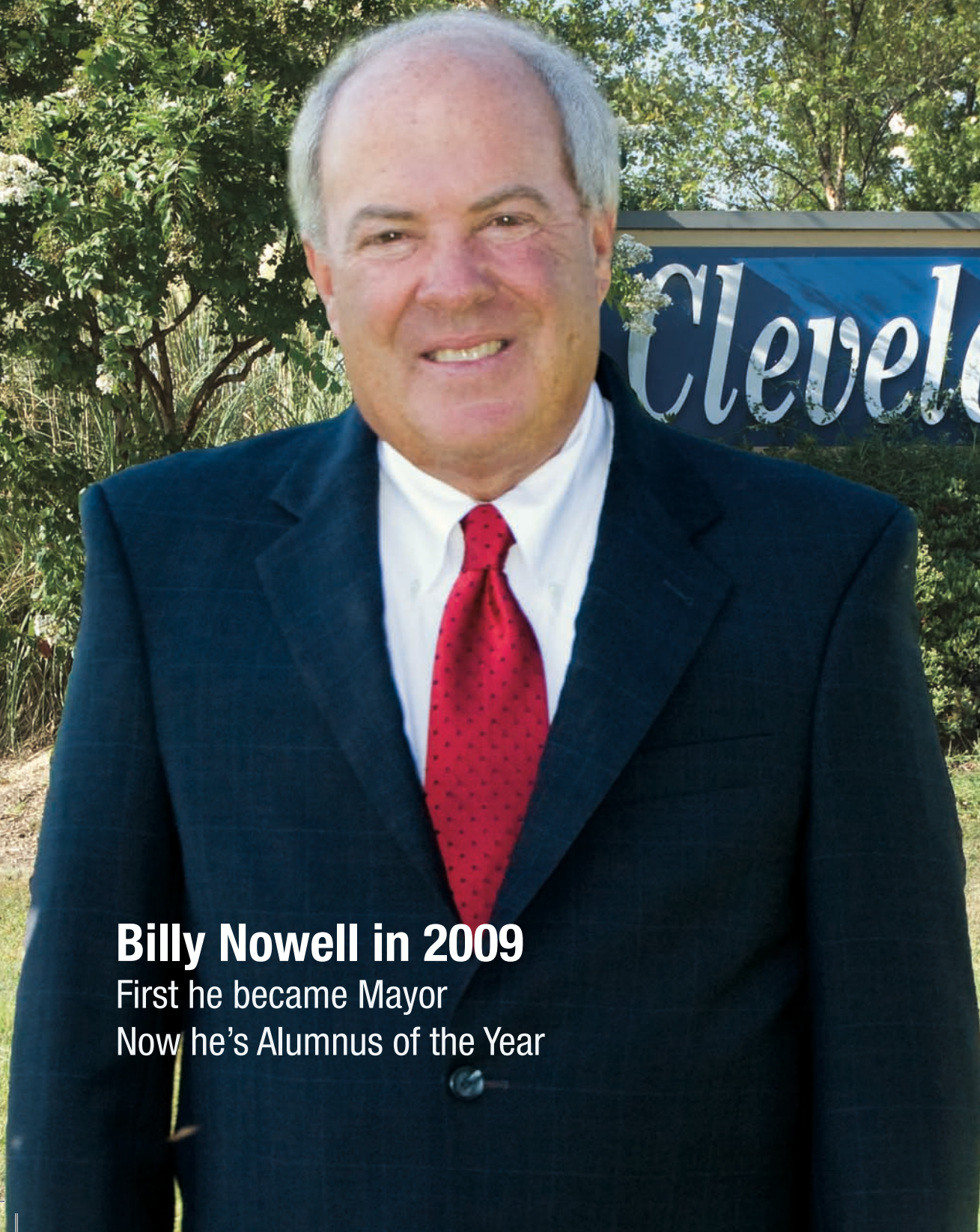


FALL 2009

# Delta State

THE MAGAZINE FOR DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



## **Billy Nowell in 2009**

First he became Mayor

Now he's Alumnus of the Year





Delta State has a peaceful and inviting 274-acre campus, making it easy to get to classes and meet new friends along the way.

# IT'S HAPPENING HERE.

**You cross the campus, and you start to feel it.**

It's an energy in the way people carry themselves, an excitement in conversations all around you, and you realize... something is happening here. You take your seat in class, and your professor isn't just teaching, but creating new paths of thought you've never considered. This is the Delta State University experience.

**DELTA STATE  
UNIVERSITY**   
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**On the cover:** Billy Nowell in front of an entrance sign into Cleveland.



## President's Message

Dear Friends,

My goodness this past year was busy, and I believe the pace of activity will accelerate during 2009-10. You will learn in this publication about several new and promising developments. So, let's pause for a moment to consider a "Top 10 List" of notable accomplishments from 2008-09.

10. The Facilities Management Team continued to enjoy success with energy conservation efforts. Natural gas consumption on campus was down 26.98 percent during the past 12 months, and the use of electricity fell by 16.63 percent. This earned the university a statewide Best Practices Award.
9. The Roberts-LaForge Library just passed the decade mark as the highest rated general university program and service according to student graduation surveys. Year-after-year their excellence shows.
8. Delta State's faculty produced more than 450 publications, presentations, exhibitions, and performances during the 2008-09 academic year.
7. 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.
6. The Grants Office reported an increase nearly 30 percent larger than the previous year's performance with 79 grants totaling more than \$13 million. In a related effort, despite a very difficult environment, University Relations secured \$9.5 million in state bond funding for facility projects and earmarked funds from the state and federal governments.
5. Renovation of the Whitfield Gymnasium into the Delta Music Institute was completed this past year. Now this old facility has new life and a fresh purpose as home to two world class recording studios and an innovative academic program.
4. The 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.
3. Faculty and staff have 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. Implementation during this year will add significant value for our new students.
2. Credit goes to the Provost and many others who worked to rewrite the university's Strategic Plan. Now updated for the period 2009 to 2014, this plan focuses our attention on five sharpened, well-stated goals related to student outcomes, program quality, and institutional effectiveness.
1. The School of Nursing now bears the name of its most generous benefactor, Robert E. Smith. His seven-figure contributions and commitments are making it financially possible for needy, deserving students to become outstanding nurses serving the healthcare needs of the Mississippi Delta. Mr. Smith set the bar high for other private donors, as the DSU Foundation works on a major, new fundraising campaign.



I want also to be sure you heard our two most recent announcements. First, Teach For America has chosen Delta State University to host a Charter Summer Institute in 2010 with the expectation we will be a permanent site thereafter. Over the 20 or so years of the existence of this organization, seven previous sites have come on line – all at larger universities and all in major urban centers. Arizona State, Georgia Tech, Temple, and the University of Houston are examples. Delta State became the first partner university located in a rural area, and we couldn't be more pleased. Lots of people worked hard for this success.

Our second announcement was about a Healthy Campus/Community Initiative funded by Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Mississippi in the amount of \$700,000 for the first seven months with the likelihood of additional funding to follow. The project addresses wellness issues on this campus, in Cleveland's K-12 schools, and throughout our community. In process are a half-mile walking track, new fitness equipment and additional services at the Wellness Center, and a campaign to get everyone involved. Thanks to the College of Education for taking the lead.

Great things are happening at Delta State. We're proud of your alma mater, and we hope you are as well! I look forward to visiting with you at Homecoming in November.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Hilpert", written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

John M. Hilpert  
President



## Alumni Message

Dear Alumni and Friends:

In May, the Alumni Association grew in size as the University graduated another 477 students at the Spring Commencement ceremony. As Alumni President, I had the tremendous honor that day of welcoming these new alumni into our ranks. While I can rest assured that my presence was not a highlight in their life, I am pleased to report that a couple of things have remained the same since the May day fourteen years ago when I walked across the stage to receive my degree. First, it remains pretty hot in May. Second, the lines for the degrees are not getting any shorter. And lastly, and most importantly, the enthusiasm and sense of joy in the eyes of a new graduate of Delta State University remains as bright as it was on my graduation day. I hope that we can all continue to have that spark in our eye when we speak and think of our alma mater.

Since our last issue, your Alumni Association has visited the Statesmen nation in places as far off as New York City and New Orleans, and as local as right here in Cleveland, with many, many stops in between. Our Alumni Association staff continues to work hard planning these chapter meetings, and I certainly want to continue to encourage you to come to our meetings to support the University and to visit with your fellow graduates. And if for some reason we are not touching your neck of the woods, and you would like to help start or organize a local chapter, then please contact us at [alumni@deltastate.edu](mailto:alumni@deltastate.edu). We are always on the lookout for new friends and volunteers.

As I have visited our various alumni chapters and events throughout the last year, I have always stressed one major theme. We have come to you, now it's your turn. You come to us. Homecoming 2009 has been set for the weekend of November 6-7, and I hope that all of our alumni and friends will make a special effort to come back to your campus to take part in the many, many activities planned for the weekend, from our annual Homecoming Brunch on Friday honoring our 2009 Outstanding Alumnus, Mayor Billy Nowell of Cleveland, and our other service award winners, to the always entertaining Golden Circle Induction ceremony on Friday night before finally, Saturday's football game and, of course, the crowning of the 2009 Homecoming Queen. A schedule of activities can be found in this magazine, and I invite you to please look over the schedule and come back to campus for that very special weekend!

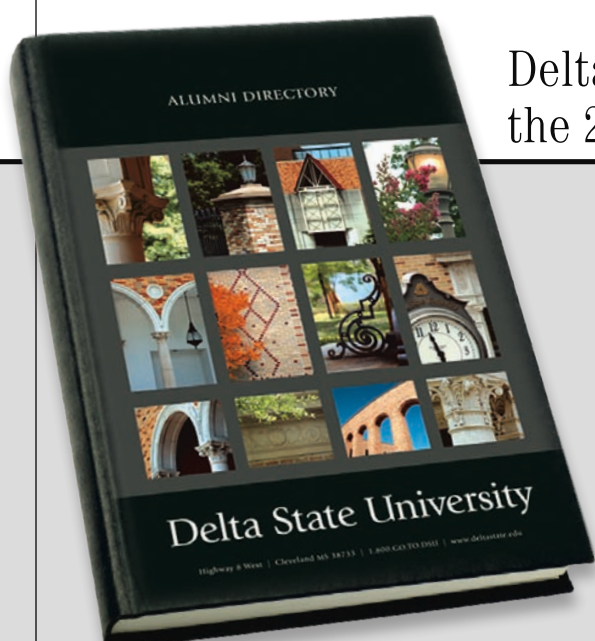
As always, it is an honor to serve all of you as your National Alumni Association President. I look forward to seeing you very soon! Go Statesmen!

All my best,



John C. Cox '96

National Alumni Association President



## Delta State University is pleased to announce the 2010 edition of its Alumni Directory!

Harris Connect, a leading publisher of alumni and membership directories for 45 years, has been selected to compile this edition of our directory. It is expected to be the definitive "who's who" of Delta State University, and an excellent tool that you can use to connect with other alumni.

The hardcover print directory will contain biographical entries on each alumnus. In addition to the biographical section, there will also be cross-references in separate sections for years attended, career networking, and geographical location.

Don't be left out. Be a part of our 2010 Directory!

Call toll-free 877.248.2007 for more information.



