had the best of what a university can offer. We’re working to create such a tradition for today’s students in the same way. I have no doubt that Margaret Wade and Dave “Boo” Ferriss will be a part of it for them as well.
Delta State University is fortunate to have a wonderfully dedicated and professional faculty. In an effort to acknowledge and reward their efforts, the DSU Foundation is now offering cash prizes to full-time faculty members who demonstrate excellence in the areas of teaching, research, and service – the three roles that serve as the cornerstone of the University mission.

The cash awards, officially christened The Delta State University Foundation Prizes for Excellence in Teaching, Research, and Service, are $5,000 each and will be given to two recipients in each area. The funds, which will come from a generous $30,000 gift provided by the Foundation, will carry no restrictions and may be used in whatever ways the honored faculty members deem fit.

The selection process is managed by the Office of the Provost. By October 1st of each year, the Provost will solicit nominations in any of the three categories. Information supporting proposed candidates will be based on accomplishments during the previous three school years. Once the nomination process is completed, a selection committee headed by the Provost and including four faculty representatives will convene and make the selections.

The 2004-2005 recipients have been announced. The awards for Research go to Dr. Mark Bonta, Assistant Professor of Geography and Dr. Susan Allen Ford, Professor of English and Director of the campus Writing Center. The awards for Service go to Dr. Beverly Moon, Assistant Professor of English and Dr. Milton Wilder, Professor of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation. The awards for Teaching go to Ms. Jan Cooper, Instructor in Computer Information Systems/Business Ed and Ms. Carolyn Elkins, Assistant Professor of English.

Says Dr. Beverly Moon of the honor, “I’m so excited to receive one of the first Faculty Prizes; the Foundation’s generosity in developing such a program to honor faculty contributions cannot be commended enough. Though not presuming to speak for others, I have to say it’s very gratifying to get some extra appreciation and recognition for what faculty do regularly, as part of our day-to-day activities of teaching, research, and service.”

ALUMNI FOUNDATION STAFF GEARS UP

The Alumni-Foundation Office has all hands on deck to optimize the services offered to alumni, donors, and friends. The Office staff consists of:

FELICIA APPLEGATE (1987) is the Chief Financial Officer and has been employed by the University since 1991. Applegate oversees the Alumni-Foundation’s investment portfolio and all aspects of the financial operation.

VICKI FLORANELLI (1968) is the Director of Alumni Affairs and will oversee the Alumni Association’s programs and activities. Floranelli, a native of Gunnison, has been employed by the University since 1987.

KEITH FULCHER (1983) is the Executive Director of the Alumni-Foundation. A native of Vicksburg, Fulcher has been employed at the Alumni-Foundation since 1996.

ANN GIGER is Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director of the Alumni-Foundation. Giger is a native of Gadsden, Alabama, and previously served in similar capacities at the Roberts LaForge Library and to the Chief Information and Planning Officer. Giger has been employed at the University for a total of 14 years.

SHARON KHUHN is Senior Secretary to the Director of Communications and has been with the Alumni-Foundation since 2001. Kuhn is a native of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

GEORGE MILLER (2000) has joined the staff as Director of Development. Miller, a native of Clarksdale, will be responsible for the Foundation’s development activities including the campaign, planned giving, and major gifts program.

MISSY PEARCE (1999) is the Director of Communications and has been with the Alumni-Foundation since 1996. Pearce will oversee the Foundation’s phon-a-thon and all communications including print material and e-publications. Pearce is a native of Citronelle, Alabama.

SANDY PITTMAN (2004) joined the Alumni-Foundation Office in 2000 as the bookkeeper. Pittman is a native of Columbus.

DAMEON SHAW (1997) is the Senior Secretary to the Director of Alumni Affairs. Dameleon is a native of Shaw where he is volunteer firefighter.

SHERYL STEVENS is Senior Secretary to the Director of Development. Stevens is a native of Cleveland and previously worked in the H. L. Nowell Union as secretary to the Director of the Union.
“There appears to be no society that is entirely composed of totally unadorned human beings. When did it begin? Preceding recorded history, humans must have discovered that our anatomical framework could accommodate a wide variety of physical self-improvements. His shoulders could support a mantle to protect him from the elements. Around his neck he could hang amulets to ward off evil spirits. And if he sought modesty, he could suspend from his waist an apron. To stand out above his peers and indicate his superior position, he found the head could be an excellent foundation for adding stature and importance. Intertwined with these motivating factors and building on them is the human instinct for creative expression... and eventually no part of the body at one time or another has escaped some sort of adornment.”

The above statement by the Curator of Costumes at the Metropolitan Museum of Art was one of the guiding comments which led to the design of the late fall 2004 exhibit in the Wright Art Center Gallery entitled, “The Art of Dress: Traditional Costumes from the Global Village.”

Presenting a variety of textile and jewelry objects from India, South America, Africa and the Middle East from the private collections of local individuals, the exhibit displayed the diversity and artistry of clothing and adornment from these cultures. Seen all together in the gallery setting, a viewer was struck first by the color and pattern, the surface richness and intricate techniques used to create the headdresses, saris, mantles, bags and more used and worn by such people as Bedouin nomads from the Middle East to PreColumbian-derived cultural groups of the Andes in South America. Objects which consistently caught viewers’ attention were two African headdresses - one made of basketry reeds, braided rope, and cowry shells surmounted by a small carved wooden polychrome head, and the other, a circlet of beaded leather with ostrich feathers attached around the perimeter. It was noted to the several school groups who visited the gallery that masks are meant to be experienced within the context of ritual involving music, dance, and movement. A mask displayed as an art object within a gallery or museum as we normally encounter it would be seen as puzzling and without power by the tribe or group which created the mask.

A late 19th century heavily-embroidered black cotton dress embellished with metallic thread and bells, which clearly had served as a wedding dress for generations of Bedouin brides, elicited discussion and comparison of Western traditional wedding attire with that of the Middle East and other parts of the world. In these and all the handmade textile objects and costumes presented in the gallery during the exhibit, the intricate beauty and symbolism created awareness of the humanity and profound aesthetic sense of costume and adornment common to all people and cultures.

To learn about upcoming shows at the Wright Art Gallery, please visit www.deltastate.edu/academics/artdept/index.html or call (662) 846-4720.
DELTA STATE TOPS IN GRADUATION RATE

A recently released study by The Education Trust rated Delta State University tops among fifteen peer institutions located throughout the country. The report used data collected by the U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics. Delta State had the highest graduation rate from 1996 to 2003 compared to similar institutions. This was based on the percentage of first-time, full-time, degree-seeking freshmen who earned a Bachelor’s degree from the institution where they originally enrolled. Complete results of the study can be found at www2.edtrust.org.

WEST AND CLAYPOOL ELECTED MR. AND MISS DSU

Lee Claypool (left), a senior Elementary Education major of Vicksburg, and Josh West, a senior English major of Pontotoc, were selected Mr. and Miss DSU by the student body in elections sponsored by the Student Government Association.

MOST BEAUTIFUL CROWNED

Four beauties and Most Beautiful winners were announced following last semester’s Most Beautiful Pageant. Pictured (from left) are Stephanie Winter, a junior Marketing major of Indianola, Beauty and Most Photogenic; Brook Bounds, a freshman Pre-nursing major of DeKalb, Beauty; Claire Howarth, a sophomore Speech Pathology major from Cleveland, Most Beautiful; Allison Barnett, a senior Nutrition major of Philadelphia, Beauty; and Katie McMillian, a junior Child Development major of Belzoni, Beauty.

REACCREDITATION REAFFIRMED

The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and School (SACS) recently announced that Delta State University has been reaccredited.

Reaccreditation is awarded for a ten-year period and only after an extensive review confirms that an educational institution is successfully accomplishing its mission. The SACS accreditation involves proving compliance with nearly a hundred standards, as well as the submission of an acceptable Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) that is designed to enhance student learning. Delta State’s QEP focuses on increasing student engagement.

After reviewing Delta State’s QEP, SACS evaluators praised its strengths in their Reaffirmation Committee Report saying, “The proposed QEP targets enhancements that are substantial and powerfully linked to the mission of the institution. Its emphases on teaching and faculty-student and student-student interaction are powerful expressions of the university’s character and promise to effect meaningful change.”

