



DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE

ON THE  
*Blues*

OCTOBER 1, 2021



# — WELCOME TO THE —

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE *Blues*



### GREETINGS FROM DELTA STATE PRESIDENT WILLIAM N. LAFORGE

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

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

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

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

I am especially grateful to Delta State's Department of Music, Division of Languages and Literature, the Delta Center for Culture and Learning, and the Delta Music Institute for their support of the conference, as well as to Conference Co-Chairs Dr. Shelley Collins and Mr. Don Allan Mitchell for their leadership.

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

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

Very best regards,

William N. LaForge  
President

### A MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Welcome to the International Conference on the Blues. We are first and foremost a music conference, but we also provide programming that engages Blues enthusiasts as well as scholars.

As we review the conference programs from the last eight years, we are delighted that the Blues has opened dialogues on gospel, literature, jazz, fiber arts, funk, photography, folk, psychedelia, soul, rock and roll, hip hop, the music business, protest music, printmaking, and the ethics of cultural tourism, just to name a few. It is our guiding principle that the Blues fosters larger conversations about the worldwide influences of African American music, history, and culture.

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

Cordially,

Shelley Collins and Don Allan Mitchell  
Co-Chairs

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

#### INTERNET ACCESS

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

#### FIND US ONLINE

[deltastate.edu/blues](http://deltastate.edu/blues)

#### SOCIAL MEDIA

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

#### WHOVA

Whova helps improve your experience at events and conferences. With the app, you can:

- View the event agenda and plan your schedule
- Ask speakers questions in Session Q&A
- Plan in-person or virtual meet-ups such as a morning run, city tour, or even virtual coffee break with your fellow attendees
- Post job openings to recruit talent from the conference/event
- Receive updates such as last minute schedule changes from the organizers
- Get presentation documents and slides (if the organizers uploaded them)

*If you need more guidance on how to use Whova to attend the event, please visit [Whova User Guides](#).*

#### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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662-846-4155

The Delta Center:  
662-846-4311

DSU Switchboard:  
662-846-3000

# FULL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## THURSDAY, SEPT. 30, 2021

**SHAKE & HOLLA:** North Mississippi Allstars & Rebirth Brass Band  
7:30 PM | BPAC Main Stage

**With special guest Cedric Burnside**

Shake & Holla showcases foot-stomping Mississippi “hill country” blues and the funky, syncopated sounds of New Orleans brass. The Grammy-nominated and Blues Music Award-winning North Mississippi Allstars will be joined by the legendary Rebirth Brass Band in a musical celebration of two great southern musical traditions. Appearing with them on this tour is blues guitarist, vocalist, and drummer Cedric Burnside, A Grammy-nominated artist in his own right, as well as the grandson of legendary Fat Possum recording artist RL Burnside.

Tickets are available at [bolognapac.com](http://bolognapac.com) or by calling (662) 846-4626.

## FRIDAY, OCT. 1, 2021

### REGISTRATION

8:30 AM–3 PM | DMI Lobby

Registration is on your own mobile phone or other device. Please show your preregistration using the Whova app or register on-site using the QR code. Registration staff will be in the lobby to assist with the self-check-in process.

### OPENING SESSION:

8:30 AM | Virtual | Studio A

Welcome Remarks and Announcements  
Dr. Shelley Collins and Prof. Don Allan Mitchell, co-chairs  
Dr. Rolando Herts, Director, Delta Center for Culture and Learning  
Greetings from President LaForge

### PERFORMANCE:

Gospel and the Blues Tradition  
9–9:45 AM | Studio A

Featuring ensembles from the Coahoma Community College Concert Choir  
Dr. Kelvin Towers, Director

### PERFORMANCE:

Jontavious Willis and the Gospel Tradition  
10:15–11:30 AM | Studio A

**Jontavious Willis**

Our keynote solo performer, Jontavious Willis, is a returning artist and a world-class performer of the African American musical tradition. He returns to the Delta as a recent GRAMMY nominee, which he picked up for “Spectacular Class,” his album of original blues.

### BREAK

11:30 AM

### KEYNOTE

Black Musical Expression: The Ties that Bind  
12–12:55 PM | Virtual | Studio A

Rev. Dr. Dwight Andrews

Professor of Music Theory & African American Music, Emory University

From spirituals to gospel, to gospel blues and beyond, Rev. Dr. Dwight Andrews demonstrates key ties between blues and gospel music. Included in his presentation are performances demonstrating key Black Music concepts.