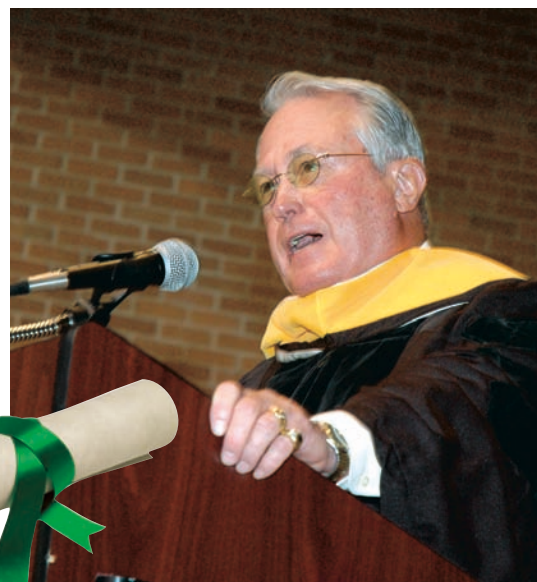
# Dr. Robert L. Elliott Conferred with Honorary Degree

Dr. Robert L. Elliott ('59) was bestowed with one of the university's highest honors, an honorary Doctor of Science degree, during spring commencement exercises on May 9. Trained as a general surgeon, Dr. Elliott is world renowned as a leader in the field of breast cancer research.

In 1991, Dr. Elliott began working with Delta State faculty and staff to develop The Elliott Program of Excellence. "I wanted to light a fire in today's students in the same manner that a fire was lit in me by those who

influenced my life when I was a student at Delta State University," Elliott stated.

"I am honored to receive this degree and I am living proof that the more you give, the more you will receive," said Elliott. "I urge you graduates to be especially proud of your degree. You are graduates of a great university and the best regional university in the United States. You can go out and compete with the best from anywhere."



Dr. Robert L. Elliott accepts his honorary degree.



Photo courtesy of Michael Simmons, The Cleveland Current

*Sorority members are all smiles as they gather to celebrate bid day.*

## Delta State Selected

### TEACH FOR AMERICA

Teach for America (TFA) has selected Delta State University as its newest teacher training site. The Delta Institute will be the first site in Mississippi, the first in a rural area, and the eighth TFA training location, joining Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York City, Philadelphia, and Phoenix. Teach for America is the national corps of top recent college graduates who commit to teach for at least two years in urban and rural public schools and become lifelong leaders in expanding educational opportunity.

"For eight weeks this coming summer we'll have hundreds of TFA folks on our campus," said Delta State University President John Hilpert. "During the five-week peak period of the Institute we could have a total of more than 800 new corps members and staff on our campus. Educationally and financially this is a win for Delta State," concluded Hilpert.

**TEACHFORAMERICA**

### HEALTHY CAMPUS/ COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

Delta State was also recently selected to receive a \$700,000 grant from Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation to launch a Healthy Campus/Community Initiative. Through this program, Delta State will become the flagship health and wellness university in the state.

The goals of the initiative are not limited to Delta State. Rather, Delta State's faculty and students, working together with the Cleveland School District, the City of Cleveland, the medical community, and the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation will work to improve the health and wellness culture of Cleveland and Bolivar County. "This is an exciting opportunity for Delta State and Cleveland, and we believe we will make a difference in the lives of the people who study, work, and live here," said Hilpert.



**Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation**

A Subsidiary of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi.



# Home to Emmitt Till Exhibit

What started out as an oral history developed into a nationally traveling exhibit. Dr. Henry Outlaw ('61), chair emeritus of the Department of Physical Sciences and retired chemistry professor, was granted a Mississippi Humanities Council oral history grant to capture the memories and reminiscences of those individuals who had been associated with the 1955 murder and trial of Emmett Louis Till in Money, MS.

Dr. Outlaw first compiled the collection of photographs, newspaper articles and letters that later became the basis of the University's first traveling exhibit, documenting one of Mississippi's most infamous slayings during the burgeoning civil-rights era.

The nine panels, designed by Delta State's graphic artist, Laura Fleeman Walker ('05), in cooperation with University archivist, Emily Erwin ('99), chronicle the story of the notorious 1955 murder of a 14-year-old black boy from Chicago and the trial and acquittal of two white men who later confessed to the crime.



A few of the over 100,000 visitors to see the Emmett Till exhibit examine the panels during the exhibit's stop in Tupelo.

The exhibit is permanently housed in the Charles W. Capps, Jr. Archives and Museum at Delta State University. The traveling exhibit is available for loan to institutions, including schools, colleges, and libraries. Those interested in booking the exhibit should call DSU Archivist Emily Erwin at 662-846-4780.

## Grand Opening

The Delta Music Institute (DMI) hosted its grand opening ceremonies March 6 – 10 with a variety of entertainment drawing visitors from throughout the region. The acclaimed Thacker Mountain Radio show broadcasted live from the DMI in the historic Whitfield Gymnasium on the Delta State University campus.

The Delta Music Institute began with a generous donation by Fred Carl ('75) of the Viking Range Corporation in 2003. The focus of the DMI is to provide students with a broad and thorough education in the technological, business, and creative areas of the music industry. Students in the DMI program pursue career aspirations through an innovative Interdisciplinary Studies degree, allowing them to combine two or three concentrations of study. The result is a broad entrepreneurial approach to the music and entertainment industries.



Jerry "Duff" Dorrough (second from left) and The Yalobushwhackers perform during the Thacker Mountain Radio Show.

## NEWSMAKERS

### Sarah Deason

('07) has been hired as the Director of Development for the Delta State University Foundation, Inc. Deason, a native of Cleveland, received her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from Delta State. She joined the Foundation staff after serving two years as the Foundation Director for North Sunflower Medical Foundation in Ruleville. Deason also served as the Artist in Residence for Delta Arts Alliance in Cleveland and the Tahari Specialist for Saks Fifth Avenue in New Orleans.



### Dr. Billy

#### Morehead ('84),

Chair of Accountancy, Computer Information Systems, and Finance at Delta State, was recently elected the 60<sup>th</sup> National President of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA). He is the first Mississippian and the first person from Academia to serve as AGA National President.



### Dr. Richard S. Myers

, whose tenure at Delta State extended over three decades, was recently honored by having the Physical Chemistry Laboratory at Delta State named for him.



### Dr. Albert Nylander

has been named Delta State University's Dean of Graduate and Continuing Studies. Dr. Nylander previously served as chair of the Division of Social Sciences at Delta State.





# HOMEcoming 2009 RECONNECT

By Mark H. Stowers

In 1959, Ike was busy running the country, the Barbie doll and pantyhose were created, the Motown sound was dancing through radios, Alaska and Hawaii put two more stars on the flag, and the Delta State College Class of 1959 was preparing to leave its mark on the world. Now, half a century later, many of those alumni are ready to reconnect to their alma mater, friends, and precious memories.

With a weekend of fun and recognition waiting for them, the campus and its newer alumni will be ready to welcome each of them back.

During the Homecoming weekend, Delta State students, faculty, and staff will pay homage to the Class of 1959 who celebrates their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Class President June Fletcher explains that classmates were more than just friends. "I look forward to visiting with friends who comprised 'my family' for four of the best years of my life," Fletcher said.

No doubt '59 alumni will retell countless stories of the Statesmen ruling the gridiron. Their 10-1 record, including winning the Christmas Bowl 19-0 over East Central Oklahoma, were all under the guidance of one

of Delta State's most revered coaches, Gene Chadwick.

November 6 kicks off Homecoming with the annual Alumni Awards Luncheon to be held in the H.L. Nowell Student Union State Room at 12:30 pm. The gathering will be a time to honor the Alumnus of the Year and the other 2009 Alumni Awards recipients. With numerous alumni, faculty, staff, community members, current students, and past award winners, the luncheon will be a great start in reconnecting with Delta State.

The aptly named H.L. Nowell Student Union honors the cousin of this year's Alumnus of the Year recipient – Billy Nowell. The newly elected Mayor of Cleveland will be recognized as the Delta State University Outstanding Alumnus for 2009 – the highest honor an alumnus can receive. "I was elated and in fact I teared up a minute because Delta State is very close to my heart," Nowell recounted. "I've lived in Cleveland basically all of my life and Delta State has been a big part of my life here in Cleveland."

The '72 graduate mentioned that he's proud to be honored and is simply following in the footsteps of other family who have served at Delta State University. "This is probably the biggest honor I've ever gotten in my life," he said. "And I'm certainly proud to be in the company of many great people who have come before me as Alumnus of the Year."



"I look forward to visiting with friends who comprised 'my family' for four of the best years of my life."

June Fletcher, class president

Along with the luncheon there will be plenty of chances to reconnect with former classmates and friends during student celebrations, class reunions, and department open houses.

## 2009 HALL OF FAME AND SERVICE AWARDS

Each year, the DSU Alumni Association recognizes outstanding alumni and friends for their commitment to Delta State.



**BILLY NOWELL**  
'72, of Cleveland,  
Hall of Fame  
Class of 2009



**DONALD GREEN** '80, of Clarksdale,  
Hall of Fame  
Class of 2009



**MARVIN D. SULLIVAN** '59  
(posthumously), of Brookhaven,  
Hall of Fame  
Class of 2009



# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## SPECIAL REUNIONS

- *Class of 1959*
- *50-year Graduates, Golden Circle: Classes of 1928-59*
- *Black Alumni Scholarship Reunion*

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

- 12:30 pm** Awards & Business Luncheon (Outstanding Alumnus of the Year and Service Awards), *H.L. Nowell Union, State Room*
- 6:00** Student Band/Concert, *Statesmen Park*
- 6:00** Social and Reunion of Golden Circle (Classes 1928-58) and Class of '59, *Cleveland Country Club*
- 7:00** Induction and Dinner for Class of '59, *Cleveland Country Club*

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

- 8:30-9:30 am** College of Business Coffee Gathering, *Broom Hall, International Atrium*
- 9:00-11:00** Homecoming Registration, *H.L. Nowell Union*
- 9:00** Athletic Alumni Meeting, *H.L. Nowell Union, Room 302*
- 9:00-11:00** Delta Music Institute Open House, *Whitfield Building*
- 10:00-Noon** Backyards and Beyond Exhibit, *Archives and Museum*
- 10:00-10:45** Dialogue with University Officials, *Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni-Foundation House*
- 10:00** Veterans Exhibit and Refreshments, *Jobe Hall*
- 10:00-Noon** Art Alumni Exhibition, *Wright Art Center Gallery*
- 11:00** Ceremony for Veterans Atrium, *Jobe Hall*
- 11:00** Organizations, Constituent Group Meetings, and Open Houses
- 11:30-1:00 pm** Black Alumni Constituent Group Luncheon, *Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni-Foundation House*
- Noon** Lunch, *Young-Mauldin Dining Hall*

## STATESMEN PARK HOMECOMING FESTIVITIES

- Noon** Tailgating, Tent Parties, Cheerleaders, and Band
- Noon-3:00 pm** Reunions, Open Houses, Tents
- 12:30** Football Team Walk Through
- 1:00** Ol' Skool Revue Music Ensemble
- 3:00** Football Game, *DSU vs. University of West Georgia*
- Half-Time** Queen and Court Presentation

## ACTIVITIES

- Patriotic Exhibit, *Jobe Hall*
- Alumni Art Exhibit, *Wright Art Gallery*
- Downtown Merchant Window Displays, *Downtown Cleveland*
- Student Government Association will ask all DSU Alumni to stand and be recognized at halftime
- Jimmy R. Williams Bookstore Open 9:00 am – 2:00 pm (10% discount with alumni membership card)



Top: Homecoming queen, Katherine Marie Dick (center) and her court of (from l-r) Peggy Jennings, Frances Gordon, Pat Byrd, and Nancy Shackelford during the 1959 Homecoming parade.