“Accreditation by the Commission on Colleges signifies that an institution has a purpose appropriate to higher education and has resources, programs, and services sufficient to accomplish and sustain that purpose,” says Dr. Bill Spencer, chair of the University’s reaccreditation process. Accreditation indicates that an institution maintains clearly specified educational objectives that are consistent with its mission and appropriate to the degrees it offers, and that it is successful in achieving these objectives.

The Commission of Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is the regional body for the accreditation of higher education institutions in eleven southern states, including Mississippi.
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ENROLLMENT GROWING

They come from Russia, New Zealand, Estonia, Lebanon, Turkmenistan and nineteen other countries around the world. They are Delta State University's international students, and their numbers are growing. The spring semester welcomed eleven new students from Turkey, Belgium, France, Brazil, Bulgaria, Mexico, India, and Congo. The question heard over and over was “What made you choose Delta State?”

Several international students have encouraged their friends and family to attend Delta State University. Others have arrived as exchange students from the Magellan Program. The sports programs lure numerous students, especially from Turkey and France, but academics also play a significant role. Increasingly, inquiries about admission to DSU are a result of potential students looking at DSU web pages. Whether they’re on an athletic team, volunteering in the community, interning at a local business or excelling at academics, you’re bound to meet one of DSU’s international students this year.

Each of the almost 60 international students has a story to tell. It might be about the struggle to understand English in those first couple of weeks or understanding American customs or the loneliness of the first semester at DSU without family or friends close by. At the beginning of each semester, the Delta State and Cleveland community hold a potluck welcome supper for the international students. This year’s event was attended by over 150, which included almost every international student at DSU as well as several of DSU’s international student alumni.

Delta State also tries to introduce international students to the diversity within American culture. The Delta Center for Culture and Learning, together with the Office of International Students, receives grant support from the National Association of International Student Advisors and the Cleveland Rotary Club. This support has allowed DSU’s international students to travel to Memphis, tour the Delta, view films depicting American life, and, soon, to take a four-day trip to New Orleans. We hope that our international students will learn about America and carry fond memories of their days at Delta State back home with them.

WALDROP IS 2005 CONGRESSIONAL FELLOW

Paul Waldrop has seen Washington, D.C. several times. However, in January, he returned with a key to the door of Congress. Waldrop is representing Delta State as the 2005 Congressional Fellow, spending the spring semester as an intern in Senator Thad Cochran’s office.

Waldrop is no stranger to politics. While on-campus he has served many organizations, including the Student Government Association on the Student Justice Court. He says the work he has done with Kappa Alpha Order has made the biggest impact on him. “Through my experiences as an active, committee chair, and officer I feel I have gained a great deal of experience. Certainly my job in the Career Services office has given me a chance to develop my skills in office procedures,” he says.

The opportunity was attractive to Waldrop, he says, because of a strong interest he has in politics. He also feels working among our nation’s leaders gives him extra footing upon graduation.

“I hope to gain a better understanding of the American political process and life in general,” says the senior Finance major from Byram. “I also hope to explore the private sector side of politics. A large part of my time will be spent on Delta issues; my particular interests are in education and agriculture.”

Senator Cochran’s office, Delta Council, and Delta State University are sponsors of the Congressional Fellow Program.
I-69 Opens Door To Delta

By Rebecca Durden Seawright

Mississippi, and its Delta natives in particular, hope to benefit from the new I-69 project currently underway. According to the Mississippi Department of Transportation, Interstate 69 will provide a 1600-mile-long continuous national highway from the Michigan/Canada border to the Texas/Mexico border. The route should improve both the international and interstate movement of freight and people through the states of Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. The new highway should also provide economic growth to all states within its corridor, particularly areas like the Mississippi Delta and southern Texas, by creating improved access to education, health, and commercial services. Claiborne Barnwell, Environmental Division Engineer for MDOT, says, "The comments and information gathered from public hearings (in Benoit and Cleveland, Mississippi) are being assessed at this time. The three alignments (West, Central, and East) were presented with no indication of a preference." If the Central Route is selected, the interstate will pass through Bolivar County, affecting the Delta State University community and boosting economic growth for the city of Cleveland. Barnwell assures, "A preferred alternative will likely be identified within the next month in order that the remaining archaeology and refinement can be focused on the selection. Once this is done," he continues, "and any other detailed investigation deemed necessary is completed, a final document will be published and made available for review. The Federal Highway will then complete the study by preparing a Record of Decision (ROD) which will also be distributed," Barnwell concludes. The proposed Central Route would closely follow the existing Highway 61 through the northern half of Bolivar County to a Mississippi River bridge at Benoit. For more information on this project, please visit http://www.msdoti69.net/.

DSU Pays Tribute To Change

Delta State recently sponsored a community luncheon to recognize those facilitating positive changes in the Delta. Raymond Huerta, co-developer of the Warehouse and recent purchaser of the Grover Hotel in Cleveland, and Fred Carl, founder and Chief Executive Officer of Viking Range Corporation, were presented individual awards. Organizations acknowledged were the Mississippi Delta Technology Council and the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce. Leland Speeds, Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority presented the keynote address.

Pictured from left to right: Raymond Huerta, Cleveland developer; Bob Eley, Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce; Carolyn Manning, Mississippi Delta Technology Council; Leland Speeds, Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority; Representative Charlie Capps; Bill Crump, Viking Corporation; and Dr. John Hilpert, President of Delta State
Most people would never ask a banker to paint a work of art. But those who would probably know a banker at Trustmark named Rob Armour. The Memphis native travels comfortably between the worlds of art and finance. Content in both his roles as First Vice President of Marketing for Trustmark and as a Jackson area artist, Armour is an example of a Delta State grad determined to live life on his own terms.

While his art is his primary vocation, it was Armour's prowess on the tennis court, not his way with acrylics, that brought him to Delta State. Using his full tennis scholarship to his advantage, Armour also turned his attention to many campus activities. A member of KA Order, Armour served on the student body senate and as chief justice of the student body before serving as student body president his senior year. Student body president can be a symbolic position, but it was anything but that for Armour in 1994 and 1995. These were the years of the culmination of the Ayers Case, and Armour at times was front and center as spokesman for the university and its position on the controversial litigation. "It's amazing the material we worked on for the Ayers Case at the time," he says. "Delta State was the model. We were the one school with a racially diverse student body that could actually say, 'We're not broken. Don't fix us.' I even did interviews with international news media - it was such a big international story at the time."

Armour said he remembers vividly settling in the Delta for the first time and calling this unique area of Mississippi his home for a while. "I fell in love with the landscape and the geography," he says. "It's just a different way of life. Even though most of Mississippi is laid back, the Delta is still a place all its own." And with this way of life came a more laid back attitude - one that required less caution and allowed for a more leisurely enjoyment of things. "Growing up in Memphis, you kind of had to watch your back," Armour says. "I found out quickly that the people in the Delta were truly genuine and kind. To me, it was an immediately different and distinctive way of life." In retrospect, Armour says that going to school at Delta State also was a chance to make the most of the unique opportunities that college life offers. It's those things that fall in the "life experience" category that really stand out sometimes. "I really think I got a great deal out of Delta State and I couldn't have asked for a better experience," he says. "Not just the things you learn out of the books and in the classrooms, but the relationships and learning how to relate to people and really learning how to be an adult. It's the one time in your life that you are not going to have all these other outside pressures on you and you can make the most out of every little thing. It's also the time in my life where I made the friends that I still talk to or email with every single day," Armour reflects.

After majoring in Business and in Art, Armour graduated, took his first job at Trustmark in Jackson and never looked back. In no time at all, the Memphis/DeSoto County/Delta State boy was marrying an Ole Miss girl—the former Tamyne Couch—from an established Jackson family and turning his Trustmark job into a banking career. For Armour, Trustmark was just a natural fit. "I wanted a company where I liked the people and I could work my way up," he says. "I found people I liked to work with, and thankfully they offered me the job."

Marriage and career leads to family for most folks, and things were no different for Armour and Tamyne. In 2001, they traveled to Moscow and adopted young Arabella Larisa. Three years later they went back to Russia and came back with two boys, Patrick Yuri and John Nikolai. Now the family is complete, Armour says, and everyone is happy and healthy. But as all parents know, when it comes to raising a family, happiness doesn't grow on z's. "My wife and I got about 12 hours of sleep over about 5 days last week," Armour says.

