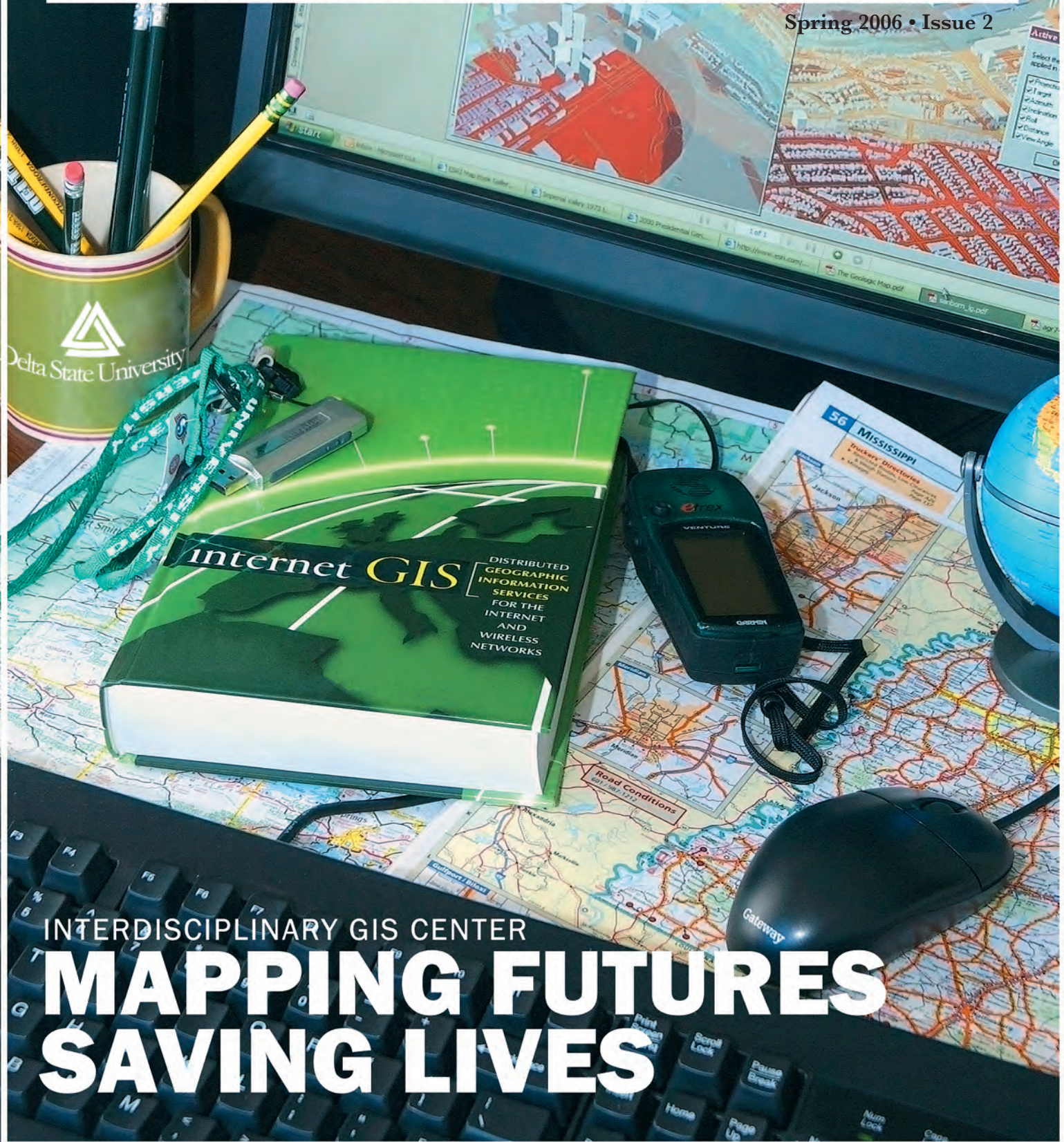


# Delta State

THE MAGAZINE FOR DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Spring 2006 • Issue 2



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Vol. I Issue 1 [www.deltastate.edu](http://www.deltastate.edu) February 3, 2006

*alumni*

HEADLINE NEWS

## Alumni-Foundation launches e-newsletter

CLEVELAND—In an effort to better connect with its alumni, the Delta State University Alumni-Foundation, in a partnership with the Office of University Relations, proudly announces the debut of *eStatesmen Alumni*, an electronically delivered monthly newsletter. Armed with the mission of timely communication, *eStatesmen Alumni* will provide Delta State alumni current and noteworthy happenings at the University in an easily accessible, manageable and interactive format.



[ read more... ]

ALUMNI NEWS

## Alumnus remembers former superintendent with scholarship



We all have our favorite teachers, educators whose impact was so great it carried far past our childhoods and stayed with us much through adulthood. For Delta State University alumnus, Dr. Richard A. Collins, that man was Frank Hough. Collins was so touched, so impacted by the teachings and philosophies of Hough, he and his wife, Barbara Collins, have established a scholarship through the Delta State Foundation in honor of the former Shaw Superintendent of Schools.

[ read more... ]

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Delta State University



Delta State University

**Delta State Alumni Magazine**  
Spring 2006 Issue 2

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# 5th Annual OLE DSU Graduates J.P. Coleman State Park in Iuka, MS August 3-6, 2006

For more information call Wayne Lee, Jr. '57 at 662-846-4560 or e-mail walee@deltastate.edu.



page 9



page 13



page 18



page 20



## features

- 4 THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- 5 CAMPUS NEWS
- 9 LAND HEFLIN, KAYAKING THE WORLD
- 10 GIS TECHNOLOGY
- 13 DR. ELMO "BO" GABBERT
- 14 HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
- 18 UNCLE "BOO" FERRISS
- 20 SPORTS
- 24 WITH THE CLASSES
- 31 FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

## Delta State hails new student chief

Delta State University Student Government Association outgoing President Valerie Orcutt (at left), a junior nursing major of Lorman, presents the president's gavel to recently elected Student Government President, Emily Jennings, a junior political science major of Clinton. The presentation of the gavel and the inauguration of elected Student Government Association officers was held recently at the Lena Roberts Sillers Chapel on the Delta State campus.





Dear Friends,

This is Delta State's 80<sup>th</sup> Academic Year. We are celebrating the *Year of Cleveland* in honor of eight decades of great support for Delta State from its host community. As a university, we pay tribute to the town and gown relationship we have enjoyed with Cleveland by hosting a series of events that focus on the community's leadership, strengths, and friendship for this institution. Ned Mitchell, who successfully led the DSU Foundation's *Wings and Roots Capital Campaign*, serves as chairman of the *Year of Cleveland* committee and is doing a tremendous job. We are proud of our relationship with Cleveland and look forward to a future of service together.

The *Year of Cleveland* committee has involved people of all ages in the many events. In the fall, for example, following a win by the DSU football team, the committee treated us to a fireworks display over the north end zone of the football field. They joined the university in hosting the second annual Community Luncheon, where we brought leaders together from Cleveland and the Delta region to show our appreciation for their efforts to develop the economy of this area. The committee followed up at Christmas with downtown window displays and a tree decorating contest for student organizations. The trees highlighted the community green and brightened the community Christmas parade. In January and February, many from the community shared with us their special collections at a Cleveland Collects exhibit in the Charles W. Capps Archives. This spring, the committee hosted an Easter Egg hunt for young children, an essay contest on *What Cleveland Means to Me*, and a cooking demonstration in the Delta Room showcasing the new Ada Swindle Mitchell Viking Foods Laboratory. These are but a few of the events that allow DSU to say how much we appreciate Cleveland.

In this issue of the Alumni magazine, you will read about many exciting programs here at Delta State. One article highlights the extraordinary work that the GIS Program at Delta State did in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Many lives were saved during search and rescue efforts on the coast, and Director Talbot Brooks and his team were there mapping coordinates and assisting rescue teams in their endeavors.

Also included in this issue is the Alumni-Foundation's Annual Report. I want to thank all of you listed in the *Honor Roll of Donors*. Your gifts provide dollars that help us fulfill the mission of this institution. As we celebrate our 80th academic year, I invite you to participate and invest in the continued success and development of Delta State University.

In an effort to better communicate with our alumni, the Alumni-Foundation staff recently announced the debut of *eStatesmen Alumni*. This electronically delivered monthly newsletter enables timely communication. The *eStatesmen Alumni* will provide Delta State alumni current and noteworthy happenings at the university in an easily accessible, manageable, and interactive format. If you did not receive this publication and would like to, I encourage you to contact the alumni office at [alumni@deltastate.edu](mailto:alumni@deltastate.edu). I know they will be pleased to hear from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "John M. Hilpert". The signature is stylized and fluid.

JOHN M. HILPERT

# Veteran professor mourned



Dr. Val Hinton

The collective Delta State University community continues to mourn the loss of Dr. Walter Valentine (Val) Hinton III, as the professor of finance passed Jan. 22.

Hinton, 63, had over 24 years of cumulative service to Delta State, serving as an assistant professor of finance seven years (1974-1981) before returning to the University in 1989, where he remained until his untimely passing.

“Val was always committed to his students. We can absolutely say teaching was his life,” Dr. Billy C. Moore, Dean of the College of Business and fellow professor of finance at Delta State, offered. “He was truly committed to this University and we are extremely saddened by his passing.”

A native of Louisville, Ky., he graduated from Seneca High School in 1961 before pursuing his undergraduate degree in Business Administration from Florida State University. He completed his MBA from

Louisiana State University in 1971, his Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas and soon after returned to FSU to finish work on his postdoctoral studies in 1982.

In addition to DSU, Hinton had teaching stints at Jackson State University (1981-1983) and Tennessee Tech University (1983-1989). He was also a retired airman, having served with the United States Air Force four years (1965-1969). Before his honorable discharge, Hinton held the rank of Captain.

“Dr. Hinton was an excellent teacher whose dedication to his students was evident in his many years of service at Delta State,” remembered Dr. Cooper Johnson, Delta State Chair of the Division of Management, Marketing and Business Administration. “Throughout his tenure, he was held in high regard by his students, fellow faculty, and administrators.”

An avid and staunch supporter of Delta State athletics, Hinton rarely missed an event. He, himself, lettered for the Seminoles in basketball. His support, however, was not limited to athletics, as Hinton could always be counted on to champion the many Renaissance outings, as well as the Miss Delta State pageants.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Cleveland, and is survived by his son, Greg; two sisters and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

There was a funeral service at First Baptist Church, Thursday, Jan. 26, before his body was returned to his native Kentucky for burial.

# Rock & Roll Hall of Famer visits



Most noted as, in his words, “the one who verbally counted off “Sweet Home Alabama” then played the infamous Stratocaster riff as well as the solos in that tune,” 2006 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, Ed King made an impromptu visit to Delta State University’s Delta Music Institute (DMI).

King, lead guitar player with the original Lynyrd Skynyrd band from the 1970’s, strummed his electric guitar, while also sharing tales of his days on tour. “I was fortunate to follow my intuition,” he smiled. “I am probably the luckiest guitar player you’ll ever meet.”

King’s good fortune landed the now retired Nashville, Tenn. resident gigs with Strawberry Alarm Clock at 17 and then, Lynyrd Skynyrd. He is credited with the guitar music for “Sweet Home Alabama” as well as other rock songs, and jokes, “Who could’ve guessed that song (Alabama) would pay the rent for over 30 years?”

Delta Music Institute’s Norbert Putnam said of King, “His signature guitar licks have effected many generations of guitar players. We are thrilled to have Ed share his stories with the students.”

Delta State’s DMI allows students to study music engineering, music production and video editing, as well as contemporary composition and study musician theory and practice. It is a first step towards a broad program in arts production. DMI began with the generous donation by Fred Carl of Viking Range Corporation in 2003. For more information on the Delta Music Institute, please call (662) 846-4579 or visit [dmi.deltastate.edu](http://dmi.deltastate.edu).

## The Center of the Universe

Alumnus Daniel Giger, '97, and wife Elizabeth stand in China at the exact center of the Universe. Daniel is teaching Conversational English at Ningbo University in Ningbo, China.