Bottom: The 1959 troupe of The Delta Belles poses for a photo before performing during Homecoming festivities.



**BOB '62 and SYLVIA FERGUSON '62**, of luka, are the recipients of the Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni Service Award.



**JOHN POLK**, of Hattiesburg, is the recipient of the Gladys Castle Friend of Delta State Service Award.



**DOT FRANKLIN '60**, of Cleveland, is the recipient of the Legacy Award in honor of founding the Delta Belles.



**ROB ARMOUR '95**, of Madison, is the recipient of the Kent Wyatt Young Alumnus Service Award.



## Returning to Basketball's Grandest Stage



Coach Margaret Wade celebrates another Lady Statesmen victory.

No one can argue the success Delta State University has enjoyed over the years with its women's basketball program. From its inception in 1927, the Lady Statesmen have racked up the most successful record of any women's basketball program in NCAA Division II – six national championships, 15 conference titles, and an overall record of 951-236-3.

On Monday, Nov. 9 at Thompson-Boling Arena in Knoxville, Tenn., the Lady Statesmen will return to the grandest stage in women's basketball, as the green-and-white tipoff the season against Pat Summitt and the Tennessee Lady Volunteers. It's the first meeting between two of the game's founding institutions since the 1978-79 season, a 67-63 loss for the Lady Statesmen at the Orange Bowl Classic.

"We're excited to have this opportunity," stated Sandra Rushing, Lady Statesmen head coach. "Tennessee is one of those programs that

every year is a contender in NCAA Division I. We strive to achieve the same level of success in our program. I believe in giving our ladies the best chance to improve as a unit, and I can't think of a better way to start than with Tennessee."

The historical significance of the contest is overwhelming. In a time when women's collegiate basketball was in its infancy, the Lady Statesmen and legendary coach Margaret Wade were the cream of the crop. From 1973–1979, no other coach or program matched the success of Wade and the Lady Statesmen. The venerable coach fondly referred to by the Women's Collegiate Basketball Association as the "Mother of modern women's basketball," led the Lady Statesmen to three-straight "Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women" (AIAW) National Championships in 1974-75, 1975-76, and 1976-77.

During that time, a young up-and-coming coach, Pat Head (Summitt), an All-American at Tennessee-Martin, had taken over the program at Tennessee in 1974-75. In the next four years, the Lady Vols and Lady Statesmen would meet on the court six times, with UT holding a 4-2 edge in the series. However, Delta State's two victories came in coach Wade's march to a then-unprecedented third-straight A.I.A.W. National Championship in 1976-77. DSU defeated UT 74-63 in the regular season and 62-58 in the A.I.A.W. National Semifinals in Minneapolis, Minn.

The next year, coach Summitt would reel off her first victory against coach Wade and the Lady Statesmen, a 94-74 win at Thompson-Boling Arena. The two coaches remained close over the years, including Summitt's participation in coach Wade's induction into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

Summitt also has personal ties to another Lady Statesman Naismith Hall of Famer, Lusia Harris-Stewart. A four-time All-American for the Lady Statesmen from 1974-77, Harris-Stewart ranks as one of the all-time greats in women's collegiate basketball. The Minter City native is a member of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame and Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

Summitt, a graduate of Tennessee-Martin, was co-captain of the United States Olympic Team in 1976. Harris-Stewart scored the first ever basket in women's Olympic basketball history alongside her Volunteer state teammate, as the U.S. captured the silver medal.

The stories and comparisons between the two programs stretch far and wide. Tennessee boasts an all-time record of 1098-250, with Summitt directing the Lady Vols to a 1005-193 record in 34 seasons as head coach. DSU boasts six national titles to UT's eight.

Despite the outcome of November's exhibition, the true winner of the night will be Lady Statesmen basketball fans who, for one evening, will see the green and white of Delta State return to the sport's grandest stage.



**To find out more about Delta State basketball, or to get the latest updates on schedules and results, visit the Athletics website at [www.gostatesmen.com](http://www.gostatesmen.com).**



# Building Life Skills

By Natalie Pierre-Maliqi



Student athletes attend one of several CHAMPS/Life Skills events.

Challenging student-athletes minds for personal success both on their field of play, in the classroom, and in their everyday lives now and in their future career endeavors is what the NCAA CHAMPS/Life Skills program strives to accomplish with student-athletes. This is the third year in which Delta State Athletics has taken part in the program designed to help prepare student-athletes for success throughout their tenure at DSU and continuing after graduation.

Intending to enhance the overall student-athlete experience, the NCAA program focuses on developing student-athletes' academic and athletic excellence, career and personal development, along with their commitment to service. Delta State University Athletics has attempted to meet these goals by taking a number of different approaches to the program. Successful alumni have spoken to student-athletes on an assortment of different topics, and various motivational speakers have also been a part of the DSU program. Statesmen and Lady Statesmen student-athletes have been provided with an abundant amount of

educational resources to help set them up for success and have taken part in separate team activities throughout the campus and community.

Several events are planned for the fall, including a session with the Center for Drug Free Sport, the NCAA's provider of drug testing services, and an event with a newly formed networking service called Career Athletes, a nationwide networking company that helps colligate athletes to meet their career goals.

"Our next couple of goals are to have people speak on sports nutrition and jobs in the financial sector," Head Athletic Trainer Gerald Jordan said. "We would like to try to find people that have ties to Delta State and have played here or that were from here. It's our belief that they can relate to our student-athletes a little bit better."

As DSU continues to build on the CHAMPS/Life Skills program, hopes are that the well-rounded student-athletes learning today will soon be the successful business alumni and motivational speakers of tomorrow.

## SPORTS SHORTS

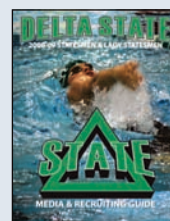
### New Faculty Athletics Representative

Dr. Cooper Johnson, Chair of Entrepreneurship in Business Technology and Professor of Management at Delta State, has been named the new Faculty Athletics Representative. Johnson succeeds Dr. Rose Strahan, who served the department faithfully for six years as Faculty Athletics Representative.



### Communications Garners National Awards

For the second time in the last four years, the Delta State University Swimming and Diving Media Guide has garnered national honors by the College Sports Information Directors of America. The 2008-2009 edition was voted Division-B "Best in Nation" and received "Best Cover" in the annual publication contest sponsored by CoSIDA. "It's our third award in four years, and we believe our work is only getting better," said Matt Jones, director of athletic communications.



### Dent Takes Command

Angela Dent was recently named the new Head Coach of the Statesmen and Lady Statesmen Cheerleading program. Prior to coming to the Delta, Dent served as cheer coach at Warren Central High. Dent cheered at Hinds Community College, leading HCC to an 11<sup>th</sup> place finish at the Universal Cheer Association Nationals.





# A Baseball Legacy Begins

Decisions. We make them every day. They range from the mundane to the life-changing. Fifty years ago, Dave "Boo" Ferriss made a decision to come to Delta State University as head baseball coach.

That decision not only changed his life forever, but turned a small Mississippi Delta school into one of college baseball's top programs.

This year, Delta State University and the Department of Athletics will recognize the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ferriss' union with the school.

Rewinding the clock back to 1959, Dr. James M. Ewing was President of Delta State at a time when the baseball team had not enjoyed the level of success some might expect for a program situated in the heart of baseball country. The Statesmen needed a leader that could channel the talent available into a contender. Enter "Boo" Ferriss, a former American League Rookie of the Year and future Boston Red Sox Hall of Famer, as Statesmen head coach and the fortunes of Delta State baseball started to swing almost immediately. In the 10 seasons before coach Ferriss' tenure began, the Statesmen had claimed just 64 wins. In just six seasons, Ferriss had already topped the 80 win plateau and a legacy of success had been planted firmly in the soil at DSU.

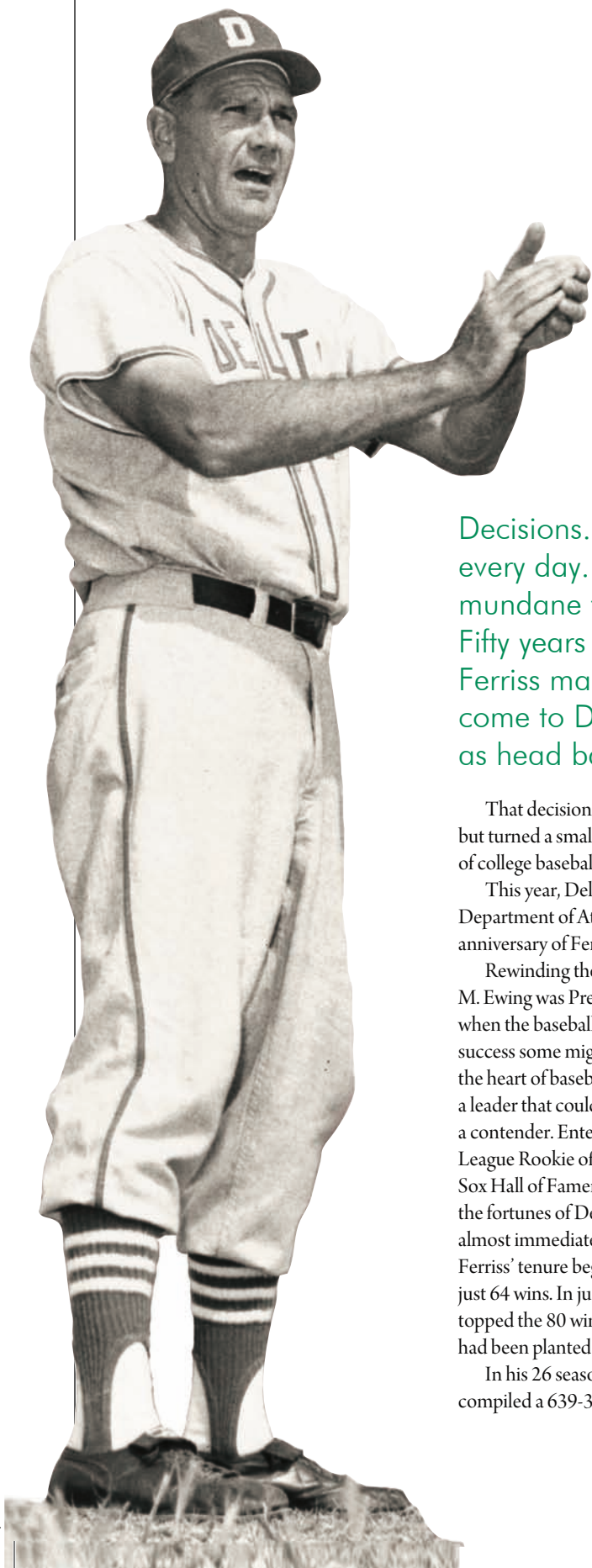
In his 26 seasons as head coach, the Shaw native compiled a 639-387-8 record, earning him a place



among the legends of college baseball as a member of the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. In eight of his last 12 seasons, the Statesmen made the NCAA Division II playoffs, including three trips to the College World Series. He directed DSU to four Gulf South Conference titles, and 49 players under his tutelage earned All-GSC honors.