As far as his artistic goals go, Armour has never been one to settle. He has of late broadened his horizons from painting to photography, using his digital camera to capture cityscapes and other assorted images with an eye for the hidden detail. A showing of his photography is set for December at Hal and Mal's in Jackson. "The photography is just a mixture of different things shot throughout large and small towns around the south," Armour says. "I have shot Nashville, downtown Jackson, and some stuff in the Delta. Then Atlanta and New Orleans-just wherever I can go. Since my background lies in graphics, it is pretty strong in imagery and stark in contrast."

For the future, Rob and his wife Tamyne will be quite busy raising the kids and making their house a home. Like most Delta State grads, for Rob Armour, family comes first and career can move right alongside.
Hugh Ellis Walker

FAITHFUL FRIEND AND FIXTURE FOR ALUMNI-Foundation

By Rebecca Durden Seawright

Members of the Cleveland community and anyone affiliated with Delta State University will enthusiastically agree that Hugh Ellis Walker, Sr., bleeds green and white. How fitting it is that his name should grace the very Alumni-Foundation House for which he served from 1969-1993. To this day, Mr. Walker’s friendly face is a familiar and much-welcomed sight around the office.

Born in Drew, Mississippi, Walker attended elementary and junior high school in his hometown before entering the Clarksdale public school system. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Delta State Teacher’s College in 1952 where he lettered in both football and tennis. As a testament to his leadership and likeability, he served as Student Body President and was selected “Mr. Delta State Teacher’s College” his senior year.

While at Delta State, Walker met his wife, the former Eloise Stratton from Rolling Fork. They are the parents of Delta State alums Hugh, Jr., of Tupelo and Mrs. Tim (Sheri) Wright of May Pearl, Texas, and have five grandchildren. Eloise, herself near and dear to the university, joined the elementary education faculty as a teacher in 1970. She taught and coordinated the elementary education program from 1984 until her retirement as Associate Professor, Emeriti in 1993.

Walker pursued advanced study at both the University of Alabama and Vanderbilt University. From 1946-1948 he was enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and later became a teacher and coach in the Durant, Louisville, and Indianola public schools. He enjoyed a successful stint in the insurance business in Jackson for eight years before eventually returning to Cleveland to assume the position of Alumni Secretary in 1969. In 1987 he accepted the additional responsibility of directing the Alumni-Foundation, a role he cherished.

While heading the Delta State Alumni-Foundation, Walker was instrumental in furthering the growth of the university in numerous ways. He was responsible for initiating the Student Alumni Association and played a key role in organizing both the Athletic Alumni Association and the DSU Sports Hall of Fame. He also served as President for the Mississippi Intercollegiate Council and as Faculty-Staff Advisor for Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society for college students, faculty, staff, administrators, and alumni that recognizes and encourages superior scholarship, leadership, and exemplary character.

Walker remains an integral and beloved part of the Cleveland and Delta State communities as a member of the Lion’s Club and as a member of First Baptist Church. He has said, “We have a responsibility to the Delta to be the best we can be in offering services to the area and its people.” And that’s exactly what Hugh Ellis Walker did and continues to do for Delta State University.
Three Delta State University graduates were recently included in the prestigious “Top 40 Under 40” publication, a special section of the Mississippi Business Journal that profiles the state’s top movers and shakers of the year. Marc Taylor, Jane Moss and Arthur S. Johnston were all honored for their respective strides in the working world.

Marc Taylor, 32, was a three-year starter on the DSU baseball team, where he earned All-Conference and All-Regional Tournament honors and was a member of the squad that made two World Series appearances. He earned a Sports Management degree from DSU in 1996 and is now a Marketing Specialist for Baptist Health Systems, a job that allows him to supervise the marketing of employee recruitment and Corporate Health Services and Rehabilitation product lines. Taylor was selected 2003 Volunteer of the Year by the American Lung Association of Mississippi for helping establish Camp Wheez-Away, a summer camp for Mississippi children with asthma, and for his work with “Blow the Whistle on Asthma” walk, a fundraiser that provides education and research money to better manage and find a cure for asthma. Taylor also helped establish the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, an organization for which he serves as an advisory board member. He has helped stage events for the Mississippi Senior Olympics, Special Olympics of Mississippi, Tri-4-God Triathlon, Southern Farm Bureau Golf Classic, JMC Cycling Time Trials, American Cancer Society, Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, Run from the Sun 5K, and Habitat for Humanity. Taylor, his wife, Chevis, and their two daughters, Emma and Rivers, reside in Flora.

Jane Moss, 38, earned an Accounting degree from DSU in 1991 and a Master’s degree in Professional Accountancy from DSU in 1998. Today she serves as Treasurer for Viking Range Corporation in Greenwood, a role that has involved implementing the current Viking treasury management system and assisting in the acquisition and opening of six new Viking entities in the year 2000 alone. As treasurer and corporate controller of a world-renowned company, Moss oversees the finance department, where she is responsible for financial statement consolidations, budgeting, internal and external audits, risk management, and overall treasury management. She is also a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants and secretary of its Delta chapter, the DSU School of Business Advisory Council, North Greenwood Baptist Church, numerous community civic organizations, and Kappa Delta Sorority Alumni Chapter. She, her husband, Randy, and their two children, Jason and Valerie, live in Greenwood.

Arthur S. Johnston III, 37, received a Political Science degree from DSU in 1989, where he was president of the Student Government Association and president of the Student Body Presidents’ Council for Mississippi. He received the Jack Winston Gunn Award for overall academic excellence, was voted Mr. Delta State University, and was a member of both Omicron Delta Kappa and Kappa Alpha Order. Johnston went on to earn a Law degree from Ole Miss and now serves as Chancery Clerk for Madison County. He is a member of the Mississippi Chancery Clerks’ Association, The Mississippi Bar and Mississippi Defense Lawyers’ Association, and a board member of the R.E.A.L. Christian Foundation Inc. He has served as past president of the DSU Alumni Association and received the association’s Kent Wyatt Young Alumnus Service Award in 1997. Wyatt and Johnston co-chair the DSU Foundation’s Task Force on Planned Giving.
GREENLEAF TAKES OVER AS PRESIDENT OF ALUMNI BOARD

Bill Greenleaf became president of the Alumni Board of Directors at the Homecoming brunch in October. He is currently a Branch Director in the Policy, Planning, Research and Evaluation Division with the Mississippi Department of Corrections where he has worked since 1995.

Greenleaf received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1975 in General Science and Physical Education and a Master of Science degree in Biology in 1977. He also completed all but his thesis for a Masters degree in Microbiology from Mississippi State University.

While at Delta State, he was on a football scholarship, served as Secretary/Treasurer of the MClub, was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa Honorary Leadership Society, Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society, Member of Student Court and was selected Mr. Delta State University. During graduate school, Bill worked as a Dormitory Supervisor, Graduate Assistant Track Coach and was elected as the first "Mr. Statesman." He was also a member of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity where he served as Pikamep Director and Rush Chairman.

Greenleaf is presently a member of the Mississippi Association of Professionals in Corrections and has earned designation of Certified Public Manager through the Foundation, the fund-raising arm of the Mississippi Methodist Rehabilitation Center. Greenleaf is married to the former Kathy McKissack from Pascagoula.

NEWQUIST NAMED FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

Jimmy Newquist, a 1978 graduate of Delta State, has been named President of the University’s Foundation Board of Directors. Newquist is a native of Jackson and a graduate of Manhattan High School. He has served as Vice President of Wellington Associates, an independent insurance firm in Jackson since 1997. He is married to the former Crystal Walker, of Yazoo City and they have one son, Drew.

Newquist earned a Bachelor of Science in General Studies degree and played four years as a baseball player for Coach Boo Ferriss. Newquist received the 2001 Distinguished Statesman award and has served on the Foundation Board since 1999.

The Delta State University Foundation was formed in 1967 under the leadership of Dave “Boo” Ferriss and at the request of then-president James Ewing. Assets under management of the foundation have grown to $15 million in 2004.
PHILANTHROPY

DR. JAMES SMITH ESTABLISHES DELTA RICE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Dr. James Smith, president of Delta Rice Services, Inc., has established the Delta Rice Producers Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund at Delta State University. The scholarship of $1000 a semester will be available to children and relatives of rice farmers and is given in memory of all deceased Mississippi rice farmers. The scholarship may be awarded to students in any academic area of the university, and may be renewed annually if the student remains in good academic standing. Delta Rice Services has offices in both Webb and Cleveland, Mississippi.

