

FALL 2010


Delaware State

THE MAGAZINE FOR DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

**Major General
Thomas L. Moore Jr.
Speaks Freely**





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compete in
tug-of-war on
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Major General Thomas "Tango" Moore at his home. Photo by Gil Ford Photography.

President's Message

Dear Friends,

This letter appropriately begins with several expressions of thanks:

- Thank you to John Cox who has served so well as National Alumni Association President for the past two years. John's energy and enthusiasm match his creative leadership abilities, and the growth and revitalization of the organization show it.
- Thank you to George Bassi for many years of service on the board of the National Alumni Association and for agreeing to become its President for the next two years. George typifies the cliché, "if you want a job done well, ask a busy person to do it!"
- Thank you to all who paid dues to the Alumni Association. It was the biggest year ever in this important effort.
- Thank you to alumni who have reached into pockets, purses, piggybanks, and billfolds to help us through the extended downturn in the economy. Giving for scholarships, faculty development, and many other elements enhancing university quality have never been stronger.
- Thank you to everyone for 25 years of Pig Pickin'. Who could have guessed at the beginning that this annual event would become so significant in the life of the university?



As many who read this publication will know, this past summer was our first experience hosting a training institute for Teach For America. For eight weeks we had more than 800 new corps members and staff on our campus. The corps members are recent college graduates from institutions across the United States who have agreed to spend two years teaching in some of the nation's most challenged K–12 schools. They are committed to the principle that each child has the right to a good education.

We competed to host this Summer Institute, the eighth site for Teach For America. The other programs are located on major university campuses in Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, and Phoenix. Thus, we became the first rural site, and Cleveland, Mississippi, responded wonderfully. Hundreds of volunteers from the community helped campus personnel with one event after another, and the institute was a rousing success. Of course, this is a tremendously important program not only for Delta State and Cleveland, but especially for the schools of the Mississippi Delta.

I encourage everyone to attend both the 25th Anniversary Pig Pickin' on September 25 and Homecoming on October 16. These are always great events, and this year's celebrations have several new and creative aspects. We will honor alumni for a variety of accomplishments with Major General Thomas Moore receiving the Outstanding Alumnus of the Year Award (see the article about him in this issue).

This will be another great year at Delta State! Please visit often.

Sincerely,


John M. Hilpert
President

Alumni Message

Dear Alumni and Friends:

By the time you read this letter, the fall semester will be in session and the students will be back on campus and in full swing. We have had a busy spring at the Alumni Association and have had the opportunity to visit alumni and friends in places such as New York City, Atlanta, Memphis, Jackson, and our usual stops around Mississippi. Thank you for that support!


The fall semester will bring our two biggest alumni events in Pig Pickin' and Homecoming. Pig Pickin' is celebrating its 25th birthday on September 25 this year, and what started as a small barbecue cooking in Shumate Park has now blossomed into a full-fledged Delta tradition. Homecoming 2010 has been set for the weekend of October 15–16, and I do hope that all of our alumni and friends will make a special effort to come back to campus to take part in the many, many activities planned for the weekend. Highlights of the weekend include our inaugural Homecoming Awards Gala on Friday evening honoring our 2010 Outstanding Alumnus, General Thomas Moore of Columbus, and our other service award winners, the Homecoming Parade, and, of course, the football game versus Harding University and the crowning of our 2010 Homecoming Queen on Saturday.

In closing, please let me say that it has been an absolute thrill and honor to serve all of you as your National Alumni Association President. I want to thank Jeffrey Farris, Liza Vaughn, Bevin Lamb, and all of the Alumni staff for their patience and hard work. Dr. John Hilpert and all of the University faculty and staff have always been receptive to even my most far-out suggestions or ideas and I sincerely appreciate their support. I would like to thank my Board of Directors for their dedication and service and willingness to work for Delta State. My friends and family were kind enough to allow me this great opportunity to serve my alma mater, and I treasure all of the new friends that I have met along the way. My name is not worthy of being included with all of the great men and women who have served as Alumni Association President, but I am humbled to have been a small part of our great history. I have no doubt that my successor, George Bassi of Laurel, will take us to new heights, and I look forward to working with him in the future.

I am and will always be a Statesman.



All my best,


John C. Cox '96

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Teach for America

Only one week after spring commencement, Delta State University officials welcomed a new group of students and teachers to the campus. Over 800 people arrived on campus in June for the Teach For America (TFA) training institute.

In July 2009, TFA announced it would open its first Mississippi Delta teacher training institute at Delta State University in June 2010. The Delta institute became the eighth TFA training location and the first in a rural area, joining Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York City, Philadelphia, and Phoenix. Teach For America is the national corps of top recent college graduates who commit to teach for at least two years in urban and rural public schools.

"Delta State University is proud to host Teach For America's training institute and to welcome its corps members and staff to our community," said Delta State University President John Hilpert. "We look forward to helping prepare these bright young people to be outstanding teachers in the Delta and in the many other regions where Teach For America is helping to close the achievement gap."

Teach For America's institute prepares corps



Teach For America members are eager to share their enthusiasm with Delta students this fall.

members to be effective teachers while they work under the close supervision of veteran educators and Teach For America staff to measurably increase the academic performance of students in summer school classrooms. During their institute training, corps members complete interactive courses and clinics to build knowledge, deepen skills, and apply their learning in the classroom. Corps members attending the Delta institute will teach in summer school programs across at least 14 area school districts while living at and attending

courses at Delta State University.

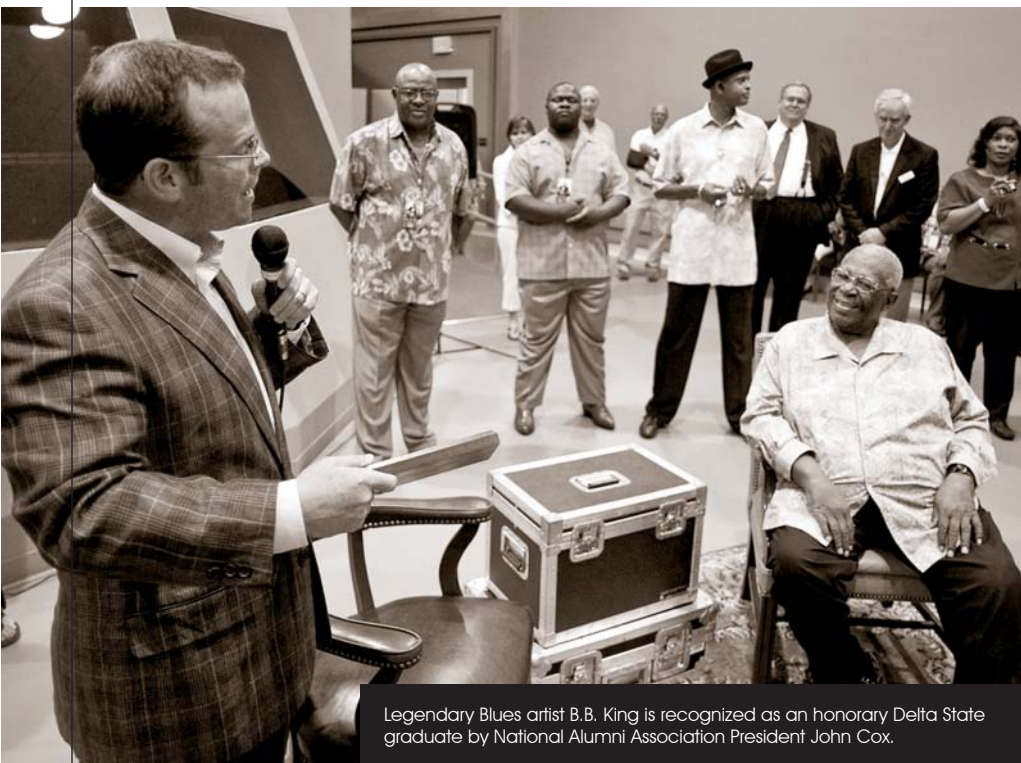
"Having a Teach for America training institute in the heart of the Delta is an invaluable resource for improving education in our state's neediest areas," Governor Haley Barbour said. "I appreciate Teach For America choosing Delta State University to house this program. It will complement the outstanding educational programs already in place at Delta State."