## Remembering Larry Lee Thornton



**Dr. Larry Thornton**

*By Ed Kossman, '59*

"I view the essence of life as a vital balance of the physical, mental and spiritual," said the late Dr. Larry Lee Thornton, who was an outstanding professor in the Behavioral Science Division at Delta State University. Larry certainly believed in his statement and lived life to the fullest.

Larry and I were close personal friends for more than forty years. We enjoyed traveling, tennis, parenting, long conversations covering topics from religion to world travel. Larry was really a man for all seasons, he enjoyed learning, teaching, jogging, tennis, friendships, sports, traveling throughout numerous foreign countries and pastoring many Baptist churches in the South. Most of all he enjoyed being with his children, grandchildren and wife. His wife Helen certainly loved him and took excellent care of him during his years of illness. His children, Leigh Ann and Matt were always a very special part of his life.

Larry enjoyed friendships from all walks of life and was a true friend to all who knew him. He taught more than 10,000 students at DSU, and next to his family they were his greatest joy. He was a Licensed Professional Counselor and he was always so sincerely interested in those receiving his services. He helped to make life better for all those he taught, pastored or counseled.

Larry was a sincere friend and I have always been proud of his numerous awards and accomplishments. He is truly missed by students, family and friends. He will be long remembered for what he did to make the world better for people of all backgrounds.

I will always feel fortunate to be considered one of his friends. Larry was certainly a dedicated and true "Delta Statesman."

Dr. Thornton passed away October 30, 2005.

# Alumni Association honors Breedon

As the Delta State University women's basketball team capped its first 30-win season since 2000 behind a 30-3 overall record and Gulf South Conference tournament championship, it seemed only fitting and appropriate to pay homage to the trailblazers of the program.

Delta State recently recognized Ava Lee Abdo Breedon, of Fairborn, Ohio, with the first-ever Alumni Legacy Award. The award, presented by the Alumni Association, is given to an alumna deserving of the honor for their outstanding and long-lasting contributions to the life and legacy of Delta State University. Breedon is recognized for the legacy she leaves, as she accomplished many "firsts" at Delta State Teachers College (DSTC).

A native of Leland, she came to DSTC in 1929. Short on money to attend the college, Breedon made a personal visit to then president, Dr. William Kethley. Kethley was made aware of her outstanding basketball abilities by Dean William H. Ziegel, the then head coach of the Lady Statesman squad, and she was offered a basketball scholarship that would pay room and board, which at that time was \$22 per month.

Recognized as the first women's basketball player to earn four letters, Breedon proved to be a versatile athlete at DSTC, earning spots on one of the first cheerleading, field hockey and tennis teams. She won the state doubles tennis championship with her partner Wenonah Montgomery, which again, is recognized as one of the first state championships won by a Delta State athletic team.

Despite her versatility and abundant talent, it was women's basketball that truly remained Breedon's passion. A teammate to the legendary Margaret Wade, their team earned fame as the "Rabbit Foot Squad."

As the legend goes, a spectator merely mentioned that the team was on such a winning streak that they must have their lucky "rabbit's foot" with them. The moniker stuck and the squad would capture the Mississippi Valley Championship in 1930 and 1931 and the state of Mississippi Championship in



**Breedon, 2005 Legacy Award recipient**

1929, 1930 and 1931.

And even though those early enthusiastic crowds overwhelmed the newly constructed gymnasium, the team and the catchy new title lasted only until 1932. That year, DSU officials discontinued the program, citing, "Intercollegiate basketball for women could not be defended on sound ground."

It would take almost 40 years for Lady Statesmen basketball to return to the hardwood, as it was Wade, Breedon's teammate, who initiated Delta State's resurrection in 1972. The seasons that followed under Wade's watchful eye, 1973-1979, brought the Lady Statesmen and Delta State into the national spotlight. The mother of modern women's basketball, as she would later be known, led Delta State to three consecutive A.I.A.W. National Championships in 1975, 1976 and 1977.

It is that legacy of women's basketball that Breedon helped perpetuate and a significant factor in her receiving the inaugural Alumni Legacy Award - but not the only reason.

In 1931, Breedon was invited by Ziegel to teach second year French, making her the first DSTC student to be offered a teaching position at her alma mater. Breedon also

received the second diploma in 1932 for her outstanding academic achievement, earning the salutatorian distinction. The achievement marked the first Delta State employee to earn that honor.

Following her years at DSTC, Breeden went on to distinguish herself, both, personally and professionally. She retired in 1989 as a GS-12 Contract Specialist/Negotiator at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio where she received numerous honors ranging from the Pentagon to the Dayton Intergovernmental EEO Council to the Hispanic Heritage Committee.

In 1972, she entered the world of modeling, becoming a runway and tearoom model, while also appearing in various print campaigns. She began playing golf in 1978 and co-chaired golf tournaments that raised scholarship money for deserving students. Breeden also served as President of the Fairborn (Ohio) Chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA), where she helped raise money for scholarships for women. She has twice been named ABWA Women of the Year in 1977 and 1998.

The Alumni Association, which is

comprised of 21,000 living alumni, is currently accepting nominations for the 2006 Alumni Legacy Award. Nominations can be mailed to the Delta State University Alumni

Association, Box 3104, Cleveland, MS 38733 or emailed [alumni@deltastate.edu](mailto:alumni@deltastate.edu). Please include your name, address, and phone number.



The 1931 Lady Statesmen Rabbit Foot Squad (Front row, l. to r.) Sarah Evans, Margaret Wade, Mary Ellen Chapman, Erline Holly, Elizabeth Caldwell (Back row, l. to r.) Dimple Bryan, Wenonah Montgomery, Quinn Gorton, Ava Lee Abdo, Anne Rue Gorton, Evelyn Ezelle, Lorene Jumper.

2006 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

# OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS nomination CRITERIA

## service

Nominee must be distinguished among peers for betterment of society and Delta State University.

## inspirational qualities

Nominees must be person of integrity, stature and demonstrated ability and renown that the faculty, staff, alumni and students will take pride in and be inspired by their recognition.

## participation

Nominees must have demonstrated consistent and continual interest and support of Delta State University through time, talent or resources that benefit the University in one or more areas.

## demonstrated loyalty

Nominees must be individuals who, in deed and action, reflect the importance of their education at Delta State University and demonstrate pride in the University.

## SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION

Alumni Association  
DSU Box 3104  
Cleveland, MS 38733

## REQUEST INFORMATION

Call: 662.846.4704  
Email: [alumni@deltastate.edu](mailto:alumni@deltastate.edu)  
[www.deltastate.edu](http://www.deltastate.edu)







Mike Jennings

## Jennings inducted

Mike Jennings ('72) was recently inducted in the Memphis Amateur Sports Hall of Fame in the category of Adult Team Manager/Coach. Now in its 36th year of operation, the Memphis Amateur Sports Hall of Fame is the only organization of its kind in the Mid-South to pay tribute to the amateur athlete and to those who have contributed to their enhancement.

Jennings' association with amateur softball now spans over 28 years, including the last 15 as owner/proprietor of The Softball Pro Shop in Bartlett, Tenn. As a player/coach, he amassed an overall record of 739-151, for an .830 winning percentage. In 1981, Jennings earned "Coach of the Year" Memphis Metro accolades.

## Foundation honors faculty



(Front Row, L to R) Reid Jones, Donna Banks, Stephen King; (Back Row, L to R) James Tomek, John Green, Scott Hutchens were recognized as the 2006 recipients of the Delta State University Foundation Prizes for Excellence in Teaching, Research and Service. This is the second year the prizes have been awarded.

The Delta State University Foundation continued its long-standing support of faculty, as its 2006 recipients of the Delta State University Foundation Prizes for Excellence in Teaching, Research and Service were recently announced inside the State Room on the campus.

Dr. Donna Banks, professor of music, and Dr. James Tomek, professor of French, were both honored with the "Excellence in Teaching Prize;" while Dr. Scott Hutchens, associate professor of Psychology, and Dr. Stephen King, professor of speech communications, were recognized with the "Excellence in Research Prize." Dr. John Green, assistant professor of Sociology and Community Development,

and Dr. Reid Jones, professor of Psychology were the "Excellence in Service Prize."

During the luncheon award ceremony, President Dr. John M. Hilpert opened, citing poet William Butler Yeates, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire. These six professors being recognized today understand that. They have been identified as the best of the best by their peers, and we thank the Foundation for making the resources available to recognize their dedication."

After a lengthy and rigorous application process, winners were selected by a committee, with award recipients receiving a plaque and \$5000 check honoring their accomplishments.

*Keith Fulcher, Executive Director of the Delta State University Alumni-Foundation, praised, "The Delta State University Foundation Board of Directors are pleased to partner with the University in recognizing faculty members who are dedicated to their profession and who excel in the areas of teaching, service, and research. The Foundation's mission is to help provide support to the University and the Board commends Dr. Hilpert and Dr. Thornell for their decision to honor outstanding faculty."*



# Land Heflin: *Kayaking the World for a Living*

By Chip Mabry

One Delta State graduate is certainly living his dream; Land Heflin is currently an instructor and adventure team member with Tarkio Kayak Adventures in Missoula, Montana. Land not only instructs students in Montana, but also leads kayaking journeys on rivers around the world.

Land was literally brought up on the Delta State campus. He was brought home from the hospital to Woolfolk Dormitory, where his parents, Dave and Brenda Heflin, were dorm supervisors. Growing up, Land participated in every sport offered by the Cleveland Park Commission and at age 10, began “staffing” Delta State University Outback Kayak Club outings.

Land said, “I remember being about eight-years-old in the Delta State pool with my dad, while he was teaching the Outback Kayak club. I was always the runt on all the trips but I quickly developed a love for kayaking.”

He was nicknamed “Dirt” by students on an outing. His high school coaches poked jabs at him for not being an athlete and reminded him that his dad was a coach. However, at that time Land was a Class III kayaker, rockclimber, sailor, snowboarder, skateboarder, backpacker, touring BMX biker, and a veteran of many DSU ropes courses. Believe it or not, during this time Land only had one fracture and one concussion.

Land entered DSU in the spring of 1992 and graduated in



Heflin surfing on the Rio San Pedro, Patagonia, Chile, South America.

December of 1994 with a degree in recreation. Land worked several seasons as a raft guide on the Royal Gorge in Colorado and the American River in California. He joined Ultimate Descents Rafting in Nepal during the winters of 1996 and 1997. Land said, “After school I really just wanted to travel. I worked in North Carolina on the Natahala River and met some people who helped me land a winter job in Nepal and I would return to the States for spring and summer. It was really while I was over there that I made a bunch of great contacts that set me up with Tarkio.”

In 1998, Land led a winter season of Tarkio trips to Ecuador and in 1999 he led trips all over South America. Land has led or participated in kayak tours in the Canadian Rockies, New Zealand, Northern Africa, Southern Asia, Mexico, Nepal and China.

In January of 2005, Land was involved in a hallmark expedition of first ever commercial kayak trip with 15 American kayakers, Chinese kayak trainees, and American raft guides on Big Bend of Yang zee in China. Land said, “This is one of the highlights of my career. This was the first time a commercial kayak or rafting trip has ever been done on the Big Bend in China. The logistics were pretty crazy, we had to ship everything over we needed and didn’t get the gear through customs until two days after the clients had

arrived and most of it was custom, so it had to be assembled, welded etc.”

This area is similar to the Grand Canyon but has about ten times the volume of water. Land said, “Being in that Yang zee canyon is something else. At one point you are looking up at a 18,000 foot mountain. That puts a lot of perspective on your view when you are flying down a river looking up at these enormous gorges, mountains actually. It really is something special. On a more professional kayaking note, some of us also got to run a first descent of a tributary of the Yang zee and that was exciting.” This two week trip was the first of what is expected to be many more expeditions to China.

Land recently became an adjunct instructor of Wilderness Recreation at DSU, continuing programs his father taught. He is currently a co-owner of Tarkio Adventures and recently bought a home in Missoula, Montana (without realizing it, he purchased the summer home of the late Carroll O’Conner of “Archie Bunker” fame). He is single and lives with his dog Cornbread.