Dr. Smith is currently working on a book that will chronicle the history of rice production in the Mississippi Delta over the past 56 years. The book will feature interviews with and pictures of 25 pioneers in the rice industry from various counties around the Delta. Dr. Smith's book will also include a special memorial section dedicated to deceased rice farmers. "I'm just trying to plant a seed with this scholarship," says Dr. Smith. "Hopefully this will encourage people up and down the Mississippi Delta to contribute to the fund in an effort to recognize and respect deceased rice farmers while also benefiting deserving Delta State students."

Bolivar County, home to Cleveland and Delta State University, is the biggest rice-producing county in the state. "I thought it would be fitting to establish this scholarship at Delta State University, since Cleveland is the heart of rice production in the state," says Dr. Smith, a Mississippi State graduate. "And I think that in three to five years the fund could steadily build as a way to recognize those who have passed away." Out of respect to those honored, recipients of the scholarship will be required to write three letters of appreciation for the memorial scholarship to the surviving family members of the recently deceased rice farmers.

Contact the Delta State University Admissions office for more information on applying for the scholarship. To make a gift to the Delta Rice Producers Memorial Scholarship or to initiate a new scholarship, please contact George Miller at (662) 846-4708 or gmiller@deltastate.edu.

Lost Alumni

1935
Calista Belle Biles, Mildred Hamilton, Sarah Harris

1945
Virginia K. Henderson

1955
Geri Gray Beck, Elsie Black, Morgan Collins, Peggy Brooks Gaines, Juanita Newton

1965

If you have any information about these alumni, please email alumni@deltastate.edu, Fax to (662) 846-4713, or call 1-800-468-6378

ALUMNI MAGAZINE
FORMER SWIMMERS ENDOW SCHOLARSHIP

BY REBECCA DURDEN SEAWRIGHT

The Keller Swimming Scholarship has recently been established by Chrissy Keller LaMastus of Cleveland and Katherine Keller Batenhorst of St. Augustine, Florida, at Delta State University in honor of their parents Paul and Marguerite Keller. The sisters swam four years at Delta State before graduating in 1996. “The scholarship is in appreciation of the time, energy, and effort Mom and Dad put into our swimming careers,” the sisters agree. “Dad spent a lot of weekends grading papers in the van at swim meets. In high school, Mom got up at 4:15 a.m. to take us to morning practice. We want to show our gratitude and give back to the sport that gave us so very much,” they add. The $1000 scholarship will be awarded annually to the junior on the DSU swim team who exhibits a solid work ethic in the pool and in the classroom, leads by example, and works well with coaches and teammates. Delta State University swimming coach Ronnie Mayers notes, “The Delta State Men’s and Women’s swimming and diving teams are honored that two of our former outstanding student-athletes would establish a swimming scholarship to enable us to continue recruiting excellent student-athletes.” Delta State Athletic Director Brad Teague is in agreement: “Of all the private contributions,” he says, “scholarship funds assist and provide more value to our department than any other. The ability to assist a student-athlete with financial resources is crucial in a time of rising educational costs. All of our foundation scholarships provide a true benefit to the school, the donor, and the student-athlete.” To apply for the Keller Swimming Scholarship, please contact the Delta State Admissions office. To contribute to an existing fund or to initiate a new scholarship, please contact Director of Development George Miller at (662) 846-4708 or gmiller@deltastate.edu.

DOES YOUR EMPLOYER MATCH GIFTS?

What’s better than a generous gift to Delta State University? A gift that is twice as generous thanks to a third party’s matching gift program! Matching gifts are like money from heaven, stated Coach Dave ‘Boo’ Ferriss, former executive director of the Delta State Foundation.

Many companies offer employees a matching gift benefit that, in effect, doubles (or in many cases even triples) your gift to Delta State University. Matching gifts make a critical contribution to the Delta State Fund. So when making a gift to Delta State University, please consider earmarking DSU for a corporate match. Companies have various methods by which you can submit your matching gift request: online forms, automated phone systems or a paper form that you submit to DSU. Contact your company’s human resources officer or Web site to find out what your options are.

Here are just a few companies that will match gifts made to Delta State University:

Abbott Laboratories  
Adobe Systems, Inc.  
American Express Co.  
American General Corp.  
AmSouth BanCorp.  
Foundation  
AOL Time Warner  
ARAMARK Corp.  
AT&T  
Bank of America Corp.  
BASF Corp.  
Baxter International  
BP  
Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.  
Chevron Texaco Corp.  
Cingular Wireless  
Cisco Systems Inc.  
Citigroup  
Coca-Cola Co.  
Colgate-Palmolive  
ConAgra Foods Inc.  
Cooper Tire & Rubber Co.  
Deloitte & Touche  
Delta Airlines Inc.  
Dow Chemical Co.  
Duofast  
Eddie Bauer  
Eli Lilly and Co.  
Entergy  
Ernst & Young, LLP  
Exxon Mobil  
Fidelity Investments  
First Tennessee National Corp.  
Follett Corp.  
Fortune Brands, Inc.  
General Mills, Inc.  
Georgia-Pacific Co.  
Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.  
Halliburton Co.  
Mazda (North America) Inc.  
McDonald’s Corp.  
Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.  
Nationwide  
NIKE Inc.  
Nissan North America, Inc  
State Farm

For more information about matching gifts or to find out if your company matches gifts, please contact George Miller at (800) 468-6378 or gmiller@deltastate.edu.
**BellSouth Contributes to Honors Program**

Carolyn Manning, (second from left) Regional Manager for BellSouth, and Gloria Harvey, Manager of External Affairs in Jackson, presented Dr. Greg Hospodor and Dr. John Thornell, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, with a $5,000 gift from BellSouth in support of the University’s Honors Programs. The newly initiated Honors Program is under the direction of Hospodor who most recently directed a similar program at LSU.

“BellSouth is committed to excellence in education in Mississippi and seeks to support, in a meaningful way, opportunities to provide students with the leadership skills and knowledge base they will need as tomorrow’s leaders,” says Manning. “BellSouth is very proud to be among the first to support the newly formed Honors Program.”

“We currently have seventeen recipients of Honors Scholarships who have an average ACT score of 28 and a high school GPA of 3.75,” says Hospodor. “BellSouth’s gift will allow us to enhance the academic component of the program and build experiences for students from that curriculum,” he states.

Hospodor presented Manning with a commemorative Honors Program shirt inscribed with the word “Areté”. “Areté was the most articulated value in ancient Greek culture,” says Hospodor. “Often translated as ‘virtue’ or ‘excellence,’ the word actually means something closer to being the best you can be, or reaching your highest human potential. The Honors Program will encourage students to pursue Areté,” he states.

The program is designed to accept a maximum of twenty new students per year. Hospodor, serving as a mentor, will personally work with each student. Students accepted into the Program receive full tuition, as well as room and board for four years. For more information contact Hospodor at 662.846.4173. To make a gift to Delta State University, contact George Miller, Director of Development, at 662.846.4708 or gmiller@deltastate.edu.

**Gifting Opportunities at the Delta State University Foundation**

**2004 -2005 Delta State Fund**
Annually, over 3,000 loyal Alumni and Friends contribute to the The Delta State Fund, which allows the DSU Foundation to underwrite Academic Scholarships and helps to build a brighter future for the “Best Regional University in America.”

**The Quadrangle Oak Society**
The Quadrangle Oak Society is the DSU Foundation’s planned gifts recognition program, through which loyal Alumni & Friends designate planned or estate gifts for the future benefit of Delta State University. Future gift assets in the Quadrangle Oak Society, from well over 45 loyal Alumni and Friends, now exceed $3.5 million. Membership in the Quadrangle Oak Society can be secured through various methods, including designation to the DSU Foundation in a will, charitable trust, or through naming the Foundation as owner and beneficiary of a new or existing life insurance policy.

**The Endowed Scholarship Program**
Generous Alumni and Friends of Delta State University can endow scholarships at the DSU Foundation to recognize outstanding academic performance, demonstrated leadership on campus, or a combination of both. Need-based scholarships can also be endowed through the DSU Foundation. These scholarships can be in the name of the donor, in the name of another Alumnus, Friend, or family member, or in memory of a loved one.