His coaching accolades serve as benchmarks for college coaches across the country, while the way he built his program stands as a model copied by many, but replicated by none. The patriarch of Delta State's baseball heritage started the program from the ground up. For several years, Ferriss worked without the aid of an assistant, while building the foundation that has led to DSU becoming the most successful program in Gulf South Conference history.

Fans of college baseball should take time to tour Delta State University's permanent collection entitled *Inning by Inning: A Life in Baseball* at the Dave "Boo" Ferriss Museum. The museum, a project of the Capps Archives, Department



Coach Ferris gives final instructions to the team before the start of the game.



of Athletics, and Communications and Marketing, chronicles Ferriss' journey from a youth in Shaw to the "green monster" of Fenway Park to the diamond at Ferriss Field in Cleveland. For more information on the Ferriss Museum, please contact Emily Erwin, Ferriss Museum curator, at (662) 846-4780 or the Department of Athletics at (662) 846-4300.

### BASEBALL REUNION SCHEDULE

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

12:45 pm Golf at Derrall Foreman Golf Course  
6:30 pm Statesmen Baseball Green and White  
Fall Series Game

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

11:30 am Registration/Luncheon at Walter Sillers Coliseum  
1:30 pm Alumni introductions and recognitions on Ferriss Field  
2:00 pm Alumni Baseball Games  
4:30 pm Complimentary Barbeque for all families adjacent to Ferriss Field



DSU Athletics has launched a special page on the baseball site of [GoStatesmen.com](http://GoStatesmen.com) featuring news and information about the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. For more information on planned events, please log on to [www.gostatesmen.com](http://www.gostatesmen.com).

## BANNER SUMMER

For some it was the summer of '69, borrowing a phrase from the popular Bryan Adams song. For Statesmen baseball, it will forever be the summer of '09. For the first time in school history Delta State placed three players, Eli Whiteside (1999-2001), Edwin Maysonet (2002-2003), and Brent Leach (2005) in the Major Leagues at the same time. It's also the first time in the Gulf South Conference, since 2000, that a member institution has three players on an active Major League roster. "We have always prided ourselves on player development, and I believe their successes speak to the caliber of player we bring into this program," stated Head Coach Mike Kinnison.

The long journey to the pros paid off this summer for Eli Whiteside, a former All-American from New Albany, with the Giants. The 6'2", 225-pound catcher made his Major League debut in 2005 with the Baltimore Orioles, the team that used a sixth round pick on him in 2001. On July 11, Whiteside caught Jonathon Sanchez's no-hitter, the first in 33 years for the Giants, and on August 5, the hard-throwing back-stop connected on his first career home run, a grand slam that lifted the Giants past the Astros.

Edwin Maysonet, a two-time All-GSC and All-Region selection,

was a 19<sup>th</sup> round pick by the Houston Astros in 2003 and has climbed his way through the organization. The Arecibo, Puerto Rico native made his MLB debut on September 7, 2008, but didn't catch on with the big club until the summer of 2009. Maysonet has appeared in 20 games, batting .307 with one home run and seven RBIs. Potentially the most memorable moment of his career came on May 29, as the second baseman went 4-for-4 with a home run and four RBIs.

Brent Leach, a fourth-round draft pick of the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2005, has risen the quickest through the Minor League ranks, making his MLB debut on May 6. In 38 games and 20.1 innings pitched, the lefty from Brandon posted a 2-0 record with a 5.75 ERA. While the Dodgers currently have Leach on their 40-man roster in Triple-A, the former All-GSC pick is expected to return to L.A. in September.

The Statesmen are also on the verge of making the list of Major Leaguers a little larger. Several former DSU players are enjoying outstanding seasons in the minors, including Triple-A All-Star reliever Dusty Hughes (Kansas City) of the Omaha Royals and Class-A standout Kenny Smalley (Oakland) of the Kane County Cougars.



Brent Leach



Edwin Maysonet



Eli Whiteside



**This fall, renowned pianist Bruce Levingston returns to Delta State University as Visiting Artist in the Humanities.**



# A Family Tradition

Cleveland native Bruce Levingston has built a major career in the field of classical music as a concert and recording artist.

He is considered one of today's leading figures in contemporary music and many of the country's most important composers have written works for him including Philip Glass and Pulitzer Prize winners William Bolcom, David Del Tredici, and Charles Wuorinen. His Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center world premiere performances of their works have won notable critical acclaim. *Newsweek* calls him a "world-class pianist"; *The New Yorker* describes him as "elegant and engaging", "a poetic pianist who has a gift for inventive and glamorous programming" and *The New York Times* calls his performances "graceful," "sensuous," and "hauntingly serene."

Bruce's activities as Visiting Artist will include giving concerts, lectures, and master classes on campus and in the Delta community, meeting with students to discuss careers in the arts, and serving as a cultural ambassador for the University.

Bruce has appeared as a soloist and chamber musician in many international music festivals and his recordings and performances have been

broadcast throughout the world. Noted for his thoughtful and innovative programming, Bruce has performed and collaborated with some of the most interesting artists and figures of our time including writer William F. Buckley, Jr., painter Chuck Close, actor Ethan Hawke, authors Michael Cunningham, Nick McDonell, and George Plimpton, composer Philip Glass, violin virtuoso Colin Jacobsen, ballet stars Herman Cornejo and Marcelo Gomes, and choreographer Jorma Elo.

Long interested in human rights, Bruce gave performances to assist emerging "refusniks" from the Soviet Union, served as a U.S. delegate to the American Council on Germany in Berlin and Hamburg, performed at the United Nations in honor of the people of Denmark for their heroism during World War II, and recently performed for the International Red Cross Ball. He is founding chair and artistic director of Premiere Commission, Inc., a non-profit foundation that has commissioned and premiered over thirty new works.

Bruce began playing the piano at the age of four studying with his mother. He later began formal training under renowned Hungarian pianists Elizabeth Buday and Bela Borszomenyi-

Nagy in Switzerland. He studied under Nancy Garrett, Elliot Antokoletz, and William Race at The University of Texas at Austin where he was named a three-time Presidential Scholar in the Humanities and Distinguished Graduate of his class (Bachelor of Arts). He later studied with Morey Ritt at The Aaron Copland School of Music (Master of Music), Herbert Stessin at the Aspen School of Music, and Anton Kuerti at The Royal Conservatory of Toronto.

Bruce is the son of the late Barbara and Douglas Levingston of Cleveland, both longtime supporters of Delta State. His father served on the Board of the Delta State Foundation and was co-founder of the Kamien-Levingston Fund for the College of Business. His mother served on the founding Board of the Bologna Performing Arts Center (BPAC) as well as on the Board of the Roberts-LaForge Library. Bruce and his brother Jon, a member of the BPAC Board and a past member of the Foundation Board, co-founded the Levingston Continuing Fund in the Humanities at DSU.

By coming back to Delta State as Visiting Artist in the Humanities, Bruce will carry on his family's tradition of giving to the University and his community.

# Giving Back Adds Up

For 41 years, Dr. Rose Strahan, chair emeritus of the Delta State Department of Mathematics, added, multiplied, divided, and performed higher math equations for students and faculty before retiring this past June. Over that time, Dr. Strahan has made quite an impression on the University through her leadership and serving. But it was an impression she made on a certain faculty member that brought her from the hills of North Mississippi to the Delta. While teaching high school, the Slate Springs native served on a statewide committee with Dr. Eleanor Walters, who was then serving as head of the math department at Delta State.

"When there was a vacancy at Delta State, she called me," explained Strahan. "I fell in love with Delta State. She was a wonderful mentor, and when she retired in 1978, I took over. When I came here, I never dreamed I would be department chair."

"When Dr. Walters retired, we set up a scholarship for her with a lot of help from the alumni," she explained. "Later another member of the department retired and alumni set up a scholarship for him. And so my department

thought it appropriate to 'surprise' me with a scholarship in my name when I retired." The scholarship is named the Rose Strahan Endowed Scholarship for Mathematics."

Strahan felt honored to continue the tradition of an endowed scholarship and decided to support the scholarship by gifting the University a \$750,000 life insurance policy. "I had no idea it would be so simple to make such a sizable gift," she said. "My financial advisor, Chas Emerson, shared ideas with me on how to make an annual gift and reduce my taxes. Making a gift to the Delta State Foundation to cover the annual premium is simple and I even set it up on automatic bank draft."

"Rose's gift to cover the annual premium of a \$750,000 life insurance policy is the largest planned gift to my knowledge ever made by an employee of the University," said Alumni-Foundation Executive Director Keith Fulcher. "Her gift to the Math Department will one day result in approximately \$30,000 in annual scholarship money, a significant increase over the \$5,000 they have available this year."

Though Strahan led the math department, it was not the only department she took interest



Dr. Rose Strahan

in. A devoted Statesman fan, she attended as many sporting events as her schedule allowed. She even served as the faculty representative to the NCAA. "I loved working with the athletic department," she said.

An avid traveler, Strahan has no plans to leave Cleveland but will be circling the globe with plans to visit Australia, Israel, England, and Holland. And she'll be working on her golf handicap, a secret number she keeps close to her heart. Though she has left the classroom, Strahan's influence will never leave the campus through her dedication and generosity.



## Nell Thomas Endowed Scholarship

Nell Thomas, of Greenville, recently met the first recipient of the Nell Thomas Endowed Scholarship, Courtney C. Mack of Greenville. Courtney is a graduate of Greenville Weston High School. The education scholarship was created by gifts from more than 150 of Mrs. Thomas' former students at Greenville High School. Courtney expressed her deep appreciation for being the first recipient and her desire to follow in Mrs. Thomas' footsteps in her love of education and students.



## Delta Rice Producers Memorial Scholarship

Brittany Rocconi is the 2009-10 recipient of the Delta Rice Producers Memorial Scholarship. Brittany is a freshman nursing major. Brittany shared how the scholarship has impacted her education at Delta State and that her goals are to work at St. Jude's Hospital and to become a nurse practitioner. Brittany is pictured with Dr. James Smith, "Red" Smith, and Shelly Smith of Delta Rice Services, Inc.



## McQuagge Scholarship

Lindsay Boyette, of Cleveland, is the 2009-10 recipient of the McQuagge Scholarship. Dr. Dan McQuagge is Professor Emeritus of English at Delta State University. As recipient of the scholarship, Lindsay thanked Dr. McQuagge for the McQuagge Scholarship and stated "it has given me the opportunity to further my education and to make a real difference in a child's life."

**To make a Planned Gift, call 662.846.4704 or e-mail [development@deltastate.edu](mailto:development@deltastate.edu).**



## THE DELTA STATE FUND 2008-09 Annual Giving Clubs

The following alumni, parents, faculty, staff, corporations, and friends believe in the mission of Delta State University. Because of their desire to make a difference in students' lives, they made an **unrestricted gift** to The Delta State Fund. The Delta State Fund impacts over 4,000 students. Donors who made a gift to The Delta State Fund between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009 are recognized below.