Teach For America has been placing teachers in the Delta since 1991. The organization is tripling the number of new teachers it brings to the area compared with last year, as 275 corps members arrived this July. The Delta will see the biggest increase in incoming corps members of all TFA regions. These teachers are part of a national corps of 4,100—the largest incoming class in Teach For America's history.

"We're grateful for the leadership and dedication of Dr. Hilpert and his staff at Delta State," said Ron Nurnberg, executive director of Teach For America in the Mississippi Delta. "[They] have been passionate about working with us to create a rigorous training program that will benefit the Delta's students and set our teachers up for success."



The Teach for America training institute was held on the Delta State campus during summer 2010.

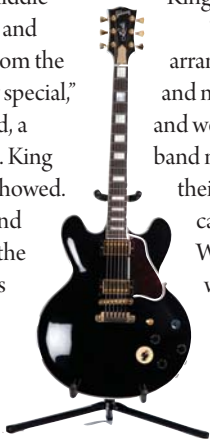


Legendary Blues artist B.B. King is recognized as an honorary Delta State graduate by National Alumni Association President John Cox.

B.B. at the BPAC

Legendary Blues artist B. B. King performed for the first time on the Delta State University campus on Wednesday, June 30, in the Bologna Performing Arts Center (BPAC). King entertained the sold-out crowd with a mesmerizing blend of music and storytelling.

"It doesn't get any better than B.B. King live at the BPAC. To be comfortably seated in this extraordinary venue in the middle of the Mississippi Delta and to hear and feel the magic that can only come from the hands and mind of B.B. King is very special," said Allan Hammons of Greenwood, a founding board member of the B. B. King Museum. "B.B. was at home and it showed. His abilities as a master showman and musician were evident throughout the evening. Even as B.B. approaches his 85th birthday, there is no one who can do what B.B. King does with a guitar—no one. And, you can't say enough about the B.B. King



Blues Band. It was a blockbuster evening!"

Following the performance, King visited and toured the Delta Music Institute (DMI). After the tour, King was named an honorary Delta State graduate and was presented a plaque by Delta State National Alumni Association President John Cox. Cleveland Mayor Billy Nowell followed by presenting King with a key to the city.

"The DMI has been working hard to arrange visits of professional performers and musicians to our recording facilities, and we were thrilled to have B. B. and his band members visit Studios A and B after their recent show on the Delta State campus," said DMI Director Tricia Walker. "They were very impressed with our set-up, and B.B.'s road manager indicated that he would like to consider working on a project here. I can't imagine a greater collaboration."

NEWSMAKERS

Roseann Buck

This summer Roseann Buck became the newest head of the Bologna Performing Arts Center. An Ohio native, Buck formerly served as associate director at The Valentine Theatre in Toledo where she supervised 193 volunteers and 22 employees. Buck is excited about the opportunity to lead the BPAC into the future: "the Bologna Performing Arts Center is absolutely first rate and I'm looking forward to working with everyone at Delta State."



Dr. Susan Ford

Dr. Susan Allen Ford, Delta State professor of English, Writing Center coordinator, and editor of the Jane Austen Society of North America journals, was presented the Woman of Achievement Award by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) during its state convention in April. Since 1881, AAUW has been one of the nation's leading voices promoting education and equity for women and girls.



Dr. John Green

Delta State Associate Professor of Sociology and Community Development, Dr. John Green, was awarded the 2010 Ted K. Bradshaw Outstanding Research Award. The award is presented by the Community Development Society in recognition of outstanding contributions to community development. Green is the founding director of the Institute for Community-Based Research at Delta State. During 2009–2010, he has been interim chair for the Division of Social Sciences and chair of the Department of History.





Senator Cochran speaks to Delta Council on the Delta State University Quadrangle.

Delta Council's Diamond Year

Politics, agriculture, and the economy were the hot topics on a hot Delta morning as hundreds braved the rising temperature to attend the 75th annual meeting of the Delta Council, Friday, May 28, on the campus of Delta State University.

The event kicked off with a presentation by Washington political pundit Stu Rothenberg concerning the outlook for the Senate and House races in this watershed election year.

The business session of the annual meeting began at 10:30 a.m. in the Bologna Performing Arts Center. U.S. Senator Thad Cochran was the featured speaker for the meeting.

Cochran thanked members of the council for the invitation to speak at the event, stating he was particularly proud to keynote the diamond anniversary of Delta Council.

Noting the importance the Council plays in crafting legislation, Cochran stated, "I've counted on Delta Council for input when the Congress develops the Farm Bill, the major legislation considered every five years to set national agriculture policy. Because of the historic and ongoing prominence of agriculture in the Delta, the Farm Bill has a major impact on this region."

In closing Cochran stated, "For over 75 years, the residents of the Delta have looked to the leadership of Delta Council for insight, guidance, assistance, and improvement. The current needs of this historic and unique region require Delta Council to thrive, and I am confident that it will."

Griffis Conferred with Honorary Degree

Delta State alumnus, Bryce Griffis ('54), was bestowed with one of the university's highest honors—an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree—during the 2010 Spring Commencement ceremonies.

A well-known proponent of higher education, Griffis has been a generous supporter of academics and athletics throughout his life. Griffis served for 16 years as a member of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, the second-longest tenure in Board history, and he has been an active supporter of Delta State University and other educational institutions.



Bryce Griffis is presented an honorary degree at the 83rd commencement in Spring 2010.

A champion of universities, Griffis has given generously to Delta State, from which he received a degree in business administration in 1954, and to Mississippi State University. He has been a volunteer leader in fund-raising and alumni activities at both universities.

Patti Ryan featured at DMI Anniversary Celebration



Patti Ryan entertains along with Tricia Walker at the DMI, Studio A.

Tricia Walker, singer and songwriter and director of the Delta Music Institute (DMI), accompanied Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Patti Ryan, as Duff Durrough, bandleader for Thacker Mountain Radio's house band, The Yalobushwhackers, provided musical backing at the DMI Anniversary Celebration. Ryan performed one of the most successful country hits of all time, "Looking for Love," which she co-wrote with Wanda Mallette and musician Bob Morrison.