Want more information on these and other programs through which you can support DSU? Please contact George Miller at (800) 468-6378 ext. 6 or at gmiller@deltastate.edu.
CALLERS RAISE $85,000 FOR THE DELTA STATE FUND

The Delta State University Foundation conducted a phon-a-thon during the fall semester to encourage sending gifts to The Delta State Fund. The Delta State Fund, the Foundation’s annual giving program, was created to provide unrestricted dollars to the University. Unrestricted private support is essential to the advancement of the university and its academic programs. An unrestricted gift to The Delta State Fund is used for Faculty Development, marketing the University to prospective students, and awarding scholarships to deserving and needy students. Annual fund gifts also support current operations and are critical in meeting the day-to-day needs of the University.

Thanks to the efforts of over 20 student callers, $85,000 was pledged by alumni and friends to The Delta State Fund. Student callers worked for three weeks in October and November contacting alumni and friends, inviting them to make a gift to support the University. “The Delta State Fund is one segment of the Foundation’s Advancement program,” says Scott Coopwood, Chair of the Development Committee. “Annual Fund gifts, combined with major gifts and planned gifts, help reach yearly fundraising goals in support of Delta State University. The Delta State Fund provides the most significant source of readily available funds for the University.”

The Delta State University Foundation would like to thank all of the corporate sponsors who assisted in making this phon-a-thon a success. Cellular South provided complimentary cell phones. Refreshments were provided by Airport Grocery, A La Carte, Delta Cream Donuts, Royal Crown Bottling Co., Kroger, Subway, Nightrider, and Pizza Hut.

Spring Phon-a-thon Calling begins on April 3rd!

SUPPORT “THE DELTA STATE FUND”
Join us in changing lives
Through your Annual Fund gift you become an important part of Delta State’s "Wings and Roots Campaign" - a special fund-raising effort to strengthen the missions of teaching and service across the region and the nation.

Three ways your gift to the Annual Fund helps the University:
1. Your gift is an investment in the future of today’s students.
2. You build a brighter future for Delta State.
3. You raise the alumni/friends giving percentage.

 YES! I want to help make a Delta State education possible for a new generation of students.

Annual Giving Club levels: Please enroll me as a member of:
- President’s Club ..$10,000 and more annually
- Statesmen Circle ..$5,000 to $9,999 annually
- Founders’ Club ....$2,500 to $4,999 annually
- Dean’s Circle........$1,000 to $2,499 annually
- University Associate ............$500 to $999 annually
- Partner ......................$250 to $499 annually
- Heritage Club ..................$100 to $249 annually
- Young Alumni Club ..............$99 and under

Full Names ______________________________________________________________________________________
Mailing Address ____________________________________________________________________________________
Home # (        ) ________________________________ Work# (        ) ________________________________________
Employer ________________________________________________________________________________________
Social Security # __________________________________________________________________________________
Class Year 19___ Class Year 19___

Please accept my gift of _______ Charge to: ☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard Account # ____________________ Exp.
Date ______/______
Signature __________________________________________________________________________________________

Return to: Box 3141, Cleveland, MS 38732

☐ Please send me information on including the University in my estate plans.
It’s one thing to win an award; it’s another thing altogether to have an award named after you. Yet, with the Wade Trophy and the Ferriss Trophy, Delta State University and only Delta State University can proclaim two of its own as namesakes for annual awards recognizing greatness in intercollegiate athletics.

The Wade Trophy bears the name of the late Lily Margaret Wade, the “Mother of Modern Women’s College Basketball” and architect of three consecutive national championship teams in 1975, 1976 and 1977 here at Delta State, her alma mater. Under Wade’s leadership, the Lady Statesmen rocketed into the national spotlight, winning four Mississippi state championships and three regional titles before capturing those three national crowns.

Such an unprecedented dynasty pioneered a movement in women’s basketball that brought the sport more popularity than it had ever known. Today, Margaret Wade’s legacy is remembered and symbolized through the oldest and most prestigious award presented in Division I women’s basketball.

First presented by the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport, the WBCA since acquired the marketing and sales rights for the Wade Trophy in 2001 and established the Wade Trophy Coalition to select the best women’s basketball player in NCAA Division I.

To be honored with the Wade Trophy, the deserving student-athlete must meet the following criteria: 1) be a senior college player; 2) be a Kodak All-American; 3) be a positive role model for women in sport; and 4) be committed to academic excellence.

The Ferriss Trophy was established in 1978 and sits on permanent display inside Walter Sillers Coliseum, home of the Delta State Lady Statesmen.

First presented by the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport, the WBCA since acquired the marketing and sales rights for the Wade Trophy in 2001 and established the Wade Trophy Coalition to select the best women’s basketball player in NCAA Division I.

DSU athletic director Dr. Brad Teague observes, “It’s such a special, special thing, no question. You know, you walk into Walter Sillers and you walk right by it. It’s just special-special to know that she (Wade) is one of us, special to know that she started women’s basketball in the south, that this (Delta State) is where it all began.”

But as synonymous as Delta State is to women’s basketball, it is as equally synonymous with baseball and the name of Dave Boo Ferriss. “The Patriarch of Statesmen Baseball”, Ferriss took over the Delta State program in 1960, directing nine DSU squads to the NCAA Division II Playoffs in his 26-year tenure. Three of those Ferriss-coached teams went on to the NCAA Division II World Series Championships, finishing third, second and third, respectively, in 1977, 1978 and 1982.

Ferriss compiled a 639-387-8 career record, a mark which today still ranks among the all-time...
coaching leaders at the NCAA Division II level. He has spent a lifetime surrounded by baseball, having played professionally with the Boston Red Sox from 1945-1950; and even past after his retirement from the coaching ranks in 1988, Ferriss has remained a tireless supporter of not only Statesmen baseball, but also an advocate of all levels throughout his native state of Mississippi.

In November 2003, the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum unveiled the inaugural Ferriss Trophy, which would be presented each May to the state’s best college baseball player. “There were 500 people in this room, many and most of which were not Delta State people. They were just baseball people, there to support Coach Ferriss and all that he stands for,” Teague reported. “That announcement in November created so much excitement, previous to the actual presentation of the award in May, and the Sports Hall of Fame does a great job with this award. There is such a theme of Delta State and all that Coach Ferriss has done for baseball, not only at this institution but in the state as well.”

Unlike the Conerly Trophy, which is presented annually to Mississippi’s top college football player and selected by the media, the Ferriss Trophy is voted on by Major League scouts who cover the Magnolia state. On May 17, 2004, the first-ever Ferriss Trophy was presented to Stephen Head of the University of Mississippi.

In having his name forever linked with that of Ferriss, the Ole Miss pitcher related, “This is the highlight of my collegiate career and something I will never forget.”

But Head is not the only one who bubbles with pride at the very mention of the Ferriss Trophy. As Teague, now in his second year of service as the DSU athletic director, proudly challenges, “You know, it’s funny because just yesterday somebody was asking, ‘Why are Delta State athletics so successful?’ You would have to point to baseball and women’s basketball. Traditionally, it’s always been women’s basketball and baseball.”

All that being said, what is the reason? “Well, Margaret Wade and Boo Ferriss,” he continues. “Here we have these icons and not coincidentally, we have the two most successful programs at our institution, much less anywhere in the south, maybe even in the nation. It’s really remarkable, and that success is being recognized on the national stage and the state stage with these two awards, The Wade Trophy and The Ferriss Trophy. It’s great for Delta State, the institution, and the state of Mississippi to have these two great legends involved.”

Award-worthy, indeed.
The first project, the Billy Dorgan, Jr. Student Conference Center, is due for completion in the early part of the spring semester. It is the largest of the seven projects and is an amazing athletics complex. The 15,000 square foot facility will be a showcase building for the campus and athletic department. It is attached to the north side of the current Chadwick-Dickson Field House. Properly describing this amazing space is hard to accomplish. Once completed, the Athletic Department will have a state-of-the-art workout facility on the bottom floor with a state-of-the-art academic facility on the top floor. The academic center portion will house two technologically enhanced classrooms for the Athletic Training Program through our School of Education. It will also be used for tutorial opportunities for our athletes. DSU Athletics has needed this type of facility for many years; in fact, all schools need this type of facility. The Billy Dorgan family of Biloxi made this project possible.