### KEYNOTE Q&A

With Rev. Dr. Dwight Andrews

1–1:25 PM | Virtual | DMI 201

### PRESENTATION:

Composition Suite for Charlottesville:  
Regarding the August 2017

“Unite the Right” Rally

1:25–1:50 PM | Virtual | DMI 201

Mr. Kris Monson

Charlottesville, Virginia

Monson’s “Suite for Charlottesville”, is a reflection on the white supremacist uprising in Charlottesville VA, presented via the great tradition of Black American Music.

### THE BUSINESS OF BLACK MUSIC

1–1:50 PM | Studio A

A Conversation with Annette Hollowell, Foxfire Blues Assembly

Annette Hollowell and her family have owned Foxfire Ranch in rural Marshall County, Mississippi for over a century. Ms. Hollowell wears many hats; she is an attorney, social activist, and producer of traditional Black music for live music venues. In 2020, she was also the host of a significant convergence of eight young African American musicians for the Foxfire Blues Assembly, including today’s keynote solo performer, Jontavious Willis.

Moderator: Rolando Herts

### PAPER SESSION I:

2–2:50 PM | Studio A

“All Rock ‘n’ Roll Had Sprung from This Root”:  
The Big Bill Broonzy Film that Inspired Eric Clapton

Dr. Tom Zlabinger

York College/CUNY

In his autobiography, Eric Clapton described how watching Big Bill Broonzy on TV in 1956 changed his life. This presentation will discuss the film “Low Light and Blue Smoke” and Clapton’s reaction.

A Century of “Crazy Blues”: Mamie Smith’s  
Legendary 1920 Recording in Context

Dr. Tammy L. Turner

Murray State University

A historical and cultural context for understanding “Crazy Blues” through examination of essential earlier works, circumstances surrounding the recording, and its significance and influence.

### PAPER SESSION II:

2–2:50 PM | Virtual | DMI 202

Exploring the History & Legacy of Cotton in the Mississippi Delta

Prof. Christine Clark Zemla

Rutgers University

The growth of cotton in the U.S. created both great wealth and extreme poverty. This presentation will examine the settling of the land, the music and the legacy of cotton in the Mississippi Delta.

“Leave the Door Open” for “Blue Magic”:

Bruno Mars and Anderson .Paak’s homage to TSOP

Dr. Brooke Joyce

Luther College

This presentation will trace the lineage of Bruno Mars and Anderson .Paak’s hit song, “Leave the Door Open,” to the 1970s hit “Sideshow,” with special attention paid to harmony and orchestration.

### PAPER SESSION III:

3–3:50 PM | DMI 201

Blues Music and Generation Z

Dr. Ron Pimentel

Washington State University Vancouver

This study shows a low level of awareness and involvement in blues music by members of Generation Z (13-26). Recommendations are presented for increasing youth involvement with the blues.

Music and the Rule of Law: The Blues’s  
legacy in legal reform augurs a future role for Hip-Hop

Prof. David Pimentel

University of Idaho College of Law

The Blues reflects a lament of Black America over denials of justice. Hip-Hop music is doing the same in the 21st century. As the music (and the message) reach white audiences, it becomes a vehicle for change in legal institutions.





# SPIRITUALS: AN ESSENTIAL LIST FOR FURTHER STUDY

Curated by Rev. Dr. Dwight D. Andrews, PhD

*Virtually all spirituals that come out of the African American folk experience are in public domain because they do not have a single author, hence the term “Trad” often found on the plate. However, most of the spiritual arrangements that we know and love are credited to a particular arranger. In fact, most of the spirituals listed here have different arrangements by different composer/arrangers. The songs I have listed here are some of the most familiar and the most accessible.*