Land said, “This is really the first time in my life that I haven’t been traveling continuously. Things have slowed down a good bit and I spend more of my time booking and organizing expeditions, more of the business aspects of Team Tarkio. It is nice though, and I still get to teach here in Montana and lead winter expeditions abroad. I’m really looking forward to another China trip and I’m sure we will do a lot more over there.”



Heflin hiking to the put-in of the Oum er Rbia River, Morocco.



Heflin scouting Lava Falls, Grand Canyon, Arizona

PHOTOS BY DUNBAR HARDY  
DUNBARHARDY.COM





# MAPPING FUTURES, SAVING LIVES

## DELTA STATE LEADS THE WAY IN GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS

By Alan Taylor

For people not engaged in scientific pursuits, the terms “geographic information technology” and “geographic information systems” may seem only obscure descriptions of high-tech at an extremely high level. We may be somewhat familiar with “global positioning systems”—these satellite-based navigation systems provide a nifty option on upscale automobiles, and we’ve heard how farmers are using GPS to aid in planting. Beyond that, though, it all may sound like something scientists experiment with in laboratories and use in sophisticated

research that most of us wouldn’t understand.

In reality, though, geographic information systems (GIS)—which in simple terms may be defined as computer systems designed for storing, manipulating, analyzing, and displaying data in a geographic context, often in the form of maps—offer virtually unlimited applications in everyday life. They can be used to solve problems as diverse as improving crop yields, determining where a retailer should place a new store, or managing a town’s resources and services.

Delta State’s Center for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Information

Technologies, an independent unit of the College of Arts and Sciences, is at the forefront of this burgeoning technology. “Delta State University is leading the way nationally in demonstrating what the industry is, and what the education should be,” Director of the Center Talbot Brooks states.

The Center for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Information Technologies’ operations are organized around three core areas: Education and Training, Business and Community Development, and Institutional Knowledge. The Center offers degrees in geospatial technologies, and as well as for-credit courses and



institutional training. Students are provided basic and advanced skills in remote sensing, GIS, and GPS.

Interested individuals can also enroll in non-credit training courses offered as part of the Specialist in Spatial Technologies Program. These courses—offered online, on-campus, or at selected off-campus locations—provide a balanced mix of theoretical knowledge and hands-on skills training in fields ranging from Agriculture to Emergency Management.

Brooks came to Delta State in January 2005. With an educational background in environmental physics, he had spent ten years as a Senior Research Technician with the United States Department of Agriculture, studying the effects of climate changes on agriculture.

“I did a lot of GIS work during this time,” Brooks recalls. “I was hired in 2001 by Arizona State University (where he had earlier received his master’s degree). Among my responsibilities there were helping to write the GIS undergraduate and master’s degree programs.”

I also did a lot of outreach activities with businesses, helping them develop applications for GIS. And, I worked in an advisory role with municipal governments who were getting into the use of GIS.”

Among numerous professional affiliations, Brooks is a member of the Geospatial Information and Technology Association, and serves on its Educational Committee. He is a board member with the Mississippi Delta Technology Council, as well as a member of the Association of American Geographers and the Mississippi Institutions for Higher Learning Geospatial Council.

Brooks is the first to point out that GIS technology has moved beyond a high-tech laboratory endeavor. As he observes, “Anytime you use something like MapQuest to get directions, you’re using GIS technology.

“There are examples of municipal and business use of GIS all around us. Fire departments might use it to map the location of fire hydrants. Tax assessors can map parcel locations, which helps them to manage tax rates. Planning commissions use GIS for developing their general plans and zoning.

“Many businesses use GIS for site

selection. They are able to look at things like the population, the transportation network, the tax rates—GIS can find the ideal location for them. And certainly utilities use GIS. Entergy, for example, makes major use of it. It helps show the location of meters, for example, or where power is actually coming from, where oil pipelines are, etc.”

The use of geographic information technology in disaster relief efforts is likely to become more prevalent, especially considering the dramatic demonstration of the technology’s usefulness in efforts spearheaded by Brooks in the aftermath of the two major Gulf Coast hurricanes.

Two days before Hurricane Katrina made landfall on Aug. 29, Brooks traveled to the Mississippi Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Jackson to aid in response and relief efforts. In the weeks after Katrina hit, Brooks assembled a group of volunteer GIS experts to assist in data development, map production, use of GPS technology and other logistics and support services. Many of these volunteers came from the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association’s GIS Corps, which was formed three years ago to assist other countries with their GIS operations; the team also included students from Delta State and other state universities. Numerous educational institutions, state and federal agencies and private concerns provided a wide range of resources and equipment to the volunteers.

The GIS volunteer team produced an amazingly wide range of maps that proved invaluable to the EOC, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, and government officials ranging from the governor to the President. Situational awareness maps detailed such critical information as the location of power outages and areas where power had been restored, areas of potential flooding, shelters and distribution points for emergency supplies, medical care facilities, and many others.



**Taken in Hancock County during the Katrina response, former President of the United States, George Bush, poses with soldiers assisting in the rescue efforts in front of the communications bus/mobile emergency operations vehicle Delta State University shares with Bolivar County.**

For the first responders on the ground, street maps, search and rescue maps with detail of population density, and other special maps were generated.

GIS continued to play a major role as search and rescue operations got underway, Brooks says. “We were able to help the U. S. Coast Guard helicopters find people who had called in asking to be rescued. Callers would give a street address, but with the streets and many homes flooded there was no way to locate the addresses from boats or helicopters. We helped transform addresses into latitude and longitude coordinates using GIS.”

The efforts aided in over 10,000 successful search and rescues, and when Hurricane Rita came ashore several weeks later, spawning tornadoes and causing significant flooding throughout the Delta, Delta State’s Center for Interdisciplinary Geographic Information Technology was there to answer the call, again.

The Center helped track the tornadoes for the Bolivar County Emergency Operations Center, producing maps that helped route emergency responders and showed in detail the storm damage in the area.

“Now that the hurricanes are behind us, there are a lot of lessons we’ve learned and that we want to share,” Brooks comments. “We want to try to create some volunteer-based efforts throughout the region that make use of GIS technologies.”

*continued on page 12*



*continued from page 11*

He has proposed the formation of a Joint Emergency Mapping System for Mississippi; its purpose would be to provide both individual responders and decision makers with map and image resources for improved emergency response. He also recently traveled to Washington to work with other GIS leaders in establishing a definition of GIS that will be used by the U. S. Department of Labor.

“My vision is to try to get local

municipal governments to adopt GIS technology, and not only in anticipation of some future disaster,” he continues. “It can also save taxpayers a lot of money and help provide better service to the communities. And once this is done successfully, we will then have a model that can be replicated throughout the region.”

The Center for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Information Technologies, and those who come out of its programs, is helping bring GIS into wide usage among

businesses and governmental entities.

“We’re inviting people to take advantage of this technology. And, we don’t want people to be intimidated, to think we’re in some ivory tower. Anyone who is interested, please call us. We’re here to help—to participate and to find solutions.”

For more information on the Center for Interdisciplinary Geographic Technology at Delta State University, please contact Talbot Brooks at (662) 846-4520, or email [tbrooks@deltastate.edu](mailto:tbrooks@deltastate.edu).

## Delta State And Cleveland Join Forces To Aid Hurricane Evacuees

*By Alan Taylor*

Although the Cleveland area itself was spared most of the wrath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the community opened its doors to those displaced by the disaster, taking in over 2,000 hurricane evacuees—many of them, in fact, are still residing in the area. Delta State University quickly mobilized to provide aid and assistance, as well.

An on-campus donation drive brought in over \$33,000 in less than a month, with the money raised used primarily to help local evacuees. Beyond monetary aid, however, the University and the greater Cleveland community teamed up to address other critical needs, reports Dr. Michelle Roberts, executive assistant to Delta State President, Dr. John Hilpert.

“One of the first things we did was convert our old athletic dorm, Hugh White Hall, into temporary housing for approximately 100 people,” Roberts relates. “Students, faculty and staff, and other citizens came together to clean up the dorm and get it into shape. The building was empty; it had not been used as a dorm for several years. In fact, it was being utilized as storage space for various departments.

“The old, dilapidated furniture and beds had to be moved out, and the whole building needed major cleaning. The support we received in getting the building ready was really heartwarming—church groups, organizations, businesses, and individuals all chipped in. People donated everything from bedding and linens to washers, refrigerators, and pots and pans, to toys and games for the children.”

A kitchen was set up in the building, Roberts says, and various groups also signed up to bring in food on a regular basis. One DSU staff member left his home and moved into Hugh

White Hall for several weeks to provide an on-site manager presence, assisted by the University residence hall directors.

Services and amenities made available to the evacuees included a donated large-screen TV and the installation of computers in the Hall’s common lobby area. “We wanted to make it possible for the evacuees to contact FEMA, or other assistance organizations, and be able to access sites that helped family members find one another,” Roberts comments. “Evacuees were also able to use our on-campus OKRA one-card system to access food services and receive three meals a day at no charge.

“We felt it was important to help the residents get out into the community and try to regain some sense of normalcy, so we provided free tickets to campus events such as football games, and access to such things as our fitness center and golf course.”

Another priority was ensuring that students affected by the hurricanes were able to continue their studies, Roberts says. “We have over 100 students on campus who come from the affected counties. We also had 23 students transfer to the University because the institutions they were attending had been shut down—for these students, we extended our registration deadlines and waived all out-of-state fees. Our bookstores gave them discounts on books. And, we worked closely with them to find housing on the campus or in the community.”

Delta State has received a significant amount



**In the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the entire Delta State University community worked to aid in recovery efforts, including cleaning out Hugh White Hall campus. The dormitory was used to house evacuees of the hurricanes for over four months.**

of special funding, including \$1.3 million from a Congressional appropriation, designated for aid to displaced students. The University was also one of only six Mississippi public and private institutions to receive special Title Seven federal funds to help assist affected students.

“We also participated in the Sloan Consortium, a group that assists institutions in posting courses online for students who cannot attend on-campus classes,” says Roberts. “Delta State posted ten courses to this program, which were made available at no cost.

“Our student body, faculty and staff have been very involved in efforts to help both evacuees and those on the coast,” she continues. “The Delta State family has pitched in to help with everything from the cleaning at Hugh White Hall to clothing and bottled water drives. By reaching out to the hurricane evacuees with that feeling of ‘family’ we all enjoy here at Delta State, we have hopefully made things just a little bit easier for people who have suffered more than most of us can even imagine.”



# Dr. Elmo “Bo” Gabbert

*More than just the family doc*



**Dr. Elmo “Bo” Gabbert mans a makeshift pharmacy during one of his recent mission trips to the Coast.**

*By Chip Mabry*

The nostalgic image of the country doctor arriving at a patient’s door with his black bag in hand still lingers in our collective memory, notably made famous by Norman Rockwell paintings and other folk artists.

When Dr. Elmo “Bo” Gabbert, 71, put away his stethoscope, closed his black bag and retired in 2005, Meadville lost a family doctor that saw his patients as family, and the nation lost yet another fading image of Americana.

“You develop a personal relationship with your patients and they seem like family,” Gabbert said of his retirement and practice of 40 years in Meadville. Gabbert was a perfect fit for the community where he practiced because he was one of them.

Born Sept. 5, 1934 in Calhoun County, about eight miles from the town of Bruce, Gabbert, like most during that time grew up without modern amenities such as running water, indoor toilets, or even electricity.

His family did not own a car, so Gabbert’s father would hitchhike the eight miles to Bruce where he worked as a carpenter. Gabbert’s mother would see he and his two sisters off to the one room school down a dusty country road. Gabbert remembers his early school days fondly. “There were around 25 of us and we were all supportive of one another. We had a teacher who was loving and compassionate with everyone,” he said.

The family eventually moved to town, illuminating Gabbert’s childhood. “I can remember to this day coming to town and being awestruck by electricity. I was just awestruck when I saw all those lights,” Gabbert said.