The Bud Thigpen Baseball Annex, the second of seven facilities on board to construct, began in December. The two-story facility was made possible by the family of the late Bud Thigpen. The Thigpen Annex will be a 3,000 square foot addition to the east side of the Chadwick-Dickson Field House. The annex will expand the baseball locker room and provide coaches with offices and locker room space. A players’ room sets this great addi-
Richardson and Roy Named Foreman Scholarship Recipients for 2004-2005

CLEVELAND - Every year, Coach Sam Dunning has the pleasure of presenting a current Statesman golfer with a scholarship named after one of Delta State’s all-time great coaches, Derrall Foreman.

The scholarship is awarded by the Derrall and Nell Foreman Annual Golf Scholarship Fund created by former Statesman golfer Doug Murphy.

The Derrall and Nell Foreman Golf Scholarship is to be awarded to a member of the Delta State golf team. The recipient is to be selected by members of the Delta State golf coaching staff.

The scholarship recipient may have the scholarship renewed on an annual basis if the recipient remains in good academic standing and is recommended for renewal by the coaching staff.

Coach Dunning states, “It would be impossible for me to express how much I appreciate the contributions of Doug Murphy to our program. His generosity allows us to field a competitive team and at the same time honors the proud tradition of DSU golf.”

The 2004-2005 recipients have proved themselves on the course and in the classroom. Peir Andre Roy claimed individual titles in three of DSU’s tournaments this season. The Aviation major from Quebec, Canada, missed out on another title, losing in a playoff to fellow Statesman and scholarship winner, Clark Richardson.

“These young men mean so much to this program, and it is with great pride that they were awarded this scholarship this season,” says Coach Dunning.

The Statesmen finished the fall portion of their schedule ranked No. 9 in America. DSU claimed wins in four of five tournaments played.

Delta State returns to action on March 7th and 8th at the Barry University Invitational in Hollywood, Florida. The tournament will be played on one of America’s top golf courses, the Hillcrest Country Club course.
SPORTS HALL OF FAME & SPRING SPORTS DAY
SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2005

Inductees
Ronnie Holmes  Football
Karon Covington  Football
Bill Buckner  Football
Crystal Hardy  Women’s Basketball
Kevie Dixon  Men’s Basketball
Bubba Dixon  Baseball
Mike Moore  Baseball

Awards
The Distinguished Statesman Award, Rick Post
Athletic Alumni Appreciation Award, Wayne Lee, Jr.
The Lawrence Stewart Award, Mark Patterson

Schedule of Events
8:00 am Kent Wyatt Golf Tournament at Derrall Foreman Golf Course
(18 hole two-person scramble, $100 per team with cart included)
12:00 noon Baseball vs Arkansas-Monticello at Ferriss Field
5:30 pm Reception for Honorees/Family/Friends on the 2nd floor of the H.L. Nowell Student Union.
7:00 pm Athletic Alumni Association Sports Hall of Fame Banquet
State Room-H.L. Nowell Union Building

APRIL AND MAY BRING LOTS OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR STATESMEN AND LADY STATESMEN FANS

Delta State University sports fans have a great opportunity this April and May to see lots of exciting action at DSU home athletic events. The Statesmen have begun their defense of the 2004 NCAADII National Championship and the Lady Statesmen softball team is looking to make a run into the GSC tournament and NCAA Championships. However, they are not the only sports that fans have an opportunity to see.

Coach Asa Atkinson and the men’s and women’s tennis teams are also in action during this time, and spring football is also scheduled for late April. Below is a schedule of athletic events for April and May. The schedules for each sport can be found on www.gostatesmen.com.

BASEBALL
April 2  Harding (9/7)  3pm
April 3  Harding  2pm
April 16  Christian Brothers (9/7)  3pm
April 17  Christian Brothers  2pm
April 23  Arkansas-Monticello (9/7)  3pm
April 24  Arkansas-Monticello  2pm
April 26  Belhaven*  6:30pm
*played at Smith-Wills Stadium in Jackson

BASEBALL
May 1  Harding  2pm
May 2  Harding  2pm
May 3  Harding  2pm

SOFTBALL
April 1  Henderson State (DH)  6pm
April 2  Henderson State  1pm
April 8  Central Arkansas (DH)  6pm
April 9  Central Arkansas  1pm
April 29  Christian Brothers (DH)  6pm
April 30  Christian Brothers  1pm

MEN’S AND WOMEN’S TENNIS
April 11  Harding  2pm

For more information call Bill Marchant at (662) 846-4565
ELLINGTON NOMINATED FOR NCAA INSPIRATION AWARD

Natalie Ellington, a 5’6” sophomore, is the starting point guard for the Lady Statesmen of Delta State University, but she is so much more. The Webb native suffers from Crohn’s Disease, but don’t think for one minute that it slows her down. To simply describe it, Crohn’s disease causes inflammation in the small intestine. Crohn’s disease usually occurs in the lower part of the small intestine, called the ileum, but it can affect any part of the digestive tract. The inflammation extends deep into the lining of the affected organ, and it can cause extreme pain and make the intestines empty frequently.

Imagine how difficult it must be to work through this; now imagine what it would be like to play 40 minutes of basketball. That’s the only way Natalie wants it! “I have always had a level head about my situation and I know that God will not give me anything I can’t handle,” states Ellington. In October, Matt Jones, DSU Athletic Media Relations Director, nominated Ellington for the NCAA Inspiration Award. “The NCAA Inspiration Award is annually given to a player, coach or administrator who has overcome or is working through a major setback in life,” says Jones. “We felt that Natalie’s story was worthy of being told and that her desire on and off the court exemplified what the NCAA Inspiration Award is all about.”

Ellington has had to face many challenges from the disease. According to her, “When the symptoms are their worst, it is almost impossible to practice or play.” Ellington adds, “It usually causes severe pain in my stomach and bowels and makes me extremely tired.” The disease makes it difficult for Natalie to practice when it is not in remission. Coach Sandra Rushing states, “Natalie has the biggest heart of anyone on our team, and possibly anyone I have ever coached.” Rushing adds, “We take great precautions not to push her too hard, but, she is hard to contain when she has her mind set on something.”

When Ellington first learned of her condition, it came on the heels of a high school track event. Ellington had been one of the top performers on her Strider Academy track team, but at the state meet her freshman year, she performed much worse than normally. “I generally always finished in the top 10, but in this race, I finished much worse,” stated Ellington. She adds, “I was in pain throughout the event and my parents and coaches knew something was wrong.” After the race, Natalie was taken to numerous doctors and had a battery of tests administered on her. It was at this time that the Ellington’s learned Natalie had Crohn’s Disease.

Ellington says her parents have always understood her desire to play basketball, “My parents have been so supportive. They originally were worried a little about me, but they know how important a part basketball plays in my life.” She continues, “They know I love this game and appreciate the opportunity to play for the Lady Statesmen! I have been very blessed!”

Her desire won over her coach from the start. Coach Sandra Rushing states, “I have seen Nat play through some tough times. It has to be very hard to run up and down the court and be 100% when you are suffering, but she is one of the strongest people I have ever met.” Rushing adds, “I believe she can do anything she sets her mind to do.”

This season, Ellington has quietly assumed the reigns as the floor general for the Delta State University Lady Statesmen basketball team. In 2003-04, Ellington backed up senior point guard, Jana Lyons. The sophomore from Webb, saw action in 19 of DSU’s 31 games as a true freshman. Ellington averaged 5.5 minutes, 0.6 points and 0.5 assists per game last season. Her determination to fight through some adversity was one of the main reasons why Coach Sandra Rushing has so much confidence in Ellington. “I believe in her. I believe in her heart, and I know that she will do an exceptional job running this team,” states Rushing. Rushing adds, “That is another reason she was named last season’s Lady Statesmen Award winner.”

Ellington graduated from Strider Academy in the Spring of 2003, with an advanced diploma. She enrolled at DSU in the Summer of 2003 and is majoring in Biology/Chemistry. Her efforts on the court are impressive, but her record in the classroom is even better! Ellington has maintained an amazing 3.44 GPA, despite all the distractions on the court and the complications with her disease.

Natalie Ellington has tried to make the most of her opportunities on the court and off. She is an active member of the Delta State University chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. On numerous occasions, Ellington and her teammates have volunteered their time to read to local elementary schools. She also works with the Cleveland Mentor Program and is very active in Saint John’s Catholic Church of Charleston.