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Ms. Betty C. Blackwell  
Mr. John Mosby Blanks  
Mrs. Ruth W. Bobo  
Mr. Michael Booker  
Ms. Sandy Jo Boone  
Mr. and Mrs. Reno M. Borgognoni  
Rev. and Mrs. John L. Bowie  
Mr. Frank E. Bradford, Jr.  
Dr. Milton and Dr. Janie Bradley  
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Mrs. Kelli Buchanan Branton  
Mr. and Mrs. Lee A. Breeiland  
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Mrs. Audrey W. Burns  
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Phi Mu Fraternity  
Mrs. Elizabeth Pickett  
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Dr. James Scarborough  
Mr. and Mrs. John O. Schwenn  
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Mr. Casey Patrick Shaman  
Mr. Dameon Azriel Shaw  
Ms. Dorothy Sample Shawhan  
Mrs. Linda M. Sholey  
Mrs. Felicia W. Shepherd  
Mr. Ted Shepherd  
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis D. Silas  
Ms. Brendy Sims  
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Dr. and Mrs. Thomas N. Sledge  
Mrs. LePoint C. Smith  
Ms. Margaret A. Smith  
Mr. Michael James Smith, Jr.  
Mr. William Howard Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Smithhart  
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Mrs. Donna H. Wicks  
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Ms. Gaye Campbell Williamson  
Rev. David James Willoughby  
Mrs. Caroline B. Wilson  
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Ms. Carol Ann Woodruff  
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Mr. Lee Colter Woods  
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Mr. Robert E. Worsham  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wright, IV  
Dr. and Mrs. Kent Wyatt  
Mr. and Mrs. Hartwell Wynn  
Mr. William M. Yandell, III  
Mr. Joseph B. Yelverton  
Dr. Marjorie Young





# If You Build It, They Will Come

A pro-active approach to campus advancement

Creating a top notch university involves more than just successful students, engaging professors, and winning coaches. Buildings, roads, and infrastructure have to progress and be maintained in order to build the foundation that attracts top-quality talent.

In this trying time of recessions and declining budgets, Delta State is taking a different and innovative approach to attracting students – enhancing its campus facilities. A priority for the upcoming year is the upgrade of the Caylor-White/Walters Math and Science building. Since its completion in 1976, the building has received few upgrades, other than normal maintenance, and has been a priority for renovation for some time.

The \$21.3 million renovation project will have several phases beginning with the initial \$4.75 million allocated by the state legislature in bond funding this past year. There are three elements to the first phase including adding 24,000 square feet to the building that will eventually house new science labs. The addition will be located in the open atrium area on the east side of the building. The second element of the project will involve the renovation of the planetarium



**“We are launching more facilities projects on this campus than we’ve seen in a long time.”**

**Dr. John Hilpert, Delta State President**

which will include modernizing the outdated equipment and seating. The third element of the project will include replacing windows that will help save money on energy costs and improve air quality.

“Renovation of the math and science building provides a huge benefit to our students and faculty,” said Dean of Arts and Sciences, Collier Parker (’79). “The modernization of classrooms and labs will enable faculty to instruct in a totally different way with access to new technology. All of these much-needed improvements will assist in better preparing our students for careers in the fields of math and science,” said Parker. Delta State’s science program has a history of producing successful graduates. Last year, 80% of Delta State students who applied were accepted into Medical School.

While addressing the faculty and staff during convocation, Delta State President John Hilpert noted that, although these are trying times, Delta State would take an aggressive, pro-active approach to advancement. “We are launching more facilities projects on this campus than we’ve seen in a long time,” said Hilpert.

Toward that end, Delta State is also utilizing an innovative funding method to build new housing facilities. A new 362-bed residence hall will stand where Bond-Carpenter and Whittington-Williams once stood on the south side of the campus. It will offer living accommodations appealing to today’s students. Construction began in September and, according to Hilpert, the residence hall will be completed in about half the time of comparable construction projects and at a reduced cost. Delta State will be the first public university in Mississippi to use this privatized method for financing student housing. “I would like to thank the Delta State University Foundation for their assistance in helping us

finance this new residence hall," said Hilpert. Greg Redlin, vice president for finance and administration, explained that a private firm would complete the construction and, through a bond system, the university would manage the buildings and pledge revenue collected from student rent to pay the debt service. "We hope to have people in the residence halls by fall 2010," said Dr. Wayne Blansett ('73), vice president for student affairs. Blansett also confirmed that the university would memorialize those individuals for whom the former halls were named after. "We are discussing how we are going to continue memorializing these people," he said. "Rest assured they will continue to be recognized."

A 32-unit apartment complex for faculty and staff is also planned. According to Director of Housing and Residence Life Julie Jackson ('96), the faculty and staff complex is desperately needed. "One of the things I have heard from new faculty time and again is that it is hard for incoming professors to get a house in Cleveland right away," Jackson said. "We feel that there will be a large amount of interest in the apartments."

In addition to new construction, new roofs for the student union and other buildings are underway in addition to a new chiller loop which will provide updated heating and cooling to central campus buildings. Safety concerns are also a high priority with electrical service upgrades scheduled. All residence halls will be fitted with new sprinkler systems, while the university grounds are getting special attention with drainage improvements across campus.

Federal funds have been allocated, with matching funds from the City of Cleveland, to begin construction on the Statesmen Boulevard project. Working with the Mississippi Department of Transportation, a boulevard from Highway 8 leading to the athletic complex on the north end of the campus will be created.

"Over the years we have been very diligent in providing security to maintain safe access through the residential areas," said Athletic Director Jeremy McClain ('99). "Safety has always been a high priority and this new road will help ensure the safety of visitors and residents during athletic events."

"This is an 80/20 grant project" said Cleveland Alderman Gary Gainpoletti ('74). "The City of Cleveland's Tourism and Economic Development Fund provided the match funding for the project. Not only will Statesmen Boulevard create safe and easy access to Delta State's athletic facilities, but it will also add to the beautification efforts designed to bring more tourists to Cleveland."

Top Left: Redering of the new 362-bed residence hall which will replace Bond-Carpenter Hall and Whittington-Williams Hall.

Right: Rendering of the new marquee which features an electronic message board.

Finally, private funding will be used to replace the university sign on Highway 8/Sunflower Road with a new marquee and electronic message board. The new marquee will match the video boards recently installed at the football stadium, baseball field, and coliseum.

Alumni and friends are invited to visit the campus to see the wonderful additions as well as enjoy the favorite traditions, such as the oak-lined Quadrangle. Jeffrey Farris ('04), director of alumni affairs, encourages alumni to visit the campus. "Your Alumni Association would love to show you around and help you rekindle the campus memories that remain dear to the sons and daughters of Delta State Teachers College, Delta State College, and Delta State University," stated Farris. With the current construction projects taking place on campus and other improvements planned for the future, Delta State is taking the necessary steps to ensure its place as the Best Regional University in America.





# Native Son

**Billy Nowell  
Named Alumnus  
of the Year 2009**

By Lucy Richardson Janoush ('78)

**With family roots so deeply entrenched in Cleveland, it is no wonder that the City of Cleveland recently elected native son Billy Nowell ('72) as its new Mayor. And now, the new Mayor of Cleveland is Delta State University's Alumnus of the Year for 2009.**







Billy Nowell in his office.



PRESIDENT JOHN HILPERT:

Billy Nowell is dedicated to service – to individuals and to his community. I've had the privilege of knowing him for six years, and I cannot remember a moment when he wasn't friendly and offering to do whatever he could to support Delta State. His selection as Alumnus of the Year is not only appropriate, it is overdue.

**B**illy's involvement with Delta State began when he was a young boy. Growing up on Fifth Avenue, he would walk three blocks to Whitfield Gym to watch basketball games or a few more blocks in the fall to watch football games. He was often in the company of his cousin and long-time DSU icon, H.L. Nowell, whom he says, "might take us to a musical or sporting event or a fraternity party. He was a mentor to me and a third parent to my siblings and me."

After graduating from Cleveland High School, where he was named Mr. Cleveland High School, Nowell went to Delta State and graduated in 1972 with a degree in business administration. While on campus, he was president of Kappa Alpha Order, a member of the DSU golf team, Inter-Fraternity Council president, class president, vice president of the Student Government Association, and Mr. Delta State University.

Under his leadership, the DSU Chapter won the Kappa Alpha J. Edgar Hoover Award for most outstanding chapter. Delighted to share this news with his mentor and fellow KA, H.L. Nowell, he was shocked at H.L.'s response: "Ya'll didn't deserve it." Billy chuckled saying, "The closer you were to H.L., the harder he was on you."

The Nowell family is a Cleveland tradition. Billy's grandfather moved to Cleveland in 1909 after serving in the Navy on Teddy Roosevelt's White Fleet, and he opened Nowell Lumber Company in 1924, which stayed in the family until 2000. DSU runs deep in the Nowell family. His mother, Willie

Ruth, took some classes at DSU. His brother Jack ('69) and sister Nancy ('78) have degrees from Delta State. His sister Neysa attended DSU, and he is married to the former Becky Hawes, a 1981 graduate. Several of his nieces and nephews are DSU graduates, as well.

## SERVICE TO COMMUNITY AND DSU

Nowell settled into the family lumber business and immediately became involved in the Cleveland community. He joined the Rotary Club and the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce and eventually served as president of both. He also became very involved in the First Methodist Church of Cleveland, the church he grew up in, serving as chairman of the Administrative Board, the Board of Trustees, the Finance Committee and the Stewardship Committee. He served as president of the Methodist's Men's Club and was recipient of its Man of the Year Award. He is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Bolivar County Community Action Program. Nowell is a mentor in the Cleveland School District Mentor Program and was named Mentor of the Year in 2003. The young man Nowell mentored for seven years is now in the military serving in Iraq, and the two remain in touch.

From the lumber business, Nowell moved into residential construction and sales, and from there began his Express Lube business that has grown with branches in Cleveland, Oxford, Greenville, and Kosciusko.

Nowell's volunteer efforts on behalf of Delta State University continued long after graduation. He is a member of the Booster Club, the Bologna Performing Arts Center, and a life member of the Alumni Association. His most profound impact on the university has been through his service on the DSU Foundation Board. He's been on the Board for 20 years and served as president. Former DSU President Kent Wyatt ('56) noted, "I am so pleased Billy has been selected Outstanding Alumnus this year. He is most deserving of this award having served his alma mater in so many capacities, particularly on the Foundation Board."

Through his love of sports and, specifically, golf, Nowell has made many friends that he has enlisted to support DSU regardless of where they attended college. Current DSU Foundation President Judson Thigpen ('79) said, "Billy's service to Delta State through the Foundation has played a key role in our fundraising success. He is a strong salesman for the University."

## POLITICAL CAREER BEGINS

In 2001, Nowell was approached by Cleveland Mayor Martin King ('50), Alderman Willard Samuels, and City Administrator Wayne Cole ('73) about running for the vacated Ward 3 alderman position. King said, "Billy had demonstrated leadership in many of his volunteer activities on the Delta State campus and the Chamber of Commerce, so we felt that he would serve the City well. The only concern I had was

that Hambone (Wayne Cole) told me that when they were in grade school, he would talk Billy into swapping his ham sandwiches for Cole's mayonnaise sandwiches during lunch. I had always thought that Billy was a little sharper than that!"

Both Samuels and King encouraged Nowell to run for Mayor this past spring. Billy considers both of these men mentors and excellent examples of elected officials. In addition, Billy sought the advice and support of former Representative Charlie Capps. "I had volunteered to hand out brochures for Mr. Capps when he ran for sheriff and then helped on his campaign for the State Legislature," said Nowell. "If anyone knew how to win an election, it was Mr. Capps." After Nowell convincingly won the race, Capps complimented him saying, "The City made a positive move in electing an energetic man like Billy. He can bring fresh ideas to the community."

Former DSU Athletic Director Brad Teague ('95) referred to Nowell as the "logical conduit for the City of Cleveland and Delta State University. He will continue to serve both well." In fact, one of Nowell's main priorities as Mayor is to further enhance the partnership between the two. "You cannot imagine one without the other," according to Nowell. "The success of each is both essential to each other. When you live in Cleveland, Delta State is so much a part of your life in every aspect—your friends, your business, your past-times and more."