Gabbert graduated from Bruce High School in 1952 with football much more on his mind than academics. It took a year of nursing bruises at a community college in Fulton for Gabbert to decide he should switch gears from his aspirations of football fame and to get serious about his education.

Gabbert enrolled at Delta State College in 1954, determined to turn his natural passion for science into a springboard for his future. Looking back, Gabbert believes he could not have made a better choice. The professors he studied under broke stereotypes of the stuffy, stoic academic bores that are often expected. “If I had it to do over again, I would go to Delta State as opposed to any school, because of the quality of education and the personal attention I received as a student there. I remember my professors as very warm, compassionate people that really cared and helped me a lot,” Gabbert said.

Gabbert went on to graduate from Delta State in 1956 with a degree in natural science and also graduated near the top of his class from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson in 1961. After an internship at the University of Texas in Galveston, he returned to Bruce to practice medicine and eventually made his way to Franklin County (Miss.) in 1965.

Gabbert saw Meadville as the perfect place to raise children. “It had a good school system. I felt this was a place where I could raise my family around good, church going people,” Gabbert said.

Gabbert has literally seen patients from the cradle to the grave in the last 40 years. He and his wife Beverly have reared three children in Meadville. “I have had a good practice. The people are good, hard working people and I never wanted to do more than be a family doctor. The personal relationships you develop are worth more than the money,” he said.

Gabbert has been active in mission trips with his church, Meadville United Methodist. He recently gave medical aid to evacuees of Hurricane Katrina. Of the future, Gabbert offers, “I look forward to spending more time with my wife and traveling to do more mission work.”



# *The Hospitality Services Management Program:*

## **A Valuable Resource for a Major State Industry**

*By Alan Taylor*

With the debut of its Hospitality Services Management Program at the start of the 2005-2006 academic year, Delta State University is now providing a valuable training resource for Mississippi's ever-growing hospitality industry.

During the last decade, the industry has experienced substantial growth, and today ranks as the Magnolia State's largest employer. According to state figures, the hospitality industry is expected to climb at a rate of three to five percent each year. With this level of growth, the need for qualified management personnel also increases, providing the impetus for Delta State's program, which is housed in the Division of Management, Marketing and Business Administration under the College of Business.

The Hospitality Services Management program has existed for several years, reports Dr. Garret A. Ross, assistant professor of Management, whose position was created specifically to start the program and whose expertise provides students with a quality education in the field. Other than a program at the University of Southern Mississippi, Delta State is the only other institution in the state offering a program devoted strictly to hospitality management.

"Our goal is to help students obtain entry-level management positions in the industry throughout the state," Ross explains. "The program consists of courses



**Mallory Smith, a senior Business/Hospitality Services Management major of Cleveland, works at KC's Restaurant as she prepares for a career in Hospitality Services Management.**



in hotel management, restaurant management, hospitality law, facilities management and hospitality accounting, which students take only after completing the College of Business core courses. To ensure students are prepared for management level positions upon graduation, each program participant will be required to complete a student internship. Upon completion of the program, students will graduate with a Bachelor's of Business Administration in Hospitality Management."

Ross, who is in his second year with Delta State, is originally from Oyster Bay, N.Y. He is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts in Hotel, Restaurant and Travel Administration, and has extensive experience in the hospitality industry. He received a Master's Degree in Restaurant Management from Florida International University, and his Ph.D. from Virginia Tech in Hospitality Management. Ross has also attended the Professional Management Institute at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y.

His twenty-plus years in the industry includes positions ranging from clubhouse manager at The Greenwich Country Club

in Greenwich, Conn., and Fairfax Country Club in Fairfax, Va., to assistant bar manager at Maguire Air Force Base in Wrightstown, N.J. Furthermore, Ross has held positions in the restaurant and cruise line industries.

Of the hospitality program, he offers, "In developing the inaugural curriculum, we reviewed programs offered at other colleges and universities across the country, and tried to develop a program that best fit Delta State's goals.

"This being a young program, I didn't think we'd have so many students, but 25 students have already chosen hospitality services management as their major. The response has been tremendous," he continues. "We're getting nothing but positive feedback, with the students' interest reflecting the program's need in the state. Many in the industry have commented on how they had been waiting for a university like Delta State to offer such a program."

The Hospitality Services Management program also has a Gaming Management track that was recently approved. Ross reports that several students enrolled in the program are working in area casinos while

pursuing their degree.

"One of our students is now employed in a management role in Food Services at the Isle of Capri, and I expect some of the other students to do their internships in Robinsonville. We're actually developing a component that would allow gaming industry employees to enroll in the program and obtain their degree."

According to Dr. Cooper Johnson, Chair of the Division of Management, Marketing, and Business Administration, "Currently one area casino has eagerly joined Delta State in enrolling approximately 15 employees in the program."

Ross added, "Delta State is currently working with a number of local hotels, restaurants, and tourism groups, especially in Coahoma, Bolivar, and Washington counties. We have students employed by K.C.'s restaurant in Cleveland and Crawdad's in Merigold."

He characterizes the Hospitality Services Management Program as an evolving curriculum, which will continue a slow building process. "Hopefully, by this time next year, we'll have an advisory board in place to continue developing the program's curriculum. We'll also be listening to the industry to determine their needs. And, as our students complete the program and enter the industry, we look forward to their feedback from a real-world perspective."

The program's eventual goal is to have 25 students enter the program each year, for a total of 100 students in the program. "Even more students would be great," Ross smiled. "However, the program is doing very well so far, and I'm pleased with that. Delta State has found a strong demand in the Delta for a program and as a result is providing it—so I'm confident that the program will continue to grow."

Johnson finished, "The support of the industry has truly helped the Hospitality Program get off to a strong start and with the cooperation between Delta State and the industry, we are certain to continue to meet their needs with qualified graduates."



A veteran of the hospitality industry, Dr. Garret Ross will oversee Delta State's newest major.



## Dorm named for Griffis



**Bryce Griffis**

Mississippi State University recently held a groundbreaking ceremony on its campus, as construction is set to begin on the S. Bryce Griffis Residence Hall. The hall, which bears the name of Delta State alumnus and well-known proponent of higher education, Griffis, will be a 115,000-square-foot, 309-bed, co-residential facility. Central to campus and conveniently located to the Joe Frank Sanderson Center and athletic events, S. Bryce Griffis Residence Hall will also house the University Honors Program.

Griffis, a 1954 graduate of Delta State, served for 16 years as a member of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, and has been an active supporter in his private life for many years of Delta State, Mississippi State and other educational institutions.

A three-year letterman in football and baseball for the Statesmen, Griffis served as a member of the Delta State Foundation board of directors and as president of the DSU Athletic Alumni Association. The Bryce Griffis Indoor Practice Center at Delta State is also named in his honor.

## Herbison named Director of University Relations

Delta State University recently named Rori E. Herbison as Director of University Relations. "Delta State University has always had a special place in my heart and I am



**Rori E. Herbison**

thrilled to have the opportunity to serve this University," Herbison offered. "I will be a tireless advocate for this University, and more importantly the people at this University."

A 2001 graduate of Delta State, Herbison served as graduate assistant in the athletic department while completing work on her master's degree in Health, Physical Education and Recreation. She became the Director of Athletic Media Relations for Christian Brothers University in May 2001,

a post she held until October 2002.

Herbison returned to the Delta to begin work with the then Gray-Banner Group, now Johnson Newsgroup. She began her tenure for the local publishing firm as an editorial assistant/sales associate, but would climb to the position of Director of Operations in just six months. In her time with the company, Gray-Banner Group continued to publish Go Green Magazine, while also launching Delta Medical Digest, a quarterly publication Herbison served as Managing Editor for; Memphis Tiger Times and The Cleveland News Leader.

"Rori brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to this role. Rori is eager to get involved in the community and will do a great job of strengthening Delta State's visibility in the region," offered Dr. Michelle Roberts, Executive Assistant to the President.

Herbison stays active in the community, serving as chairman for The Second Annual Delta Health & Wellness Day, marketing and publicity chair for the Cleveland MS Walk, as well as volunteering with OctoberFest. Currently, she is Education Chairman for the Mississippi Delta Advertising Federation.

She is married to Butch Herbison, and the couple resides in Cleveland.

# alumni

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# Alumni make \$1 million Life Insurance gift

There is always that common thread, that unifying force that will align every past, present and soon-to-be student at Delta State University – their hopes and dreams. Every student enters Delta State University with high hopes and grand dreams of success, just as Danny and Deborah Barfield did over 30 years ago.



**Deborah & Danny Barfield**

The Barfields recently made one of those dreams come true, as the couple donated a \$1 million life insurance policy to their alma mater. Both Danny and Deborah, a former Borgognoni of Clarksdale, had always hoped to be able to give back to Delta State University at a level that signified the important role the institution played in shaping their lives.

With their generous gift, the Barfields will help turn the dreams of future students into reality. Of the couple's charitable gift, Danny offered, "Deborah and I have been considering for some time how to show our support for Delta State University. We believe Delta State University is the greatest institutional asset of the citizens of

Cleveland, Bolivar County and the region."

"It is hard to imagine Cleveland without Delta State," he continued. "Our gift, therefore, is a small investment to provide the same benefits for future generations that have been afforded to us."

A 1972 graduate of Delta State, Danny is the Senior Partner in the accounting, financial services and asset management firm of Barfield, Lindsey, Salley & Bailey, PLLC. Founded in the 1940's, the firm has been offering accounting services for over six decades and began offering financial services and asset management assistance in 1996 in both Cleveland and Oxford. Barfield is one of the founders and the majority stockholder in Boyle Lumber Company located in Cleveland and Greenwood.

He and his wife, Deborah met while at Delta State, and are not the only members in their families to attend the University. Deborah's siblings, Brenda B. Robinson of Clarksdale; Cindy B. Cocilova of Cleveland; Reno Mark Borgognoni of Atlanta; and Jerry Borgognoni of Cleveland; also attended DSU, while Danny's siblings, Wayne Barfield of Gainesville, Fla.; and Carolyn B. Wilburn of Flora, also attended the University.

"Our two sons and our daughter attended Delta State, too," Barfield reported proudly. "In addition, Deborah and I have had so many nieces and nephews on both sides of our family attend Delta State that we have literally lost count."

But it was their parents, Myrl Barfield, of Bruce, and the late Knox Barfield, and Reno and Lillian Borgognoni of Clarksdale that truly inspired the gift. "This gift is made to Delta State University in honor of our parents in recognition of the sacrifices they have made to our well-being and the well-being of our children and grandchildren," Barfield praised. "My father passed away December 26, 1989. He was not an educated man but he understood the value

of an education better than any man I ever met."

"It is an absolute joy to have the Delta State Foundation as a vehicle to transfer this appreciation for their efforts forward to future generations. We make this gift with the greatest confidence that the future of Delta State University and the Delta State Foundation is in very capable hands," he continued.

Of the Barfield's contribution, Delta State President, Dr. John M. Hilpert, lauded, "I commend and thank Deborah and Danny on their decision to make a gift of that magnitude to Delta State. Their family's legacy with the University is evident in the many degrees they have earned from Delta State and their gift is a testimonial to the type of relationship that we aspire to have with all of our alumni."

Executive Director of the Delta State University Foundation, Keith Fulcher, noted, "The Barfield's philanthropic act is one of the most outstanding that I have been a part of at the Delta State University Foundation. It sets an example of giving that I invite other alumni and friends to emulate.

"Many of our alumni and friends would like to make a significant gift to Delta State and life insurance is an often overlooked and underestimated asset to donate. Sizable gifts, like the Barfield's \$1 million gift, can be made at a relatively low cost through a new life insurance policy with Delta State University Foundation named as both the beneficiary and owner of the policy," Fulcher continued. "The Foundation encourages gifts of life insurance policies and other types of planned gifts that will one day benefit the students of Delta State and provide for the future of the University."

Gifts to Delta State to cover premiums are deductible for those who itemize and can be in the form of capital gain property for a second tax savings.

*To make a gift to Delta State, contact the Development Office at [development@deltastate.edu](mailto:development@deltastate.edu) or call 662-846-4708.*



# Uncle "Boo"

By Sam Gwynne

1945 was a good year for America and a dismal year for the Boston Red Sox. In a season roughly bracketed by victory in Europe and the surrender of Japan, the Sox limped to a 71-83 record, finishing seventh out of eight teams in the American League. While marquee players like Ted Williams and Bobby Doerr served in the armed forces, Boston fielded a team of journeymen with names like Catfish Metkovich and Skeeter Newsome.

But there was hope. By the summer of 1945, the country had had a bellyful of war and death and hardship and privation, and



Annually, the Mississippi Hall of Fame honors the best collegiate baseball player, as voted by the media, with the Dave "Boo" Ferriss trophy.



Dave "Boo" Ferriss shows off pictures and other memorabilia in his Cleveland home from his life in baseball.

it was ready to have fun again. Crowds streamed back into Fenway and other parks. Attendance would soon double from prewar years.

And in Boston that summer, there was another reason to pay attention: a strapping 6-foot-2-inch package of raw upcountry muscle named Dave "Boo" Ferriss, who rose from the cotton fields of the Mississippi Delta and set the American League on fire. A rookie right-hander with a hellacious sinking fastball, he opened the 1945 season with eight victories in a row, beating every team in the league. As part of the punchless, cellar-bound Red Sox, he went 21-10.

1945 was also the year that my father turned 16, an event that is related, in a most peculiar and remarkable way, to Ferriss's precocious achievements on the mound. My dad was the son of a Worcester obstetrician, a freckle-faced and extravagantly outgoing boy who was also, quite possibly, the most rabid Red Sox fan on Earth.

That summer he got the wildly implausible notion that if he invited Ferriss to dinner, Ferriss would come. The hook: My dad's birthday was approaching, and he wanted, more than anything else in the world, to celebrate it with the Mississippi right-hander. To my grandparents' slack-jawed

amazement, Ferriss, who was getting so much fan mail that the Red Sox had assigned someone to help him manage it, said yes. He arranged tickets for a day game for my father and grandmother. After the game, the three of them went out to dinner at the Red Coach Grill in Boston. When my grandmother commented on his kindness, Ferriss replied, in an accent thicker than buttermilk pie: "It don't cost nothin' to be nice, ma'am."

That wasn't the end of it. My father continued to correspond with Ferriss into the 1946 season, when Ferriss was even more dominant than he had been in 1945. He had a 25-6 record that year and helped pitch the Red Sox into the World Series against the St. Louis Cardinals. He got my dad tickets for the third game, in Boston, in which Ferriss twirled a machinelike 4-0 shutout. I am not certain of this, but I think that seeing that game - as the guest of the ace - may have been my father's greatest thrill. The moment was more special than even he could have imagined. The following season, Ferriss tore the cartilage in his shoulder, and he never regained his old form. He went 12-11 that year, 7-3 in 1948, and did not win a game in 1949. He struggled in the minor leagues for five more years.

I know all this because this story is one of our most precious pieces of family lore and



because its subject is someone I have known my entire life as Uncle "Boo." That improbable dinner (imagine persuading Manny Ramirez to accept such an invitation!) was the beginning of an equally improbable friendship between "Boo" and my father that lasted until my father died in 1998. It was rooted in hero worship, love of baseball, and both men's encyclopedic knowledge of the sport and its history, but it ripened into something deeper and richer.

Our families became friends. Uncle "Boo," his wife, Miriam, and their two children were frequent visitors at our family's summer house in East Falmouth, boating with us on Vineyard Sound. Uncle "Boo" showed up at several of my childhood sports events. In 1959, he took me into the Red Sox dugout at Fenway. He took my parents to Red Sox banquets. As a 70-year-old, he pitched batting practice to my nephews on the tiny, burned-out diamond of our summer community. We were all just as thrilled to know him - the man who pitched the Sox into the '46 series - as my dad had been in the summer of 1945.

But as we grew up, we also learned that Uncle "Boo" was about much more than just celebrity and legend and our proximity to it. His shoulder injury and subsequent decline as a pitcher could have made him bitter, but it did not. His defining feature was the profound kindness my grandmother had observed. He was, simply, the nicest, most thoughtful man we had ever met. He showed it in a thousand ways: remembering our birthdays and sending frequent, long, newsy letters to my parents and later to my mother and to the children. He became an ideal to us, not only of physical prowess but of selflessness, thoughtfulness, and generosity. We were not the only

beneficiaries of "Boo's" generous spirit. At 84, he has more friends than he can count. In Mississippi, where he lives, he is a certifiable legend. As baseball coach for 26 years at Delta State University, he became one of the winningest coaches in NCAA history.

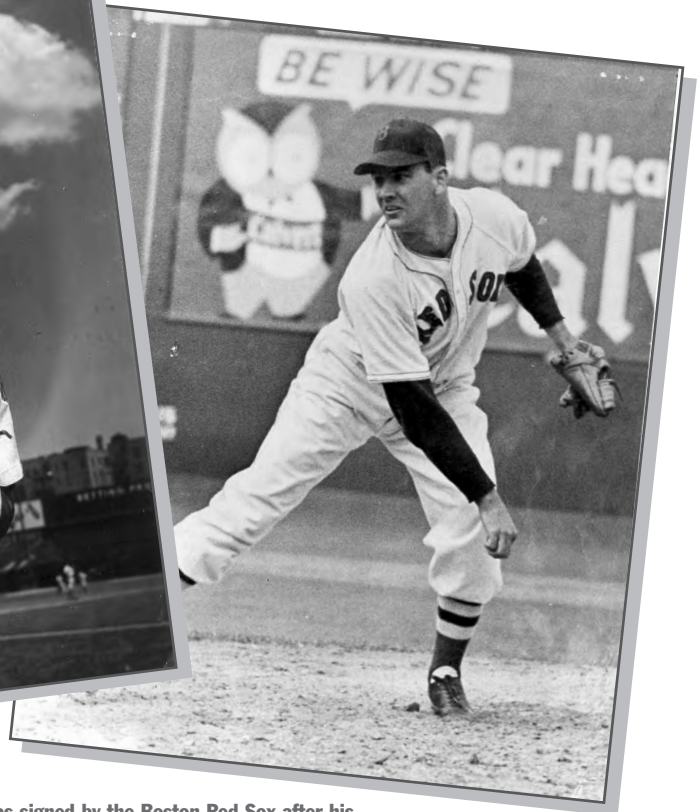
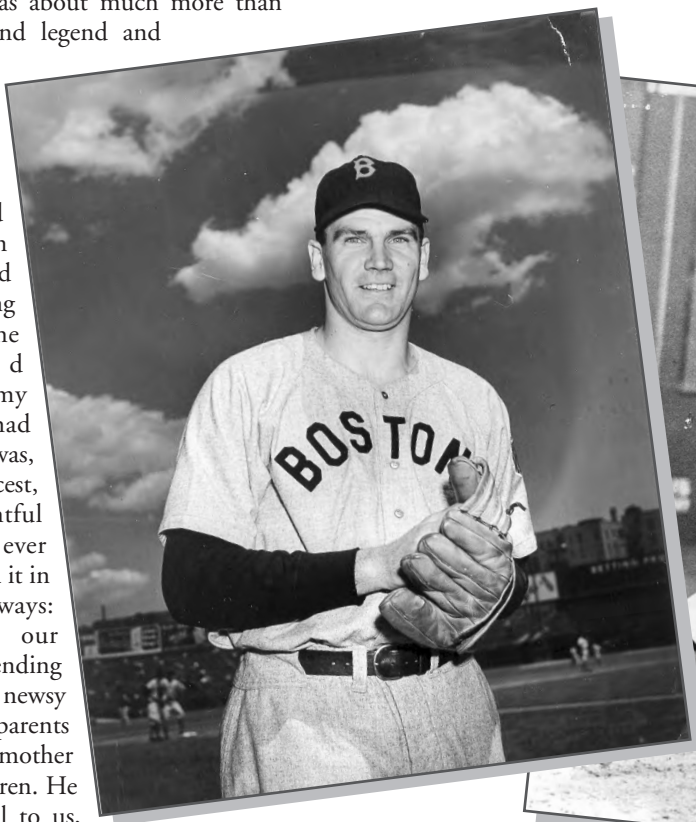
He became famous in a different way: as someone who was loved by his players. Of the 500 who played for him, he is in contact by phone or letter with all but five. He remembers their mothers' birthdays and sends cards. He hosts biannual reunions where 250 people show up. The baseball field at Delta State is Dave "Boo" Ferriss Field, and the award for the best college baseball player in Mississippi is the "Boo" Ferriss Award. "There is no other single Mississippi sports figure," says Rick Cleveland, Mississippi's leading sportswriter, "who has such universal appeal."

Sixty years after his dinner with my dad, he remains our Uncle "Boo," a very decent man who taught us that, after all, it really does not cost anything to be nice.



**A legend in the national collegiate baseball, Dave "Boo" Ferriss was inducted into the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1988, after retiring with a 639-387-8 career coaching mark.**

*Sam Gwynne is executive editor of Texas Monthly. Send e-mail to [magazine@globe.com](mailto:magazine@globe.com).*



**A Mississippi State graduate, Ferriss was signed by the Boston Red Sox after his junior year. He would spend 10 years with the Red Sox organization, five as a player and five as a pitching coach.**



# After 20 Years and 400 wins, Rives retires coaching whistle



Steve Rives

For over 20 years, Delta State University head coach Steve Rives has directed one of the most successful men's collegiate basketball programs in the country and in April, the veteran of over 400-career wins retired from the game that has treated him so very well.

"After 34 years a coach I felt it was time to move on," Rives offered. "This was not a quick decision and after laboring over it

(retirement) for over a year, I just felt it was time.

"The Cleveland community and Delta State University have meant so much to me and my family and I will forever be grateful for the support you have shown us over the years," he added.

Rives, 58, became the 13th men's basketball head coach in Delta State history just prior to the start of the 1986-87 season and from that point forward continued to build one of the richest basketball traditions in Mississippi.

"I am very proud of the tradition we have built here at Delta State, but I think I am most proud of the way we went about it," said Rives. "I tried to run this program with class and fairness and I believe that's one of the things that has allowed us to keep this run going for so long."

The Jackson native made his final season one of the most unforgettable in Statesmen basketball history. The Statesmen finished the year with a school-record 30 wins with just two losses. Rives claimed his 400th career win, while Delta State claimed the Gulf South Conference Championship with a 71-67 victory over

the University of Montevallo on March 5. The Statesmen would make a run at the NCAA title before falling in the NCAA Region semifinals to Arkansas Monticello, 83-68.

During his 20 seasons at the helm of the Statesmen program, Rives amassed a 386-188 (.672) record, while his overall career record is 401-201 (.667). He guided the Statesmen to four Gulf South Conference titles in 2005-06, 1997-98, 1996-97 and 1992-93; two NCAA South Region titles in 1986-87 and 1997-1998; and nine NCAA DII Tournament appearances in 1986-87, 1992-93, 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1999-2000, and 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2005-06. In those nine NCAA tournaments, the Statesmen earned their way to the NCAA Final Four in 1986-87, the Sweet 16 in 1992-93 and the Elite Eight in 1997-98.

Rives earned Gulf South Conference "Coach of the Year" accolades in 1986-87, 1992-93, 1997-98 and most recently, 2005-06. He was named the NCAA Division II "National Coach of the Year" in 2005-06 and he was twice selected as the NCAA Division II South Region "Coach of the Year" in 1996-97 and 1997-98.



Kent Wyatt

President Emeritus Dr. Kent Wyatt was honored by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II Conference Commissioner's Association with an Award of Merit for his 14 years of association with the NCAA.

# Wyatt earns NCAA Award

Wyatt, who served 25 years at the helm of the university, was recognized this past fall in Indianapolis at a banquet. His service to the NCAA included serving on the Executive Director Search Committee in 1993, pre-federation President's Commission (1992-1996), Amateurism Project Team and the Gender Equity Committee. His leadership extended to the chairman position on the Student Advisory Committee, Athletics Certification Study Committee and the Division II Project Team Eligibility effort.