“As I grow as a person, I hope to be able to continue to share my story. I know that many boys and girls have the same illness I do, and I believe that increased awareness will help in the fight against Crohn’s,” states Ellington. Jones adds, “I believe she has a very good chance to win the award, if for no other reason than her heart.”
1941
Viola Brown Sanders of Greenwood was honored by the Mississippi House of Representatives during the 2004 session for her part in a Veterans History Project sponsored by the Library of Congress.

1954
Jim Drewry of Booneville is a football coach for the Blue Devils. He has a 306-137-5 career record and three state championships.

1955
Helen Willis Thornton retired from teaching in the Cleveland School District after 32 years of teaching, went to work for “South Eastern Regional Visions for Education” in 1999 and retired in 2003.

1956
Dr. Alma Ruth Oliver Corley of Conway, Arkansas, teaches at the University of Central Arkansas in the Speech and Writing Department.

1965
Quentin Spruill of Jacksonville, Alabama, recently retired from a distinguished career in the United States Air Force.

1968
Dr. Claudia Nisbett is Dean of the Education Department at Faulkner University in Montgomery, Alabama.

1970
Charles Pittman has joined Governor Haley Barbour’s staff in Jackson, assigned to Constituent Services.

1971
Jane Shattuck is currently working for DoDDS Europe as an Educational Technologist for three elementary schools; one in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.

1972
Gary Thompson has recently been named senior pastor of First United Methodist Church in Biloxi.

1974
David Bradberry is serving as the Athletic Director and Head Football Coach for St. Andrew’s Episcopal School in Jackson.

1976
Tony L. Tullos of McComb is chairperson of the English Department and teacher of AP English at McComb High School.

1977
Allison Whitten Ashmore is a Career Discovery Teacher for the Grenada School District in Grenada.

1978
John Lewis Everitt, Jr. is a Technology Manager for Humana, Inc. in Brandon.

1979
Carol Minor Boyd serves as Chair for the Department of Social Work and as a professor of social work at the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

1982
Reno Borgognoni of Lawrenceville, Georgia, has been promoted to Chief Financial Officer with MD & E, Inc., a technology consulting firm in Atlanta. Reno also operates a CPA firm and Investment Services practice in the Lawrenceville area.

1983
Mike Pyles was recently promoted to Chief Finance and Accounting of the NATO CIS Services Agency located in Mons, Belgium.

1984
Penny Battistelli of Boyle recently opened Okra Books and Apparel in Cleveland with her husband, Rudy.

1985
Douglas Ward Ashmore is a Finpress Operator for Heatcraft in Grenada.
Brian Holt recently accepted the position of Chief Executive Officer of Deer Creek Medical Center in Leesville, Louisiana.

1987
Alisa Ballard Free of Collierville, Tennessee, was recently promoted to Marketing Specialist of the YMCA of Memphis and the Mid-South.

1988
Missy Kistemaker of Mooresville, North Carolina, began a business with The Pampered Chef, where she has since been promoted to management level and received several awards and incentives.

1990
Cindy Estes is currently teaching Spanish at Briarcrest Christian School in Memphis, Tennessee.

Carol Ann Drane serves as Special Populations Coordinator at Canton Career Center and was recently selected for the Ronald Award by the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jackson.

1993
Rene Bigelow was recently named Vice President and Marketing Services Director at the Times-Picayune in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Laurie Griffin Johnson of Memphis, Tennessee is Director of Facility Operations for Rehab Works.

1994
Kevin Ward, MD finished his surgery residency in Birmingham, Alabama and recently joined Rush Medical Group in Meridian to begin practice in General Surgery.

Elizabeth Rowland of Cleveland is employed by Delta Pine Land Company in the International Accounting and Finance division.

Marcy Hammett of Arlington, Tennessee, is Manager of the Quick Care Medical Station at the Regional Medical Center in Memphis.

Helen Armstrong of Baltimore, Maryland, is Senior Art Director at Robert Ryttar and Associates Graphic Design firm.

1995
Jeremiah Burks has just completed the Educational Specialist’s degree at Delta State University in Administration and Supervision and has been promoted to the position of principal at Fairview Junior High in Memphis, Tennessee.

1996
Marti Shannon Green of Olive Branch has been promoted to Senior Lease Administrator with TrammelCrow in Memphis, Tennessee.

Jeff Grimsley was recently promoted to Chief Financial Officer of Crawford County Memorial Hospital in Van Buren, Arkansas.

1997
Joe Ellington accepted a job with the Mississippi State Department of Health in Jackson in the Industrial Radioactive Materials Division.

Gay Smith of Coila has accepted a new position as the Regional Director for the American Heart Association.

Charles V. Homan, Jr. is working for Upshaw, Williams, Biggers, Beckham & Riddick, LLP law firm in Jackson.

1998
Richard M. Webster III of Walls is working for Kattworldwide Logistics as a truck dispatcher.

Amy Moyer Deer of Madison is working for Inviso as an insurance examiner.

Delton M. Moore has recently been named one of the newest members to the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Chorus in Jackson and is also the Public Relations Director for the Wahabi Shrine, also in Jackson.

William David Kilgore II is a Territory Manager for Waste Management in Holcomb.

1999
Leslie Collins Tabb of Cleveland is a Family Nurse Practitioner at the Family Medical Clinic in Cleveland.

Nate Christian is the pastor at Durant Baptist Church.

Penny Samuels (1943) and Ramona Von Boeckman Smith (1978)

2000
Adam H. Sowell of Olive Branch is a Financial Advisor for UBS Financial Services.

Nichole Haney Denton of Horn Lake is the Project Coordinator with ServiceMaster-TruGreen Landcare in Memphis, Tennessee.

Candy Dreher is Admissions Manager at Bolivar Medical Center in Cleveland.

2001
Lauren Hansen Lewis of Cordova, Tennessee, is an Admissions Recruiter for Delta State University and was recently appointed to the DSU Alumni Board.
WITH THE CLASSES

Jeffery W. Erickson is a Recruitment/Retention Coordinator with Region 8 Mental Health Services in Brandon.

Brian Rea is the Head Baseball Coach at Corinth High School.

Allison M. Ingram of Ridgeland is currently employed at Morgan White Group in Jackson as a Marketing/Broker Support Specialist.

Perry C. Erickson is Senior Officer for the Federal Correctional Institution in Yazoo City.

Christian Murray is Account Red for Cardinal Health Care in Monmouth Beach, New Jersey.

2002
Justin Davis of Cleveland is working in sales at UAP.
Stephanie Eddleman is a Instructor of English at Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas.

Misty A. Moore of Nottingham, Maryland, is a Nurse Practitioner for the Department of Orthopaedics at John Hopkins Bayview Medical Center and is an adjunct faculty member for the School of Nursing at Baltimore Community College.

2003
Kim Huffman of Mound Bayou is an auditor with the Mississippi Gaming Commission.

Rebecca Durden Seawright is a Graduate Assistant for the Alumni-Foundation House at Delta State University while working towards a Master's in English Education degree.

2004
Robby Altman is a Physical Education teacher, Assistant Football Coach, Head Track and Head Girls Basketball Coach at East Oktibbeha County High School in Crawford.

Jennifer Wood Wooley is a librarian at Vicksburg Junior High School.

David Myers is living in Fairfax, Virginia, and is a Political Analyst for the National Rifle Association in Washington, D.C.

Announcements

PIG PICKIN’
Saturday, September 10, 2005

HOMECOMING
October 28-29, 2005


Stan Topol (1965) will be recognized in May by Style Atlanta, Inc., with the Icon of Interior Design Award sponsored by General Motors.

Philip Farr (1961) visits with Gale Davis (1963)
To become a “Life member” of the Alumni Association call 1-800-468-6378 Alumni Foundation office or email vfioran@deltastate.edu or complete the form below.