Nowell fondly remembers the many friendships he's made through the University. "I went to Delta State with John Thornell ('69) and became good friends immediately. When Dave Heflin ('62) came to town, he organized many outdoor recreation excursions. The Thornells, the Outlaws, the Sullivans, and my family all became good family friends through these trips. In fact, Thornell's daughter Abby and my daughter Meg took our friendship to the next generation and were in each other's wedding and remain in close contact still."

Billy Nowell is excited about the future of DSU and Cleveland, and DSU is just as excited about Billy's continuing involvement with the future of the university. "His involvement in the day-to-day life of the Delta makes him an invaluable source of information and advice," said President John Hilpert. "He is always generous with his time and his resources. Through the combination of his dedication and passion, both should reap considerable dividends down the road."

Photo: Golf outing at the Mississippi Municipal League in 2002. Left to right: Alderman Billy Nowell, City Administrator Wayne Cole, Alderman Willard Samuels, Mayor Martin King



## A Passion for Golf

Anyone who knows Billy knows of his love for sports. He has been an avid supporter and fan of Delta State athletics his whole life and has volunteered his counsel and advice to many of the coaches and athletic directors through the years.

Above all is his passion for the game of golf. Since his days on the Delta State Golf Team, Nowell has won the Cleveland Country Club Championship nine times. He's also had the opportunity to play the renowned courses of Scotland – St. Andrews, Turnberry, and Troon.

Several of Nowell's associates had comments about his golf game, some of which could not be printed! Those deemed acceptable were:

**KENT WYATT:**

**If I play from the front tees, I can give him a game!**

**H. L. DILWORTH:**

**He's a way better golfer than I'll ever dream to be!**

**WILLARD SAMUELS:**

**I could beat him many, many years ago, but he practiced more than I did!**

**JOHN THORNELL:**

**A lot of people may not know, but Billy was number 6 on the DSU golf team. However, his dedication and practice soon changed that status.**

**MARTIN KING:**

**I was ashamed for people to see me playing alongside him!**





# A TURNING POINT



The year 1969 was a significant one in many ways. If you were alive during that year, reflect for a moment. Woodstock Music Festival, the greatest gathering of 1960's musicians and believed to be the greatest live concert, was staged. Hurricane Camille, a Category 5 storm made landfall near the mouth of the Mississippi and was responsible for the deaths of nearly 300 people. A man walked on the moon. Anti-Vietnam War demonstrations took place in several major cities. Student protests erupted on college campuses around the country. The Stonewall Riot, a police raid of a gay club, took place in New York City. James Earl Ray was sentenced for the assassination of Martin Luther King. John Lennon married Yoko Ono. Sesame Street made its debut on PBS. The Beatles made their last public performance. The list goes on.

The year 1969 was also a significant one for Delta State. On March 10 of that year, 52 black students at newly integrated Delta State College took the first step toward transforming the previously all-white institution into

a campus that is acknowledged today as Mississippi's most diverse. They gathered together and adopted the name Black Student Organization (BSO). They staged demonstrations and a sit in, culminating with a list of demands.

Dr. Pete Walker, who served as the dean of students in 1969, received the initial list of concerns from the BSO. "There wasn't a riot at Delta State, as was the case at many other universities," Walker recalls today. "It was a fairly moderate sit-in staged by about 50 black students." Walker, now retired, said the sit-in participants were "good students," and had good relations with the white students as well as the administration. "They felt like they had to make a statement in order to get the rights they deserved," Walker says. "As has always been the case at Delta State, it was the willingness of the students, faculty, and administration to sit down and discuss problems amiably that resulted in an amiable settlement."

Beverly Perkins ('70) was president of the BSO during that time, having

transferred to Delta State from Mississippi Valley State his junior year. In reflecting on the spring 1969 semester, Perkins said, "I think evolution played a big part in the action of the black students during that time period. How do you tell a black man who has spent many months fighting for our country overseas and who has traveled through Europe and seen the Eiffel Tower that they must return to the fields to chop cotton? Expectations were changing."

The black students were serious about getting an education, and their record of success is impressive. "Of the 52 students," says Perkins, "there are superintendents of education, school principals, the top person in Federal corrections, someone running a healthcare center, and the top recruitment official for the military."

"While there was a lot of pressure on both the black and white communities at that time," he says, "there was no hatred at Delta State. Leveling the playing field for black students was the right thing to do, and Delta State did what was right."

Among the requests that were granted was the addition of black professors and a black history course. The requests were honored almost immediately. Bill Butts, a history professor at Mississippi Valley State in Itta Bena, was hired and arrived at DSU in the fall semester of 1969. He recalls that his first black history class was a large one, "but my second semester class was even larger as some white students joined the ranks. We had no trouble and I didn't anticipate any."

Butts left Delta State in the early seventies to lead Kentucky State University as its president for six years before accepting a position at the Department of Education in the Reagan, George H. W. Bush, and George W. Bush administrations in Washington, D.C.

"When I returned to Delta State in 2003 to teach political science," he said, "I noticed much more diversity. I felt close to Delta State. I still do. I have faith in the school and what it means to the Mississippi Delta." Butts is now retired and lives in Itta Bena.

The actions of those 52 students in 1969 and the peaceful and productive resolution of the issues established the blueprint for a university where today's student body, faculty, and administration welcome and respect all groups.

Delta State University's campus has become a true melting pot that has expanded its definition of diversity to include not only race, but also country of origin, gender, religious preference, disability status, age, etc. Delta State enrolls students from over 30 states and more than 70 international students representing 20 countries. Nearly 25% of the undergraduate population is 25 years of age or older and a third are in a fraternity or sorority. "Today's world no longer has boundaries," said DSU President John Hilpert. "Because of sophisticated communication and transportation technology, everybody is our next door neighbor. As a result, cultural diversity is as important on a university campus as any other element of a student's experience."

Wayne Blansett ('73), a freshman at Delta State in 1969 and the current vice president for student affairs, points out that Delta State is now a model of diversity, with students representing a variety of races, religions, countries, and genders. "Once you turn off the highway onto the Delta State Quadrangle, you're no longer black or white... you're green."



## a diverse campus is born

Racial disturbances and student uprisings have been few at Delta State University. One exception occurred in 1969, when, on February 17, an all-black caucus met near the campus to draw up demands upon the administration of Delta State.

The group adopted the name Black Student Organization (BSO) and presented a list of demands to President James M. Ewing. The demands included the following: black counselors, black instructors, black history courses, fair grading policies toward black students and an end to discrimination of black students by instructors, scholarships for black students, and black representation in the Student Government Association.

Following demonstrations in front of the president's home and in the cafeteria, pressure for changes culminated on March 10, 1969, when a group of black students conducted a "sit-in" in the corridor in front of President Ewing's office in Kethley Hall.

When the students refused to leave, they were arrested and taken by bus to Parchman State Penitentiary (about 20 miles from the campus). They were returned to Cleveland the next day where they were required to post bond before returning to the campus.

The students returned to the campus the next day with renewed determination. Instead of more arrests, the students found a campus administration with a willingness to listen to their concerns.

A committee of seven members of the BSO met with Dr. Ewing and two other faculty members to discuss the list of demands. Calling the meeting "amiable," Dr. Ewing reportedly told the students that a part-time black counselor would be hired for the next school year and that a black history course, taught by a black professor, would be offered. Also, according to the students, President Ewing said students would be encouraged to volunteer to serve on student-faculty committees and that black students would be assigned to dormitory rooms on a first-come, first-served basis.

The 40th anniversary of the 1969 sit-in will be commemorated on October 27 in the Jacobs Center and will be the centerpiece of the university's celebration of its diversity. Georgene Clark, assistant professor of English, is coordinating the event which is free and open to the public.

By Larry Liddell, Contributing Writer



# Class Notes

## 1920s



TAYLOR

**1929**

**Vivian Spain Taylor**, of Grenada, celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 9.

## 1930s



PEAY

**1939**

**Neal Dean Peay**, of Denton, TX, was recognized as one of the oldest living alums at Delta State.

## 1940s



HARRIS

**1943**

**Zulene Ryals Harris**, of Cary, recently attended Delta Council. "Ryals Lounge" in the Bologna Performing Arts Center is named in honor of the five Ryals sisters.

## 1950s



DONALD

**1954**

**William Donald**, of Southaven, took eight first-place medals at the Mississippi Senior Olympics in Clinton.

**1955**

**Louis D. Ready**, of Richton, was inducted into the Jones County Junior College Hall of Fame.

## 1960s



MITCHELL

**1962**

**Ned Mitchell**, of Cleveland, was recently named to the Board of Directors for Planters Bank & Trust in Cleveland.

**1965**

**Travis Satterfield**, of Benoit, has been named as the 74<sup>th</sup> President of Delta Council.

**1966**

**Jacqueline McCully Lee**, of Southaven, and her grandson, Scott Carlton '93, recently purchased a Fantastic Sam's Hair Salon in Southaven.

**Dr. James E. Robinson, Jr.**, of Cleveland, was honored at the Delta State Retiree Awards Ceremony for his 40 years at Delta State University as a Professor of History.

**1967**

**Jerry K. Smith**, of Leakesville, was inducted into Jones County Junior College Hall of Fame.



MARCHANT

**1969**

**Bill Marchant**, of Cleveland, had his Delta State University baseball No. 22 officially retired as part of the 2009 Spring Sports Day Weekend. He is the third person to ever have his baseball jersey retired at Delta State.



WARREN

**Darlene Bassie Warren**, of Gulfport, was elected President of the Gulfport Civic League.

## 1970s



BUMGARNER

**1970**

**Les Bumgarner**, of Brookhaven, was elected mayor of Brookhaven.

**Donald Gant**, of Merigold, has been named Mississippi's Sunbelt Farmer of the Year.

**Charles Jourdan**, of Birmingham, AL has been named Director of Marketing and Sales for the Birmingham Barons, which is the minor league baseball team for the Chicago White Sox.



KYLE

**1972**

**Jack Kyle**, of Hattiesburg, will assume the role of development of two new major cultural projects in Mississippi, one in the visual arts and one in the performing arts, with the Fine Arts Institute of Mississippi.

**Billy Nowell**, of Cleveland, was elected the Mayor of Cleveland.

**1974**

**Joyce Davis Reed**, of Mobile, AL, was chosen as the recipient of the Marion Maerke Scholarship because of her volunteer efforts through the Azelea City Quilters Guild. She has also been chosen to serve as Chair of the organization.



CARL

**1975**

**Fred E. Carl**, of Greenwood, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science from Mississippi State University.



FIELDER

**1977**

**Michael Fielder**, of West Helena, AR, was promoted as Agency Manager of Phillips County Farm Bureau in West Helena, AR and also recently accepted an invitation to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Phillips County Community College of the University of Arkansas Foundation.

**1978**

**Maxine Harper**, of Greenwood, wrote a book about her life with quadriplegic cerebral palsy.

**Jeff Holland**, of Paducah, KY, has been elected to serve on the Board of Directors for Baptist Healthcare System, Inc.



NEWQUIST

**Jimmy Newquist**, of Ridgeland, has been named Vice-President of Commercial Insurance with SouthGroup Insurance.



CAMPBOR

**1979**

**Sandra F. Camphor**, of Ocean Springs, has been named the Thad Cochran Distinguished Arts Educator of the Year (Theatre) by the Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education.