Of the distinction, Wyatt offered, "I was

highly honored to be recognized by the NCAA Division II Conference Commissioner's Association. They are a significant leadership group in the NCAA. To be recognized after being retired for six years came as a surprise, and it was very much appreciated."

Initiated in 1992 to promote its member conferences and institutions, the Division II Conference Commissioners Association has made its mark in providing a united front for NCAA Division II athletics programs. The DII NCAA continues to create lines of communication and opportunities for its 22 member conferences.



# Sayles garners NCAA “Woman of the Year” Award for Mississippi



Bernadette Sayles became the second Lady Statesman in Delta State history to garner “Woman of the Year” honors.

Bernadette Sayles, a former standout Lady Statesmen basketball player, was recently awarded the 2005 NCAA Woman of the Year Award for Mississippi at the NCAA Awards Banquet in Indianapolis, Ind. Sayles joins Mandy Lee as the only two winners of this award in Delta State University history.

Sayles played in all 27 games for the Lady Statesmen last season making 21 starts. The senior forward led the Lady Statesmen in scoring (11.5 ppg) and rebounding (5.5 rbp), while posting a 3.00 GPA in the classroom. Sayles was voted the Co-Most Valuable Player Award and Team Captain Award. She was a Gulf South Conference Academic Honor Roll nominee as well.

“Three words best describe Bernadette Sayles better than any other, never gives up,” said Lady Statesmen head coach Sandra

Rushing. “Through all her trials, Bernadette never lost sight of what was important to her and that is so important in today’s world. I am so proud of her and I know she will continue to do great things for many years to come.”

The NCAA Woman of the Year Awards program was designed to honor female athletes who have excelled in the classroom and on the field of competition. Each NCAA member institution is allowed to nominate one athlete each year for the award. The award crosses all divisional boundaries and truly exemplifies the best women’s collegiate athletics has to offer.



Sayles, right, stands with former University of Tennessee standout and current ESPN analyst, Kara Lawson during the NCAA Woman of the Year Award Banquet.

# Robert L. Crawford Center construction update

As the Delta State baseball program began preparing for the season, Roy Collins Construction, Inc. of Cleveland began construction on the Robert L. Crawford Center. The Crawford Center will be the latest addition to the already famous, Dave “Boo” Ferriss Field.

The Robert L. Crawford Center will be the main entrance and exit point for all future Statesmen baseball games at Ferriss Field. The facility will feature the “Statesmen/Ferriss Baseball Memorabilia Room.” It will also house new restrooms, concession areas and a merchandising stand.

“If we’re going to do something, let’s make something nice,” Dr. Brad Teague, Director of Athletics commented. “We think it’s just a great facility that will enhance the whole baseball operation.”

The “Statesmen/Ferriss Memorabilia Room” will feature all sorts of memorabilia, as well as lots of facts and history on the best baseball program in the United States. DSU legend Dave “Boo” Ferriss, a Boston Red Sox Hall of Famer, will also have a number of items in the facility.

“It gives us more of a museum-like atmosphere for our kids and our fans, and we think the community will come out more and more for baseball.” Teague concluded.

The Robert L. Crawford Center is slated to be completed in May. For more information on the Crawford Center, please contact the Delta State University Athletic Department at (662) 846-4300 or e-mail us at [athletics@deltastate.edu](mailto:athletics@deltastate.edu).



Artist’s rendering of the Crawford Center



## Top 10 reasons Alumni should join the Green & White Fund

- 10** To connect with the Statesmen and Lady Statesmen.
- 9** To demonstrate pride in their quality athletic programs.
- 8** To participate in a long-standing tradition of alumni giving.
- 7** To enable student-athletes to benefit from an excellent collegiate experience.
- 6** To demonstrate belief in the University's legacy.
- 5** To give back to the alma mater that gave them lifelong relationships.
- 4** To help increase the alumni participation rate, which will increase the value of a Delta State degree.
- 3** To support the mission of the university to exceed all goals and expectations.
- 2** To demonstrate an investment in DSU.
- 1** To make a difference!

Delta State relies on the support of its dedicated alumni, and previous private contributions have helped many Delta State students succeed. Your participation in the Green & White Fund is invaluable, and every gift makes a difference! We welcome and encourage all Delta State alumni, family, and friends to join the Green & White Fund! Please call or email Assistant Athletic Director, Dana George at (662) 846-4300 or [dgeorge@deltastate.edu](mailto:dgeorge@deltastate.edu) for more information.

### LISTEN TO DSU SPORTS ON:

Cleveland	WMJW	107.5 FM
Jackson (Football)	WSFZ	930 AM
Jackson (Baseball)	WYAB	93.1 FM
Brookhaven	WBKN	92.7 FM
Biloxi	WGCM	1240 AM
Golden Triangle		980 AM
		1230 AM 1400 AM
Southaven	WAVN	1240 AM



The 2006 edition of the Statesmen basketball program proved to be one of the greatest in school history, as Delta State University finished the campaign with an overall 30-2 record and a perfect 16-0 in Gulf South Conference regular season play.

*By John Cox*

Since the end of the season, I must have answered the same question five hundred times.

"What happened to Delta State?" was asked over and over again by countless friends, family, clients and even a couple random people that I encountered.

I have been asked by so many times to explain what happened to Delta State, I figured that I would try to tell you as best I can. But to really explain what happened inside Walter Sillers Coliseum this year, I have got to first tell you a couple stories.

#### THIS IS THE STORY OF STEVE RIVES.

Twenty years ago, Delta State hired Rives as a hot young coach, fresh out of a dominating career in the Mississippi private school ranks and stints at East Central Community College and Louisiana College, respectively. He promptly took his first Statesmen team to the Final Four in Springfield, Massachusetts. The collegiate coaching game must have seemed real easy at that time for the young Steve Rives. Since then, Rives has ridden the ebb and flow of a coaching career, rebuilding at times and reloading at others.

His response to a 19-11 season in 2005? He put together a group of young men who barely knew each other in August, and cranked up

the bus for what was to be the best run in school history.

Unranked at the beginning of the season, Rives' Statesmen finished the regular season No. 1 in the nation, undefeated in conference play for only the second time in league history, won 30 games for the first time in school history and galloped to an unbelievable 26-



In late March, Jasper Johnson garnered the media-selected 2006 Cellular South Howell Trophy, which is awarded annually to Mississippi's top men's college basketball player. He becomes the first in Delta State history to capture the award.

game winning streak. Let me put this into perspective for you: On Nov. 29, 2005, the Statesmen lost to North Alabama. The team did not lose again until March 12, 2006.

While he may not admit it, even the veteran coach had to shake his head in wonder at his team and their success. But this team could not have reached those heights without the guidance and guile of its leader. Steve Rives gives one hundred percent to the game that he loves, and this team responded to his challenge to do the same.

But this is not the story of Steve Rives alone; this is also the story of Jasper Johnson.

After being basically forced out of Division I basketball at the University of Southern Mississippi, the Hollandale native came "home" to the Delta and was reborn. Johnson was a dominant force for the Statesmen, leading the team in scoring, rebounding, steals and 3-point percentage. If a big shot needed to be taken, he never ran from the ball. Big-time players make big-time plays, and Johnson never shied away from his responsibility.

#### THIS IS THE STORY OF SANDRA RUSHING.

For the first time in her Delta State coaching career, Rushing had every set of eyes in her huddle focused solely on her, and not the outside distractions. There was only one leader of these young Ladies and that was Sandra Rushing.

The result was a team that truly personified their coach's personality - tenacious, gritty and unbelievably resilient. There were times this season that it seemed that Rushing simply willed her team to victory. And, for her efforts, she was rewarded with a richly deserved GSC Coach of the Year honor, and now, ladies and gentlemen, it is official. This lady can coach, and she deserves our respect, admiration and our loyalty.

But this is not the story of Sandra Rushing alone; this is the story of Amber Gean.

Way back in 2001, when this young lady first stepped on the court for the Lady Statesmen, everyone knew that we were watching a special player. Since then, she has been through two head coaches, tough losses, a catastrophic knee injury and countless mini-soap operas within Sillers Coliseum.

But this year, all the drama finally paid off for Amber. Coach Rushing turned to this fifth-year senior every night for the role of defensive stopper, and she responded every time. Anyone who has ever had to be shadowed by Amber remembers it. Along the way, Amber joined the 1,000 point club and never took that beaming smile off her face.

In a perfect world, Jasper Johnson hits a three-pointer to give his Statesmen their first national championship. In that same perfect world, Amber Gean steals the ball with time running down and seals a national championship for her Ladies.

But this is not a perfect world, and sometimes, things just don't always end like a Disney movie.

But we don't need a perfect world to celebrate the last couple of months for our Statesmen and Lady Statesmen. We need only to look back and smile.



Head women's basketball coach, Sandra Rushing directed Delta State to its 12th overall Gulf South Conference Championship en route to garnering Coach of the Year (West Division) honors.

You see, the one thing that I love about Division II athletics is the keen recognition by the players and coaches that the name on the front of the jersey is more important than the name on the back. Loyalty, selflessness, perseverance and dogged determination are traits that these young men and women taught us night after night. No matter the end result of the season, we are a little better because of these teams and their efforts.

*John Cox is a 1996 alumnus of Delta State University, and when he's not practicing law for his family's firm, Cox & Moore, he serves as the color commentator for Statesmen basketball. Cox's column first appeared in The Cleveland News Leader.*



The Lady Statesmen finished the 2006 campaign with a 30-3 overall record, marking the first 30-win season posted by Delta State since 2000.



# WITH THE CLASSES

**35** Lucille Banister Caruthers of Greenwood is a retired teacher and active in her community.

**41** Captain Viola “Pinky” Sanders of Greenwood received the honor of having a main city street named for her. When Sanders retired from the Navy in 1966, she was the highest ranking woman serving in that branch of service.

**49** Richard McLendon of West Helena, Ark. received his long overdue eight WWII medals, including the Bronze Star, in a special ceremony. He served with General Patton’s Third Army with the 5th Infantry Division, landed on Omaha Beach during D-Day, and spent time in a German POW camp.

**51** Dr. Harry Walker is a retired dentist and living in Columbus.

**54** S. Bryce Griffis of Sturgis received the honor of having a residence hall named after him at Mississippi State University.

**56** Harry Harrell of Amarillo, Texas became the newest member of *Quadrangle Oak Society*, the University’s planned giving society.

**59** June Fyfe Fletcher of Cleveland wrote a book of her youth, “Before I was a Mom.”

**63** Anne Taylor Topolinski of St. Cantonment, Florida is a professional artist.

**64** Dr. James P. Pate is Dean of the Advanced Education Center at the University of Mississippi in Tupelo. He retired as VP for Academic Affairs at Northeastern State University in Oklahoma.

**65** Carole Kay Smith Pleasants has been top realtor with Crye Leike in Memphis for over 20 years, and will be selling real estate for Crye Leike in Destin, Florida.

Peter Jernberg of Jackson who is the current headmaster of Jackson Academy has been appointed the school’s first president and chief executive officer by the board of trustees.

**66** Langston Rogers of Oxford has been promoted to Senior Associate Athletics Directors at University of Mississippi.

**68** Jody Corroero of Cleveland is a field public information officer for FEMA.

**69** Reed Givens of Jackson is a safety consultant and is vice-president of the Mississippi Chapter of the American Society of Safety.

Jean Nunnally of Coldwater is the Assistant Principal at Shadow Oaks Elementary School.

Jimmy Reed of Oxford published a book “Boss, Jaybird and Me: A Collection of Short, Short Stories.”

**70** R. Calvin Dye of Cleveland has been elected to the Mississippi Bankers Association Board of Directors.

Tom S. “Sonny” Davenport is a CPA with Davenport, Watts & Jones in Ridgeland.

**72** Dr. Evelyn Sanford Johnson of Starkville opened a new store called Golden Triangle Fabric Center, LLC.

Nancy Duncan an elementary physical education teacher at Woodway Elementary School in Ft. Worth, Texas was awarded its *My Favorite Teacher Award*, presented by *Sporting Kid Magazine*.