**NEW LIFE MEMBERS**

- Allison Ashmore ’77
- Douglas Ashmore ’79
- Minnie Bell ’69
- Carol Boyd ’79
- Leroy Boyd ’95
- David Bradberry ’74
- Julie M. Clark ’93
- Richard A. Collins ’53
- Matthew T. Collins ’01
- Christen Davis ’00
- Kay Mauldin Davis ’00
- Justin Davis ’02
- Amy Moyer Deer ’98
- David Joel Deer ’98
- Sharon Richardson Evans ’84
- Beverly Fioanelli ’75
- Gary Fioanelli ’75
- Dr. William J. Gillespies, Jr. ’55
- Lindsey Holifield ’78
- Myna Holifield ’79
- Thomas Clyde Ingram ’47
- Lylla Cooper Joe ’00
- Jerry Alton Johnson ’64
- Sandra Thomas Johnson ’66
- William Clyde Jones ’54
- William David Kilgore ’98
- David B. Lindh ’50
- M. Parker Lipscomb ’04
- Lauren Hansen Lewis ’01
- Lynn R. Millender ’93
- Sid Martin Naron ’03
- Robert Ford Parnell ’58
- Bennie Price ’61
- Virginia Elizabeth Rowland ’94
- Ryan D. Russell ’99
- Thomas M. Russell ’67
- Katherine Story ’78
- Leslie Collins Tabb ’99
- Jeremy H. Tillman ’04

**SPRING 2005**

To Join the Alumni Association, complete the membership application below.

**Delta State University Alumni Association Membership Application**

SN# ______________________ Class of ____________________

Name: ________________________________________________

Nickname: ___________________ Birthdate: __________________

Address: ______________________________________________

City/State/Zip: __________________________________________

Employer: ______________________________________________

Job Title: ______________________________________________

Phone (Home): ___________________ (Work): ___________________

For our tax records, please use your full legal name.

**SPRING 05**

Please check the type membership that best suits your needs:

- 1 year ($20 single, $30 joint)
- Life ($300 single, $400 joint)
- I would also like to join the following alumni groups:
  - Accounting ($10)
  - Aviation ($5)
  - Music ($5)
  - Art ($5)
  - Black ($5)
  - Nursing ($5)
  - Athletic ($10)
  - Family & Consumer Science (H. Ec.) ($5)

Total amount enclosed: __________________

- Check
- VISA
- Mastercard

Card #: ________________________

Name: (exactly as it appears on card) _______________________

Signature: ___________________ Exp. Date: ___________________

Life dues can be paid in installments of $50 each year.

Make Checks payable to: DSU Alumni Association
Mail to: Box 3104, Cleveland, MS 38733
In Memoriam

Ruby M. Barnes (1993) on September 23, 2004
Hazel Frazier Barr (1964) on July 8, 2004
Wanda Marie Bills Belk on June 18, 2004
Larry Barrentine (1967) on March 19, 2004
Daniel Bogard Buckley (1981) on October 3, 2004
Mildred Fox Bush (1940) on September 4, 2004
Dr. William KcKinley Cash on October 20, 2004
John Caylor (1951) on September 2004.
Emmette Elaine Davis (1954) on July 12, 2004
Mary Helen Dunnaway (1943) on October 20, 2004
Marylin Arnold Flowers on September 7, 2004
William Harold Fulton on July 26, 2004
Ned Joseph Graziosi (1962) on September 23, 2004
Sherry T. Griffin (1967) on August 4, 2004
Agnes Octavia Hinton (1931) on July 20, 2004
Courtney Holley (2002) on October 7, 2004
Walter Hollingsworth (1950) on April 15, 2004
Saidee Sue Jones (1937) on June 1, 2004
Aleene Elmore Jordan (1935) on July 14, 2004
Sharon Perkins Joslin (1970) on September 4, 2004
Ira Dearman Manning (1990) on July 22, 2004
James L. Marberry on July 26, 2004
Sandra Crain Morton on October 12, 2004
Opal Burson Osborn (1929) on October 8, 2004
Donald “Bama” Payne (1951) on October 30, 2004
Sandra Middleton Pittman (1972) on August 20, 2004
Patrick Marc Rapicault (1993) on November 15, 2004
Marvin Fay Reid (1938) on July 22, 2004
Georgia Frances Sharbrough (1958) on June 23, 2004
Clarence Richard Smith (1945) on October 17, 2004
James Ray Thigpen (1965) on November 1, 2004
Leila Lyle Underhill (1940) on September 28, 2004
William Myers Watkins III (1969) on September 6, 2004
Jean M. White (1977) on December 4, 2003
Garnett S. Wilbourn (1934) on July 23, 2004
Dave Lacey Wilkes (1984) on September 11, 2004
Samuel Burton “Burt” Wilson IV (1957) on August 13, 2004
Birdie Virginia Yeager Young (1937) on June 8, 2004

Darby Ann to Mr. and Mrs. Chad Walberg (DeAnne Perkins ’94) on March 26, 2003.

Marshall David to Dr. and Mrs. Kevin Ward ’94 on April 18, 2003.

Parker Bryant to Mr. and Mrs. Jason Bryan Harris (Laura Wolfe ’99) on October 24, 2003.

Campbell Ann to Mr. and Mrs. William Mundroff ’89 (Michelle Campbell ’92) on February 22, 2004.

Aubrey Grayce to Mr. and Mrs. Eric Vickrey (Kimberly Boyd ’88) on March 25, 2004.

Ryan Thomas to Mr. and Mrs. Wyatt K. Rives ’93 on March 25, 2004.

Zachary Ryan to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Denton ’97 (Nichole Haney ’00) on April 5, 2004.

Dominic Anthony to Mr. and Mrs. Mathew Rivino (Cecilia Lopez ’00) on April 22, 2004.

Matthew Etheldred to Mr. and Mrs. Tim Gardner ’00 on May 22, 2004.

Eliza Ruth to Mr. and Mrs. Darry Dewayne Hardy ’93 (Allyson Caldwell ’94) on May 29, 2004.

William Allen to Mr. and Mrs. Lee Havens ’99 (Emily Ratliff ’97) on June 2, 2004.

Anna Caroline to Mr. and Mrs. Joey Walker ’92 (Shannon Woodson ’94) on June 9, 2004.

Nicole Camblyn to Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Alford (Sangie Butler ’95) on June 10, 2004.

Jackson Mills to Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Byrd ’97 (Katie Virden ’02) on June 20, 2004.

Skylar “Skye” Gracen to Mr. and Mrs. William Blaine Finnie ’00 (Memorie McCreary ’02) on June 25, 2004.

Lyndsey Pierce to Mr. and Mrs. Albert “Sonny” Tutor ’96 (Heather Killebrew ’95) on July 1, 2004.

Kaleb Michael to Mr. and Mrs. Chad Lipscomb ’98 on July 4, 2004.

Kate Merideth to Mr. and Mrs. Bill English ’89 on July 12, 2004.

Georgia Christine to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph David Sink (Belinda Bonner ’94) on July 14, 2004.

Landry Allison to Mr. and Mrs. Russell Jenkins ’96 (Kelly Heatherly ’94) on July 16, 2004.

Caroline Elise to Mr. and Mrs. David Lewis ’99 (Tara Allain ’00) on July 20, 2004.

James Davis to Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Todd Warrington (Peyton Davis ’92) on July 31, 2004.

Caroline Ivy to Mr. and Mrs. Jay Hubbard ’99 (Lyn Warren ’96) on August 4, 2004.

Benjamin Brooks to Mr. and Mrs. Greg Smith ’95 on August 6, 2004.

Paige Montgomery to Mr. and Mrs. Jay Buckley ’96 (Melanie Moore ’97) on October 11, 2004.
**Alumni Update**

What better way to let your classmates know where you are and what you are doing than through the “Alumni Updates”?

Tell us about yourself: Recently married? Taken a new job? Been promoted? Changed addresses? Welcomed new children?

Name __________________________________________________________
Maiden Name _____________________________________________________
Social Security # ________________________________________________
Work Phone ______________________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________________
Home Phone _____________________________________________________
City ____________________________State ________________________Zip
Graduation Year ________________Date of Birth ____________________
E-mail address___________________________________________________
Here’s my update:________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

Mail to: Alumni Office, Box 3104, DSU, Cleveland, Mississippi 38733
or Fax to (662) 846-4713 or e-mail to alumni@deltastate.edu

To announce your new born, wedding, job change or other significant event in your life, send an email to alumni@deltastate.edu. Or mail to Box 3104, Cleveland, Mississippi 38733. Please include a photo and detailed information.
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Tues. - Fri. 11am - 5:30pm

662.846.4626 or 800.GO TO DSU
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• Alumni will be linked directly to their classmates, Alumni Office and the University
• It will be simple and convenient to maintain ties to DSU
• Alumni will be able to update their personal information, learn about upcoming
campus events and news, and easily make connections to classmates online.

ALL FROM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD!