

# Delta State

THE MAGAZINE FOR DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

Fall 2007

A man in a dark blue suit, white shirt, and red patterned tie stands in front of a UPS aircraft. The aircraft's tail features the UPS logo, and its wings are visible in the background.

## David Abney

**Alumnus of the Year**

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across the world

# Alumni, Have You Made Your Statement Today?



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**kelli**

Junior >> Elementary Education >> Clinton, MS



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**On the cover:** David Abney stands in front of a model UPS plane. Photo by Craig Bromley Photography.



## President's Message

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Two years ago, we began the practice of choosing a theme for each new academic year around which we can build activities, programs, and research opportunities. We enjoyed the *Year of Cleveland* during 2005/06, recognizing the wonderful relationship between the university and its host community. Last year was the *Year of Health and Wellness in the Delta*. Who knew how popular this idea of an annual theme would become?



I made the casual remark one day in the spring that it would be useful for people to submit ideas for the coming year. When the President's Cabinet met for a planning retreat in July, there were over 30 suggestions in front of us. Someone thought we should highlight philanthropy because private giving is so important to the university's future. Another person wanted campus beautification for a focus. Educating young children, graduates and their careers, Delta women, sports, and even communication skills were among the proposed topics. One person thought that a year of creative thinking might be a good idea.

After a lengthy discussion, we chose the *Year of Delta Heritage* as our theme for Academic Year 2007/08. I must tell you, however, that we are hedging our decision somewhat. We've decided that this theme is so broad that it deserves monthly emphases. Expect to hear more about the Mississippi River and about the people and communities of the Delta. Look for a month of remembering Delta Heroes and another month to recognize agriculture and other Delta businesses. Delta arts and culture, literature, music, and even holiday

celebrations will round out the schedule.

In other words, we will view Delta Heritage quite broadly. We'll have something for everyone. (And we're able to sample many of the great suggestions in this one year.) Previous annual themes have sparked multiple events each month of the academic year. Our intention is that this observance will follow the same pattern.

You can help with the planning and with the implementation. Dr. Luther Brown, who leads our Delta Center for Culture and Learning, will coordinate the *Year of Delta Heritage*. He would be happy to hear from you. Share ideas for programming. Offer special collections that we might exhibit. Volunteer your time or talents. Support the effort in whatever way you can.

We've enjoyed the celebrations and learned a lot from the themes of the past two years. Join us in spirit or in person as we observe the *Year of Delta Heritage*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John M. Hilpert". The signature is stylized and fluid.

John M. Hilpert  
President

## Alumni Message

Dear Fellow Alumni,

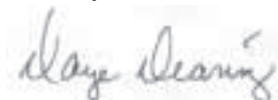


It is an honor to serve as president of the Delta State University Alumni Association. The Board of Directors is comprised of individuals who have committed themselves to guiding the Alumni Association and to ensuring its growth and success. Please let us hear from you, with thoughts and ideas you may have, regarding ways that we can meet these goals.

As fellow graduates of Delta State, I hope you will join us in actively supporting the work of the Alumni Association. After all, this organization belongs to you! You can do this in a number of ways, such as by joining the Alumni Association through an annual or lifetime membership, by attending local chapter meetings held in your area, by purchasing a Delta State license plate for your automobile, and finally and most importantly, by encouraging students to attend your alma mater.

I look back, with pride, at the great accomplishments achieved by former students, staff, faculty, and administrators, and forward, with anticipation, to the many successes ahead for Delta State University. I look forward to seeing many of you this year at Pig Pickin', Homecoming, or in your cities and towns at chapter meetings.

Sincerely,



Daye Dearing  
President, Alumni Association

We want  
to hear  
from **You!**

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of the Alumni Magazine?**

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## Record-Breaking Graduation

Over 500 mortarboards sailed through the air in celebration this past May, as Delta State celebrated its 80th Spring Commencement with one of its largest graduating classes in the school's history.

The day was special not only to the over 500 proud graduates, but to two of Delta State's brightest alumni, as Dr. James (Jim) T. Rogers and Dr. Patricia (Patsy) A. Thrash—two leaders in the field of higher education—were conferred with the fourth- and fifth-ever honorary degrees presented by Delta State. Each received a Doctor of Humane Letters degree, for which they were unanimously approved by the Institutions of Higher Learning's Board of Trustees. An honorary degree is the highest honor bestowed by the University.

The pair has dedicated nearly their entire lives to the advancement of higher education, having served a combined 96 years. Until their retirements, they sat atop two of the nation's six accrediting agencies in higher education.

"It is amazing that one institution produced two of the most important higher education leaders in the nation," said President John M. Hilpert. "At one time, these two Delta State graduates led regional associations that accredit institutions in 30 of the 50 states."



A record-breaking number of graduates celebrated their collective successes as part of Delta State's 80th Spring Commencement.



Dr. Patricia A. Thrash smiles during her hooding ceremony after receiving an honorary degree from her alma mater.



Dr. James T. Rogers is hooded by President Dr. John Hilpert after being awarded an honorary degree.

## Doe's Earns Top Award

Doe's Eat Place was recently awarded a 2007 America's Classics Award from the James Beard Foundation, the premier honor for food and beverage professionals in America. Located on Nelson Street in Greenville, Doe's Eat Place is co-owned by Dominick "Little Doe" Signa '75 and Charles Signa, who has two daughters who are Delta State graduates, Maime '01 and Tracie '92. Also, Little Doe's wife, Barbara "Sug" Morris Signa, attended Delta State.



A Doe's steak – the specialty of the house



# Art and the Garden

"Experience the theatre," says David Dallas, executive director of the Bologna Performing Arts Center (BPAC). And he's talking about not only on stage, but outside the campus arts center.

To that end, an outside sculpture garden is in the final phases of construction, complete with running water fountains. The garden will be named the Hazel and Jimmy Sanders Sculpture Garden and a dedication ceremony will be held later this year.

The sculpture garden is the third phase of a project begun by Pam Mathews, a painter and wife of former Delta State President Dr. David Potter, in 2000.

"It was her dream that there might one day be a sculpture garden in front of the BPAC, and that idea surfaced in 2000," explained Nan Sanders, who played a pivotal role in the development of the garden.

In 2000, the University held a national sculpture contest; seven pieces were entered in it and displayed in front of the BPAC for 18 months. At the end of the display period, a committee of five to seven independent artists voted on the winner, which was purchased by the University.

*Wind Harp*, created by North Carolina artist Wayne Trapp, received the purchase award for the first competition.

In 2002, a second competition was held.



A running water fountain serves as the main focal point of the Sculpture Garden.

This time, eight pieces were submitted and displayed, with Glenn Zweigart's piece *Haiku Man* winning the purchase award.

However, in 2004, the project was put on hold after Mathews passed away. Five sculptures from the second competition were donated to the University in her memory.

"The sculpture garden went by the wayside for awhile after that," Sanders recalled. "Eventually, I approached my mother-in-law Hazel Sanders, who generously offered a donation in seeing that it got done."

Although it took several years and several variations of design, the sculpture garden will now include room for pieces acquired in earlier competitions, future competitions, and a memorial to Mathews.

"I can take the sculpture students out and we can see and talk about those actual pieces instead of looking at a photograph or slide," explained Ron Koehler, professor of art. "I can break it down and see exactly how they are constructed and the materials they use."

The placement of the sculptures across the University fulfilled another of Mathews' desires—to have an art-covered campus.

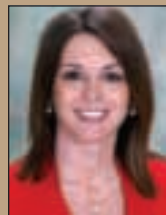
"The long term hope is to populate the campus so that in 20 years, possibly, you'd have a really incredible campus full of these wonderful sculptures," Sanders explained.



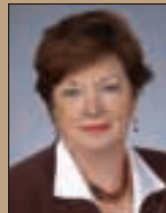
*Wind Harp*, created by North Carolina artist Wayne Trapp, sits behind Jobe Auditorium on campus.

## NEWSMAKERS

Dr. Michelle Roberts has been named Vice President for University Relations, adding to her previous responsibilities as Executive Assistant to the President. Roberts becomes the first female vice president at Delta State.



Dr. Myrtis Tabb will serve as Assistant Vice President for Partnerships and Special Projects, managing the University's outsourced areas, including information technology, food services and the bookstore.



Dr. Billy C. Moore will serve as Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Moore was appointed Dean of the College of Business in July 2003 and has taught economics since 1986.



Billy Morehead will serve as Interim Dean of the College of Business. Previously Vice President for Finance, he has recently served as Chair of Accountancy, Computer Information Systems and Finance.



Dr. Leslie Griffin is the new Dean of the College of Education. She was Assistant Professor of Elementary Education before advancing to Coordinator of Undergraduate Studies in Elementary Education in 2000.



# Honoring Veterans at Homecoming

"If Homecoming Weekend gets any busier," says Alumni Director Vicki Fioranelli, "we'll have to schedule activities at 3 a.m."

Ask the hundreds of alumni who return, however, and they wouldn't have it any other way. Racing from one event to another means lots of chances to see old friends and to relive happy times.

"This year's celebration is Honoring Veterans," Fioranelli reports. "It is one of the most meaningful themes we've had for a Homecoming."

Among the many events will be the kick-off for establishing a permanent memorial on the campus to honor DSU alumni, faculty, and staff who have served in the military in times of national conflict or peace. Several volunteers have already begun planning for this recognition.

Several Golden Circle alumni—those who graduated more than 50 years ago—are working with Dr. James Robinson, a professor in the history department. He initiated the idea for a memorial and suggested locating it in the courtyard of the newly renovated Jobe Hall. University officials have asked a landscape architect to examine this space and to consider design ideas that can be shared at Homecoming.

Window displays in downtown Cleveland, floats in the parade and a patriotic exhibit at Jobe Hall will also promote "Honoring Veterans."

Events get underway on Friday, Oct. 26, with the Alumni Awards Luncheon. Alumni and friends come together to honor this year's outstanding alumnus, David Abney, as well as the new members of the Alumni Hall of Fame and the winners of service awards.

After an evening social and special in-



Miss Jo Ann Mosier, an instructor in the Health, Physical Education & Recreation department, and her Dance Club scored a smash hit with their hit gold record during the 1959 Homecoming Parade.

duction ceremony for the Class of 1957, the Golden Circle will eat and party well into Friday night.

Saturday is, of course, the premier day of Homecoming Weekend. Many academic departments host open house opportuni-

Pan-Hellenic Council will sponsor an entertaining Step Show at the Bologna Performing Arts Center.

At noon on Saturday, all attention focuses on the activities in Statesman Park at the north end of the football stadium. Tailgating. The homecoming parade. Music performances. Reunions. Party tents. And plenty of chances to tell tall tales of adventures lived long ago.

At 4 p.m. it is time for football: the Wolves of the University of West Georgia versus our Delta State University Statesmen. DSU's Statesmen finished last season ranked No. 3 in the nation.

Homecoming 2007: October

26 and 27.

How would alumni director Fioranelli sum it up? "Expect excitement, nostalgia, and fun from beginning to end," she says. "We'll see you there!"

"Expect excitement, nostalgia and fun from beginning to end."

ties. Organizations and constituent groups meet. Specialty chapters—for example, the Black Alumni—schedule special events. Greek organizations welcome their alumnae and alumni members. In the evening, the



## Hall of Fame Created

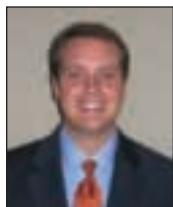
The Delta State University Alumni Association has established the Alumni Hall of Fame. The induction of the inaugural class will take place at a noon luncheon on Friday, Oct. 26 during the homecoming weekend. Inductees will also be announced before the football game on Saturday.

"The charter members will include all former 'Outstanding Alumni of the Year.' Future inductees will be selected annually by a Hall of Fame Committee and inducted during the homecoming weekend," reports Jeffrey Farris, Assistant Alumni Director.

## Alumni Association's Service Award Recipients for 2007



**Reverend James A. (Jimmy) Breland '50** and **James (Billie) Breland '53**, of Cleveland, are the recipients of the Legacy Award.



**Ryan England '02**, of Southaven, is the recipient of the Kent Wyatt Young Alumnus Service Award.



**Bill Greenleaf '75 (MS '77)**, of Brandon, is the recipient of the Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni Service Award.



**Dr. Robert Ragan**, of Cleveland, is the recipient of the Gladys Castle Friend of Delta State Service Award.

## HOMECOMING SCHEDULE

### Friday, October 26

- 12:30 p.m. Alumni Awards Luncheon
- 6 p.m. Social hour and reunion of Golden Circle (classes 1928-1957)
- 7 p.m. Induction and dinner of Class of '57

### Saturday, October 27

- 8:30-11 a.m. Registration, 1st Floor H.L. Nowell Union
- 11 a.m. Organizations and constituent group meetings and tour
- 11 a.m. Open houses, Department and Greek organizations
- 11:30 p.m. Black Alumni Luncheon, Alumni House
- 1 p.m. Homecoming Parade, Statesmen Park
- Roberts-LaForge Library open house and tour
- 4 p.m. Football game, DSU vs. West Georgia
- 7 p.m. Pan-Hellenic Council Greek Step Show, BPAC

### Statesmen Park Events

- Noon Tailgating, tent parties, activities
- 1-3 p.m. Reunions, open houses, tents
- 2:30 p.m. Renaissance Music Ensemble performance
- 3 p.m. Ole School Review

### Activities

- Patriotic exhibit, Jobe Hall
- Alumni art exhibit, Wright Art Gallery
- Downtown merchant window displays, downtown Cleveland
- Jimmy R. Williams Bookstore open until 2 p.m. on Saturday, H.L. Nowell Union (10% discount for dues paying members of Alumni Association)

For schedule updates visit [www.deltastate.edu](http://www.deltastate.edu), click on "Alumni and Guests" and "Alumni Events"

### SWIMMING AND DIVING REUNION

#### Friday, October 26

- 6:30 p.m. Evening social, Ronnie Mayers' home

#### Saturday, October 27

- Noon Tour, DSU Aquatics Center
- 1 p.m. Tailgating, Statesmen Park
- 4 p.m. Football game, recognition of reunion between quarters

Please RSVP to Dana George

by October 10, 2007

Phone: (662) 846-4300

Email: [dgeorge@deltastate.edu](mailto:dgeorge@deltastate.edu)

### BLACK ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP REUNION

#### Friday, October 26

- 4-6 p.m. Registration, Alumni House
- 8 p.m. Old School Jam, National Guard Armory

#### Saturday, October 27

- 9-Noon Registration, H.L. Nowell Student Union
- 10 a.m. Dialogue with DSU administrators, Alumni House
- 11:30 a.m. Luncheon with speaker, Alumni House
- 11-1 p.m. Tailgating
- 3 p.m. Tour of campus
- 7 p.m. Step Show, BPAC
- 8 p.m. Orchid Scholarship Ball, Grovers Corner, downtown

# Football: A Family Matter

## New head coach has high hopes for new season

By Travis Chamblee

If there is one thing first-year Delta State head football coach Ron Roberts puts before football, it is family.

"You don't want to get so caught up in your profession that you lose perspective on what's important in life," Roberts said of the time he spends with his children both at home and attending activities such as little league baseball games.

"I go to those things because I think it's important for me to be a father, and it also gives my kids a chance to see me somewhere other than on the field or at the office. Also, as a father, you want to show them support and it's a chance for me to be a fan," Roberts contended.

He added that while his first goal is to support his children, being active in the community gives him an opportunity to meet new people he otherwise might not meet, and "if that brings those people to become supporters of the University, then great. That's just an added benefit."

While Roberts loves his family and enjoys spending time with them, he is not unaware of the sacrifices they make in order for him to be a head football coach.

"The head coaching position involves the whole family because of the time commitments and other things. It's huge that they all enjoy the game and the profession. A lot of times, in order for them to see me, they have to come up here," he said.

The 2007 Statesmen football season will take Roberts away from his family quite a bit, but with three games scheduled as the Thursday night Gulf South Conference games of the week, he may get a few more Saturdays to spend time with his family.

The Statesmen once again have one of the toughest schedules in the GSC, traveling to Jackson State on Saturday, Sept. 1, for an opening day match-up against the Tigers.

"It's a huge deal for us," Roberts exclaimed. "We have a big alumni base in Jackson and it's a big game. It's something I would love to do every year. Hopefully, it can become a big, in-state rivalry that will be a big game for both sides."

They also play on the road two Thursdays in a row against conference rivals Valdosta State and North Alabama.

Of the Valdosta State contest, in particular, Roberts explained, "It's obviously not an ideal situation. It's a big game. It's going to mean a lot by the nature of both programs and where they are. This game is going to go a long way in deciding the winner of the Gulf South Conference."

Inside their own huddle, the Statesmen return 17 starters from last season's 12-3 team, which included a national semifinal appearance and victories over both Valdosta and UNA. Two of those returning starters are pre-season All-Americans, senior linebacker Michael Eubanks and senior wide receiver Jeremy Ricks.

Eubanks was named GSC Defensive Player of the Year, the second Statesmen in history to earn the honor, First Team All-GSC and First Team All-American, while

**"You don't replace Scott Eyster and I'm not going to ask anybody to come in here and replace him."**

anchoring one of the most tenacious defenses in the nation. The Cleveland native led the team with 10.5 sacks, while his 75 tackles were third on the team.

"Michael (Eubanks) is a coach's dream. He has great speed and a nose for the football," Roberts said. "He is also a man of

great character. He doesn't talk a lot; he just goes out there and gets the job done."

Ricks was the leading benefactor in a talented receiving corps that caught passes from Harlon Hill finalist Scott Eyster, a four-year starter at quarterback for the Statesmen.

Ricks, a senior from Hollendale, caught 61 passes for 903 yards and 14 touchdowns, a team high. The speedster also rushed for 145 yards on 26 carries and two touchdowns, and was awarded a spot on both the All-Southeast Region and All-GSC squads for his efforts.

With all this success last season, the question still lingering over Roberts and the Statesmen is who will be under center this season to replace Scott Eyster?

"You don't replace Scott Eyster and I'm not going to ask anybody to come in here and replace him. I'm not going to put that (pressure) on our quarterback," Roberts said as he confidently answered the biggest question facing his team. "What we do have is a veteran group besides that one position. Those guys are going to have to perform at a higher level to take the stress off of our quarterback. We don't need him to win the game for us. I just want him to go out, execute the offense and get the ball to the guys who can make plays."

While the starting quarterback is yet to be determined, whoever wins the job won't be lacking talented stars to give the ball to. Alongside Ricks, receivers Eric Marshall and Robert Moore are returning targets in the passing game. Chad Schroeder will join the offense this season after roaming in the Statesmen secondary as a safety. The Statesmen rushing game will feature Stephen Davis and Ben Stallings. Ken Cox





New head coach Ron Roberts surveys the action during the Statesmen's spring practice.

will also see carries out of the backfield.

"We're very talented. We can run the ball better than we have in the past," Roberts said with enthusiasm. "This past spring was the most success our offense has had running the ball against our defense in two years and a lot of that is because of the guys we have coming back."

The running backs have a talented and experienced offensive line, anchored by All-GSC and All-American honorable mention center Travis Mikel-Allen and Third Team All-American and All-GSC tackle Dustin Barrick. Chris Goff returns at tackle on a line that allowed just 22 sacks in 15 games last season.

The Statesmen defense is loaded with talent as well. Under Roberts' direction last season, Delta State ranked in the top-10 in nearly every statistical category while giving up just 13.4 points per game, first in the GSC. They also led the conference in rushing defense (83.7 yards per game) and

total defense (243.9 yards per game), were third in passing defense (160.3 yards per game), and second in turnover margin (+9).

Lining up alongside Eubanks is sophomore linebacker Lardester Hicks, an All-GSC selection. With Anthony King playing opposite Eubanks in the linebacking corps, the Statesmen have all three starters back from a year ago.

Opposing offenses will also have to contend with All-Americans Jamarcus Wiggins and Monterio James, the Delta State career leader in interceptions.

"With nine starters returning, we have a core group that has proven it can compete on the national level. We feel like we have added some pieces to the puzzle this off-season that will only make us stronger," the Statesmen head coach predicted.

While there are still game plans to perfect and opening day rosters to solidify, one thing is certain: all is in place for one exciting season this fall at Travis Parker Field.

## Eyster Claims Trophy

By Jim Ervin

Senior Scott Eyster took home the Commissioner's Trophy for 2006-07 at the annual GSC Awards Banquet held recently at the Hilton Garden Inn in Pensacola Beach, Fla.



Eyster is the third straight football standout to claim such accolades and he is DSU's first men's GSC Commissioner's Trophy winner since 1992. The Hammond, LA., native's award ups Delta State's all-time number of men's and women's honorees to 10, the most of any GSC school.

For Eyster, the announcement is yet another honor in a long list of accomplishments. For four years, he has served as an ambassador and leader for DSU on and off the gridiron, while starting all 47 games he played for the Green and White.

Last year, Delta State's Alyse Hasty captured the women's Commissioner's Trophy after completing an outstanding career for the Lady Statesmen softball program. The Statesmen have captured a total of seven men's Commissioner's Trophies, while the Lady Statesmen have brought home three.

### Eyster the Athlete

- \* GSC all-time leading passer (13,889 yds)
- \* Total offense yards leader (14,342 yds)
- \* Two-time Harlon Hill Trophy national finalist
- \* Two-time GSC Offensive Player of the Year
- \* Named All-American by 3 different publications/websites
- \* First Team Daktronics All-South Region
- \* Charles S. Kerg Senior Athlete of the Year
- \* Finalist for the Cellular South Charles Conerly Trophy
- \* Athletic Director's Hall of Fame

### Eyster the Student

- \* GSC All-Academic selection
- \* Two-time CoSIDA Academic All-Region honoree
- \* 3.51 overall GPA
- \* 3.60 GPA as business/sports management major
- \* Dean's List four times
- \* President's List two times
- \* Pursuing a master's in sports management



# Three-peat for the Lady Statemen?

## Rushing signs Player of the Year “Bug” Cooper

By Matt Jones

With four starters returning and one of the most heralded recruiting classes in the last 25 years, the Lady Statesmen women's basketball team is geared up for the chance to claim a third-straight Gulf South Conference title and to challenge for the NCAA Division II national championship.

“We have a great nucleus of players returning and our recruiting class has loads of potential,” said Sandra Rushing, Lady Statesmen head coach. “Jennifer (Rushing) returns for her senior year and she is surrounded by three returning starters, including two All-GSC performers. All eyes will be on Walter Sillers Coliseum this year.”

Jennifer Rushing, a Kodak All-American and the GSC West Division Player of the Year, returns to lead a team that seems to have all the pieces in place to make a deep run into the playoffs. The senior from Hollandale averaged 13 points, five rebounds and five assists while leading the Lady Statesmen to back-to-back GSC Championships and a NCAA “Sweet 16” finish. She will be joined by seniors and All-GSC performers Jessica Boyd (7.7 ppg) and Brittani Calhoun (7.4 ppg and 5.9 rbg). Renita Jones, a 6'3" junior center from Starkville and one of the most dominant posts in the GSC, returns from a knee injury to anchor the paint.

This spring, hard work and dedication paid off for Rushing and assistant coach Mechan Vanderpool

with the signing of Indianola's Gentry High standout Sarita “Bug” Cooper. “Bug,” a 5'5" point guard, was named

**“All eyes will be on  
Walter Sillers  
Coliseum this year.”**



The Lady Statesmen are looking for their third consecutive Gulf South Conference title this season.

“Miss Basketball” as Mississippi's Player of the Year after leading the Lady Rams to an undefeated season and the 4A State Championship. The lightning-quick guard averaged 14.1 points and 10 assists per game last season. Not to be overlooked, Bug scored a 27 on her ACT exam last fall.

Four additional recruits will make an immediate impact on this already deep roster. LaMeasha McAdory, a

standout at NW Mississippi Community College, will help strengthen the front court, while a trio of guards could help take

the Lady Statesmen's offense to new heights this season. Moe Bell, an All-State shooting guard at Madison-Ridgeland Academy, and Tamara Reed, a 5'6" All-State shooting guard at Wayne County, will add tremendous depth to DSU's outside shooting. Kendall Crawford, a 5'9" guard/forward from Starkville Academy, brings athleticism and a knack for tenacious defense to the squad this fall.

The schedule will once again be a formidable one for the two-time defending GSC champs. Practice starts Oct. 15, and the season opens on Monday, Nov. 5 at Tennessee-Martin. Rushing and the Lady Statesmen will honor former legendary coaches Margaret Wade and Lloyd Clark this season, as well. The Lady Statesmen will host the fourth annual Margaret Wade Classic (November 23-24) and the third annual Lloyd Clark Classic (December 17-18).

# Coach Sets Sights High for Men



Johnny Hodge paced the Statesmen in scoring last season en route to league honors.

By Daniel Hawthorne

In his first season as the head coach of the Statesmen basketball program, Jason Conner led the team to an impressive 18-10 record, coached three All-GSC performers, guided a true freshman to the league's West Division Freshman of the Year honor and led the team to the GSC Tournament. The Lakeland, Fla., native did all that despite losing 94.1 percent of the scoring from the year before and two players now pursuing professional hoop dreams. Jason Conner has his sights set higher in 2008.

"We have a great group coming back this year and I believe we have found the pieces of the puzzle to have a successful year," said Conner. "The guys coming back are going to be the backbone of this team, like Johnny Hodge, Chad Akins and David Clark. The new guys, I think, will adjust well to our style of play, and if we can get off to a good start, I don't see any reason why we can't improve upon last season."

Chad Akins, the reigning GSC West Division Freshman of the Year, is one of only two starters returning this season. The Madison native averaged 5.8 points a game but led the team in steals (48) and assists (72).

He will be joined by All-GSC performer Johnny Hodge. The 6'5" senior forward is coming off a remarkable season where he led

the Statesmen in scoring (16.9) and rebounding (5.9).

A host of new talent is led by three players already signed before the start of last season: Justin Duke, a junior from New Albany, played two years at Itawamba Community College and is a deadly outside shooter. Oliver Mansour, a 6'7" power forward from Australia by way of Beville State Community College, will no doubt bring some intensity and excitement to the low post. Last season, Mansour averaged 12 points and seven rebounds a game. Xavier Ruth, a 6'3" freshman from Shannon High School, is arguably one of the best players in the state, averaging 20.8 points per game including a season-high 43 against Okolona.

"All three of our early signees have the ability to be impact players this season. We are currently finalizing our recruiting efforts from the spring and we will add a few more pieces before fall practice begins October 15," concluded Conner.

Delta State will once again travel to Ole Miss for an exhibition game on Friday, Nov. 2 before opening the regular season with the State Farm Classic on Nov. 16. DSU will play a total of 14 home dates this season and several non-conference match-ups with West Georgia, Montevallo, West Alabama and West Florida.

## SPORTS SHORTS



### Sports Online Enhanced

In January, DSU Athletics launched two new features: "Athlete of the Week" and "Ask the A.D." Fans now have the chance to interact with coaches, players and staff in new ways. New features for the fall include "Green & White E-News," and a weekly podcast aimed at fans abroad. Log on to [www.GoStatesmen.com](http://www.GoStatesmen.com) to learn more.



### 500 Wins

Mike Kinnison '78, head coach of the Statesmen baseball program, hit the 500-win mark. On April 23, the Statesmen blasted the Wonder Boys of Arkansas Tech

University 19-2 to give Kinnison the milestone. The Statesmen went on to end the year 45-16 overall pushing coach Kinnison's career record to 504-139.



### 300 Wins

In David Kuhn's eight seasons as head coach of the women's softball program, the Lady Statesmen have claimed two Gulf South Conference West

Division titles, appeared in the 2002 NCAA South Regional, and played for two GSC championships. Kuhn also reached his 300th career win in a 5-1 victory over Missouri-Southern.

### 49ers Benefit

Former Statesmen Jerry Sullivan and Johnny Parker have spent the past two seasons as assistant coaches on Mike Nolan's staff with the San Francisco 49ers. Sullivan, who played two years for the Statesmen (1965-66), serves as the receivers' coach. Parker, who received a master's degree from Delta State, is a 23-year coaching veteran and is known for one of the best cardio, weight, and nutritional programs in professional athletics.





Eddie Willis and Dr. Libby Carlson with Robert E. Smith (center) and two of the nine recipients of the Robert E. Smith Nursing Scholarships, Holly Brasseland and Megan Tubertini.

## Smith Gift Supports Ministry, Offers Scholarships

Robert E. Smith of Cleveland, a long time supporter of Delta State University, was recently honored for a \$55,000 contribution to the University. Smith generously contributed \$30,000 toward the Robert E. Smith School of Nursing Scholarships and \$25,000 to the Wesley Foundation.

"Mr. Smith has supported the Wesley Foundation at Delta State in many ways that have allowed the ministry to reach greater potential and new heights," said Eddie Willis, director of the Wesley Foundation. "It has been his wish that college students be given the opportunity to grow closer to Christ while at Delta State."

Smith's most recent gift assisted in the purchase and removal of the Jacob House that sat on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Court Street, adjacent to the Wesley Foundation Student Center. Willis adds, "Mr. Smith did this to help us expand our boundaries and have a presence directly across the street from the campus."

This is not the first gift Smith has given to the Wesley Foundation. "Mr. Smith has been a faithful supporter of the Wesley Foundation for many years, helping United Methodist students with scholarships, setting up an endowment for the organization and serving as a lifetime member of the Wesley Foundation

Board of Directors," Willis explained.

Director of Development of the Delta State Foundation Inc., Reed Abraham reported, "In addition to his very generous gift to the Wesley Foundation, Mr. Smith has endowed six scholarships benefiting the University's School of Nursing. Additionally, he has named the University and the Wesley Student Foundation as a beneficiary to a Charitable Remainder Trust."

According to Dr. Libby Carlson, Dean of the School of Nursing, "Nine students have benefited from Mr. Smith's generosity. The majority of our students need financial assistance, and his generosity helps them to become nurses whereas they may not have been able to."

Enrollment in the Delta State University School of Nursing has grown in three years from 60 students to 200. "Mr. Smith's scholarships and his thoughtfulness in naming the School as a beneficiary to his estate will help us address the critical nursing shortage in the Mississippi Delta," said Carlson.

In making the gifts, Smith said, "I hope the Wesley Student Foundation's endowment and the School of Nursing Scholarships give encouragement and opportunities to worthy young people in preparing themselves for a better life and opportunities to better serve their community and country."

## New Directors in Alumni-Foundation

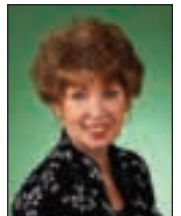
**D. Reed Abraham '04, '05 M.B.A.**, is the new Director of Development. Abraham will be responsible for major gift fund-raising and assisting in leading the Foundation's multi-million dollar campaign.



**Vicki Fioranelli '68**, who retired in June after 16 years as Director of Alumni Affairs, will continue as Director on a part-time basis.



**Ann Giger '93**, was promoted to Director of Donor Relations. She will be responsible for stewarding gifts made to the University.



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for more details



# Scholarship Honors Life of Social Worker

Next year, a deserving student in social work will be awarded a new and unique scholarship that honors the dedication and caring spirit of Debbie Simmons '90, who died in February 2007 after a rich career helping others.

Though she began her academic career in Louisiana, Simmons came to DSU when her husband, a military officer, was assigned to teach Army ROTC. During her time at DSU, she was named to the Dean's List five times, was initiated as a member of the social work Honor Society in 1990, and was the recipient of the Rebie Hamilton Powell Award given to the senior who best demonstrates the qualities of a professional social worker.

After she graduated, Simmons served as a social worker with a number of agencies, including the Mississippi Department of Human Services and the Department of Health.

One of her last text messages was, "How are my patients?"

In addition to her many professional accomplishments, Simmons was married to Calvin Simmons for 27 years and raised four sons. During her husband's military career, she assisted military families in problem reso-



Calvin Simmons; Alinda Sledge, social work chair; and Sheryl Stephens, Development staff, announce the establishment of the Debbie Simmons Social Work Scholarship.

lution, family crisis matters and served as a focal point during the deployment of military members from their home base.

Simmons loved her job as a social worker as well as her patients. While awaiting a lung transplant in Birmingham, Ala., she would often call Cleveland to check on her patients. In fact, one of her last text messages was, "How are my patients?"

Simmons died at the age of 47, after her lung collapsed resulting in complications that gave no hope for recovery. The scholarship will be awarded to a student who exemplifies her caring nature.

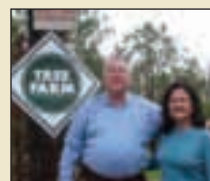
The Simmons family welcomes donations to the Debbie Simmons Scholarship.

For more information, e-mail [development@deltastate.edu](mailto:development@deltastate.edu) or call Reed Abraham at (662) 846-4708.



Debbie Simmons, whose life and work are honored by this privately funded scholarship.

## GIVING HIGHLIGHTS



Dr. Travis Casanova and Corinne Casanova

### Casanova Honored

Former member of the Foundation Board of Directors, Dr. Travis Casanova received the Mississippi Forestry Association's 2006 "Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year" Award.

Casanova and his wife, Corinne, have a 1,100 acre tree farm located in the counties of Marshall, Benton and Lafayette on land that has been in the family since 1829. In 1996, Casanova and his mother, Frances, and brother, Beverly Casanova, made a \$100,000 gift to Delta State in memory of Otis B. Casanova to establish the Casanova Science Fund.



Kate Kittle, in whose name the scholarship was established

### Nursing Scholarship Established

Kate Kittle, who died June 11, 2006, worked for over 30 years as a registered nurse and nurse practitioner at the VA Hospital in Jackson. She earned her B.S. degree from Mississippi College and did graduate work at Alcorn State University. Teddy Kittle has endowed the Kate. S. Kittle Nursing Memorial Scholarship

in her memory.

"The School of Nursing is so grateful to Teddy for the scholarship. He can be assured that Kate's name will live on in the nursing students who receive her scholarship," said Dr. Libby Carlson, dean of the School of Nursing.



Sanders (left) is thanked for his gift by President John Hilpert

### Scholarship Initiated

Mack Sanders, owner of Pro-Masters Detail and Tint Shop of Cleveland, recently initiated a scholarship to assist in recruiting a deserving student to Delta State. Sanders attended Delta State from 1985 to 1986.

### Fioranelli Scholarship

In honor of her 20 years of service to the University, over \$10,000 has been donated toward creating a Vicki Bassie Fioranelli Endowed Scholarship. To contribute to this scholarship, call Reed Abraham at (662) 846-4708 or email [rabraham@deltastate.edu](mailto:rabraham@deltastate.edu) for more details.

## Sullivan-Outlaw Professorship Initiated

The Barry Sullivan–Henry Outlaw Professorship in Biotechnology will simultaneously honor two men closely identified with the progress of science and medicine and create opportunities to expand the sciences at Delta State University into the new frontier of biotechnology.

“Analysts have predicted that biotechnology will be one of the most important applied sciences of the 21st century, providing strategic solutions to major medical, environmental and food production problems,” said Collier Parker, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “We expect that the Sullivan-Outlaw Professorship will help us prepare students in this critical area of the sciences.”

A native of New Albany, the late Dr. Barry Sullivan came to Cleveland after completing his medical education in 1983 and joined a private practice specializing in internal medicine. Sullivan’s life was unexpectedly cut short by a swimming accident in 2000.

After four decades of service to the

University, Dr. Henry Outlaw ’61 retired from Delta State in 2002, where he was chair of the Department of Physical Science and professor of chemistry. Outlaw is currently employed at the DSU Foundation Office helping to raise money for the “Excellence in Science” Endowment Fund.

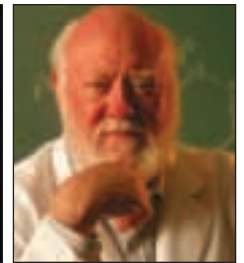
### Funding the Professorship

The development of the Sullivan-Outlaw Professorship was initiated by a challenge gift of \$50,000 from Dr. Ken Harden ’70, who is professor of pharmacology at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. “The goal of the Professorship is to assure that the vision for basic research and medicine that Barry and Henry provided to students at Delta State remains in place,” said Harden.

Mr. I. Dean Spradling ’53 recently made a six-figure gift to support the establishment of the Professorship, one of many areas in the sciences that he has supported. Spradling is also credited with the idea of establishing the \$2 million “Excellence in Science” Endowment Fund that provides



Sullivan



Outlaw

approximately \$30,000 in earnings annually to the science department.

“The Professorship requires a minimum of \$200,000 to be considered fully endowed,” said Parker. “Income from the endowment will provide a supplement to the state salary and enable the University to attract an outstanding teacher and researcher in biotechnology. The Professorship is only \$20,000 away from being endowed and I invite anyone interested in making a gift to contact the DSU Foundation Office.”

To make a gift to the Sullivan–Outlaw Professorship, please contact Reed Abraham at (662) 846-4708 or [development@deltastate.edu](mailto:development@deltastate.edu).

## Music Business Program Previewed

Fred Carl, founder and president of Viking Range Corporation, had a vision for a state-of-the-art recording studio and music business program at Delta State. He believed the Delta Music Institute (DMI)

would offer a unique opportunity to prepare students to work in various areas of the music and media industries. The results of that vision can be seen in the two state-of-the-art recording studios that are currently transforming Whitfield Gymnasium. Already in place is a 15 station DigiDesign ProTools lab where students enrolled in the Delta Music Institute are learning the art and science of recording and digital audio technology. Carl not only provided the concept for the program, he also provided significant financial support.

At a special Preview Party, hosted by Tricia Walker, director of the DMI, Carl was presented with a vintage Peavey electric

guitar hand-painted by Collier Parker, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Also present were Hartley and Mary Peavey of Peavey Electronics in Meridian, which is one of the largest, most diversified, independently owned suppliers of musical instruments and professional sound equipment in the world. “It is exciting that we’ll be able to provide DMI students with exposure to the highest quality instructors, engineers and performers as they learn about all aspects of the music industry,” said Walker. “I invite anyone who has interest in the DMI to contact me about our program.”

For more information on the Delta Music Institute, visit [dmi.deltastate.edu](http://dmi.deltastate.edu) or call (662) 846-4579.

Image of Fred Carl, hand-painted by Collier Parker, on a vintage Peavey electric guitar.





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**STATESMEN'S CLUB** ..... \$5,000 to \$9,999  
Named in honor of the official mascot of Delta State. The "Statesman" was officially adopted in 1975.

**FOUNDER'S CLUB** ..... \$2,500 to \$4,999  
Named for the men and women who founded Delta State Teachers College. The first planning meeting was held September 1922 when Mr. J.C. Roberts credited the idea of a Teacher's College in Cleveland to M. A.K. Eckles, then Bolivar County Superintendent of Education.

**DEAN'S CIRCLE** ..... \$1,000 to \$2,499  
Named in honor of all former Deans of the University, beginning with Dean William H. Zeigel, the first academic dean of Delta State Teachers College.

**UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATE** ..... \$500 to \$999  
Named in honor of all former faculty and staff who have served the University for the past 81 years and who have seen the oak trees on the Quadrangle grow from small saplings to mighty giants.

**PARTNER** ..... \$250 to \$499  
Named in honor of alumni and friends who "partner" with Delta State's Alumni-Foundation Office to raise private funds for the support of the University's students, faculty and staff.

**DIRECTOR'S CLUB** ..... \$100 to \$249  
Named in honor of the directors of Delta State University's Alumni-Foundation since its founding in 1930: Gladys Castle, H. L. Nowell, Kent Wyatt, Dave "Boo" Ferriss, Hugh Ellis Walker, Don Skelton, and Keith Fulcher.

**HERITAGE CLUB** ..... \$25 to \$99  
Named in recognition for the University's academic, political, economic, and social contributions to the Delta, the state of Mississippi, and the Nation.

*\*Young Alumni Club reserved for those who make gifts at any level and who graduated 15 years ago or less.*

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# All Things Austen

Scholar influences research and discussion on Victorian novelist

“I’ve been reading Jane Austen’s novels since I was about 14,” reports Dr. Susan Allen Ford, “and I’ve always loved them.”

Her fondness for the writings of this young British woman who lived in the late 18th and early 19th centuries has evolved into a principal focus of Ford’s teaching and research.

“The first Jane Austen novel I ever read was *Pride and Prejudice*, and that’s my sentimental favorite still, but I also love *Emma*, *Mansfield Park*, *Persuasion*, *Sense and Sensibility*, and

*Northanger Abbey*. That’s the set because unfortunately she was pretty young when she died.”  
Ford

now serves as editor of *Persuasions: The Jane Austen Journal* and *Persuasions On-line*, the two different formats of the internationally recognized journal of the Jane Austen Society of North America (JASNA).

Creating an online journal to promote study of an author who lived before computers, typewriters, or even ballpoint pens doesn’t seem an unusual strategy to Ford.

According to Ford, the 3,000 scholars in the group are diverse in background (they might be “lawyers, accountants, librarians, teachers, lobstermen or doctors”), but are united in their passion for the work of Jane Austen.

Some of Ford’s English courses at Delta State relate to her interest in Jane

Austen, for example, the English Novel and Introduction to British Literature.

However, her

list of courses also includes such widely varied offerings as Introduction to Poetry and Drama, the French Revolution and even Detective Fiction.

Ford has moved steadily up Delta State’s academic ranks since she arrived in 1983 with a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, becoming a full professor of English in 1994. She also coordinates the University’s Writing Center.

## Influencing the Discussion

Through all the years of teaching full loads of courses, Ford has continued to learn and grow in her appreciation

of Jane Austen’s work. As editor of *Persuasions*, a post she has held since April 2006, Ford has the chance to influence the study of Austen by defining and creating special areas of focus for the journal. Last year a colleague suggested that contributors to *Persuasions On-line* consider the recent movie, *Pride and Prejudice*. The 2005 film starring Keira Knightley brought this well-known Austen novel to the big screen.

Ford termed the idea “grand” and put out a call for papers.

"We ended up with 19 essays from writers in six countries, so that is a way in which a journal editor can really have an impact on the discussion," she contends.

That discussion, as she calls it, can extend in several directions and move quickly across national borders. A future issue of the journal will offer opportunities to reflect on Austen's global appeal. Already there are proposals from essayists eager to share thoughts on the popularity of the novels in Spain, Japan and Turkey.

Ford sees herself as an interested questioner. To an inquiry about her editorial style she responds, "The questions I ask of writers—and they are questions that come from an interested reader—give them a sense of where their arguments might go, what other connections they might make."

For the sake of making connections, Ford has attended the annual meeting of JASNA for each of the past 10 years. It moves from location to location across the United States and Canada. Travel can be important to her research.

She has also visited libraries and special collections. Among her adventures have been extended stays at the Boston Public Library, the Folger Shakespeare Library, the University of Pennsylvania Library and the British Library in London.

As one would expect from a committed scholar, Ford enthuses, "Travel to these libraries has been absolutely wonderful."

For contextual understandings, Ford has visited the Chawton House Library. It is located in the village where Jane Austen wrote her novels. This special collection is focused on women in the 18th and 19th centuries.

"It offers a chance to explore a part of Austen's world," she explains, "to think about her writer's imagination and what she

might have assumed her readers knew."

During 2006, Ford was granted a sabbatical leave from Delta State, and she used part of the time to travel to the British Library and the Chawton House Library. She reports that she is still processing and writing about the materials she discovered and read during those few weeks.

On a subsequent trip to England, she spent time again in the British Library working on questions regarding references Austen makes in her

novels to other written materials of the period. Many of these works are long out of print and difficult to locate.

As part of that research, Ford



Dr. Susan Allen Ford now edits the prestigious journal of the Jane Austen Society.



## Jane Austen: A Brief Biography

Jane Austen, one of England's foremost novelists, was never publicly acknowledged as a writer during her lifetime.

She was born on December 16, 1775, in Hampshire, the seventh child of a country clergyman and his wife, George and Cassandra Austen. She was primarily educated at home.

As a child Austen began writing comic stories, now referred to as the Juvenilia. In her early twenties she wrote the novels that later became *Sense and Sensibility* (first called *Elinor and Marianne*) and *Pride and Prejudice* (originally *First Impressions*). Her father sent a letter offering the manuscript of *First Impressions* to a publisher soon after it was finished in 1797, but his offer was rejected by return post.

Austen continued writing, completing a novel called *Susan* (later to become *Northanger Abbey*). In 1803 Austen sold *Susan* for £10 to a publisher, who promised early publication, but the manuscript languished in his archives until it was repurchased a year before Austen's death for the price the publisher had paid her.

Austen's most productive literary period was between 1809 and 1815. In 1811, at the age of 35, she published *Sense and Sensibility*, which identified the author as "a Lady." *Pride and Prejudice* followed in 1813, *Mansfield Park* in 1814, and *Emma* in 1815.

When she finished the novel *Persuasion* in 1816, her health was beginning to fail. The probable cause of her illness was Addison's Disease. Austen died in the early hours of July 18, 1817, and a few days later was buried in Winchester Cathedral. She was 41 years old.

Interestingly, Austen's gravestone, which is visited by hundreds of admirers each year, does not even mention that she was an author. Austen's books have never been out of print and are often included on lists of readers' favorites.

*Courtesy of [www.jasna.org](http://www.jasna.org)*



The online journal  
received 19 essays from  
writers in six countries  
on the 2005 film "Pride  
and Prejudice," starring  
Keira Knightley.



unexpectedly came across riddle books from the period. This serendipitous discovery illuminated a scene in the Austen novel, *Emma*, where the principal character and her friend are putting together a collection of riddles. This specialist thus gained surprising and revealing insight to a detail that most readers slide past.

"In fact, that element of surprise in the research process," she says, "is why it is so helpful to be actually in a library."

### Teaching Austen

No one who spends any time with Dr. Susan Allen Ford would miss either her love of learning or her deep interest in teaching. She likes to talk about her students. How do they respond to Jane Austen's novels?

"With excitement," she responds. "There is always an interesting mix (in a class) of students who have read the novels for years and can't wait to talk about them and students who may have seen a movie but haven't read anything yet.

"When I teach Jane Austen, it's often the case that the class has already started to talk about the reading before I can even get in the door. That's a great position for a teacher to be in!"

Ford takes delight in the success of her students, some of whom have done quite well in JASNA's annual essay contest. In 2001, Stephanie Eddleman won first place in the undergraduate division. The following year, she won first place in the graduate division. In 2003, Ashley Combest won first place in the graduate division.

These students received their awards at JASNA annual meetings in Seattle, Toronto, and Winchester and Chawton, England. Each is now working on a Ph.D.

"She is a teacher much appreciated by her students and highly regarded by her peers," says President John Hilpert. "Her persistent attention to learning—her own and that of her students—is exemplary."

## THE NOVELS

*Pride and Prejudice*

*Emma*

*Mansfield Park*

*Persuasion*

*Sense and Sensibility*

*Northanger Abbey*

### PLOT

"The plots are defined in terms of courtship and marriage, and that kind of story is, of course, satisfying. But there's much more there than the conventional plot!"

### CHARACTER

"The novels are very funny. She's great at creating comic characters as well as characters who reveal their own selfish obsessions in spite of themselves."

### DEVELOPMENT

"Austen is really great at asking basic questions and allowing the plot and the characters to work them out. The novels are usually about the kind of education and growth the hero and heroine need in order to be able to make the right choices."



Perhaps the students' interest is also related closely to their professor's enthusiasm for the subject and for teaching. Dean Collier Parker, head of the College of Arts and Sciences, says, "Professor Ford knows that education can be an engaging search for understanding, and her students learn to feel and share her deep involvement with the subject."

### Austen Online

Ford reports that she has some indication when professors at other universities ask students to read materials related to the works of Jane Austen.

"Often teachers assign essays from Persuasions On-line (POL) to their students, and we can tell because there will suddenly be dozens of hits (on the website) in a given week."

Creating an online journal to promote study of an author who lived before computers, typewriters or even ballpoint pens doesn't seem an unusual strategy to Ford.

"POL is a very important part of JASNA's outreach," she states. "It has many, many readers. It is free, and it is a great research tool."

When asked what Jane Austen might have thought of today's technology, the Austen scholar says with a smile, "I think she would have loved it. She lived most of the time in a small village. She and her family subscribed to a circulating library. Something that connected her to the ideas of the world would have been a real blessing."

However, in the true spirit of a traditional academician, Ford hastens to add, "She would not want virtual reality to supersede the real pleasures of holding books and letters in her hand."

# An Artful Life

Designer creates interiors, beautiful parties and elegant homes



Name: Jeff Arnold, '90

Major: Interior Design, Retail Marketing

Business: Owner of Designer Source, Inc.

Specialty: Interior design, party planning, home staging

// I'm there to educate them, to make  
the dreams of what they want  
their home to look like come true. //

**Q: What got you interested in doing design?**

I was always very interested in the arts. It was a natural segue for me. It required very little math, and many more art classes. I wanted to design stores, and I did do that for a while.

**Q: Are you still in the process of establishing your own firm?**

I own my own firm now. It's called Design Source, Inc., and we are actually opening three new stores—one on the Mississippi Gulf Coast—in Gulfport—one in Ridgeland and one in the Memphis market. The names of those stores will be Abode. It's going to be a higher end design firm.

**Q: What has been the highlight of your interior design career to date?**

That's such a tough question. You hate to narrow it down to just one job, because you really do take something away from each area, each space you design. But, if I did choose just one highlight, it would have to be being asked to serve as the lead interior design consultant for ABC's "Extreme Home Make Over." They recently built a new house in Brandon, and to be a part of that process is something I won't soon forget. It was very emotional and special.

**Q: Is it just interior design or do you do party planning as well?**

I do that as well. Mostly, [the party planning is] charity work and larger events for the American Cancer Society or Cancer League here in Jackson, Mississippi Symphony, Alzheimer's Association, Multiple Sclerosis—it's something I can do to give back to those people. We also do staging for homes.

**Q: What's the biggest disaster you've encountered in planning events?**

You always have times where flowers don't come in on time, but one year when we were doing the Symphony Ball, the theme didn't lend itself to design—it was Baroque. There had to be heavy flowers—a nice, big, pretty

event. Well, I had the custom tablecloths made for 50-something tables. The lady who made them—they were stolen out of her car the day of the event. We had no tablecloths and 500 people were coming—no tables were dressed or set, flowers hadn't been put on the tables and I have ladies who want to leave and get manicures and pedicures and go get dressed. They were volunteers so I couldn't make them stay.

**Q: What was your most glamorous job?**

We have an extremely high-end condo that we did down in Orange Beach. It's beautiful—we have gulf views that surround the entire condo. You do, every once in a while, get a really nice job. I like to focus on the contemporary transitionals. They just let us go and do anything we wanted to do—and loved everything we did. It was just a beautiful, nice, cool, modern touch on a condo.

**Q: What's involved in home-staging?**

We'll go in and work with agents or people trying to sell their own home, and we'll go in and make it more sellable. Say you've got some dated furniture, we'll bring

in newer furniture, we'll make it look newer. We'll de-clutter and paint and move new furniture in.

**Q: How much are you doing in interior designing, party planning and home-staging?**

Interior design in my prime area. Events are very seasonal and that's more in adjunct of Design Source. It's 10 percent staging and 90 percent design, and then the party planning on top of that.

**Q: Which part of what you do is your favorite?**

Probably the actual design work, the initial meeting with the clients and establishing what their needs are. If they have a defined style, we can pull from that, but if they don't, it's how can we define them. It's kind of like putting a puzzle together for them. I'm there to educate them to make the dreams of what they want their home to look like come true.





# Expanding



PHOTO BY CRAIG BROMLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

# ing Horizons

By Steve Fox

## UPS exec sees the world from a new perspective

**F**irst-time visitors to the UPS Atlanta office of David Abney '76, Chief Operating Officer of UPS, often do a double take when they look at the world map prominently displayed on one wall.

The eyes of Americans almost automatically gravitate to the center of the map looking for the U.S. —but there is no U.S. in the center of this map. Everything seems upside down.

Of course, the way a flat map depicts a three-dimensional globe all depends on the map-maker's viewpoint. And Abney likes to encourage people to see the world with a new perspective.

food, including steak in Brazil, his personal favorite, and raw reindeer in Sweden, an exotic taste-bud adventure he's not eager to repeat.

He has seen the affluence of Dubai, the poverty of Mumbai, and the economic paradoxes that exist in the world outside the U.S.

"My most vivid travel memory," Abney recalls, "is watching a Chinese farmer plow his field using oxen, just minutes away from the bullet train and the high rises of Shanghai."

Abney's travels have allowed him to see a global marketplace in transition, and a positive global economic force that has elevated millions from poverty in several developing nations.

**"To a kid from Mississippi, New Jersey was my first foreign assignment."**

**—David Abney**

"To most of the world," he says, "the U.S. is not the center of the universe. And in today's connected, global economy, American businesspeople face challenges and opportunities that require new ways of thinking."

By his own admission, such a view was not imaginable growing up in the Delta in the 1960s and '70s.

"I moved to Greenwood from Oxford when I was 10," Abney recalls. "That's when I remember seeing a three-story building for the first time. When I first saw Memphis a few years later, I thought it must be one of the world's largest cities. The Delta was the only world I knew."

Now he has truly seen the world's largest cities and has met world business leaders and statesmen including Nelson Mandela, Vaclav Havel and Vicente Fox.

He's experienced endless summer days in Helsinki, Finland, where during the summer solstice the sun never fully sets, and he's seen nightfall at 2 p.m. on a winter day in Stockholm, Sweden. He's sampled all sorts of

But for all the shift he sees in the world, Abney remains equally mindful, humble, and appreciative of timeless values learned, opportunities gained, and great times had with family and friends growing up in the Delta.

It's a big reason he's become passionate about sharing his experiences and those of friends and colleagues with a new generation of Delta State University students. His favorite avenue for that is the annual International Business Symposium he and DSU have sponsored the past two years on campus.

Held in early spring, the Symposium has brought together leaders from the business, academic, and nongovernment organization worlds to hold discussions with DSU students on emerging international business trends, and to share insight on how business has expanded across a world stage.

"The idea for the Symposium came out of a meeting between President and Mrs. Hilpert, Keith Fulcher, my wife Sherry, and me," Abney explains.

"Sherry and I wanted to do something meaningful for the Delta. By bringing global

David Abney discusses his upcoming events schedule with Keisha Simmons of UPS Executive Communications.

leaders onto campus and sharing their experiences with students, I believe we'll be able to expand DSU students' horizons in how they see and prepare for their futures.

"I know not everyone agrees that the global economy is a good thing. But the fact is we can make futile attempts to stop it, or we can think differently, stretch ourselves, and embrace its opportunities. That's our choice."

Choices determine pathways in life, and as a teenager, one of Abney's first big choices was life after high school.

#### **Career Path Led Far From Home**

"Delta State offered me an academic scholarship, and I had the opportunity to

UPSer, David did stay in Mississippi for a while learning the business from the ground up. He became a package car driver with routes in Greenville and Pascagoula in 1976 and '77, before being promoted into management in 1978 in Natchez.

"That's when I was told part of the expectation upon entering management would be to travel and relocate," Abney says. "Then, I thought that would involve relocating in the southern part of the U.S. I had no idea I would be traveling around the world. By this time, I had never traveled north of Memphis, and had never flown in any aircraft other than a crop duster."

He took to the challenge. Abney was

Abney describes as "the business opportunity of a lifetime."

Asia's growth had been hindered by the Asian flu in the late '90s and the SARS epidemic. But along with a united Europe, Asia was thriving as the new century began to unfold. Asia—and China in particular—had been the beneficiary of a world connected by technology, as Tom Friedman described in his bestseller, *The World Is Flat*.

Many of UPS's customers—from multinationals to start-ups—were expanding operations and reaching out to new consumer markets worldwide. Supply chains now often involve many countries and extend around the globe.

**"He expects a lot from the people who work with him, but he expects even more of himself."**

**—Carolyn Walsh**

become the first member of my family to attend a four-year university. It's something I've never taken for granted," he recalls.

Not that college life was easy. Like many DSU students, Abney had to supplement college expenses beyond tuition with an income. That meant working nights for UPS in Greenwood, while commuting to Cleveland for classes during the days and study time on weekends.

"I thought I might become a history teacher," David recalls. "But the more I learned about UPS's business, the more intrigued I became by the fast-paced discipline against deadline nature of it. It required a lot of organization skills and teamwork, and that appealed to me."

When he was 21, Abney married a high school classmate, Sherry Sharp, a native of Glendora. Sherry describes the match as validation that two opposites make a great team. "He loves structure and I never know how my day is going to unfold," she says. "But we've always approached life with a good sense of humor and we've seen each new turn in the road as an adventure with new worlds to see and experience."

One of the first turns was Abney's decision to join UPS full-time upon completing his degree in marketing. He and Sherry envisioned a fulfilling life raising a family while he worked for UPS in Mississippi.

As it turned out, only the parenting part of the plan would unfold as imagined. As a young

promoted to division manager in 1984, moving to a larger operations center in Nashville. Then, in 1988, he accepted a division manager position at UPS's New Jersey hub.

"To a kid from Mississippi, New Jersey was my first foreign assignment," Abney recalls. For Sherry, New Jersey provided an opportunity to finish her degree at Trenton State College with a major in interior design. It has been a skill that's come in handy in making new homes during Abney's eight UPS career moves. They raised two children, both of whom now live in California.

Following the New Jersey assignment, the family would journey westward, first to Utah where Abney was district manager, then to Scottsdale, Arizona, where he was named president of Sonic Air, a company UPS acquired. Then he became region manager of UPS Freight Services.

In 2002, Abney was named president of UPS International and appointed to the UPS Management Committee—the group of senior managers that oversees the enterprise-wide, day-to-day operations of UPS, today a \$47 billion dollar global supply chain solutions company.

#### **International Business Booms**

The timing was fortuitous for an international position. The world was changing. China had just been admitted to the World Trade Organization, was blossoming as the world's factory, and had become what

"One of the things you see from a global logistics company vantage point is how business tends to flow like a river, following the path of least resistance," Abney describes. "That's what's happened in the global economy because of the ease of cross-border trade and new technologies. It's the new reality."

For Abney, leading international operations was a career opportunity that would offer a whole new set of leadership challenges. Hands-on control and attention to detail are not possible when operations span 200 countries and different time zones. And of course, those countries represent distinctive cultures and ways of doing business.

Communication skills would take on a higher level of importance. It was an expectation that included public speaking and representing UPS to the world's news media. As a speaker, Abney's easy-going delivery style had not always been a hit with speech coaches who had worked with UPS executives.

"I wasn't totally comfortable with it at first," Abney admits. "But I knew I could get better with practice."

Says Carolyn Walsh, UPS Southwest Region Vice President, "What you learn when you work with David are his two favorite philosophies to live by. They are: You are the only one who can stop you. And never listen to those who tell you that you are not able to accomplish something."

"He expects a lot from the people who



work with him," she adds. "He expects you to stretch yourself to get the job done, and to also get it done within a framework of high ethical standards. But he expects even more of himself."

As it turned out, Abney has become a sought-after speaker, and has delivered a number of recent talks to major forums around the world, including the World Economic Forum in Davos, The Executives Club of Chicago, and the World Affairs Council of Dallas.

Whenever and wherever he travels, he makes a point to speak with small groups of UPS employees, and he finds the UPS culture plays well just about everywhere.

"When some of our newest employees from mainland China see that someone from modest means from a rural area who began his career on the loading dock and as a driver can move up in the organization, it really encourages them."

"The great thing about David as a leader," says Walsh, "is that he sees the possibilities in individuals. He was a big proponent of diversity long before anyone was using the word. To him, it's what's inside the person that matters."

"When David hired me back in 1982 as a part-time loading supervisor, all I wanted to do was keep the job long enough to pay off a car loan and then become a school teacher. At the end of five months, I had the loan paid off and was ready to leave. At the time, the transportation industry was not a career path many women were looking at."

"But David convinced me to stay and later to stretch myself by taking an international assignment. Each time I stretched, I became better, and it's meant a great career for me. I really believe David enjoys seeing other people succeed more than anything else. And today, that means helping motivated people from wherever in the world they join UPS."

The speaking, coaching and experiences gained through travel have led Abney toward a new path of interest—sharing his insight with students. He speaks to student groups whenever he can accommodate it in his schedule. Last year, he likes to say that he spoke to all the "Harvards"—the Harvard of China (the prestigious Fudan University of Shanghai), the Harvard of the South (Emory University), and the Harvard of the Delta (Delta State University)."

"When my UPS career is done," Abney says. "I'd like to complete a master's degree and to guest teach and make presentations on international business."

He has been a frequent speaker to Dr. Jeff Rosensweig's Emory University MBA and Executive MBA courses.

"What impresses me," says Rosensweig, associate professor of finance and director of Emory's Global Perspectives Program, "is how much David wants to know about the students before he speaks to them. He wants to know their backgrounds, their interests, their career goals, and whether they've traveled outside the U.S."

"He looks them in the eye, loves to answer their questions, and of course, offers them a great perspective on international business realities."

One EMBA class discussion involved David and another guest speaker, a former U.S. Senate candidate. He was describing to the students—several from the Americas—how the playing field for work was not equal for Georgia and Central America, where teenagers worked for pennies on the dollar.

For David, it was time to inject a little "think differently" into the discussion.

"It's uneven, true," David said. "But have you thought about it this way? Do you think the parents of those kids love them any less than American parents love their kids? The Central American kids have to work to help the family eat. If they don't work, there's no food."

"Wouldn't another option to imposing an all or nothing U.S. playing field on developing economies be a step-by-step approach to a long-term solution?"

It was a spontaneous response, likely influenced by long ago embedded wisdom gained from the Delta.

Said Rosensweig, "You can tell that the closer the plane gets to Cleveland and Delta State, the more David's warming to the task of meeting with the DSU students."

"He really loves the interaction, and he knows from personal experience that many DSU students and their families make a sacrifice for them to be in college. He wants to inspire them to make the most of it."

For Abney, connecting with DSU students, "offers the opportunity to show what's possible and to show gratitude—gratitude that a kid that DSU took a chance on with a scholarship offer, could graduate, join a great company, work hard, and experience things that no one in my family could ever have the opportunity to do."

*David Abney will be recognized as Delta State University's 2007 "Alumnus of the Year" at the Homecoming Luncheon in October.*

## Students Go International

Sponsored by David Abney and his wife Sherry, and presented by the College of Business, the International Business Symposium offers Delta State a unique look at trends in the business world and the move toward international companies and markets.

The Symposium, first held in 2006, focuses on lectures given by senior officials from many of the country's companies which are at the forefront of the international market.

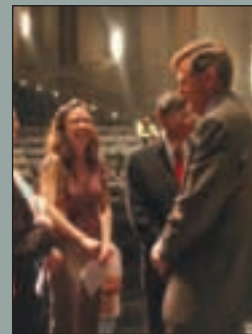
This past spring, David Abney along with Dianne Stokely, President and Chief Operating Officer of FedEx Customer Information Systems, Inc., and Diana Leonard Senior Vice President of the America's with Orange Business Services France Telecom Group, spoke at the symposium. The focus of this year's symposium was opportunities in Europe and Latin America.

In the College of Arts and Sciences, many of the departments have begun offering international classes—from Italy to England and even Turkey. Trips to Italy and England, sponsored by the art, history, and English departments have been staples of the University's emphasis on overseas opportunities.

Dr. Bill Hays, Chair of the Division of Languages and Literature, has also provided a staple overseas trip for English majors—a trip to England. The class, A Theater Tour of London, gives its participants the opportunity to visit the historical literary sites of England—including Shakespeare's Globe Theater.

Also, Delta State University is a member of the *Magellan*

*Exchange Program*, an exchange program that focuses on offering students an affordable cultural and educational experience. The *Magellan* Exchange provides programs for both academic and internship opportunities overseas for either a semester or for a full year.



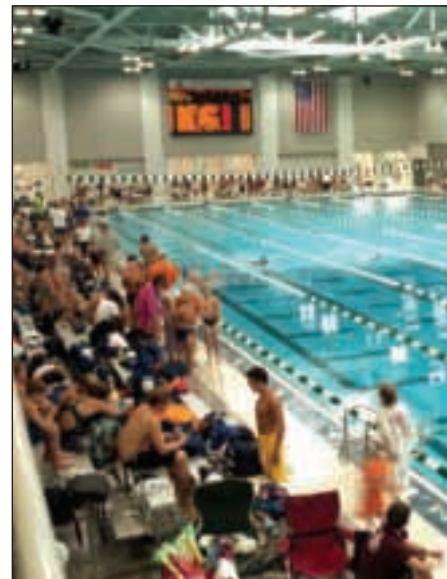
Abney visits with students during the International Business Symposium.

# Then & Now

## Oh, how we've grown!

*Former students returning to the Delta State campus will find a blend of the old and new as the University transitions to meet the changing needs of students while maintaining time-honored landmarks and traditions held sacred by alumni.*

*While the oak-lined Quadrangle remains the centerpiece of campus, the buildings surrounding it have undergone extensive renovation to reflect the evolution of campus life from the measured pace of the 1920s to the hustle and bustle of the 21st century.*



### The Mill: Still a Favorite

Nowhere is the transition more evident than that favorite student hang-out, "The Mill." Opened in the early 1950s in a war surplus building near the center of the campus, The Mill was where students of that day gathered to grab a hamburger, listen to the latest rock-n-roll hits on the nickel jukebox, and hope to run into that cute guy or gal they spotted in English class.

As the campus grew, the old Mill building was demolished in 1970s and its activities were relocated to the new Union, later named the H.L. Nowell Union in honor of the beloved and longtime student activities administrator.

The Mill of today bears little resemblance to the original, but it remains a favorite gathering spot for students. Buttons pushed by today's students visiting The Mill are not those of a jukebox but the keyboards of the high-speed wireless internet service available there.

In 1951, Delta State renovated two military surplus buildings for its first student center.



In 2004, the mill was transformed into a food court where students, faculty and staff have a wide range of food choices.



A multi-lane track surrounds Delta Field, the home of Delta State football. The Stadium Dormitory, later renamed Hugh L. White Hall, was connected to Delta Field by the arches.

Kent Wyatt Hall and adjacent parking lot now occupy what was the track and field. The arches and Hugh L. White Hall have been preserved.

### Sports Facilities: Cozy No Longer

Football players, cheerleaders and fans from the early days of the University will recognize the site of Kent Wyatt Hall as the location of the old and cozy football and track field where spectators in the grandstands were only yards away from the action.

Constructed in 2004, Wyatt Hall honors the fifth president of the University, and serves as the center for student and administrative services. Football is now played in a stadium facility located in the athletic complex on the northwestern edge of the campus.





The Delta State University Aquatics Center opened on January 10, 2001, signaling a new era in collegiate swimming at Delta State.



The just-opened swimming pool, May 27, 1936, shows the senior class party. The background shows Taylor Hall, the heating plant with tall smokestacks, Hill Demonstration School and Hardee Hall.



Lines of students wait to register for classes in Whitfield Gym.

### Aquatics: A New Landmark

One of the university's new landmarks is the Aquatics Center, which includes an Olympic-size pool used in competition meets by the University's swimming and diving teams and area swim programs. With a seating capacity of 2,500, the Center bears no resemblance to the old outdoor pool of the institution's earliest days or the Walker Natatorium of later years. Delta State has the only collegiate swimming and diving teams in Mississippi and its members continually garner athletic and academic awards.



With online registration, students can now register from a computer anywhere on Earth.

### Registration: New and Improved

One sight from the past that is not missed by current or former students is long lines in Whitfield Gym, Forrest E. Wyatt Hall or Sillers Coliseum during the registration period.

Instead of the frustrations that were a part of that tedious process, today's students merely go on-line from their homes or dorm rooms to register for classes, pay bills, buy books or complete any of the enrollment processes.



The Roberts-LaForge Library includes a sizable addition to the original building.



W. B. Roberts Library, completed in 1968, was located on the site of the old Hill Demonstration School.

### The Library: Renovated and Expanded

Libraries remain the heart of any university campus, and Delta State has kept pace with the changes in student requirements and in technology. Once located in Wright Hall on the Quadrangle, and moved in 1968 to its current site facing Court Street, the library was renovated and expanded in 1999 and computer labs were added.

Roberts-LaForge Library is named in honor of Senator W.B. Roberts, one of the University's early supporters, and Dr. William F. LaForge, longtime Dean of Arts and Sciences.

*Many other additions and renovations have occurred in recent years, and only a visit to the campus could present the full spectrum of the transition, not to mention rekindle the campus memories that remain dear to the sons and daughters of Delta State Teachers College, Delta State College and Delta State University.*

*Your Alumni Association would like to show you around the new DSU. So, get together a group from your ole college gang and come see us!*



## With the Classes

### 1930s

1933: Harriett Bachman Rutledge, of Moss Point, celebrated her 95th birthday on June 25th. She is one of the oldest living graduates of Delta State Teachers College.

### 1940s

1941: Troy Ricks, of Jackson, has been chosen for induction into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame. Ricks was an All-American basketball player at Delta State and coached from 1951-1970.

1948: Cora Peeler Lamond, of Williamsburg, VA, is a member of Global Ambassadors Surf and Turf Navigator, and Continents and Oceans. She's traveled to China six times and recently returned from her second trip to Egypt.

Edith Weatherall Littlefield, of Pontotoc, was given a surprise birthday party with DSU classmates from the 1940s attending from numerous states.

### 1950s

1950: Rev. Jimmy Breland and wife Billie, have been selected to receive the Alumni Legacy Award which will be presented at Homecoming 2007.

Joe Floyd, of Kodiak, AK, was inducted into the Alaska's High School Hall of Fame as a coach who transformed Alaska's sport's landscape. Floyd is a native of Tunica. He recently reunited with friends Hugh Ellis Walker and Marion Cole.

Hal Gerrard, of Cleveland, was featured in the "Bolivar Commercial" as Person of the Week.

1951: Woodson Earle, of Lexington, was presented a key to Delta State and honored by the Attala/Holmes Alumni Chapter for his many years service in coaching and teaching. An endowed scholarship was established in his honor by Hunter Cade, Kirk Povall and Don Barrett, three of his former football players from the Lexington High School Hornets.

1954: Jack Holmes, a 35 year veteran of Holmes Community College, was the recipient of HCC's "Alumnus of the Year Award." He holds a master's degree from Mississippi State University. He and his wife, Margaret, reside in Kosciusko.

1955: Bebe Carter Bingham was recently selected as the recipient of the "Women in History Hall of Fame" award for Grand Prairie, TX. She is serving her ninth year on the Grand Prairie ISD School Board.

1957: Bob M. Dearing, of Natchez, is a member of the Mississippi State Senate representing District 37.

1958: Dr. John Arnold, of Cleveland, has joined the JBH Education Group promoting the company's Middle School Math Standards instructional materials.

### 1960s

1961: Anice Carpenter Powell, of Sunflower, retired from her post at Mid-Delta Empowerment Zoning Alliance after a decade of service.

1962: Ned Mitchell, of Cleveland, was named "King" of Junior Auxiliary's Childrens Charity Benefit Ball.

1963: Charles Ellington, of Corinth, was inducted into the Northeast Mississippi Band Director's Association Hall of Fame.

1965: John Calcote, of Brookhaven, has been named to the Board of Directors of the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Foundation.

Dr. Darry Hardy, of Cleveland, was named Interim Chair of Accountancy, Computer Information Systems and Finance at Delta State.

1966: Curtis Buchanan, of Greenville, was presented a key to Delta State University and honored by the Washington County Alumni Chapter for his many years of service to the community as well as Delta State University.

Paula Caston, of Liberty, who teaches math and computer applications, was named STAR Teacher at Amite School Center.

1967: Carolyn Watson, of Tupelo, is a professional watercolor artist whose work was displayed at Northeast Mississippi Community College.

1968: Jerry Boatner, of Collinsville, a member of the DSU Coaches Hall of Fame, won his 11th State Baseball Championship and was named "Coach of the Year" by *USA Today*. He coaches at West Lauderdale High School.

Vicki Fioranelli, of Cleveland, was voted "Outstanding Staff Member of the Year" by the Delta State Panhellenic Council.

Ronnie Smith, of Corinth, was inducted into the Northeast Mississippi Band Director's Association Hall of Fame.

1969: Chancery Judge John A. Hatcher, of Booneville, was sworn into his newly created position at the Frank Haney Union Building on the campus of Northeast Mississippi Community College.

### 1970s

1970: Rick Anderson, of Clinton, received a Mississippi Arts Commission grant to fund a children's workshop at William Carey University.

Charles Jenkins, a Hazelhurst artist, has been awarded a grant by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Beverly Nobile, of Indianola, was named to the board of directors of TaxBreak, LLC. She was also named executive accounts director.

1971: John Applegate, of Beverly Hills, CA, has been promoted to Vice President of Finance with the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association.

Nina McCaslin Horn, of Sea Grove, FL, is a realtor with Destin Real Estate Company. She is among the top 15% of volume producing agents on the Emerald Coast.

Frank Sibley, president and CEO of Citizens Bank and Trust in Marks, was chosen grand marshal of the Marks Christmas Parade. Sibley is president of the DSU Foundation Board of Directors.

Dr. Myrtis Swindol Tabb, Senior Administrator, Special Projects at Delta State University recently completed Session II of the Economic Development Institute (QU/EDI) conducted by the University of Oklahoma. She also received a scholarship for further study from the MS Economic Development Council, Inc. Scholarship Committee (MEDC) in Jackson.

Richard Webster, of Clarksdale, was named publisher of the *Clarksdale Press Register*.

1972: Luroy F. Hart, former Band Director at Mize High School, from Morton, was named Star Teacher.

John Wayne Mosley is the new manager of Twin County Electric Power Association in Hollandale.

Bill Myers, of Ocean Springs, was commissioned to paint two giant murals which hang at the entrance of the Ocean Springs library.

Sue L. Patterson, of Alexandria, VA, retired after 34 years from the Federal Government Intelligence Community. She received the "Superior Civilian Service Award" in November 2006 for her service.

1973: Julie B. Brown, of Greenville, a Biology-Advanced Placement and Chemistry teacher at Deer Creek School received her fifth "STAR Teacher of the Year" award.

Dr. Amzi Sherling, Fairhope, AL, is a dentist. He has served as vice president and president of the Mississippi Academy of General Dentistry.

Robert "Bob" J. Wilson, of Jackson, was named director of the Mississippi Main Street Association.

Jo Wylie was promoted to senior vice president of Guaranty Bank in Hollandale.

1974: Sammy Henderson has been named the new headmaster of Indianola Academy.

Ann Hannaford Lamar, of Senatobia, was recently appointed to the Mississippi Supreme Court. Previously, she served as an assistant district attorney in DeSoto, Panola, Tallahatchie, Tate and Yalobusha counties. Lamar becomes the third woman to serve on the Mississippi Supreme Court.

Wallace "Butch" Mallette, of Greenville, was chosen as Mississippi Delta Community College's "Humanities Teacher of the Year" for 2006-2007.

1975: Bill Greenleaf, of Brandon, was selected to receive the "Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni Service Award" which will be presented at Homecoming 2007.

Joni Battistelli Tyler, of Merigold, is a Jenny Craig Weight Loss Consultant in Jackson.

1976: David Abney, of Atlanta, GA, is the new Chief Operating Officer and President of UPS International Airlines. He has been named "Outstanding Alumnus of the Year" at Delta State University. The award will be presented at Homecoming 2007.

Lucy Ferron recently retired from the State of Mississippi with 30 years of service, the last 19 at Mississippi Public Broadcasting. She immediately began a new career as Program Coordinator with Jobs for Mississippi Graduates.

Hayden Hall, of Marks, is known as the "Mississippi Mud Potter", and recently had a showing of his work at the Gatewood Studio Gallery in Forest.

Karen Kuhn, of Gulfport, received the "2006 National Association of Legal Secretaries Award of Excellence," the highest award a member can receive from NALS.

Rickey Neaves, of Booneville, was appointed to District Superintendent of Booneville School System.

Ronald Ola served as a Knights of Columbus Honor Guard for confirmation at Immaculate Heart Catholic Church in Greenwood.

Dennis Dean Silas, of Cleveland, is the Superintendent for Drew School District.

1977: Nita Burchfield was promoted to vice president at Trustmark in Jackson.

Judy Collins Gill, of Hattiesburg, was named "Manager of the Year" at Wesley Medical Center. She is the Director of Nutrition and Food Services.

Earnest Hart is the Assistant Managing Editor/Multimedia for *The Clarion-Ledger*.

Mike Kinnison, Delta State's head baseball coach, earned his 500th win during the past baseball season.

1978: Charles "Chuck" Booth, of Colleyville, TX, is manager of Flight Operations Efficiency and also a pilot with American Airlines in Dallas, TX.

## 1980s

1980: Jeff A. Russell, of Clinton, was named partner/ executive vice president of the GodwinGroup, one of the South's largest and oldest advertising agencies.

Robin P. Smith, of Climax, NC, is the Human Resources Director for Koury Corporation.

1981: Dr. Charles Brock, of Cleveland, is the 58th president of the Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians.

Harry L. Lott, Jr., of Grenada, is the Vice President, Loan Production Office, for Cleveland State Bank in Grenada.

Dr. Billy C. Moore (MBA 1994) will serve as Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Moore was appointed Dean of the College of Business in July 2003 and has taught economics since 1986.

Carol Avis Oakes, of Greenville, received the teaching profession's top credential by achieving National Board Certification.

1982: Ken Cummins, owner of Kenneth Cummins Interior Design in Memphis, is a member of the board of directors for the Tennessee Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers.

Susan Wilks, of Utica, was promoted to Chief Systems Information Officer for the Mississippi State Tax Commission.

1983: Bob Billingsley, of Laurel, was elected vice chairman of the Mississippi Poultry Association. Billingsley is director of development and engineering for Sanderson Farms.

Chris Burgess, of Ridgeland, has launched a new company, Performance Delta, LLC. The business offers an array of management tools designed for customer based businesses.

1984: Dr. Barbara Hayes, of Las Cruces, NM, retired to travel the United States and Europe.

Billy Morehead will serve as Interim Dean of the College of Business. Previously Vice President for Finance, he has recently served as Chair of Accountancy, Computer Information Systems and Finance.

1986: George Bassi, of Laurel, was featured in a Hattiesburg publication for his outstanding educational programs with the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art. Bassi has served as director of the museum for the past 14 years.

Dr. Larry Bradford is currently Associate Professor of Percussion and Assistant Band Director at Delta State University.

E. Tucker Gore, of Greenville, joined the staff of McGee and Bogen Law Firm in Leland.

Dr. Leslie Griffin (MEd 1991) is the new Dean of the College of Education. She was Assistant Professor of Elementary Education before advancing to Coordinator of Undergraduate Studies in Elementary Education in 2000.

Robbie Wise, of Greenville, is deputy tax assessor for Washington County.

1987: Kelly Heath, of Clinton, was recently named Clinton School District's "Administrator of the Year." He is a native of Rolling Fork.

Penny Howle, of Anguilla, was selected "Teacher of the Year" for the South Delta School District.

Dr. Dwight Vick, PhD, of Vermillion, SD, was named assistant professor of political science and MPA coordinator on the W. Texas A & M University campus located in Canyon. He authored or co-authored articles that were published in the *Journal of American Medical Association*, *South Dakota Law Review*, and *PA Times*. He received an award in 2006 for the best article published in *PA Times* from the American Society of Public Administration.

1988: Timothy R. Balducci, of Booneville, is now practicing in his own law firm, Patterson Balducci, PLLC, in New Albany.

Doreen Craig Muzzi, of Shaw, is a freelance writer for agriculture publications.

Tracy Wright Spencer, of Lumberton, TX, signed a contract with Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company to create a college textbook for an introductory humanities course.

Donald W. Tassin, of Petal, is Bancorp South's Petal Branch Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager.

1989: Sam Lemonis, of Brandon, is the Hinds Community College District Director of Purchasing.

Marshal Kent Savage, of Greenwood, has been promoted to Senior Vice President and Senior Information Systems Officer at State Bank and Trust Co.

Ladonna Worthing, of Grenada, was honored by Business and Professional Women in celebration of National Business Womens' Week.

### 1990s

1990: Steve Adams retired as head baseball coach at Deer Creek Academy in Arcola.

Kevin Baioni, of Collierville, TN, was promoted to Director of NAFTA Lean Manufacturing for Ciba Specialty Chemicals.

Amy Lynn Mallette, of Cleveland, received the "Thad Cochran Distinguished Arts Educator Award" for her outstanding achievement in arts education in Mississippi. She is a music teacher at B.L. Bell Elementary School.

1991: Barry Bridgers is a Crop Protection Marketing Manager with Agrilience LLC in Memphis, TN.

Carol Cummings, of Tupelo, was selected as "Teacher of Year" at Shannon High School.

Wayne Ray, of Jackson, is a revenue officer specialist with the Mississippi State Tax Commission.

Dr. Michelle Roberts (MBA 1994, EdD 1996) has been named Vice President for University Relations, adding to her previous responsibilities as executive assistant to the president. Roberts becomes the first female vice president at Delta State.

Hal Sterling is Southwest Mississippi Community College's marching band director.

1992: Grace Hickman, of Rincon, GA, is serving as the Assistant Director of Admissions at the Savannah College of Arts and Design in Savannah, GA.

Kevin Nations, of Barksdale, LA, was promoted to the rank of Major in the United States Air Force.

1993: David Parker Bradley, of Nashville, TN, is currently producer, director, writer in Nashville and owner/manager of Clockwork Pictures Production.

Dr. Ernest Brothers (MSNS 1994) is the Executive Director of the Peach State Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation at University of Georgia.

Lance C. Pogue, of Eupora, was named the football coach at South Panola High School in Batesville.

1994: Sam Temple, of Clinton, is in his second full season as Hinds Community College's head baseball coach.

1995: Land Heflin was recently featured on the Discovery Channel as part of a group exploring and rafting a river in Bhutan. Heflin was described as a world class kayaker and was part of a six man kayak team. For more information visit [www.teamtarkio.com](http://www.teamtarkio.com).

Brady Stewart and Thomas Fisher, members of the band, "Strawbridge Curtis" released their recent CD with 19 original songs. The CD is titled "Pictures on the Wall."

1996: Dr. Gregory Anthony Hudson, dean of students at Coahoma Community College, has been selected as a member of the prestigious accreditation evaluation team of the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools (SACS).

Deborah G. Moore, of Cleveland, received a scholarship for further study from the MS Economic Development Council, Inc. Scholarship Committee.

Marilyn Tullios, of Crystal Springs, was selected as "Teacher of the Year" at Florence Elementary School.

1997: Mia Fioranelli, Director of Therapy at the Village at Germantown, was featured in the Downtown Urban Neighborhood publication. Fioranelli is a board member of the Downtown Neighborhood Association in Memphis, TN.

Amanda Garvin, of Booneville, recently republished an article in the Mathematics Journal APS Teaching and Learning System.

Randall Gurlen, assistant principal at Margaret Green Junior High School in Cleveland, invented his own seasoning called Gurlen's #32 Grillin-Spice.

Sherby Hale is a 9th grade counselor and Alternative English teacher and was nominated for "Teacher of the Year" in Indianola.

Nashid Madyun, of Memphis, TN, is President/General Manager of Gibson Beale Street Showcase and Executive Director of "Discoveries of Gibson."

Rodney Martin, of Cleveland, led the Bayou Academy baseball team to a State A Championship.

Jessie Lenard Whitley was promoted to Vice President of Trustmark National Bank in Jackson.

Jerry Whittington is the Warehouse Manager for Best Buy Electronics in Flower Mound, TX.

1998: Amy Deer, of Madison, is the internal audit manager for Saks Inc. of Jackson.

Florence Kelly Lucas, of Renova, director of Coahoma Community College's Gear-Up after school program presented a capacity building workshop in Atlanta.

Dr. Christopher Shelby, of Boiling Springs, SC, is practicing family medicine at North Bay Family Medical Clinic.

1999: Missy Pearce (M.Ed. 2007), of Cleveland, has successfully completed the Master of Education in History degree at Delta State University. Pearce is the Director of Annual Giving at the DSU Foundation.

Jim Tindall, of Carrollton, has been named assistant football coach at Mississippi Delta Community College.

### 2000s

2000: Megan Sewall Ellis, of Cleveland, is a Fisheries Biologist and Game Warden with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

Donte' James, an Aberdeen native, recently expanded his business EDJ Mortgage & Wealth Strategies to Mississippi. His

business is one of the few African American mortgage companies in the entire state and the first African American mortgage company owner and broker to service the Golden Triangle area.

Dana Lewis, of Jackson, joined the sales team at Prudential Ann Prewitt Realty.

Lisa Lord was named "Outstanding Advisor of the Year" by the Panhellenic Council and named Director of Institutional Research at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, LA.

Paul "Bubba" Mancini, of Cleveland, is now the Chief Nuclear Medicine Technologist at Bolivar Medical Center.

Sophia Moody, of Cleveland, is a social worker and office manager for Sandanna Hospice in Ruleville.

Justin Nichols, of Calhoun City, is Vice President of Manufactory at Med-Life and Mobility.

Alison Nichols, of Calhoun City, is Vice President of Marketing at Med-Life and Mobility.

Will Simpson, II, of Madison, recently associated with the law firm of Knight & Mazingo, PLLC in Ridgeland.

Brian Waldrop, of Greenwood, was named the Morgan B. Coker School of Business "Outstanding Alumnus" for 2007 at Francis Marion University (S.C.). He is CFO of Viking Range and a member of the DSU Foundation Board of Directors.

2001: Jean Merideth Alridge Fancher was promoted to Assistant VP and Loan Officer at Holmes County Bank & Trust Company in Lexington.

Danielle Ginn and husband John, of Lexington, are new owners of Kittrell's Restaurant on the square in Lexington.

Dr. Dayle Valente Houston, of Durham, NC, successfully defended her dissertation and received her Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of North Carolina. She is formerly of Indianola.



Jana McKellar, of Blaine, has created a variety of handcrafted picture frames, which is on display at several shops throughout the Delta.

2002: Dr. Lakeisha Marie Conley, of Greenville, graduated from the University of South Alabama College of Medicine. She will begin an internal medicine residency with University of South Alabama hospitals.

Rob Earnheart, a native of Tunica, has accepted a position as manager with retailer Home James in Dallas, TX

Ryan England was selected to receive the "Kent Wyatt Young Alumnus Service Award," which will be presented at Homecoming 2007.

Brandy Gregg was named a Duchess for the Krewe of Caduceus in Gautier Mardi Gras parade.

Josh Manley is a minority senior staff member of the Senate Appropriations Committee in Washington D.C.

Dr. Stephen Pannel '02 and Dr. Katherine Gantz Pannel '03 were two of 217 medical students who received the doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.) degree from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences. Stephen and Katherine will complete postdoctoral residencies in Psychiatry at the University of Arkansas School for Medical Sciences in Little Rock.

Kimberly Dean Price, of Cleveland, received the "Golden Apple Award" sponsored by WABG TV.

Dan Purvis, of Pineville, LA, is the Athletic Director & Head Baseball Coach at Louisiana State University-Alexandria.

Kathy Walley, of Cleveland, was named 2007 "Teacher of the Year." Walley teaches at Presbyterian Day School.

2003: Morgan Lamar Geoghagan, of Ridgeland, received his Certified Public Accountant license by the Mississippi State Board of Public Accountancy. He is employed by Lefoldt & Co., P.A.

Laura Hartness, of Brandon, has been promoted to Corporate Services Officer at Trustmark National Bank in Jackson.

Steven C. Little, of Batesville, is currently employed with the Mississippi Crime Laboratory in Batesville as a Forensic Scientist.

2004: Mark Bellipanni, of Belzoni, was promoted to Loan Officer for Community Bank in Indianola.

Kaysie Shamell Blunt, of Greenville, was named Armstrong Elementary School's "Teacher of the Year." She is a third-year kindergarten teacher.

Dr. Lindsey Farris Byrd recently received the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. She was also named Most Outstanding Physical Therapy Student, which is a prestigious award selected by the faculty.

Kreslyn Hinton is the Director of Volunteer Services for Odyssey Health Care of Jackson.

Jamie Kemp, a native of Natchez, is a new advertising representative for *The Yazoo Herald*.

Geoffrey Latham, of Cleveland, is a Medicare Advantage Specialist with a new business selling health insurance, Medicare Advantage Plus, and Prescription Drug plans.

Ann Marie Mayers, of Cleveland, was selected as a 2007 recipient of the "Dean's Distinguished Service Award" by the Executive Board of the University of Mississippi Law School Student Body. It is the most prestigious award given internally by the Law School.

Brian Stephenson, of Birmingham, AL, has been promoted to District Manager with Cutco Company.

John Weaver, of Vicksburg, is the new assistant football coach and teacher at North Sunflower Academy in Drew.

2005: Matt Phillips, of Cleveland, is a pilot for America Eagle.

Rodney Tharp, of Indianola, joined Irrigation Fittings, Inc.

Brandi Claire Vondenstein, head women's softball coach at Bayou Academy in Cleveland, was named *The Bolivar Commercial's* "Coach of the Year."

2006: Jeffrey Harlan Johnson, of Clinton, has joined the marketing staff of JH&H Architects as a graphic designer.

Elois Nicholson was chosen "Teacher of the Month" for January 2007 for Coffeerville High School.

Frank Arlandus Rice, of Mound Bayou, was granted a full scholarship and graduate position with The University of Mississippi School of Chemistry.

Sam Washington (MCA 2006) is now Director of Procurement and Auxiliary Services, after having served as Director of Purchasing and Property Officer.

P.J. Waldrop, of Alexandria, VA, is the Legislative Aide for Agriculture, Interior, Budget, and Veterans issues in Senator Thad Cochran's office.

2007: Jason Snell, of Vicksburg, is a production supervisor with Baxter Health Care in Cleveland.

Luis Ybarra, of Cleveland, is a Sales Representative with CellularSouth.



The graphic is a newsletter header for "eSTATESMEN" from Delta State University. It features a masthead with the university name and the newsletter title. Below the masthead, there are several article teasers with small images. One article is titled "DNI doings... Celebrities spotted!" and another mentions "Dean's Distinguished Service Award". At the bottom, there is a large green call-to-action that says "want to see more?" followed by "Request Your eStatesmen Newsletter Today!". Below this, it says "Send your email address to: alumni@deltastate.edu" and "Your monthly e-newsletter will be delivered directly to your inbox on the first Friday of every month."

## In Memoriam

*All deaths are in 2007 unless otherwise indicated.*

Corey Ryan Aldridge, of Starkville, on May 17.

James W. "Skeeter" Banks, Jr., of Southaven, on March 18.

Janie Cain Barrentine '65, of Greenwood, on June 17.

Dorothy Marie Smith Bass, of Cleveland, on March 16.

Marsha Jo Boatner '70, of Collinsville, on March 4.

Emma Cooley Buchanan, of Greenwood, on May 15.

Mary Sue Cade '66, of Greenwood, on March 2.

Mary Margaret Cameron '95, of Greenville, on February 23.

Robert Eugene Childress '78, of Mountain Home, AR, on February 1.

Virginia A. Conditt '63, of Helena, AR, on May 26.

William Thomas Dallison, Jr. '61, of Booneville, on May 7.

Mary M. Davis '47, of Bay City, Michigan, on February 22.

James Edward "Jimmy" DiCesare '78, of Alvin TX, on April 24.

Suzan Armstrong Dye '86, of Cleveland, on December 22, 2006.

Joan Walt Ewer '65, of Clarksdale, on June 6.

Dr. James H. French '40, of Hot Springs, AR, died January 9 in Saint Joseph's Hospital. He was a graduate of Delta State Teachers College with a degree in Music and LSU School of Medicine. After completing a surgery residency he joined the Burton-Eisle Clinic in 1957. A World War II Veteran, he served in the South Pacific for four years. He received the Bronze Star while in combat on Guadalcanal.

Peggy Brooks Gaines '55, of Coldwater, on May 16.

Lena Maxine Goode, of Carrollton, on February 23.

William Prince Hamilton, Jr., of Vardaman, on February 5.

Wilbur W. Harpole '50, of Bentonla, on February 16. Harpole began a second career at Holmes Community College after retiring from Mississippi Chemical Corp. with 37 years of service. He played football at Delta State under the legendary coach Gene Chadwick.

Lucy Kei Ying Hung '85, of Greenville, on February 15.

Robert Hytken, of Cincinnati, May 8.

Edward Gardner Jackson '70, former state representative, of Brandon, on January 14. Jackson served from 1976-92 and was chairman of the House Penitentiary Committee.

Robert Jennings, of Greenville, on April 14.

Rudy Dot Marquis Kimbrell, of Lake Village, AR, on May 23.

Doris Jean Sisson Latta '40, of St. Louis, MO, in March.

Tom Lewis '53, of Byhalia, on May 20.

Karen Raye Lowery '70, of Biloxi, on April 25.

Fay McDearman Keogh, of Norwalk, CT, on May 20.

Robert W. McDonnell, of Charlottesville, VA, on April 5.

Charles R. Meyer '78, of West Lafayette, IN, on February 4.

Betty Ruth Wolfe Ousley '77, of Highland Village, TX, on February 19.

Rev. Thomas W. Patterson, of Shaw, on March 24.

Nancy P. Pitchford '61, of Vicksburg, on May 1.

Dr. Barbara Jean Arnold Powell '69, of Plantersville, on June 21. She was the director of inservice education at the Bolivar County Hospital from 1970-75, instructor and director of the A.D. Nursing program at Mississippi Delta Junior College for 15 years and dean of the School of Nursing for seven years at Delta State University. She was a member of the American Nurses Association, Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society and a member of the Hall of Fame of the Mississippi Nursing Association.

Sandra Kam Ngit Quon '70, of Jackson, on May 28.

M.C. Robb, of Jackson, TN, on June 5.

Seroba Miller Rowe '45, of Eupora, on July 2, 2006.

Frances Switzer Shuey '40, of Alamogordo, NM, on February 19.

Robert "Bobby" Shurden, of Hattiesburg, on June 4.

Robert Lee Simonton, of Natchez, on June 11.

A.R. Smithers '50, of Grenada, on December 14, 2006. He was the Headmaster of Kirk Academy.

Sheridan Stewart, of Jackson, on February 19.

Debra Ann "Debbie" Simmons '91, of Cleveland, on February 26.

Jarvis Love Standifer '49, of Greenwood, on March 21.

Betty Jane Tibbs, of Hushpuckena, on April 27.

Anne C. Topolinski '63, of Cantonment, FL, on January 25.

Bill J. Upchurch '62, of Richmond, IN, on May 17.

Stephen Gus Utz '91, of Kosciusko, on March 9.

Richland Ken Waller, of Richland, WA, on June 6.

Llewellyn Breed White, of Inverness, FL, on June 16.

Arthur C Whittemore II, of Cleveland, former professor, on February 6.

Grace Kirk Wofford, of Jackson, on March 18.

## Marvin Douglas Sullivan 1937-2007

Marvin Douglas Sullivan '59, of Jackson, on July 11. Leadership positions came naturally to Sullivan, who was the president of his class at Delta State during his sophomore, junior, and senior years. He began a career in education and coaching at Grenada High School, and was given his first official head coaching job at Noxapater. He coached at Eupora High School, and it was in 1970 that he and his wife Karen came to Brookhaven with their four children, Paige, Penny, Susan, and John. Sullivan also served in the Mississippi Army National Guard for more than 34 years and retired with the rank of Colonel. Sullivan was mayor of Brookhaven from 1993-1997. Sullivan most recently as serving as the state office director for U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran, a post he had held since March of 2001.





# Wedding Bells

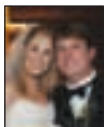
*All dates are in 2007 unless otherwise indicated.*

Rachael Ka Schneider to Alan Lloyd Aguzzi '00, of Grand Prairie, TX, on January 13.



Aguzzi

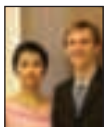
Anna Rose Alford '04 to James Michael Sims, on June 2, at Senatobia Church of Christ.



Ayers

Madelyn Elizabeth Ayers '05 to Christian Thornton Marley, Jr., on February 10.

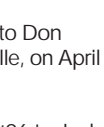
Nicole Eileen Bradley '07 to Joseph Powell Fioranelli, of Cleveland, on June 16.



Brown

Yeu-Ching Lee to Winn Davis Brown III '03, of Horn Lake, on April 15.

Sue Ann Berry '07 to George Ira Brumfield '02, of Cleveland, on June 9.



Brown

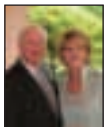
Madelyn Ruth Lewis '04 to Don Michael Cook, of Greenville, on April 14.

Heather Hale Rawlinson '06 to Josh Finley Edwards '02, of Greenville, at St. James Episcopal Church.

Rachael Pleasant Ferretti '00 to Edward Meacham Parmelee, of Dale City, VA, on April 28.

Leah Marie Carlson '06 to Dallas Blake Ferretti '06, of Fort Myers, FL, on March 31.

Margaret D. Ferriss '75 to John J. White, of Jackson, on April 14.



Ferriss

Cynthia Michelle Gant '95, '97, '98 to Michael Ellis Mounce, of Cleveland, on May 19.

Angela Gillespie '91 to Michael Smith, of Isola, on May 29.



Gladden

Whitney Warner to David Lee Gladden, Jr. '99, of Cleveland, on April 21.

Christa Cheryl Grantham '01 to Karl Trenton Cox, of Memphis, TN, on June 13.

Carol Lynn Hansel '96 to Michael Keeton, of Pearl, on February 17.



Hansel

Stephanie Steel to Jonathan Avery Jenkins '05, of Cleveland, on November 25, 2006.

Jennifer Diane Jones '07 to Brent Elliot Baughman, of Drew, on April 14.

Katie Merritt Wright '07 to Bryan Ganze Kelley '06, of Waco, TX, on June 30.

Jennifer Lane Crocker '06 to William Lane Kimbrell, on June 16.

Albertina Brantley Eiland to Christopher A. Koonce '00, of Monroe, LA, on January 6.

Nikki Kyle '97 to Billy Herbison, on February 10, in Gatlinburg, TN.



Kyle

Stephanie Anne Lawler '04 to Christopher Devan Baker, of Greenville, on June 2.

Kelli Nicole Litton '05 to Randall Spencer Whitten, of Valley Park, on May 12.

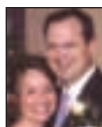
Amanda Maranto '05 to David Allen Brown '98, of Greenville, on May 19.



Maranto

Shannon Rae Mitchell '94 to David Rister, of Cincinnati, OH, on September 16, 2006.

Samantha Marie Rayburn to William Easlin Moore '03, of Starkville, on June 16.



Mitchell

Jamie Kemp '04 to Jason D. Patterson '01, of Yazoo City, on June 16.

Kristy Leigh Sheedy '03 to Douglas Trey McClain, of Vicksburg, on May 12.

Emily Howell to Stephen Reed Stringer '01, of Canton, on July 1, 2006.

Courtney Elizabeth Stennett to James Ed Tharp, Jr. '01, of Southaven, on May 5.

Angela Marie Cooper '97 to Staten Herring Trippe '93, of Brandon, on January 27.

Amanda Jane Carollo to David Bush Vowell '04, of Lake Village, AR, on October 28, 2006.

Jessica Renee Kyle '06 to Brett Ellis Walker '05, of Greenville, on May 19.



Walker

Lacy L. Walker '04 to Dusty Rhoads, of Flowood, on June 9.

Pamela Suzanne Walker '01 to Charles Harris Robinette III, on May 26.



Walker

Joshalyn Lane Ware '07 to John Ryan Kerr, of Ruleville, on June 23.

Donna Lachelle Smith to Scott Lee Watson '03, of Grace, on February 16.

Cammie Leigh Stillwell to Graham Oliver Weaver '02, of Flowood, on May 5.

Daphne Rashena Williams '01 to Derrick Ray Young, of Cleveland, on April 7.

Dr. Beverly Kaye Wilson '81 to Glen Anderson, of Clinton, on November 18, 2006.

Leila Clark Weissinger '06 to Hollis Merwin, of Rolling Fork, on February 10.

## MILES AWAY

**323 Miles Away:** Alumni attending the Nashville Area Alumni Chapter Meeting in February 2007.



**930 Miles Away:** Jim Harvey '70 at his home in West Palm Beach, FL.



**718 Miles Away:** Former Alumni Association President, Bill Greenleaf of Jackson traveled to St. Augustine, FL to join friends for a DSU gathering to enjoy dinner and reminisce about Delta State.



**1,208 Miles Away:** Monica Fioranelli Wright '93, of Memphis and Jennifer Bain Randolph '94, of New York are in Central Park in New York City at the annual Mississippi Picnic.



### Where has the road taken you?

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





# Baby Statesmen



Arledge

Avery Margaret to M/M Christopher Arledge (Sherri Sullivan '97), of Jackson, on 1/16/2007.

James Bowden to M/M Haley Biddy (Laura Rounsaville '04), of Grenada, on 5/9/2007.

Anna Joy to M/M Bill Blain, Jr., (Gae Wade, 94), of Mount Olive, MS, on 9/21/2006.

Griffin Montague to M/M Michael Montague Brown (Janice Giles '87), of Memphis, TN, on 10/31/2006.

Eliana Akeelah to M/M Jeremiah Burks '95 (Sharon), of Olive Branch, on 12/22/2006.

Reid Faulkner to M/M Steve Burress '93 (Kellie Mitchell '93), of Water Valley, on 4/11/2007.

Kailyn Grace to M/M Victor Gerard Byas II (Denise Brandon), of Cleveland, on 3/23/2007.

Brylee Alysabeth to M/M Brandon Cosby (Branda Striplin '03), of Batesville, on 5/7/2007.

John Pittman to M/M Dave Crews (Maribeth Hill '04), of Cleveland, on 10/28/2006.

Colby Allen to M/M Jeff Dreher (Hannah Estes '99), of Cleveland, on 1/6/2007.

Laney Kate to M/M Clay Patrick Earls (Kelly Tarver '98), of Wesson, on 1/23/2007.

Ryan Griffin to M/M Ryan England '02 (Betsy Griffin '00), of Southaven, on 5/7/2007.

Katy Jace to M/M Matthew Ensor (Jennifer Neal), of Nashville, TN, on 3/13/2007.

Dana Elizabeth to M/Dr. Paul Felder (Beth McArthur '88), of Hattiesburg, on 7/25/2006.

Anna Saige to M/M William Blaine Finnie '00 (Memorie Shea McCreary '02), of Shaw, on August 19, 2006.

Mary Agnes to M/M Stephen Forrester (Rebecca Ellis '00), of Somerville, TN, on November 29, 2006.

Emily Ann to M/M Thomas Edward Francis '02 (Angela Weaver '00), of Canton, on 1/4/2007.

Katherine Louise to M/M Nick Geiser (Kelly Ryan '00), of Ocean Springs, on 5/30/2007.

Larkyn Bryce to M/M Jonathan Bryce Griffin (Jan Burnett '00) of Olive Branch on 1/18/2007.

Parker Ryals to M/M Jeff Grimsley '96 (Shannon Smillie '96), of Monroe, GA, on 5/10/2007.



Cosby

William Clark to M/M William "Bill" Hamilton, Jr. '90 (Theresa Cummins '93), of Southaven, on 2/25/2007.

Ella Ruth to M/M Brian Harris '97 (Meg Nowell), of Collierville, TN, on 3/28/2007.

Lucy Mathis to M/M Jeremy Hawk (Claire Jenkins '00), of Madison, on 7/25/2006.

Ashlin Paige to M/M Glenn Hill '88 (Caroline Barefoot '03) of Cleveland, on 1/22/2007.

John Griffin to M/M Bryan Kent Lane '01 (Jennifer Havens Scott '03), of Senatobia, on 1/18/2007.

Sela Katherine to M/M Paul "Bubba" Mancini '00 (Lesley Lane Richards '00), of Cleveland, on 2/18/2007.

Sela Sloan to M/M Matt McCalop (Gretchen Gardner '97), of Madison, on 11/7/2006.

Jane Ramsey to Dr./M Andrew Scott Middleton '94, (Whitney Mary), of Hattiesburg, on 3/24/2007.

Bradley Hunter to M/M Hunter Moore (Hollie), of Cleveland, on 4/23/2007.

Xavier Donja Moore to M/M Xavier Donja Moore '01 (Nico Niketa Gilson '01), of University Heights, OH, on 7/31/2006.

Sara Gracen to M/M Brandon Morgan (Callie Mills), of Cleveland, on 11/7/2006.

Mary Lenore to M/M Robert Randolph Neeley (Julia Cates '86), of Montgomery, AL, on 11/30/2006.

Oskar Erik to M/M Erik Neumann (Jennifer Elizabeth Deason, alumnus), of New Orleans, LA, on 2/7/2007.

Pepper May to M/M Russell Gene Newman, II (Anna Edmonds '01), of Pearl, on 12/18/2006.

Abaigail Faith to M/M Justin Nichols (Alison Blount "00), of Calhoun City, on 11/2/2006.

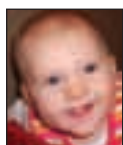
Mariane Lee to M/M Chris Powell (Michelle Johansen '01), of Cleveland, on 12/29/2006.

Lindsey Akers to M/M Dan Purvis '02 (Leigh Ann Akers '00), of Pineville, LA, on 2/15/2007.

Austin to M/M Trey Reynolds (Emily Trotter '02), of Cordova, TN, on 9/22/2006.

Kathryn Allen "Ally" to M/M Brannon Risner (Kacy Allen '04), of Fairhope, AL, on 9/12/2006.

Penelope Jane to M/M Brandon Sims, (Crystal Bentley '04), of Dequeen, AR, on 7/29/2006.



Finnie



Forrester



Francis



Griffin



Grimsley



Hamilton



Harris



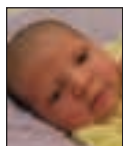
Hawk



Hill



Lane



Mancini

Sarah Bonner to M/M Joseph David Sink, Jr., (Belinda Bonner '94), of Collierville, TN, on 5/12/2006.

Aubrey Chea to M/M Mark Stanton '05 (Roxanne Peden '03), of Ruleville, on 2/1/2007.

Castlin Winters to M/M Shannon Myers '99 (Jennifer Winters) of Lake Village, AR, on 12/10/2006.

Nathan Thomas to M/M Phillip Parker Robinson '92 (Angie Tidmore '92), of Arlington, TN, on 12/20/2006.

Anna Lauren to M/M Jon Micheal Simmons (Katie Lott '03) on 4/24/2007.



Moore



Moore



Neumann



Newman



Nichols



Purvis



Reynolds



Risner

Ann Elizabeth to M/M Matthew Vanderloo (Ann Elizabeth Cockrell '90), of Jackson, on 5/10/2007.

Abigail Riley to M/M Chris Warner (Marie Woods '03), of Tunica, on 2/26/2007.

Jon-Albert Tyler to M/M Terry Wooley (Tara Waller '99), of Southaven, on 11/27/2006.

Sean Lawrence to M/M Frederick William Wright II (Lisa McGuffee '96), of Wilmington, NC, on 8/19/2006.

Margaret "Maggie" Ann to M/M Tommy Youngblood, (Amy Nunley '92), of Birmingham, AL, on 7/12/2006.



Sims



Sink



Stanton



Robinson



Simmons



Vanderloo



Warner



Wright



Youngblood

## Complete the form below to become an active member of the DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION!

Class of or years attended \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H): \_\_\_\_\_ (W): \_\_\_\_\_ (C): \_\_\_\_\_

Fall 2007

Please check the type of membership that best suits your needs:

☐ 1 year (\$20 single, \$30 joint) ☐ Life (\$400 single, \$600 joint)

I would also like to join the following alumni groups:

☐ Accounting (\$10) ☐ Aviation (\$5) ☐ Music (\$5)

☐ Art (\$5) ☐ Black (\$5) ☐ Nursing (\$5)

☐ Athletic (\$10) ☐ Family & Consumer Science (H. Ec.) (\$5)

Total amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check ☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: (exactly as it appears on card) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



## SHOW YOUR PRIDE IN DSU

Purchase a logo car tag!

# Alumni Update

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): (H): \_\_\_\_\_ (W): \_\_\_\_\_ (C): \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Year or Year attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Here's my update: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Fall 2007

## Alumni Happenings



Woodson Earle (left), a 1951 alumnus, was honored at the Attala/Holmes/Montgomery Counties Alumni Chapter with the first ever "Key to the University" in recognition of his contributions as a teacher and coach. Presenting the key were Nell Branch, president of the Chapter, and Keith Fulcher, Executive Director of the DSU Alumni-Foundation. He was honored by the establishment of an endowed scholarship in his name initiated by three of his former football players from the Lexington Hornets- Hunter Cade, Kirkham Povall, and Don Barrett. Gifts to the scholarship may be sent to Box 3141, Cleveland, MS 38733.



The planning committee for the Delta State University's Veteran Memorial Atrium Project recently discussed plans to enhance the area located at Jobe Hall. The group plans to adorn the area with plants, benches, plaques and flags that will be a gathering place for numerous events. It will also serve to honor all veterans who graduated or attended Delta State. (Pictured from left) Margery Yeager, Mary Ann Odom, Walterine Ray, Hugh Ellis Walker, Nancy Gerrard, Rev. Jimmy Breland, Dr. James Robinson, Sarah Tapley, Jane Dunlap, Vicki Fioranelli, Penny Samuels, Eloise Walker & Emily Weaver.



Curtis Buchanan (second from right) was presented the "Key to the University" by Washington County Chamber of Commerce Director and DSU alumna Betty Lynn Cameron for Buchanan's service to the University. It is only the second time the award has ever been given. At left is incoming president of the Washington County Delta State Alumni Association, Ross Reily. At right is the outgoing president, Ashley Zepponi.



# experience

## THE THEATRE

Bologna Performing Arts Center

2007-08

### Season Line-Up

Golden Dragon Acrobats  
Thursday, September 20 @ 7:30pm

Ring of Fire  
Tuesday, October 30 @ 7:30pm

A Viennese Christmas  
Tuesday November 27 @ 7:30pm

A Garfield Christmas  
Thursday, December 6 @ 7:30pm

The Very Hungry Caterpillar  
Thursday, March 27 @ 7:30pm

Chicago  
Monday, March 31 @ 7:30pm

St. Petersburg Ballet: Romeo and Juliet  
Tuesday, April 22 @ 7:30 pm

Musician (TBA)  
Date and Time: To Be Announced

*Ticket sales begin Monday, September 3, 2007.*

*Dates, times and show listings are tentative and subject to change*

St. Petersburg Ballet:  
Romeo and Juliet



## *Real Entertainment.*

Bologna Performing Arts Center • Cleveland, MS • [www.bolognapac.com](http://www.bolognapac.com) • 662.846.4626

**Box Office Hours:** Monday - Friday: 8am - 5pm

# Come Join the Activities!

## 22nd Annual Pig Pickin' BBQ

Saturday, September 15th

Time: 2-5 p.m. • Location: Statesmen Park

Tickets: \$6 Per Person

1:30-2:45 p.m.  
Cook Team Judging

2-5 p.m.  
CellularSouth Lil' Okra Fun Fair

3-5 p.m.  
BBQ Serving Lines Open

3:30 p.m.  
Band March Through & Pep Rally

3:45 p.m.  
Football Team Walk Through

4:30 p.m.  
Cook Team Winners Announced

6 p.m.  
DSU vs. Henderson, Parker Field



Pig Pickin' Logo  
Items for Sale

T-Shirts \$10

Caps \$10

Aprons \$10

Something For Everyone

- CellularSouth Kids' Zone
- Delicious BBQ
- BBQ Cooking Competition
- DJ Music
- Snow Cones
- Cheerleaders & Dance Team
- Free Raffle of Children's Bicycle
- Raffle of Viking Range Counter Top Appliances (\$1 per ticket)

Tickets available at the Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni-Foundation House or online at [GoStatesmen.com](http://GoStatesmen.com)

For more information call (662) 846-4660 or e-mail [alumni@deltastate.edu](mailto:alumni@deltastate.edu)

Sponsored by the DSU Alumni-Foundation Office. Thanks to Regions Bank for providing volunteers.

**Visit [www.deltastate.edu](http://www.deltastate.edu) for updated information on Pig Pickin'. Click on "Alumni & Friends" then "Alumni Events."**



Box 3141  
Cleveland, MS 38733

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