THIGPEN

**Judson Thigpen**, of Cleveland, was recently inducted into the DSU Sports Hall of Fame.

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## 1980s

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**1980**

**Paul Janoush**, of Cleveland, was re-elected to the Ward 5 Alderman seat in Cleveland.

**Jeff Russell**, of Clinton, has been named partner-in-charge of client services at Godwin Group.



LAFORGE

**1981**

**Suzanne LaForge**, of Acton, MA, received her Masters of Arts in Ministry from St. John's



MCCAIN

Seminary.

**1983**

**Billy J. McCain**, of Cleveland, now serves on the Entergy Mississippi, Inc. Advisory Board.

**1984**

**Rusty Harlow**, of Grenada, has recently been appointed as Youth Court Judge and Family Master for Montgomery County.

**Billy Morehead**, of Cleveland, was recently elected the 60<sup>th</sup> National President of the Association of Government Accountants.

**1985**

**Kathy Manning**, of Ridgeland, was recently recognized in the *Delta Business Journal* for her career accomplishments.

**Lee R. McKinley**, of Monroe, GA, was promoted to Assistant Professor at Georgia Perimeter College.



AZAR

**1987**

**Steve Azar**, of Greenville, was ranked among *Golf Digest's* top five musician golfers for two consecutive years.



WILLIAMS

**Joyce McKnight-Williams**, of Plano, TX, was elected as the first African American President of the Texas Association of College Technical Educators.



BANKSTON

**1989**

**Londale Bankston**, of Crossett, AR, was inducted into Hamburg High School's Hall of Fame.

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## 1990s

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FAVA

**1990**

**Russell Fava**, of Clarksdale, was recently elected Treasurer of the Mississippi Young Bankers for 2009-2010.

**Dr. Lance Johnson**, of Cleveland, was recently named to the Merchants and Farmers Bank Advisory Board in Cleveland.



## With the Classes

**Pam Lockett**, of Decatur, GA, was recently inducted into the DSU Athletic Hall of Fame.

### 1991

**Rodney McCoy**, of Pelahatchie, has been promoted to Director of Patient Access Services at St. Dominic Jackson Memorial Hospital.



SEMRAU

**Kat Semrau**, of Jackson, TN, has recently opened her second art gallery in downtown Memphis called Art Under a Hot Tin Roof.



HITE

### 1992

**Eric Hite**, of Santa Clara, CA, has been ordained into the ministry as an Independent Fundamental Baptist Pastor.

**Bruce Price**, of Cleveland, is the new owner of Joshua Tree, Lawn, and Garden Center in Cleveland.

### 1993

**Brad Longino**, of Monticello, was recently inducted into the DSU Athletic Hall of Fame.



MOGENSEN

**Pax Mogenson**, of Madison, was recently elected President of the Mississippi Young Bankers for 2009-10.



WRIGHT

**Chase Wright**, of Las Vegas, NV, is a partner with Deloitte & Touch LLP and has moved from the Memphis office to the Las Vegas, NV office to serve clients in Las Vegas and elsewhere in Nevada.



KUHN

### 1994

**David Kuhn**, of Conway, AR, received the 2008 Coach of the Year Award as Head Softball Coach at the University of Central Arkansas.

**Edward Vaughn**, of Cleveland, was recently named General Manager of Delta Wholesale Hardware.

### 1995

**Jeremiah Burks**, of Olive Branch, was promoted to Deputy Superintendent for the South Panola School District.

**Matt Baity**, of San Angelo, TX, was recently inducted into the DSU Athletic Hall of Fame.

**Lauren Gross**, of Southaven, opened up her own photography business.



MCCLURE

**Doug McClure**, of Coldwater, was appointed representative of Group 2 for the Mississippi Young Bankers.

**Sarah Zepponi**, of Leland, was recently recognized in the *Delta Business Journal*.

### 1996

**James Glorioso**, of Cleveland, is the President of the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce and President of the Cleveland Noon Lions Club.

**Valeria Williams Pennington**, of Rosedale, was recognized in the *Bolivar Commercial* for her job with AmeriCorps.



AGUZZI

### 1997

**Michael Aguzzi**, of Cleveland, has been named President of the Bolivar County Farm Bureau Federation.

**Ryan Akers**, of Starkville, is a Research Associate and Instructor in the School of Human Sciences at Mississippi State University; also, he received the Southern Association for College Student Affairs Dissertation of the Year award.

**Serena Clark**, of Madison, has been appointed by the Governor to the Mississippi EdNet Institute that oversees the development of instructional television service throughout the state.



EDWARDS

**Falicia L. Edwards**, of Byram, recently graduated with a Ph.D. in Environmental Science from Jackson State University.

**Porter Foster**, of Jackson, has been promoted to Web and Interactive Designer at Marketing Alliance.

**Michele McCain**, of Flora, has been named Partner in the Special Business Services Practice Group at Adams and Reese LLP in Jackson.

**Cathy R. Taylor**, of Grenada, accepted a position as the Accountant/Auditor for Patient Accounts at Mississippi State Hospital.



BLOUNT

### 1998

**Jimmie Blount**, of Carrollton, was presented the AT&T Mississippi Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award.

**Heather Wanner**, of Memphis, TN, has been hired by the Peabody Family Care as a Nurse Practitioner.



MCCLAIN

### 1999

**Jeremy A. McClain**, of Cleveland, was inducted into the Delta State chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa.

## 2000s

### 2000

**Lisa Hardy Bramuchi**, of Cleveland, was recently recognized in the *Delta Business Journal* for her business and community accomplishments.

**Andrew Edwards**, of Laurel, was awarded the AEE Teacher of the Year for Northeast Jones Middle School. He was also nominated as the Northeast Jones Middle/High School representative for Jones County Teacher of the Year.

**Lylla Joe**, of Madison, was promoted to Investment Director. She manages the Mississippi Seed Fund and the Mississippi Angel Network.

**Dolphes McGee**, of Memphis, TN, is an Executive Producer of a radio show in Memphis called Underground Xposure (affiliated with KWAM990).

### 2001

**Frank W. Smith, III**, of Madison, has been announced as one of the Principals of Smith, Shelnut, Wilson, and LLC.

### 2002

**Clinton Brooks Aycock IV**, of Madison, was recognized in the *Delta Business Journal* for being granted the designation of Certified Treasury Professional.



GRAY

**Steve A. Gray**, of Vicksburg, was recently promoted to Director of Governmental Affairs for the Mississippi Association of Supervisors.



WHITFIELD

**Davis Whitfield**, of Mountain City, TN, is the winner of the 2009 Sculpture Garden competition. His artwork has been installed in front of the Bologna Performing Arts Center.

### 2003

**Lisa Alford**, of Cleveland, is the new Conductor of the Martin and Sue King Railroad Heritage Museum in Cleveland.

**Logan Mosby**, of Clarksdale, has been named Editor of the *Daily Corinthian*.

**Susan Prather**, of Cleveland, accepted a job at The Greenville Clinic as a Nurse Practitioner.

**Easton Selby**, of Nashville, TN, is opening an art exhibit in Nashville.

**Katie L. Simmons**, of Greenwood, has passed the Certificate of Training in Adult Weight Management through the American Dietetic Association.

**Mark Stanton**, of Raymond, is the Director of Student Activities and Intramurals at Hinds Community College in Raymond.

**John Weaver**, of Tallulah, LA, was named Head Football Coach and Athletic Director of Tallulah Academy.

### 2004

**Allen Towles**, of Cleveland, opened Ace Hardware in Cleveland.



WEST

### 2005

**Josh West**, of Tupelo, has been named Regional Economic Developer for Three Rivers Planning and Development District.

### 2006

**Shannon Adams**, of Yazoo City, has been promoted to Audit Senior at Matthews Cutrer & Lindsay.



BALLARD

**Merry Claire Ballard**, of Cleveland, was recognized at the Higher Education Appreciation Day held by the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

**Angela S. Carter**, of Greenville, has recently accepted a position as an Admissions Recruiter for Delta State University.

**LaRoy Savage**, of Jackson, has been promoted to Credit Officer at Trustmark Bank.

### 2007

**Sarah Deason**, of Cleveland, has accepted a position at Delta State as the new Director of Development.

**Savannah Reis**, of Shannon, has accepted a teaching position at McNeil Elementary in Canton.

**Fernando Reis**, of Shannon, has accepted a management trainee position with Sanderson Farms, Inc.

### 2008

**Brittany Huggins Greer**, of Como, joins Northwest Mississippi Community College staff as Public Relations Assistant. She will serve as the principal writer for the department.

**Erik Taylor**, of Clarksdale, has been hired as an Admissions Recruiter for Delta State University.

### Attended/Friends

**Phyllis Bunn**, of Cleveland, was recently inducted into the Delta State Chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa.

**Scott Coopwood**, of Cleveland, was recently elected President of the Cleveland Rotary Club.

**Liz Davis**, of Madison, landed a spot on the hit MTV show 'Star Maker', with Hip-hop mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs serving as the host.

**Bryan Depoy**, of Salem, IN, was named Dean of the College of Arts at Youngstown State University.

**Andrew McDowell**, of Cincinnati, OH, accepted a job with Catholic Healthcare Partners as a Project Manager in charge of asset management.

**Dick Myers**, of Collierville, TN, has recently published a book entitled, "Creation-Answers from the Bible and Science."

**Dr. David L. Potter**, of Dahlonega, GA, has been named to the *Atlanta Business Chronicle's* Who's Who in Education List. Dr. Potter is a former President of Delta State University.

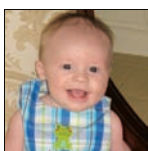
## Tell us your news!

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# Baby Statesmen

*All dates are in 2009 unless otherwise noted.*



BROWN

Warner Benton to M/M **David Allen Brown '98** (**Amanda Maranto '05**), of Greenville, on February 11.



BRUCKNER

Sophie Alexander adopted by **Lavonne Bruckner '88**, of Jackson, on March 18.



DUFFY

Boek Steele to M/M **Dallas Duffy** (**Elizabeth Jennings '06**), of Springhill, TX, on January 28.



FERRETTI

Thomas Hugh to M/M **Dallas Blake Ferretti '06** (**Leah Carlson**), of Avon, on March 5.



FORRESTER

Phoebe Ellis to M/M **Steven Forrester** (**Rebecca Ellis '00**), of Somerville, TN, on May 15.



FORTNER

Harper Ann to M/M **Jonathan Fortner '03** (**Sayward Ely '04**), of Cleveland, on June 13.



GEOGHAGAN

Taylor Morgan to M/M **Morgan Geoghagan '03** (**Ashley Moses**), of Brandon, on May 25.



GLADDEN

Tucker David to M/M **Lee Gladden '99** (**Whitney Warner**), of Madison, on December 5, 2008.



HOLLAND

Elise Catherine to M/M **Joseph "Jody" Holland '99** (**Jeanne Williams '00**), of Starkville, on March 25.



JANES

Elliot Marie to M/M **Leighton Janes '02** (**Anna Sledge '05**), of Brandon, on May 20.

Landon Jacob to M/M **Jeffrey Johnson** (**Sara Biggers '00**), of Greenwood, on May 6.

Aiden Shelton to M/M **Trey Jones** (**Allison Shelton '04**), of Belzoni, on February 26.

Charlotte Audrey to M/M **David Kunian** (**Renee Bigelow '93**), of New Orleans, LA, on April 21.



JOHNSON

Carl "Carlson" Anthony, IV to **Dr. Carl "Trey" Anthony Labella, III '97** (**Dr. Alicia Woods '96**), of Helotes, TX, on February 1.



JONES

Raygan-Elisabeth Ann (Raygan-Elise) to M/M **Brian Clark Myres '99** (**April Clark '00**), of Nesbit, on May 21.



KUNIAN

Paxton Webb to M/M **William R. Naramore** (**Tanya Odom '04**), of Oxford, on March 11.



LABELLA

William Paxton to M/M **Ronald "Ronnie" Shive** (**Leslie Clark '99**), of Cleveland, on January 7.



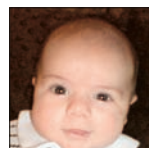
MYERS

Lynlee Brooke to M/M **Chad (Coty) Smith '97** (**Jacqueline Braswell Smith**), of Magnolia, on September 25, 2008.



NARAMORE

Joel Morgan to M/M **Jeffrey M. Springfield '01** (**Jessica Rose '00**), of Madison, on April 16.



SHIVE

Stephen Smith to M/M **Reed Stringer '01** (**Emily Howell**), of Starkville, on July 22, 2008.



SMITH

Emma Claudia to M/M **Samuel J. Waits, Jr. '92** (**Michelle Clingan**), of Grenada, on February 3.



SPRINGFIELD

Walter Houston to Dr. and Mrs. **Walt Towery** (**Rachel Rawlinson '98**), of Madison, on February 11.



STRINGER

Brooke Adelle to M/M **Matt Whitfield** (**Danielle Hovas '02**), of Madison, on December 18, 2008.

Ian Leavell to M/M **Frank Whittington '02** (**Amy Green '02**), of Durant, on December 30, 2008.

Cody Christopher Willis to M/M **Chris Willis '99** (**Tara Beausoliel '02**), of Florence, AL, on May 8.

# Wedding Bells

*All dates are in 2009 unless otherwise noted.*



HOWARTH-ABRAHAM

Laura Howarth '09 to Reed Abraham '05, of Cleveland, on July 18.

Floresha N. Anderson '08 to Kendrick Maurice Smith, of Cleveland, on June 13.

Karon Beeman '95 to Christopher Alan Mize, of Flowood, on December 31, 2008.



BRYANT-SAULSBERRY

Chandra Bryant '98 to Jeremy Saulsberry, of Memphis, TN, on May 30.

Denise Martha Byrd '96 to Kenneth E. Jackson, of Shaw, on July 18.



HASELTON-COOPER

Meghan Elizabeth Haselton '06 to Bryant L. Cooper (attended), of Cabot, AR, on October 4.

Stacey Lucille Earnest '08 to Jonathan Nathaniel Storey, of Houston, on June 13.



EDDINS-DIXON

Laura Eddins '08 to Rob Dixon, of Yazoo City, on June 21.



ELLINGTON-MCGUFFEE

Lauren McGuffie '01 to Joe Ellington '97, of Jackson, on April 25.



EVERETT-MANGRUM

Pam Mangrum '09 to William Everett '09, of Jackson, on June 13.



BLAINE-HILLIS

Tiffany Blaine '04 to Chad Hillis (attended), of Cleveland, on May 30.

Sabrina Davidson '05 to Matthew Howell '02, of Grenada, on November 8, 2008.

Riley Jean Hutchinson '07 to Blake Lee Adams, of Little Rock, AR, on April 18.



KING-JANOUSH

Andrea N. King to James William Janoush (attended), of Cleveland, on May 13.



JONES-FOWLER

Libby Carol Jones '87 to Steve Fowler, of Olive Branch, on March 28.

Kaylee Maurine Ledford (attended) to Charles Wayland McCool, of Greenwood, on June 27.



HENDRICKS-LIPSCOMB

Olivia Hendricks '08 to Parker Lipscomb '05, of Greenville, on July 18.

Anna Rice Machell '05 to John Dereke Muzzi '06, of Cleveland, on May 23.



NICKELS-ROGERS

Hilary Rogers '08 to Brian Nickels '04, of Grenada, on May 16.



MAYERS-PATE

Ann Marie Mayers '04 to Brady Pate '08, of Cleveland, on February 28.



HARPER-PITTMAN

Jamie Harper '04 to Paul H. Pittman, Jr. (attended), of Clinton, on March 7.



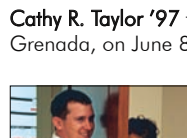
ROBINSON-ELLIS

Shana Robinson '00 to Robert Ellis, of Ridgeland, on June 26.



SLATER-TANNA

Tyrnula Tanna (attended) to Walter Slater, of Boyle, on December 13, 2008.



TEALE-BOLIN

Cathy R. Taylor '97 to Russell Clay Vaughn, of Grenada, on June 8, 2008.



TEALE-BOLIN

Dana Bolin '07 to Matt Teale '07, of Grenada, on June 13.



BALLARD-WARDLAW

Merry Claire Ballard '06 to Andrew Wardlaw '06, of Jackson, on May 30.



WHEELER-HARRIS

Jo Lynn Harris '03 to Joseph Wheeler '08, of Greenwood, on April 21.



WATKINS-WILLIS

Brandy L. Watkins '06 to Matthew Brian Wills '06, of Cleveland, on April 18.

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# In Memoriam

*All deaths occurred in 2009 unless otherwise noted.*

**Johan D. Ashcraft, Jr., Friend**, of Greenwood, on March 19.

**Paul C. Aust '41**, of Schlater, on February 21.

**Juanita Bishop '59**, of Baton Rouge, LA, on January 30.

**Elaine H. Buchanan '69**, of Jackson, on March 15.

**India H. Corley '02**, of Shaw, on March 3.

**Jamie Cumings '67**, of Shaw, on July 17.

**Steve Cwikiel, Jr. '69**, of Memphis, TN, on May 30.

**Dr. Irby C. Ellis, Professor Emeritus**, of Cleveland, on March 30.

**Mark A. Flemmons, Attended**, of Merigold, on June 16.

**Paul M. Jones '72**, of Cleveland, on April 18.

**Elaine Smith Kelly '41**, of Ridgeland, on February 22.

**Mary B. Morgan '53**, of Birmingham, AL, on May 6.

**Malcolm Norwood, Professor Emeritus**, of Cleveland, on August 11.

**Dianna Lee M. LaTorre Peyton, Friend**, of Kennesaw, GA, on July 1.

**Mabel W. Raspet, Professor Emeritus**, of Centre, AL, on May 27.

**Beth Abide Rutledge, Friend**, of Little Rock, AR, on March 23.

**Elizabeth "Penny" Lemons Samuels '43**, of Cleveland, on May 28.

**Brandon Sigler, Attended**, of Mobile, AL, on June 3.

**LePoint C. Smith '73**, of Cleveland, on April 9.

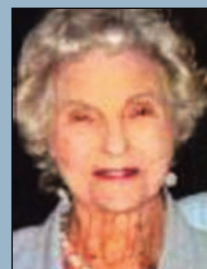
**Ray K. Smith '50**, of Greenville, on March 17.

**Jerry Sullivan '61**, of Vinings, GA, on April 12.

**Duke Willingham '85**, of Jackson, on May 3.

## Ruth C. Bobo 1919 – 2009

Ruth C. Bobo '40, of Gunnison, passed away on June 22. Mrs. Bobo was married to James Edward Bobo on December 22, 1940. Mrs. Bobo was a teacher for many years and was a Sunday school teacher also. She played the organ at Gunnison Baptist Church and also Gunnison Methodist Church. She was a member of the daughters of the Confederacy and the Country Women of the World. Mrs. Bobo was a past president of the Delta State Alumni Association and was selected Alumnus of the Year. Survivors include her daughter Carroll Bobo Hawthorne of Gunnison, granddaughter Gaye Holecek, grandson Jason Campbell, great-grandson, Gary Holecek, and great-granddaughter Emily Holecek.



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ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

# MILES AWAY

## Where has the road taken you?

Share your travels with us. Let us see where you're reading the Delta State alumni magazine. E-mail your photos to [alumni@deltastate.edu](mailto:alumni@deltastate.edu).



**2,225 Miles Away**  
Michael and Miriam Hart (faculty) visiting Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

**981 Miles Away**  
John Fulcher '2025 at the Children's Museum in Baltimore, Maryland.



**2,048 Miles Away**  
Dr. Wayne Lee '57 enjoyed a visit to Glacier National Park in Montana.



**275 Miles Away**  
Sisters Janis Carson Lambert '92 and Julia Carson Soniat '78, in New Orleans, LA, at an alumni event.



**135 Miles Away**  
Alton Ricks '50, at Smith Wills Stadium before a DSU Statesmen baseball game.



**8,505 Miles Away**  
DSU Business Students Explore Europe. They traveled to Stonehenge, England and the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France.





## Alumni Happenings



Art Outstanding Alumnus of the Year Bill Myers '72 and Chair of the DSU Art Department Ron Koehler.



Bolivar County volunteers at the 2009 Bolivar County Crawfish Boil.



Legendary Statesmen Football Coach Horace McCool '54 (second from left) and DSU Alumni at the Grenada Alumni Meeting.



Keith Fulcher '83, Bernice Bradford, and Frank Bradford '81 at the Grenada Alumni Meeting.



Mark Davis '79 and Henry Outlaw '61 at Salute' Restaurant in Gulfport for the annual alumni meeting.



Todd Gorman '93, Coach Steve and Sue Rives, David Hannan '95, and Charles Gorman '67 at the Greater Jackson Area Alumni Meeting.



Dr. Kent Wyatt '56, Dr. Aubrey Lucas, and Dr. John Hilpert at the Greater Jackson area Alumni Meeting.



Shelby Mosely '99, Kelly Davis Cress '96, and Serena Rasberry Clark '97 at the alumni gathering in Jackson.



DSU Young Alums enjoying the Greater Jackson Area Alumni Meeting.



DSU Alumni and Friends represent Delta State University at the Mississippi Picnic in New York City.



John and Jan Polk with Southeast (Hattiesburg) Chapter President Billy Dorgan, Jr. '02, at the Southeast Alumni Meeting.



L.D. Ready '55, John McElroy '61, and Johnny McDaniel at the Southeast Chapter Meeting.



Patrick House '05, Bradley House, Barbara Clark '70, and Legendary Coach Lloyd Clark '70 at the Warren County Alumni Meeting.



Charles Holmes '71, Vicki Fioranelli '68, Charles Fioranelli '72, and Betty Lynn Cameron '69 at the Washington County Alumni Meeting.



Neal Randell '69, Les Brumgarner '70, Rick Cleveland, and Bradley Smith '71 at the South Central Alumni gathering.



Your ticket to

*magic*



BRUCE LEVINGSTON

September 17 | 7:30 pm

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

October 25 | 2:00 pm

HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"

December 6 | 4:00 pm

A CHILD'S DREAM

December 11 | 10:00 am, 7:00 pm

*The Wedding Singer*

February 6 | 7:30 pm

Frankie Avalon

February 28 | 2:00 pm

MONK INSTITUTE

March 25 | 7:30 pm

**Marty Stuart** & HIS FABULOUS  
SUPERLATIVES

April 15 | 7:30 pm

— Become an Annual Member! —

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# Don't Miss Pig Pickin' 2010

Find out more at [www.deltastate.edu](http://www.deltastate.edu)



Future Statesmen and Lady Statesmen  
lead the football team onto the field.