1. Calvary
2. Crucifixion
3. Deep River
4. Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel?
5. Give me Jesus
6. Go Down Moses
7. Guide my feet
8. I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray
9. I Got a Home in Dat Rock
10. I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
11. It's Me Oh Lord Standing in the Need of Prayer
12. Listen to the lambs
13. Mary had a Baby
14. My Lord what a Morning
15. My Soul's Been anchored in the Lord
16. Nobody knows the trouble I've Seen
17. Poor Sinner got a home at last
18. Rise up Shepherd and Follow
19. Roll Jordan Roll
20. Sinner Please Don't Let This Harvest Pass
21. Somebody's Knocking at Your Door
22. Stand Still Jordan
23. Steal Away to Jesus
24. Swing Low, Sweet Chariot
25. There's No Hiding Place
26. Tis the ol' ship of Zion
27. Wade in the Water
28. Walk in Jerusalem Just like John
29. We are Climbing Jacob's ladder
30. Where Are You There
31. Who Will Be a Witness for My Lord

*Suggested resources:*  
*Peters, Erskine. Lyrics of the Afro-American Spiritual: a Documentary Collection. Greenwood Press, 1993.*

*White, Evelyn Davidson. Choral Music by Afro-American Composers: A Selected, Annotated Bibliography. 2nd ed., Scarecrow Press, 1996.*



## PAPER SESSION IV: 3–3:50 AM | Virtual | DMI 202

**August Wilson's Blues**  
**Prof. Don Allan Mitchell**  
**Delta State University**  
*An interview with Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright August Wilson's first music director at Yale Repertory Theatre and on Broadway, Dwight Andrews.*

**Muddy Waters: Icon of New Urban African American Identity and Father of Modern Rock Guitar**  
**Mr. David Cosby**  
**Boston University/Besant Hill School**  
*Muddy Waters changed the very sound of the blues and the electric guitar with his seminal recordings of 1955. Equally important was Water's influence upon the growing modern Civil Rights movement.*

## PAPER SESSION V: 4–4:25 PM | DMI 201

**Lomax was Wrong: Recognizing Native American Roots in the Blues**  
**Mr. Jimi Del Duca**  
**Montana State University-Bozeman**  
*Del Duca's research reveals foundational connections between Native American music and the blues. Native America has contributed significant and vital stylistic elements as well as performers to the blues.*

## PAPER SESSION VI: 4–4:50 PM | Virtual |DMI 201

**Becoming Beale: The Transformation of Beale Street from a Neighborhood to a Tourist Attraction**  
**Dr. Lydia Warren**  
**University of Virginia**  
*This presentation focuses on how urban renewal, slum clearance, and national preservation policies were used by city leaders in Memphis to remove a community from Beale in the name of historical preservation, cultural heritage, and tourism.*

## FARE YE WELL: Closing Session 4:50–5 PM | Studio A

*Recognitions*

**The International Conference on the Blues is celebrating Spirit of the Blues: Roots of Delta Music through presentations and performances that draw connections among blues, spirituals, and gospel music.**



## PRESENTERS, PERFORMERS, & SPECIAL GUESTS

### JONTAVIOUS WILLIS



Every generation or so, a young bluesman bursts onto the scene and sends a jolt through the blues community. Our keynote solo performer JONTAVIOUS WILLIS may just have that effect on people. The 24-year-old multi-instrumentalist was nominated for a GRAMMY in 2020 thanks to his latest album, *Spectacular Class*. Through original lyrics written by Willis himself, the gifted musician delivers a timeless album that features dynamic vocals and all types of blues: Delta, Piedmont, Texas, and Gospel. His stand-out fingerpicking, flat-picking, and slide prowess are also on display.

GRAMMY award-winning artists Taj Mahal and Keb' Mo' played an active role in producing *Spectacular Class* with Taj Mahal credited as Executive Producer and Keb' Mo' as the Producer. In addition to its digital release, the album will also be available on CD and vinyl.

Hailing from Greenville, Georgia, Willis grew up singing Gospel music at the Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church with his grandfather. Since an early age, he had the talent and passion for the music and the ability to sharpen his skills fast. At the age of 14, he came across a YouTube video of Muddy Waters playing "Hoochie Coochie Man" and was instantly hooked on the blues.

He got his much-needed break from the living legend Taj Mahal, who described him as the "Wonderboy" and "the Wunderkind." In 2015, Mahal asked Willis to play on stage with him. That appearance resulted in a roaring response from the audience and led Willis to bigger stages and broader opportunities, including an opening slot at select shows along the TajMo tour, featuring his musical mentors Taj Mahal and Keb' Mo'.

Many fans of Willis regard him as an old soul. His style of playing the instruments and his voice touches the very roots of country blues. He brings back the true soul of the music. A newspaper headline once called him a "70-year-old bluesman in a 20-year-old body."

*Spectacular Class* is the follow-up release to his debut album, *Blue Metamorphosis*, which was released in 2016 and garnered him rave reviews from such notable magazines as *Living Blues* and *Blues & Rhythm*. In 2018, the album earned recognition by the Blues Foundation through their International Blues Challenge, where he was honored with the Best Self-Produced CD Award.

### COAHOMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONCERT CHOIR



The Coahoma Community College Concert Choir is under the direction of Dr. Kelvin K. Towers and Assistant Director Mr. Jemero Carter. One of Mississippi's well renowned choirs, it maintains an established reputation for performing diverse repertoire including arranged concert spirituals, oratorios, and contemporary and traditional gospel music. With works by composers like Adolphus Hailstork, Robert Shaw, John Rutter, Antonio Vivaldi, Robert Ray, Tom Fettke, Eric Whitacre, and Ola Gjeilo, among others, the choir dazzles audiences with harmonies fit to stir the soul.

As a cultural ambassador for the college, the Concert Choir continues to serve the regional and local audiences performing at special events both in the sacred and secular spheres. Having toured throughout the United States in major cities from Chicago, Detroit, Atlanta, Orlando, San Antonio, and Houston, to the communities in Mississippi from Clarksdale to the Gulf Coast, the choir reflects the rich legacy of excellence in choral ensemble singing. Some of the noteworthy performances include appearances on programs that featured celebrities such as Judge Greg Mathis, actress Tanea Stewart, and national recording artists Ricky Dillard, Dorinda Clark Cole, Amber Bullock, Kurt Carr, and Le'Andria Johnson.

Singing at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Gospel Extravaganza in Washington, DC and the Mississippi Choral Directors Association/Mississippi Music Educators Association conference extended the stages of performance among those known for excellence in choral literature. Featuring Mr. Tower's arrangement of "A Change is Gonna Come" in the internationally aired Pulse Film (London, England) documentary, the Concert Choir continues to garner the profoundly honored place of representing Coahoma Community College nationally and globally.

### REV. DR. DWIGHT D. ANDREWS



REV. DR. DWIGHT ANDREWS, composer, musician, educator, and minister, joined the Emory College faculty in 1987. A native of Detroit, Dr. Andrews is Professor of Music Theory and African American Music at Emory University and Senior Minister of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Atlanta. He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in music from the University of Michigan. He continued his studies at Yale University, receiving a Master of Divinity degree and a Ph.D. in Music Theory.

While at Yale, Andrews served as Associate Pastor of Christ's Church and was on the faculty of the Music Department and African American Studies Program for over ten years. He also served as the Resident Music Director (1979-1986) at the Yale Repertory Theater under Lloyd Richards. It was during this period that his fruitful association with playwright August Wilson began. As a result, Andrews served as music director for the Broadway productions of August Wilson's *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, Joe Turner's *Come and Gone*, *Fences*, *The Piano Lesson*, and *Seven Guitars*. He also served as Music Director for the Broadway revival production of *Ma Rainey* starring Charles S. Dutton and Whoopi Goldberg and collaborated with Director Kenny Leon on the Broadway production of *A Raisin in the Sun*, starring Sean Combs and Phylicia Rashad. His work has been presented at professional theatres throughout the United States and Great Britain.

He is presently working on a study of Black Music and Race based on his Harvard lectures and a manuscript on spirituality in the works of John Coltrane, Mary Lou Williams, Sun Ra, Dave Brubeck, and Albert Ayler.

Andrews is the recipient of numerous awards, including a 2005 Lexus Leader of the Arts Award, a Pew Trust/TCG Artist Residency Fellowship, a Mellon Fellowship, Emory University's Distinguished Teacher Award, and the Yale Tercentenary Medal from the Yale Club of Georgia. Dr. Andrews was the Artistic Director of the National Black Arts Festival (1996-1998) and, in 1997, was named the first Quincy Jones Visiting Professor of African American Music at Harvard University. Dr. Andrews was a guest visiting professor of composition at the Yale School of Music in 2003 and gave the 2004 Alain Locke Lectures at Harvard.

### ANNETTE HOLLOWELL



ANNETTE HOLLOWELL and her family have owned Foxfire Ranch in rural Marshall County, MS for over a century. Ms. Hollowell wears many hats; she is an attorney, social activist, and producer of traditional Black music for live music venues. In 2020, she was also the host of a significant convergence of eight young African American musicians for the Foxfire Blues Assembly, including today's keynote solo performer, Jontavious Willis. In recent years, Foxfire Ranch has become a space for rest, retreat, connection, deep learning, and celebration of rural Black culture, as well as a resource for artists, healers, and lovers of justice. The entire Hollowell family is committed to the survival of African American cultural traditions, art, and expressions. As a part-time resident of New Orleans, Ms. Hollowell also has significant ties to the New Orleans music scene, so she also fosters creative collaborations between New Orleans and Mississippi.

## PRESENTERS



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



**DR. SHELLEY COLLINS** is the Co-Chair, International Conference on the Blues; Flute & music history professor at Delta State University since 2006. Originally from Kalispell, Montana, her interests include music pedagogy, flute ensemble, and chamber music transcriptions. She was the 2020 recipient of the S.E. Kossman Outstanding Teacher Award. She remains, as always, grateful to her most influential teachers, Alexa Still and Rae Terpenning.



**MR. DAVID COSBY** is a musician, educator, and a graduate of the Delta State Universities' International Blues Scholar program. He is pursuing his doctorate in Music Education at Boston University, is an active performer and composer, and has been on faculty at Besant Hill School since 2012.



**MR. JIMI DEL DUCA** is a PhD candidate at Montana State University-Bozeman. By traditional Absáalooke (Crow tribe) adoption he is a member of the Big Lodge clan and a child of the Ties the Bundle clan. He learned traditional Native American music at Crow Agency, Montana. He also performs the blues.



**ROLANDO HERTS** is the director of The Delta Center and executive director of the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area, a Congressionally designated partnership with the National Park Service. As a 2016 Executive Academy Fellow with the Delta Regional Authority's Delta Leadership Institute, he was awarded an executive education certificate from the Authentic Leadership for the 21st Century Program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.



**DR. BROOKE JOYCE** 's music has been described as "vividly pictorial" (San Francisco Chronicle) and "exceptionally gripping" (Los Angeles Times) and has been performed by soloists and ensembles around the world. He serves as composer-in-residence at Luther College in Decorah, IA.



**WILLIAM LAFORGE** is the 8th President of Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi, in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, serving since 2013. The International Conference on the Blues was one of his first ideas for a signature annual conference at Delta State University. An avid music fan, his favorite blues song to play on his guitar is his rendition of Robert Johnson's "Sweet Home Chicago."

**DON ALLAN MITCHELL** is Co-Chair, International Conference on the Blues. He is Associate Professor of English and has served as Chair of the Division of Languages & Literature at DSU, where he teaches literature, history, & culture of the blues classes. He was host of Highway 61 on Mississippi Public Broadcasting from 2002-2005. He just so happens to be married to Dr. Shelley Collins, the co-chair of the conference. Together, they have a son, Eddie, who has just started learning how to play piano, and is a budding public speaker.

**MR. KRIS MONSON** is a bassist and composer that has performed with some of the top jazz and blues musicians, including Lalah Hathaway, Vince Mendoza, and Marc Cary. A product of the rich central Virginia jazz and blues community, Kris is a graduate of the University of Virginia and the Manhattan School of Music.

**DAVID PIMENTEL** has led legal reform and rule of law promotion projects around the world (including UN efforts in South Sudan). He is a regular lecturer on the "Blues and the Rule of Law" at Univ. of Idaho's Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival. He studied economics and law at BYU, Harvard, and UC Berkeley

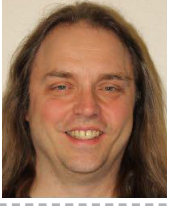
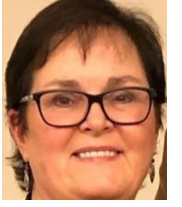
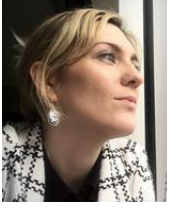
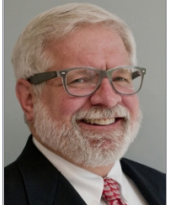
**DR. RON PIMENTEL** "Dr P," marketing professor for 31 years, is a widely-published researcher. He plays the bass and counts as one of his biggest thrills, the night that he played with his son, "Dr. P" (Bret), during open-mic night at Ground Zero in Clarksdale.

**DR. TAMMY L. TURNER** teaches university music courses including Jazz History, History and Sociology of Rock & Roll, and Music History. Her area of interest is 20th century American music, including classical and vernacular styles. She is the author of Dick Waterman: A Life in Blues.

**LYDIA WARREN** is an ethnomusicologist and performer conducting fieldwork in Memphis, Tennessee. Her scholarly interest center on blues music, and she incorporates collaborative ethnography, tourism, revivals, race, and issues of mental and physical well-being in her work. She now works as a grant writer at the University of Memphis.

**PROF. CHRISTINE CLARK ZEMLA** is a member of the American Studies Department at Rutgers University. Courses taught include "Remembering Emmett Till: Civil Rights & Racial Justice" and "Race, Roots, & Rock 'n' Roll. She also serves as Education Coordinator for the Jersey Shore Jazz & Blues Foundation.

**DR. TOM ZLABINGER** teaches popular music at York College in New York City. Dr. Zlabinger holds a B.A. from Grinnell College, an M.A. from Queens College, and a Ph.D. from the Graduate Center. His areas of research include psychedelic music, telematic performance, and improvisation.





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RECOGNITION

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International Delta Blues Project

Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area

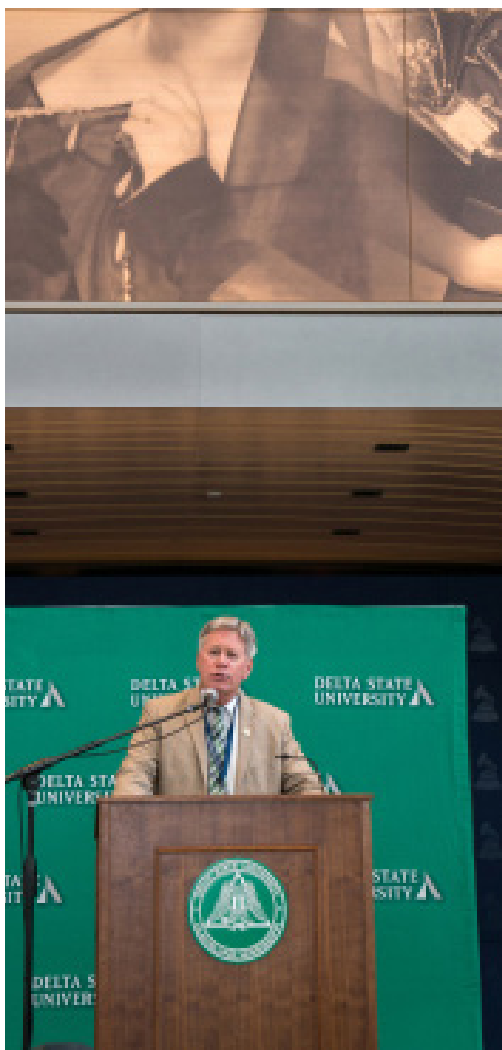
STUDY THE BLUES AT DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

One of DSU's newest programs of study is the Blues Studies minor, which launched in 2015. Additionally, DSU is proud to announce the creation of the International Blues Scholars Program. This multi-disciplinary approach to the study of the Blues includes in-depth examination of the musical form and its influence in art, literature, history, and economic development. The International Blues Scholars Program is an online academic certificate program available to graduate and undergraduate students all over the world. For more information, visit [deltacenterdsu.com](http://deltacenterdsu.com).

THE DELTA CENTER FOR CULTURE AND LEARNING

The mission of The Delta Center for Culture and Learning is to promote greater understanding of Mississippi Delta culture and history and its significance to the world through education, partnerships, and community engagement. The Delta Center is an interdisciplinary program that focuses on the humanities and social sciences as they relate to the Delta. The Delta Center advances Delta State University's participation in promoting and celebrating the unique heritage of the Delta while also addressing the longstanding social, economic, and cultural challenges that inhibit regional advancement. [deltacenterdsu.com](http://deltacenterdsu.com)







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

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