William N. (Bill) LaForge of Oak Hill, Virginia was elected national president-elect of the Federal Bar Association.



LaForge

Jack Kyle of Vicksburg was recognized by Germany for bringing the artistic and cultural exhibits “The Glory of Baroque Dresden” to Mississippi. He was presented the “Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.”

Gary Walker of Tampa, Florida was named by Florida Trend magazine as one of the “Top 25” healthcare lawyers in Florida. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Hillsborough County Bar Association and of Bay Area Legal Services.

**73** Larry Newman of D’Iberville retired as principal of St. Martin Upper Elementary. Brenda Aust of Belzoni will teach mathematics at Central Delta Academy in Inverness.

**76** Dr. Jimmy Ishee formerly of Conway, Arkansas has been named Dean of College of Health Sciences at Texas Women’s University in Denton, Texas.

**77** Lusia Harris Stewart of Greenwood was inducted into the International Women’s Sports Hall of Fame held at the Waldorf Astoria in New York.

**78** Brady Perry of Baton Rouge, La is the head coach at Brusly High School.

**79** Judson Thigpen, III is the new director of the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce.

Tim Starnes of Cleveland was named to the Advisory Board of the Cleveland Office of Planters Bank & Trust Company.

Dr. David Daigneault has been selected superintendent of the Grenada School District.

**80** Valerie Martino of Ocean Springs is the new principal at St. Martin Upper Elementary.

Phyllis Leflore Calloway has joined Henderson Franklin law firm as a legal assistant in Fort Myers, Florida.

Phyllis Waldron of Camden, Arkansas is an Educational Specialist/Counselor with the TRIO Program at the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

Donald Green of Clarksdale received a Presidential Citation from LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) for his work in providing supplies for evacuees from Hurricane Katrina.



Waldron

**81** Domino Bellipanni of Indianola is the Athletic Director at Mississippi Delta Community College.

David Wilkerson of Booneville is the Offensive Coordinator at Northeast Mississippi Community College where they won the North Division Junior College Football Championship.

Richard Manning of Seabrook, Texas is a sergeant over the Burglary Apprehension Response Squad for the Harry County

Sheriff's Office in Houston, Texas.

**83** Sandy Huerta was elected President of the Cleveland Junior Auxiliary.

Donald Swafford has joined Merchants and Farmers Bank in Cleveland as a Loan Officer.

**84** Ken Dawson is employed with Guardsmark ILC in Memphis.

**85** Timothy A. Goodwin of Olive Branch received a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of Lifetime of Contributions to Information Systems.

Edward Pope of Cleveland was appointed International Director of Sigma Beta Clubs of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, where he directs the youth program.

**86** Beth Riley of Hernando is the new Assistant Principal at Southaven Middle School.

**87** Eric Crawford of Hattiesburg has been promoted to the position of Senior Vice-President of Commercial Leading at Citizens Nation Bank in Hattiesburg.

Laird Hamberlin received the World Hunting Award, achieved by less than 50 people in the world. Hamberlin is employed with Tyco in their Fire and Security Division in Asia, supervising 12,000 employees.

Felicia Applegate is the Staff Accountant for Sunflower County Courthouse in Indianola.

Hilary M. Sikes of Hot Springs Village, Arkansas is teaching seventh and eighth grade English and drama at Jessieville Middle School.

**88** John S. Holloway of Cordova, Tennessee has been re-elected as President for the Tennessee Emergency Medical Service Education Association.



**Holloway**

Andy Wilson was named STAR teacher at Olive Branch High School.

Dr. Dexter L. Criss of Plattsburgh, New York is an assistant professor of chemistry at Pittsburgh State University and received the "Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching."

**89** David Norquist of Cleveland was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives for District 28.

**90** Amelia Massengill of Baldwin has joined the Speech Therapy Program at Wheeler High School.

Rhonda Roark Bagby, CPA, of Jackson has been named CFO for Humana's Southeast Region for nine states.

Ross Reily a native of Cleveland has accepted a position as Executive Editor for the *Delta Democrat Times* in Greenville.

Philip Hardy completed his three-year tour with the USAF as a pilot and accepted a job with UPS flying the MDII and will be based in Louisville, Kentucky.

Heath Thompson is the Associate Administrator of Ocean Springs Hospital in Ocean Springs.

**91** Wayne V. Rodolfich of Biloxi is now superintendent of the Pascagoula School District. He recently received the Terrell H. Bell Award for School Leadership from the U. S. Dept. of Education for his leadership in achieving dramatic increases in student achievement while principal at Gautier High School.



**Rodolfich**

Dr. Ashley Steen Reich of Baton Rouge, LA published a children's book "Izzy Lizzy."



**Reich**

Richard Showse Myers, Jr., has been elected to membership in the law firm Stites & Harbison in its

Nashville, Tennessee office.

Nicole Menotti of Jackson has been named assistant principal at Boyd Elementary.



**Myers**

Gentry Boswell of Papillion, Nebraska is a Major in the USAF at Offutt AFB flying on the Airborne Command Post.

Christy McBrayer is a writer and performer in comedy clubs where she does a "Southern" act in New Orleans.

Rodney McCoy is a CPA with Smith, Turner, & Reeves in Jackson.

**92** Michelle Bailey of Cleveland was named to the Advisory Board of the Cleveland Office of Planters Bank & Trust Company.

Lynda Edwards of Cleveland has been appointed the Development Director for Saint Joseph Catholic School System.

Jimmy Johnston of Olive Branch is the new Assistant Principal at Lewisburg Elementary School.

Shelby Hazzard of Indianola is the Pastor of Fairview Baptist Church.

Audrey McBride of Starkville has received the Million Dollar Club, Leading Edge Society and President's Circle from Prudential Starkville Properties.

Cindi Chandler of Papillion, Nebraska is an aerobics instructor and Physical Therapist Assistant.

Renee Selby Deweese is the director of sales and marketing and events co-coordinator for Main Harbor Development in Jackson.

**93** Brian S. Porter of Saltillo has been elected to Community Bank President.

Robin Carruth of Tupelo received a "Teacher of Distinction Award."

Charles Sikes of Hot Springs Village, Arkansas is teaching tenth grade biology at Lakeside High School.

Darry (D.D.) Hardy of Memphis, Tennessee received Pfizer's Vice Presidents *Management Cabinet Award* for being the "Top Sales Manager" for 2005.



**Hardy**

James White of Cleveland opened the Delta Driver Education School Express Service in Cleveland.

**94** Helen Armstrong Krause is the Senior Art Director at Robert Rytar and Associate Design Firm in Baltimore, Maryland.

Jennifer Abraham of New Roads, Louisiana has been named the Director of Oral History Department at LSU.



**Freeman**

**95** Marvin Freeman of Brandon has been promoted to Assistant Vice-President of Trustmark Bank in Laurel.



**Palmer**

John Newton of Bentonia has accepted a Senior Automobile Claim Representative position with Progressive Insurance.

John Randall (Randy) Palmer of Madison is a pharmaceutical specialty sales representative with AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals.



**96** Jason Cumberland of Brandon graduated from officer Candidate School and is a platoon leader with the 114th Military Police Company in Clinton.

Molly Chiz has been promoted to Senior Sales Consultant with Novartis Pharmaceuticals in Fort Worth, Texas.

Mande W. Miller is a counselor at Itawamba Community College in Fulton.

Margaret Kathleen Ries Shows of Dunwoody, Georgia is the Senior Financial Analyst at Atlanta Spirit for the NBA – Atlanta Hawks and NHL – Atlanta Thrashers.

William Keith Gibson of Cleveland is a Loan Officer at State Bank & Trust Company.

**97** Melissa Farris is a PC Support Technician at Northwest Mississippi Community College, in Senatobia.

Heather Pennington Homan of Clinton was named “2005 Teacher of the Year” for the Second Congressional District.

Andy J. Clark of Jackson was accepted to the Mississippi College School of Law.

Mary Zaremba Burns is a Forensic Chemist with the Orleans Parish Coroner’s Office in New Orleans.

Mia Fioranelli of Memphis has been promoted to rehab director at a long term care facility.

**98** Jerry Floate of Southaven is the Assistant Principal at Hernando Middle School.

A.J. Baird of Springfield, Missouri is the Director of Operations for Bancorp of Missouri, dba McAlister’s Deli.

Steven A. Miller of Baton Rouge, Louisiana is the Senior Vice President of Strategic Planning, Product & IS for Associated Grocer, Inc.

**99** Laura L. Naron of Memphis was elected president of the Tennessee Health Care Association.

Melanie Estridge of Flowood has been promoted to manager of Haddox Reid Burks and Calhoun PLLC.

Joey Brown is a Service Representative for Computer Services in Atlanta, Georgia.

**00** John Bowman, Jr. of Clarksdale became the youngest President of CWA Union Local 6355, which represents Missouri State Workers.

Wendy McClain of Merigold accepted a position as city clerk for Cleveland.

Jessica Rose Springfield a native of Greenwood has been promoted to student loan officer at Trustmark Bank in Jackson.



Springfield

Nicole Whittington is the Advertising and Communications manager for Sam’s Town Casino in Tunica.

**01** Tiffanie Roncali Russell of Cleveland is a Special Education Teacher at Ruleville Central Elementary.

Allyson Langford Killough is an English Teacher at Desoto Central High School.

Felicia Forbes of Ridgeland is an art teacher was awarded the 2005 “MAEA Mississippi Middle School Art Teacher of the Year Award.”

Barbara Haferkamp of Southaven is now the Director of Secondary Education of the Desoto County School District.

**02** Stephanie Sella Brown is a Loan Officer with Sun America Mortgage in Atlanta, Georgia.

Justin Ferguson of Independence has joined the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation as a Regional Manager for Northwest Mississippi.

**03** Keith Ann Hayes Carter of Pensacola, Florida is a teacher at Ferry Pass School.

Miller Arant of Ruleville teaches physical education, civics, history and athletics at Central Delta Academy in Inverness.

Nicole Millican of Belzoni teaches second grade at Central Delta Academy in Inverness.

Jennifer Armstrong is a speech therapist at Baptist DeSoto in Southaven.

**04** Jessica E. Epting of Hernando is a Biology Teacher at Hernando High School.

Michelle Sella is an Account Representative with Time Plus in Atlanta, Georgia.

Logan Mosby is the new staff photographer for *The Delta Democrat Times* newspaper in Cleveland.

Jason Adams is a teacher in Pensacola, Florida.

Eric Brewer and wife Elena Bivol are missionaries in Moldova.

Jameco Malone of Clarksdale is an apartment manager of seven senior care complexes in North Mississippi.

Syreeia Connee Jones of Tunica joined Crye-Leike, Realtors as an affiliate broker.

John A. “Bo” Williams II of Ridgeland has joined the Ridgeland firm of Matthews, Cutrer, and Lindsey PA.

**05** Patricia Tucker of Cleveland was named 2004-2005 “In School Coordinator of the Year” for the Cleveland School District.

Robert Brinson of Florence is a social studies teacher at Shaw High School. He is also a football coach and assistant baseball coach.

Barbara Henry of Cleveland is a National Board Certified Teacher.

Bernadette Sayles of Water Valley received the 2005 NCAA “Woman of the Year Award” for Mississippi.

Elizabeth Joel of Doddsville joined *The Bolivar Commercial* newspaper as an advertising representative.

Michelle Hodges of Indianola is employed with *The Bolivar Commercial* newspaper as an advertising representative.

Jean King of Southaven is the Assistant Principal at Horn Lake Elementary School.

Lisa Steiner of Lake Cormorant is the new Assistant Principal at Hernando High School.

Melissa Johnson of Senatobia is a teacher at Coldwater Elementary.

Patrick House is Special Events and Promotions Coordinator for Isle of Capri Casino in Vicksburg.

Heather Hilderbrand of Bentonia is the Delta State University Cheerleader Sponsor.

Send us  
your news!

alumni@deltastate.edu

# Wedding Bells

Sharon Katherine Keller '96 to Dr. Todd J. Batenhorst on October 16, 2004.

Kelli Lauree Davis '03 to Jason Granger Cotton on November 26, 2004.

Frances Usrey '79 to David Raley on December 11, 2004.

Susie Campbell to Tommy Poirier '89 on April 9, 2005.

Karie Sue McCarty '05 to Roy Reed McCaleb, Jr. on June 11, 2005.

Lauren Manning to Andy Kirk '01 on June 18, 2005.

Jessica Monica Johnson '05 to Larry O'Neal Franklin, Jr. on June 25, 2005.

Aimee Aline Boekhoff to Joseph Scott Biagioli '00 on July 9, 2005.

Crystal Earline Coleman to Dr. William Neil Quinton '98 on July 23, 2005.

Claire Elizabeth Duprel '04 to Keith Wilson Lewis on August 13, 2005.

Jennifer Leigh Musgrove to William Michael (Mich) McAdory '01 on August 20, 2005.

Jennifer Britt to James Christopher McCaslin '00 on September 3, 2005.

Heather Lynn Maddox '03 to Robert Leslie Walker on September 24, 2005.

Julia Carol Cates '86 to Robert Randolph Neeley on September 24, 2005.

Marcia Giffin Wheeler '03 to Jamie Allen Houser on October 8, 2005.

Brandy Lauren Battistelli '05 to Robert Grant on October 22, 2005.

Amy Carol Winstead to Morgan Wade Stewart '04 on November 12, 2005.

Kristi Kornelia Harris-Murphy to Donell Devale Maxie '03 on December 10, 2005.

Christan (Christie) Dill '04 to Matthew Sledge '04 on December 10, 2005.

Susan Lee McCarty to Brain Blansett '04 on December 17, 2005.

Dana Frances Barry '03 to Lee Bradley White '03 on January 14, 2006.

# In Memoriam

*All deaths are in 2005 unless otherwise indicated.*

Robert Allen Arnold on October 25

Sarah Lee Ball '30 on September 2

Brenda L. Barnett '84 on July 1

William A. Baskin '80 on July 18

Skippy D. Beasley '68 on February 4

Luther L. Beddingfield '72 on March 14

Estelle M. Bedwell '36 on February 27

Dr. Farilyn Philen Bell '68 on August 7

Ruby Westbrook Bell on September 7

Sally Hill Bolding on July 25

Julia Elizabeth Brown Davis '36 on August 4

R. Wayne Cole '73 on November 30

Glarry C. Dickey '75 on October 31

Lawrence "Larry" Feduccia '48 on December 6

Joseph L. Fields '92 on July 26

Shon O. Fryery '75 on February 12

Shirley S. Galey '89 on March 19

John L. Gary '54 on November 12

Roy R. Gerrard on October 25

Erma Givens '33 on May 20

Elliott K. Harbison '64 on September 26

James R. Hannah '61 on February 6

Stanley H. Hathorn '61 on November 5

Melvin S. Hemphill '38 on December 7

Johnny Hendrix '71 on March 24

Dennis Hudson '65 on November 6

Jo M. Jenkins '70 on October 26

Linda Kremer '63 on August 12

Sammie H. McKee '63 on December 19

Bobby Moore '55 on April 8

Donna Morris '74 on April 5

Carlee W. Nevel, Sr. '50 on February 8

Travis E. "Red" Parker '56 on September 21

John Pieralisi '71 on May 13

Sally McCrary Puryear '59 on May 18

Dr. Katharine Rea '36 on March 13

Frances V. Reynolds '81 on November 4

Percy Rice '62 on August 11

Gene W. Sias '04 on May 18

James Shields '71 on July 26

Reginald Oliver Simmons, Jr. '67 on May 5

Stephen E. Simmons '70 on August 6

Dr. Charlie Sinclair '51 on September 14

Dr. Robert C. Tibbs '53 on July 25

Dr. Larry Lee Thornton on October 30

Forrest D. Walton, Jr. '94 on September 10

Paul Whittington '59 on January 7

Alva Clyde (A.C.) Williams, Jr. on December 22

Thomas O. Wilson '56 on October 12

Lucille H. Wolfe '77 on August 12

Dr. Fred E. Woodall on January 12

Christine Taylor Young, '41 on July 21

Dudley I. Young, Jr. '61 on November 7

Billy Daniel Bowman '62 on January 12, 2006

Helen R. Sizemore, '34, on January 26, 2006



# Baby Statesmen



**Nichols de La Chapelle Duease Fennell Lee Lewis Line White Zuniga Magee Davidson Mackenzie**

Anna Lewis to Mr. and Mrs. Allen Cade Bryant (Tanna Michelle Pate '03) on January 13, 2004.

Isabella Grace to Mr. and Mrs. Justin Nichols (Alison Blount '00) on March 4, 2004.

Finlay Allison to Mr. and Mrs. Henri de La Chapelle (Shane Flautt '88) on April 30, 2004.

Campbell Lea to Mr. and Mrs. John Duease (Cathy Wixted '94) on September 2, 2004.

Lawson Fennell to Mr. and Mrs. Dee Steed '00 (Kimberly Fennell '99) on September 15, 2004.

Mary Cambre to Mr. and Mrs. Andy Lee '97 on November 23, 2004.

Jacob Eli to Mr. and Mrs. Shannon Lewis (Jana Hathcock '00) on December 17, 2004.

John Christopher to Mr. and Mrs. John Christopher Cox '96 on December 28, 2004.

Leonard O'Neal to Mr. and Mrs. Leonard O'Neal Gillespie, Sr. (Candace Hampton '01) on January 5, 2005.

Samuel Nolan to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Line '01 (Patricia Taylor '01) on January 25, 2005.

Katherine Dianne to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Scott White '92 (Cydnie Barranco '96) on January 26, 2005.

Frank Henry to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Zuniga (Mandy Ervin '02) on February 10, 2005.

Tierany Ann to Mr. and Mrs. Twentis S. Magee '98 (Yolanda Dixon '98) on March 23, 2005.

Charlotte to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Beard '85 on April 2, 2005.

Mary Taylor to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Montesi '00 (Christy Riddle '94) on April 21, 2005.

Evelyn Rose "Ella" and Mary Michael to Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Fioranelli '01 (Patricia Ann Bailey '01) on May 16, 2005.

Olivia Hays to Mr. and Mrs. Neil Davidson '01 (April Cheek '00) on May 18, 2005.

Taylor Mackenzie to Mr. and Mrs. Sean Jones (Stephanie Taylor '02) on May 27, 2005.

Homer Lester to Mr. and Mrs. Homer Sledge III (Susan Brown '98) on June 5, 2005.

Kaitly Elizabeth to Mr. and Mrs. Ricky Smith (Lynn Ouzts '94) on June 9, 2005.

Anna Lawrence and Margaret (Maggie) Elizabeth to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Warren Manning, Jr. '98 (Aimee Brooke Brandon '99) on June 14, 2005.

Hunter Lee and Hannah Grace to Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Kelly (Beth Gladden '97) on June 30, 2005.

Neely Catherine to Mr. and Mrs. David Neal Kiihnl '02 (Jamie Free '02) on June 30, 2005.

Austin Colton to Mr. and Mrs. Scott Howell (Tara Edwards '01) on July 1, 2005.

Cabot Hudson and Elleni "Elle" Sloane to Mr. and Mrs. George Nassar '91 (Kimberly Ouzts '95) on July 9, 2005.

Grayson Lamar to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Lamar Temple '94 (Kristen Lipscomb '96) on July 12, 2005.

Elly Katherine to Mr. and Mrs. Taff Hitt '98 (Kate Ibsen '01) on July 27, 2005.

Camryn Nicole to Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Stephens (Jennifer Allen '99) on August 2, 2005.

Audrey Madison to Mr. and Mrs. Scott Crawford (Meredith Sims '99) on August 4, 2005.

Campbell Williams to Mr. and Mrs. Allen B. Towles '03 (Callie Sellers '02) on August 11, 2005.

Kaden to Mr. and Mrs. Kelon Dill (Stacy Farish '02) on August 18, 2005.



**Kelly Kiihnl Howell Nassar Temple Hitt Stephens Mayhan Dill Crawford**

Caroline "Carrie" to Mr. and Mrs. Jay Maggio '96 (Amy Denton '94) on September 23, 2005.

Caleb Morris to Mr. and Mrs. Justin "Fish" Robinson '00 (Elizabeth Eure '97) on October 4, 2005.

Marianna Elizabeth to Mr. and Mrs. David Keith Fulcher '83 on October 24, 2005.

Katy Belle to Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Mayhan '98 on October 24, 2005.

Luke Hamilton to Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Smith '00 (Lesley Smith '00) on November 21, 2005.

John Hansel to Mr. and Mrs. John Aegerter (Lou Ann King '93) on December 13, 2005.

Anna Veston to Mr. and Mrs. David Joel Deer (Amy Moyer '98) on December 29, 2005.

Anna Woods to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Neal Hebert, II '04 (Melanie Diane Blansett '00) on January 8, 2006.



Marianna Fulcher, right, six months, and Ashley Weeks, six weeks, sport Delta State baby bibs recently ordered by the Alumni Association for "Baby Statesmen." Marianna is the daughter of Keith ('83) and Anne Fulcher and Ashley is the daughter of Johnny and Dena Barfield Weeks ('04). Alumni with recently delivered "Baby Statesmen" can contact the Alumni office at (662) 846-4660 or email alumni@deltastate.edu to receive a free bib.

To announce your  
**newborn, wedding, job change  
or other significant event**  
in your life, send an email to  
alumni@deltastate.edu.

Or mail to  
**Box 3104,  
Cleveland, MS 38733.**

Please include a photo and detailed information.

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

SSN# \_\_\_\_\_ Class of or years attended \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please check the type membership that best suits your needs:

1 year (\$20 single, \$30 joint)  Life (\$300 single, \$400 joint)

I would also like to join the following alumni groups:

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

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

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

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

Check  VISA  Mastercard

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

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

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

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

Make Checks payable to: DSU Alumni Association

Mail to: Box 3104, Cleveland, MS 38733

**SPRING 06**





# SHOW YOUR PRIDE IN DSU

## Purchase a logo car tag!

*Keep Us Posted...*

# Alumni Update

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_

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 05



Former roommates reunited after 40 years. From left to right, Evelyn Echols of Memphis, Philip Farr of Guatemala and Sylvia and Bobby Ferguson of luka were thrilled to see one another again, and spent much of the day recalling their times as undergraduates.



At a recent Natchez alumni meeting, Vicki Fioranelli, Delta State alumni director, presented Floyd Eppinette, '56, with the association's distinguished alumnus award.



The Delta State University Student Alumni Association recently elected new officers, including (l. to. r.) Kelsey Atkinson of Oxford, Dominique Milton of Batesville, Natalie Dicharo of Brookhaven, Chelsea Shepard of Cleveland, Drew Barham of Coldwater, Christy Granberry of Raymond.



The Bolivar County Alumni Association's Crawfish Boil Planning Committee met recently to discuss its "Mudbug Celebration," an annual event held in early May. Pictured (l. to r., front row) Ryan Short; Bill Quinton, chapter president; Callie Towles; (l. to r., back row) Paul Mancini; Jim Avery; Rileyann Smith; and Michael Aguzzi.

# 1976 A. T. A. W. *National Champions*

With this, the 30th anniversary of Delta State University's first national championship, the Alumni-Foundation, both congratulates and applauds the trailblazing efforts of the 1976 Lady Statesmen, A.I.A.W. National Champions. Coached by the legendary Margaret Wade, the mother of modern women's basketball, Delta State went on to win three consecutive A.I.A.W. National Championships in 1975, 1976 and 1977. The Lady Statesmen finished the 1975-76 season 33-1.



Front row, from left: Debbie Brock, Pam Piazza, Tish Fahey, Sheri Haynes, and Mandy Fortenberry. Second row, from left: Manager Laura Beth Penn, Janie Evans, Jackie Caston, Judy Davis, Virginia Shackelford, Cornelia Ward, Wanda Hairston, and Manager Dianne Dove. Back row, from left: Head Coach Margaret Wade, Ramona Von Boeckman, Mary Logue, Lusía Harris, Angel Fortenberry, and Assistant Coach Phil Adair.