Saving Dockery Farms

In March, The Dockery Farms Foundation announced that it has been awarded a Save America's Treasures Grant through the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior. These funds will enable the Foundation to undertake the restoration of several buildings at the Dockery Farms Historic Site, beginning immediately with the Dockery Service Station. Hampton Tucker, Chief of the Historic Preservation Grants Division National Park Services states, "the National Park Service is pleased to participate in the preservation of Dockery Farms. This grant through the Save America's Treasures program will allow all Americans to experience the birthplace of one of our great music traditions for years to come. Innovative public/private partnerships like this are the foundation of preservation of this country's rich and diverse heritage."

"We are delighted to have the National Park Service and Save America's Treasures as our partners in preserving the buildings at Dockery," said William Lester, Delta State University

professor emeritus of art and executive director of the Dockery Farms Foundation. "This Save America's Treasures grant and the matching support we have received from Bill and Carolyn Powers and others has enabled us to begin this urgently needed work."

"Dockery is widely viewed as being 'the birthplace of the blues,'" said Dr. Luther Brown, Director of the Delta Center for Culture and Learning at Delta State University. "College classes from across the country and tourists from around the world want to visit this important landmark, and its preservation is vital to the development of heritage tourism as an economic engine for the Delta."

Dockery Farms was established in 1895 by Will Dockery to cultivate cotton. By the mid 1920s, the community at Dockery had grown to encompass several thousand people. At one time Dockery had its own infirmary, post office, commissary, rail road (the "Pea Vine"), and even its own currency. Dockery was home to a number of Blues pioneers, among them



Renovations commence on the historical Dockery Service Station.

Henry Sloan, Charley Patton, Willie Brown, Tommy Johnson, and Roebuck "Pop" Staples. It was at Dockery that these musicians lived and learned from one another. They played in the boarding houses and on the commissary steps at Dockery. In turn they left Dockery and traveled to the North to record. Some of them later returned to Dockery. Their songs influenced the development of popular music all over the world. The extraordinary musical collaboration that happened at Dockery in the early 20th century has made the property a beacon for music fans and scholars from all over the world. The Dockery Farms Historic Site was added to the National Register of Historic Places with National Significance in 2006 and to the Mississippi Blues Trail in 2008.

The old service station was built in the 1940s, long after Will Dockery's death. Nonetheless, it will play an important role in the Foundation's preservation and public education plans for Dockery Farms. The restored and converted service station will include a classroom for school field trips and other visitor programs, a small café, and the offices for the Dockery Farms Foundation. The Service Station Restoration Project, which is being conducted by Cleveland Lumber Company, is expected to be completed in four to six months.

The Dockery Farms Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to preserving the historic property and heritage of Dockery Farms and developing these for educational purposes and the public interest.

For additional information, contact William Lester, Executive Director, The Dockery Farms Foundation at 662.719.1048 or blester@dockeryfarms.org.



Dollars and Sense:

Delta State Athletics making the most with state's least

By Matt Jones

When you sit down to compare Mississippi's most successful athletic departments, it doesn't take long to realize that Delta State University can easily claim the moniker. Despite having the state's smallest budget—\$2.7 million for fiscal year 2010–11—Delta State Athletics has maintained a winning tradition second to none in the Magnolia state. How do the Statesmen and Lady Statesmen do it? Simply put, it's dollars and sense. For years, Delta State athletic directors, coaches, and support staff have made the most with the state's least.

"We have to make every dollar count," stated Jeremy McClain, Delta State director of athletics. "There's no fluff, no slush fund set aside for lavish trips or expensive items we want. Every dollar spent in this department goes to fulfill our mission to the institution."

A quick look at the budgets of Mississippi's seven intercollegiate athletic departments paints an interesting picture. The three NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision schools have the largest annual budgets, led by the University of

Mississippi with \$43.7 million, Mississippi State University next at \$37.4, and the University of Southern Mississippi at \$19.7 million.

Of Mississippi's four remaining schools, none has an annual budget over \$7 million. Football Championship Subdivision members Jackson State University (\$6.8 million), Alcorn State University (\$5.3 million), and Mississippi Valley State University (\$3.3 million) all have annual budgets over \$3 million.

Only Delta State University, Mississippi's only NCAA Division II school, operates with funding below the \$3 million level.

"It comes down to our people. From the coaches to our support staff, our people make Delta State Athletics what it is. Money makes things easier, but it doesn't guarantee winning," McClain added.

Winning is something to which Statesmen and Lady Statesmen fans have become accustomed. Delta State has claimed nine national championships, 27 NCAA regional titles, and 59 conference crowns in its storied history. No other Mississippi school comes close.



While the adage “winning solves everything” is often applied to athletic departments, McClain understands that’s not the case.

“We face a unique set of circumstances here that our NCAA Division I institutions do not face,” McClain stated. “Our private funding helps us tremendously, but the challenges get tougher every year.”

Increased travel expenses, facility maintenance and development costs, and rising tuition rates are just a few of the items facing McClain and his staff.

McClain doesn’t like to refer to the challenges as obstacles but rather as opportunities for his coaches and staff to create new ways to help make the department more fiscally sound yet still competitive on a national level.

Over the past three years, Delta State Athletics has focused several changes in operations on improving services to student-athletes, while enhancing the fan experience and helping the bottom line.

In 2008–09, Delta State Athletics launched a new version of gostatesmen.com, the official internet home for Statesmen and Lady Statesmen athletics. In just two years, web hits have jumped to over 3 million.

“We have really made an effort to expand our offerings to our fans,” added McClain. “From feature videos to game day highlights to increased radio and TV coverage, our fans are just a few clicks away from the

largest social network in the Gulf South Conference.”

This summer, Delta State Athletics began a “Go Green” initiative within the department. Starting with the 2010–11 fiscal year, student-athletes will be able to fill out their forms online without the hassle of paper.

Going paperless also means no longer printing Delta State’s nationally acclaimed media guides, a costly but worthwhile expense. A recycling plan is also being formulated, and energy conservation is on the agenda as well.

“The switch to our current web provider has opened the doors for us on so many of these items that we’re going to see a tremendous savings,” McClain said. “Though we will no longer print media guides, we’ll still offer the information on our website, and fans will have the opportunity to print out the information as they see fit.”

While these changes may seem small, the savings created in these areas help ensure that cuts will not affect the product our coaches put on the field.

“We’re committed to always look for ways to improve our department and the student-athlete experience,” added McClain. “Changing the way you think can be difficult, but one thing’s for certain—we will always be competitive. We will always strive to be the best we can be, and we need your help and support to do it.”

SPORTS SHORTS

Athletic Communications Earns Awards

The Delta State University Office of Athletic Communications was recently recognized by the College Sports Information Directors of America with three CoSIDA Publication awards, including two “Best in Nation” citations for its Baseball and Swimming and Diving media guides.



Eyster Returns to Cleveland

A familiar face will be patrolling the sidelines of Delta football stadiums this season as former Delta State All-American quarterback Scott Eyster (’06) returns to Cleveland to take the reins of the Cleveland High School football program. A two-time All-American quarterback for the Statesmen in 2005 and 2006, the Hammond, Louisiana, native set school and conference records for passing with 13,889 yards and 116 touchdowns.



Home Improvement

The Delta State football locker room just got a facelift. Stripped out and reworked, it now features a new rubberized floor and new paint job. Players will also get a chance to enjoy a new lounge area inside the locker room. This addition will give players a place to come after practice, class, or games to relax, watch television, and maybe even get some homework done.



The Art of Swimming:

How Cetin Oguz fell in love (with Delta State)

By Jimmy Smith

As a young man in Istanbul, Turkey, Cetin Oguz ('01) loved two things: art and swimming. His art gave him perspective on the world, but it was his talent for swimming that allowed him to see it. His phenomenal success in the pool eventually earned him the scholarship that brought him to the U.S. to study English.

Cetin first enrolled in the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. But not long after he hit the States, then head swimming coach Ronnie Mayers ('76) took his Statesmen and Lady Statesmen swim teams to UALR for a meet. Coach Mayers met Cetin after the meet, and the rest is history. Cetin went on to become Most Valuable Swimmer at Delta State in 2000, a NSISC Scholar Athlete in 2000–2001, an All-NSISC selection in 1999–2000 and 2000–2001, and a two-time CSCAA All-American in 1999–2000 and 2000–2001.

Cetin's ambition and hard work made a lasting impression on Delta State. Many Turkish swimmers followed in his footsteps, then more students from other countries. Almost overnight Delta State Swimming went global. Without Cetin's courage, the program might not have become the melting pot and NCAA II powerhouse it is today.

But for Cetin there was life after swimming, and after finishing his three semesters in the pool he met the love of his life, Carmen Elizabeth Cooper ('93). In his senior year at Delta State, Oguz dived headfirst into a budding relationship. He remembers how their first encounter changed his life.

"We had common international friends. She invited us to her house, and that is the first time that I met her," he said. "Everything grew from that invite."

They were married on Cetin's graduation day.

The wedding was held next to the pool.

After graduation Oguz headed to Memphis College of Arts and earned a master's degree in 2003. While attending he commuted to Memphis because his wife, Carmen, was a successful physical therapist in Cleveland. Lucky for Cetin, a job opened up within Delta State's art department, and in the fall of 2003 he became a professor.

"Once you get a position here at Delta State, or in this area, why wouldn't you stay?" he said. "The culture, hospitality, friendliness, quality of education, the quality of the people; it would be very hard to make another decision. You consider everything, and you're married. You look at it from so many different angles. Finally, I found that this is the best place for me to settle."

Now settled, Oguz takes every opportunity to find inspiration (and competition). "I love playing basketball," he said. "I am very passionate about basketball and learning about the game. I also like to play ultimate Frisbee. Sometimes I find a correlation between the state of meditation that I think swimming gives

me, and I try to reflect that in my drawings and interpret that feeling with line, color, and value."

Now a successful Associate Art Professor going on his eighth year at Delta State, Cetin is happy with his decisions. "It changed my life tremendously," he said. "Everything took place here. I have two children, Cooper and Cruz, and I have been married for ten years. All of my career has taken place here. Delta State has given me everything."



Cetin Oguz has turned his love of swimming into a career here at Delta State.



Murray Takes Reins of Swimming and Diving

An exhaustive search came to a conclusion on Friday, July 30, as Delta State University Director of Athletics Jeremy McClain ('99) named Dan'l Murray head coach of the Statesmen and Lady Statesmen Swimming and Diving teams. Murray grabbed the reins of the program immediately.

"When we began the process of looking for the next head coach of our swimming and diving program, I wanted to find a candidate with the leadership, integrity, and vision to take the program forward," McClain stated. "Coach Murray has all these qualities and I believe he is the right man for the job."

Murray has served the past five years as head coach of the Delta Aquatic Club (DAC), an age group program based in Cleveland. During his tenure as DAC head coach, Murray has guided the program through a major growth spurt that includes two satellite programs in Greenville and Tunica, while increasing participation from 50 swimmers in 2005 to over 200 today.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to serve as Delta State's next head Swimming and Diving coach," Murray stated. "The chance to coach one of the nation's top NCAA Division II programs doesn't come along every day, and I'm thankful to Jeremy McClain for his belief in my abilities to run the program."

Murray's coaching acumen is without question. The Greensboro, North Carolina, native has coached numerous state champions, state record holders, and high school champions during his tenure as an age group coach. Current Lady Statesmen and NCAA All-American Alyce Meador was a member of DAC during Murray's first two years in the Delta.

"I know how to grow a program, and I want to take the same passion that grew DAC into one of the state's top organizations and lead Delta State Swimming and Diving into the future," Murray added. "We have one of the top facilities in the nation, and we'll use it and our work ethic to bring championships back to Cleveland."

NEW FACES ON THE SIDELINES

Delta State University Athletics will welcome several new faces to the 2010-11 Statesmen and Lady Statesmen coaching family. In all, four new full-time coaches and several graduate assistants will patrol the sidelines this year.

Joining coach Ron Roberts' football staff are offensive coordinator Greg Stevens, defensive coordinator Pete Golding ('06), offensive line coach Travis Mikel ('07), and defensive line coach E. K. Franks. Lady Statesmen basketball head coach Sandra Rushing also welcomes her new primary assistant, Greg Long.

Stevens comes to Delta State after serving four seasons as wide receivers coach at Utah State.

Golding, a familiar name to many Statesmen fans, returns after a three-year coaching stint at Tusculum College. During his time at Tusculum, the Hammond, Louisiana, native served one season as the defensive backs coach before spending the last two as defensive coordinator. Prior to coaching at Tusculum, Golding spent one season as a defensive graduate assistant working for then defensive coordinator Ron Roberts. Golding also spent four seasons as a player for the Statesmen, earning All-Conference honors after the 2004 and 2005 seasons.

Mikel takes the reins of the offensive line after serving the last two seasons as a graduate assistant and director of football operations. In his two seasons coaching, Mikel worked with wide receivers and, most recently, the offensive line. The Fort Walton Beach, Florida, native played four seasons for the Statesmen, earning All-American honors at center after the 2006 run to the national semi-finals.

Long returns to the Lady Statesmen basketball program after coaching five seasons in his home state of Florida. The Ocala native served the last two seasons as head boys basketball coach at Trinity Catholic High in his home town. This past season he led the Celtics to a 22-7 record in route to the "Sweet 16" of Florida High School Basketball. Long spent the previous three seasons as an assistant on the Ocala Forrest High staff.



Greg Stevens



Pete Golding



Travis Mikel

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY ANNUAL FUND 2009–10

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DELTA STATE'S ANNUAL FUND TURNS 15

The Annual Fund Office recognizes the following donors to the Annual Fund who have been faithful yearly contributors. The list represents the Top 50 cumulative donors to the Annual Fund since 1995. Donors are ranked in order of total gift amount. THANK YOU. Your gifts are essential to the future of Delta State University! Visit the Annual Fund website at <http://www.deltastate.edu/pages/3813.asp> for more information.

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Brunetti Family Transforms Lives through Scholarships

A family with heart can defy odds. The Brunettis of Rosedale are living proof. Ike Brunetti, the second generation, has taken his family's life lessons and created a successful crop-dusting business, Shelby Air Service. Now he is using his success to bless generations to come.

Ike and Karen Brunetti have gifted Delta State University with a \$250,000 life insurance policy that upon maturity will endow two scholarships: one scholarship in the Robert E. Smith School of Nursing and the other in Commercial Aviation. Until the policy matures, Ike and Karen will provide annual scholarships for deserving students. Ike and Karen are paying homage to his parents, Finley and Clara Bell Brunetti, Sr. Through the endowment, Ike has creatively unified his father's love of flying with his mother's desire for him to go to college.

"As a young man, I was eaten up with aircraft," Ike said. "My mother was a big believer in education and made sure we all went in the right direction. I kind of tricked my mother, telling her that I'd go to college if she'd put me through flying school."

But after just one full year at Delta State, Ike knew deep in his heart what he wanted to be doing. At that time Delta State University did not have a Commercial Aviation program.

"Most of my friends had no idea what they wanted to do in life, but I did," he explained. "So I went to trade school to become a pilot." Ike performed any and every job for local crop dusters to work his way into the cockpit.

Ike's grandfather, Alexandria Brunetti, immigrated to the U.S. from Italy in the early 1900s by

way of New Orleans, while his grandmother, Elisa Pieroni Brunetti, made her way via Ellis Island. They brought with them the passion to succeed and planted it and their family deep in the Delta soil.

"Our family has a lot of heart," Ike said. "And that's what I wanted to pass back through them with the heart they've given us. It's such determination that keeps you going through adverse circumstances."

With the passing of his father when Ike was only 14, his mother went back to school and became a nurse well loved throughout Bolivar County. Karen's mother, Sally Jo Lishman, was also a nurse. In fact Sally Jo Lishman and Clara Bell Brunetti were nurses at Bolivar County Hospital at the same time and became best friends.

"My mother loved nursing," he said. "She was

the best thing the Lord ever put on this earth as far as I'm concerned. She was a devoted mother and nurse. We're honoring both of them for all they've given me, and we're giving back to Delta State and anyone in the Delta who will benefit from these scholarships."

The Finley and Clara Bell Brunetti, Sr. Annual Scholarships will be first awarded in both nursing and commercial aviation in the upcoming school year. Putting together the awards was an easy task for the Brunettis.

"Delta State is home," he said. "What Karen and I have done we hope others will follow. It's very financially manageable for anyone to do, and it has a great impact down the road."

For more information on supporting the University through a gift, contact the Development Office at 662.846.4708, development@deltastate.edu, or text 662.719.1732.



Finley Brunetti, Sr. standing in front of a Piper Pawnee Brave

Karen and Ike Brunetti



The Robert E. Smith School of Nursing is the only bachelor's and master's of Nursing Program within a hundred mile radius of Cleveland, Mississippi. It enrolls 207 juniors, seniors, and master's nursing students, the largest enrollment in its thirty-three year history. Mr. Smith (center back) is pictured with students enrolled in the program named in his honor.

Robert E. Smith Named Philanthropist of the Year

Robert E. Smith, Cleveland native and WWII veteran who served as a tank commander under General George Patton, was named "2010 Philanthropist of the Year" by the Mississippi Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP). He was selected from nominations submitted statewide.

Mr. Smith is a graduate of Mississippi State University and paid his way through college by working in the MSU laundry and waiting tables at a fraternity house. He even slept in the laundry on a cot. He comes from a very humble beginning due to his father dying in 1937 when he was only 12. Robert E. Smith also attained the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. Emma Seelbinder Smith, his mother, was a public school teacher in Cleveland and also ran the family farm where she raised three sons and

ensured that all earned a college degree. At one time his mother was the oldest living graduate of Mississippi University for Women.

In 1996 Mr. Smith, a retired farmer, contacted the Delta State University Foundation about establishing an annual scholarship for students enrolled in Delta State's School of Nursing. Since that time he has endowed seven scholarships and has planned his estate by leaving a significant endowment for nursing scholarships. The endowment will generate approximately 100 scholarships valued at \$1,000 each. This contribution represents the largest gift/pledge in the history of Delta State. He has made gifts to Delta State in just about every way possible—gifts of cash, real estate, Charitable Remainder Unitrust, Charitable Gift Annuity, and stock. Mr. Smith served two

terms on the Delta State Foundation Board of Directors. He is a member of the Quadrangle Oak Society, the Foundation's planned giving club. He is a true example of a philanthropist who has taken the time to prepare his entire estate to accomplish a good to better society. In 2009 Delta State dedicated the Robert E. Smith School of Nursing in appreciation of his support.

The first recipient of a Robert E. Smith School of Nursing Scholarship was Ruth Ann Lopez Luciano ('02). Ruth became the first in her family ever to attend college. In a recent visit with Robert E. Smith, Ruth Ann stated, "without you I couldn't have done this. You were my support." She is married to an attorney and works as a nurse in the emergency room at North Sunflower Medical Center. Two of Ruth Ann's nieces have also attended Delta State. Ruth Ann recently commented that she has been inspired by Mr. Smith's example, and she plans to establish her own scholarship. Mr. Smith's generosity has already inspired two others to endow nursing scholarships at Delta State.

Mr. Smith's goal is to change healthcare in the Mississippi Delta. His sizable estate gift will one day provide hundreds of scholarships for deserving nursing students. Since inception seventeen students have received a Robert E. Smith School of Nursing Scholarship.

Mr. Smith will be honored at the Jackson Country Club on November 18 as part of AFP's "National Philanthropy Day" lunchtime celebration with the theme "change the world with a giving heart." Mr. Smith follows in the footsteps of former honorees such as The Phil Hardin Foundation, Bob and Sara Hederman, Warren Hood, Stuart C. Irby, Jr., Mac McCarty, Jerry O'Keefe, John Palmer, Joe Frank Sanderson and Leila Clark Wynn.



By Lynne Jeter

Coming Home

Golden Circle welcomes Class of 1960

The year 1960 was a turbulent one. John F. Kennedy edged Richard Nixon in the presidential election; U.S. relations with Cuba deteriorated; the civil rights movement gained ground; and *The Andy Griffith Show* debuted on television. Back at home, Dr. James Milton Ewing was president of Delta State, and Dave "Boo" Ferriss, Boston Red Sox Hall of Famer, took over as coach of the Statesmen baseball team.

Delta State graduates from the Class of 1960 will no doubt enjoy comparing days gone by while catching up on 50 years of post-college life as they celebrate their landmark anniversary. "This year is a special homecoming for me since we'll be celebrating my class's 50th graduation anniversary," said Tom McCormack, Class of 1960. "I'm looking forward to seeing many of my old friends again and sharing treasured memories of those very special days of long ago."

The Class of 1960 will be honored during Homecoming 2010 festivities on Saturday, October 16, when the Statesmen return to Parker Field-McCool Stadium to host Harding University. At halftime, the Alumni Awards recipients will be recognized in the south end zone of the football field. The Golden Circle and the Class of 1960 will be recognized via loudspeaker and asked to stand.

A Golden Circle contribution and signature Homecoming event, the fourth annual Veteran's Atrium program will be held at Jobe Hall

Saturday at 11 a.m. The atrium was created by Dr. James Robinson, a long-time history professor at Delta State, as "a place for students to sit and study, use their laptops, and realize the price veterans paid for their freedom."

Thanks to the work of Robinson and the atrium committee, the atrium has been furnished with benches, plants, bookcases, plaques, flags, and a recognition tree. "We're continuing to raise funds to honor DSU faculty, staff, students, and alumni who served in the military," added Jeffrey Farris, Director of Alumni Affairs.

Homecoming festivities begin on Friday as business-tending turns to networking and fellowship. A morning meeting of the Delta State Foundation Board of Directors will be followed by an afternoon meeting of the National Alumni Association Board of Directors. That evening, Class of 1960 alumnae will be inducted into the revered Golden Circle during the Alumni Gala at Walter Sillers Coliseum, open to all alumni and friends of the University.

"I look forward to visiting with former classmates and rekindling old friendships," said

Sarah Tapley, President of The Golden Circle. "The revamping of the Friday activities is going to provide an opportunity for all groups to be recognized in a more formal manner and celebrate Homecoming as fellow alums."

At the gala, Delta State graduates will be honored with Outstanding Alumnus of the Year, Alumni Hall of Fame, and Service Awards.

Registration for Homecoming Day events will be open from 8 a.m. until noon on Saturday in the H.L. Nowell Student Union, with the Young-Mauldin Cafeteria serving a special luncheon for all students, alumni, and friends.

"I'm looking forward to seeing many of my old friends again and sharing treasured memories of those very special days of long ago."

— Tom McCormack ('60)

"Homecoming is an exciting time for Delta State University," said Farris, "with alumni and friends returning to campus to experience past memories and create new ones."

Find a complete schedule of Homecoming 2010 events at www.deltastate.edu/homecoming.

Alumni Association's 2010 Outstanding Alumni and Friends

Hall of Fame Recipients

Alumnus of the Year

Major General Thomas L. Moore, Jr. ('82),
of Columbus, Hall of Fame Class of 2010

Dr. Wayne Blansett ('73),
of Cleveland, Hall of Fame Class of 2010

Dr. Joe B. Whitehead, Jr. ('82),
of Hattiesburg, Hall of Fame Class of 2010



Service Award Recipients

Nancy Gerrard ('50), of Cleveland, is the recipient of the Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni Service Award: presented to recognize outstanding service and contributions to Delta State University by an alumnus.

Michael Aguzzi ('97), of Cleveland, is the recipient of the Kent Wyatt "Young Alumnus" Service Award: presented to recognize outstanding service and contributions to Delta State University by a young alumnus.

Dr. Rose Strahan (Friend), of Cleveland, is the recipient of the Gladys Castle "Friend of Delta State" Service Award: presented to recognize outstanding service and contributions to Delta State University by a non-alumnus.

Ronald Mayers ('72), of Cleveland, is the recipient of the Legacy Award: presented to an alumnus who made an institution-changing impact on Delta State University.





Outstanding Alumnus of the Year
Major General Thomas L. Moore, Jr.
at his home in Columbus.



Semper Fidelis

Faithful Always to Country, Family, Delta State

By Lynne Jeter

When Major General Thomas L. “Tango” Moore, Jr. was rising through the military ranks of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), he stayed mum about a special talent he nurtured at Delta State University.

“It wasn’t that I was embarrassed about my interest in art,” said Moore, an affable gentleman who delights in life’s simple pleasures. “It was that in every aviation squadron, whenever it’s found out that someone has artistic talent, the good-idea guys would generate a thousand tasks, such as making posters, patches, and drawings of aircraft. I learned early in my career to keep my artistic ability quiet. It really wasn’t until I made the rank of Colonel that [my wife] Lee Ann started letting people know that some of the artwork in our home could be attributed to me. By that time, I was one of the good-idea guys.”

Moore, who retired from the USMC as Acting Deputy Commander of the United States Central Command, a post that holds authority over combat forces and service members serving in the Middle East, is the Delta State University 2010 Outstanding Alumnus of the Year and a new inductee to the Delta State University Alumni Association Hall of Fame.

For Moore, a Delta boy from birth, pursuing a military career was somewhat of a fluke. He grew up in the close-knit community of Scott, where “everyone had a stake in your ‘bringing-up,’” he recalled. “I had many mothers because all my friends’ moms were allowed to give me a hug or a spanking, depending on what was required.” Many childhood days were spent fishing, boating, and swimming. “We camped out year-round across the lake, and when my cousin from California came to visit, he told my mother, ‘Aunt Barbara, this is really boys’ heaven,’” said Moore.

As a young boy, watching crop duster pilots execute low-level acrobatic gyrations as they sprayed clouds of yellow smoke over farmland fascinated Moore. “One day, my father took me to the local



airport to watch a silver Stearman biplane land,” he said. “I’ll never forget seeing the pilot climb out of the cockpit. He was wearing a leather aviator’s helmet and a pair of goggles. His name was Scottie Boudreaux. He talked to me about flying, and to this day, whenever I hear a radial airplane engine, I flash back to Scottie Boudreaux and remember how exciting it was to be next to all that noise, to take in all those smells associated with aircraft and think about being up there in the sky.”

Moore played football throughout his youth and was greatly influenced by Coach Tony Grezaffi at Benoit High School, who “taught us all about selflessness associated with athletics, which has been influential throughout my Marine Corps career.”

After looking at several universities, Moore selected Delta State because of its superb art program. During the first few years, however, extracurricular activities—and a special girl he met on a blind date in 1970—distracted his focus on studies. His schoolwork suffered until Professor Sammy Britt pulled him aside. “He told me that if I was serious about ‘that little girl from Belzoni,’ I probably better get my act together or I wasn’t going to graduate,” said Moore. “He was right.”

In 1972, the Vietnam War was still raging and Moore had lost his college deferment. His draft number was 42. The likelihood of being called to duty was high.

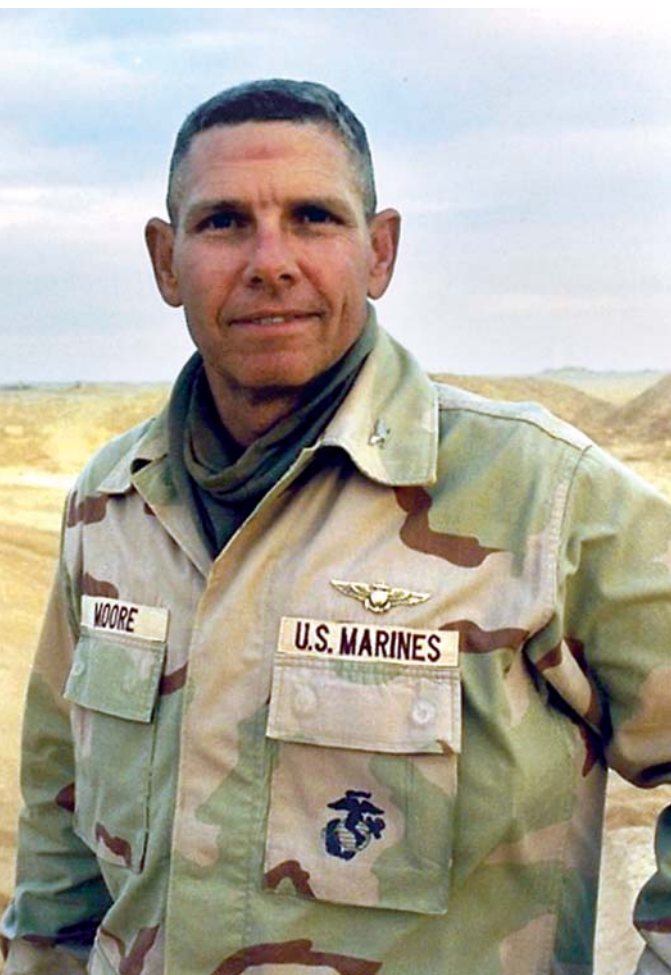
“I had finished four years of college but hadn’t graduated because I changed my major from art to biology, because I was pretty sure I was going to marry Lee Ann Mohamed,” said Moore, who was working for Chevron Chemical as a field hand at the Greenville Experiment Station when his boss, Dr. Marcus Adair, influenced him to change his major. “There’s not a lot of money in being an artist. The phrase ‘starving artist’ is real unless you’re very talented, and I wasn’t.”

That September, after four months of marriage, Moore received a

call from a Marine Corps recruiter asking him if he wanted to fly for the U.S. military.

"I didn't know any more about the Marine Corps than what I'd seen in John Wayne movies, and that wasn't much," recalled Moore. "At the time, I didn't even know the Marine Corps had airplanes and helicopters. I told him I was interested, but I didn't have a college degree. He said 'that's no problem. We've looked at your record and you're eligible for the Degree Completion Program.' I got his phone number. This was a big step. I sat down with my father-in-law, Senator Ollie Mohamed, and asked him if he thought this might be the way I should go. 'Absolutely,' he said."

In October, Moore passed the aviation test and flight physical in Meridian. But bad news awaited his return to the couple's Greenville apartment: an oversized letter sticking out of the mailbox was marked "Greetings from the President of the United States. You've been drafted into the United States Army." With a heavy heart, he called his recruiter.



"He told me, 'no problem. You did well on your tests. We'll enlist you in the Marine Corps and you'll be on the 180-day delay program. This will give us time to process your paperwork for Officer Candidate School. If at any stage during your training, or if your paperwork doesn't go through, you'll go to Parris Island, South Carolina, for recruit training instead of entering as an officer,'" recalled Moore, who was sworn in as a private in Jackson, Mississippi, in October 1972.

In January 1973, Moore kissed his bride goodbye and entered Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia. "For the first two months, I couldn't believe what I had gotten myself into," he admitted. "Up to that point, it was easily the most difficult thing I'd ever experienced in my whole life, and I didn't think I was going to make it."

In fact, Moore wasn't certain he wanted to pursue a career in the Marine Corps. "Each time I came up for promotion, Lee Ann and I saw areas where we could contribute," he said. "We saw we were serving with a unique group of individuals who were capable, patriotic, and committed to protect the freedoms that all Americans enjoy."

In 1981, Moore seized the opportunity to return to Delta State and complete his undergraduate studies; Lee Ann earned a graduate

"We saw we were serving with a unique group of individuals who were capable, patriotic, and committed to protect the freedoms that all Americans enjoy."

degree in guidance and counseling. The first person he looked up on returning was his former advisor. "I told Professor Britt that he'd been correct," he said. "After the rigors of the Marine Corps, I found that setting a study schedule for my art and multiple history courses was pretty easy."

THROUGH THE RANKS

After going to Intermediate Level School and completing a tour at Headquarters Marine Corps in the Tactical Space Planning Branch, Moore was elevated to Lieutenant Colonel and assigned to New River Air Station in North Carolina as commanding officer of Helicopter Marine Medium (HMM) 261, better known as "The Raging Bulls." He was the executive officer (second in charge) during Desert Shield and Desert Storm, flying combat missions in and around the Kuwaiti theater of operations. He assumed command of HMM 261 that joined the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). Known as the nation's 911 force, a MEU is comprised of a battalion landing team (ground), composite aviation unit (air), and a combat service support unit. His squadron represented the aviation combat element; Moore was in charge of 26 aircraft and some 300 Marines. "Whenever you hear in the media that 2,200 Marines are being sent somewhere due to a crisis, they're sending one of the MEUs to deal with the crisis," he explained.

After attending Air War College—Moore also received a master's degree in human resources management at Troy State University during this time—and completing a tour as the senior Marine at Air University, Moore was selected to command the 11th MEU on the West Coast. Twice during the 24-month tour, the 11th

MEU was deployed to the Persian Gulf.

In addition to operating in the Middle East and Horn of Africa, and handling operations in support of a Joint Task Force in East Timor, the 11th MEU also handled a non-combatant evacuation of French and U.S. personnel from the U.S. Embassy in Eritrea.

Toward the end of this tour, Moore was selected for the rank of Brigadier General and served multiple tours as a general officer, among them Operations Officer (J-3) for Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, Virginia.

"I was in that billet on 9/11 when our nation was attacked by Al Qaeda," noted Moore, who was also responsible for the deployments of personnel to Afghanistan and then to Iraq.

After being selected for his second star, Moore was given the command of 2d Marine Air Wing (MAW) in Cherry Point, North Carolina, one of three active duty wings in the Marine Corps comprised of more than 400

aircraft—rotary wing and fixed wing—and some 15,000 Marines. He was then selected Chief-of-Staff for Gen. George Casey of the Multi-National Force, Iraq (MNF-I), serving 14 months in Baghdad for Casey, then for Gen. David Petraeus. After the tour in Iraq, Moore was named Chief-of-Staff for Admiral “Fox” Fallon at U.S. Central Command in Tampa, Florida.

THE HOME FRONT

In 2005, when Moore was the Commanding General of 2d MAW, Lee Ann had a health crisis. Diabetic for several years, she had reached a point of facing kidney failure. “When Tom and I decided to try the transplant route rather than dialysis, we were tested to see if we were a match,” said Lee Ann. “Luckily, we were. Tom decided then and there that he would be the donor. No one else in my family was even tested.”

The transplant took place that summer at Walter Reed Medical Center. “The most wonderful thing about the transplant was the bonding,” she said. “It not only brought Tom and me closer, but also gave us a closer bond to our daughter and Tom’s sister, both our nurses once we went home. We were surrounded by close friends and family, and as serious as the entire ordeal sounds, it was truly a time in our lives that stands out as one of the happiest and most fulfilling.”

By the end of his military career, the Moores had moved 23 times. Their daughter, Malinda, had attended seven different schools before entering Delta State in 1995. He had been deployed eight times aboard ship on “difficult” 6-month deployments.

“But clearly the most demanding time I spent in almost 36 years was the 14 months I served in Iraq as the Chief-of-Staff at MNF-I,” he said. “Though demanding, it was tremendously rewarding because I worked directly with U.S. Embassy personnel and Iraqi officials as we tried to stand up a democratic

government in this nation. The days were very long, spreading my time between my office at Camp Victory and another office at the U.S. Embassy in the Green Zone. The only time I could get away from my three computers,



three telephones, and a video conference phone, was when my Marines escorted me and my gun trucks to the Embassy and back, three to four days a week.”

After retiring as Acting Deputy Commander of the U.S. Central Command and amassing an impressive collection of personal decorations—Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, Air Medal and Navy Achievement Medal—Moore and Lee Ann relocated to Columbus, Mississippi, where he is vice president of marketing and works unmanned aerial systems for Stark Aerospace.

Known to friends as “Tango,” the call-sign/nickname he received when stationed in Hawaii, and to his grandchildren as “Papa

Tango,” Moore recalled meeting his first-born grandson as the “coolest thing that happened to me in 36 years of Marine Corps aviation.”

“Lieutenant Colonel ‘Gumby’ Graham and I had been to a conference on the West

Coast, and I was getting some flight time in the F-18 Hornet,” he said. “My grandson had been born a week prior in Collierville, Tennessee. The plan was to land in Memphis at the National Guard ramp where Lee Ann was going to pick me up and take me to see my new grandson. We flew into Memphis, called for the break, brought the jet around and landed. As we taxied to the line, I could see my son-in-law’s Honda on the flight line next to the jet parking spot. At that point, I realized it wasn’t just Lee Ann coming to pick me up—it was also my daughter, son-in law, and new grandson, Jay. We opened the canopy and I climbed down out of the jet. My grandson was gorgeous! It was hugs all around. During the entire evolution, despite the noise of two jet engines wailing away, Jay was sound asleep with a bit of a smile on his face. Is it possible he’s going to be a Marine aviator?”

Moore’s extended family now consists of 9-year-old Jay and granddaughters Annie, 7, and Jane, 2.

Major General Moore’s Delta State connections run deep. His mother received her degree in the early ’70s. “In fact, she and I attended college at the same time,” he said. “My only rules were that I wasn’t going to commute with her or be in the same class. She was an outstanding student, and many friends who had the same classes gave me reports on how enthusiastic and smart she was,” he said. Moore’s daughter met her husband, Jamie Duncan, on campus. “You can see that Delta State has been very influential in my life and the lives of those that I hold most dear.”

Moore will be honored during the Homecoming Awards and Gala Dinner, Friday, October 15, 6pm at Walter Sillers Coliseum. For tickets contact the DSU Alumni & Foundation office.

Finger Lickin' BBQ

By Lynne Jeter

25th Annual Pig Pickin' Celebration Slated for Sept. 25

Whether molasses-flavored, chili pepper-spiked, smoky-imbued, or tinged with other spices and sweeteners, the barbeque at the 25th annual Pig Pickin' festival in Statesmen Park will be finger-lickin' yummy.

Shortly after dawn of the first Saturday home football game at Delta State—this year, it takes place on September 25, when the Statesmen host Henderson State University—cooking teams from all corners of the Delta will assemble grilling stations on the north side of Parker Field-McCool Stadium. At 8 o'clock, the 19th annual Delta State University Triathlon (benefitting Statesmen and Lady Statesmen Athletics) will kick off the day-long festivities. While athletes are completing their course—a 500-yard swim, 18-mile bike ride, and 5K run—die-hard grillers will be mopping sauces of all varieties and consistencies onto chicken, pork, and beef ribs in a fierce, yet friendly competition to be crowned Grand Champion 2010.

Around 1 o'clock—five hours before the traditional kickoff time—the action picks up. Entertainers serenade the crowd with live music—usually an eclectic mix of blues, R&B, rock, soul and funk—while children romp in KidsZone, and Delta State cheerleaders and the marching band usher in the 2010 football team during the pre-game pep rally.

The official tasting line opens at 3 o'clock; diners have two hours to

sample the creative ways the teams have blended tomato paste, vinegar, sugars, and spices. Winners will be announced prior to kickoff and again at halftime. The cost per ticket for the barbeque is a bargain at only \$5,

on sale at the Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni/Foundation House.

"Pig Pickin' has taken our first home football game of the year from a tailgate to a festival," said Craig Verhage ('92). "I've enjoyed watching it grow into the most attended football game of the year. DSU football is a bonus!"

Pig Pickin' began in 1985 as a way for the Delta State Alumni Foundation and Athletic Department to engage alumni—now more than 10,500—and the Cleveland community in a hometown celebration while also showcasing campus improvements. The festival has evolved into an opportune recruiting and networking event, spawning merchandise such as commemorative t-shirts, stadium cups, and other collectibles.

Vicki Fioranelli, former alumni director, recalled that the idea for Pig Pickin' took root after then-alumni director Hugh Ellis Walker returned from a conference. He enthusiastically regaled the staff with stories about an epic barbeque event in the Carolinas.

"He suggested we try it before the first home game at Shumate Park," she said. "We hoped for 300 people to attend, and it took about three years to reach that goal. It jumped to a new level several years later when Clyde Weeks suggested we add a barbeque contest similar to Memphis in May. After outgrowing Shumate Park, another giant leap was moving it north of the stadium and creating Statesmen Park in 2007. The rest is history."

Verhage was impressed when the student recruiting office began bringing prospective students to Pig Pickin', "because if that's a senior in high school's first impression of Delta State," he said, "they'll be enrolling soon."

Pig Pickin' was destined for greatness, said Fioranelli. "When you combine football, fans, good food, music, and fellowship in a festive atmosphere like Statesmen Park, you've got a recipe for success."

"When you combine football, fans, good food, music, and fellowship in a festive atmosphere like Statesmen Park, you've got a recipe for success."

—Vicki Fioranelli ('68)



Class Notes

1930s

1939



WHITCHER

Lillie Whitcher, of Tuscola, IL, celebrated her 95th birthday in October 2009.

1950s

1954



GRIFFIS

Bryce Griffis, of Starkville, was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Public Service Degree during the Spring 2010 commencement ceremonies.

1960s

1969

Norris Ashley, of New Albany, has been named the 2010 High School Basketball Mississippi Coach of the Year by *The Clarion Ledger*.

Cheryl Marchant, of Cleveland, was awarded the 2010 "Perseverance Award" from Baptist Health Systems.

1970s

1970

Billy D. Stroupe, of Ripley, was appointed interim superintendent for the Prentiss County School Board.

1971

Danny Whittington, of Carthage, has retired after 30 years as an Education Services Specialist for the United States Department of Defense.

1972



ROGERS

Tom Rogers, of Corinth, was named the 2010 Outstanding Citizen by the Junior Auxiliary of Corinth.

Terry Williams, of Collinsville, was inducted into the Meridian Community College Hall of Fame.

Walter Wood, of Montgomery, AL, was recognized by the Department of Youth Services Board and Alabama Governor Bob Riley as the longest continuously serving state juvenile corrections executive in the United States.

1973

Ronnie Tubertini, of Ridgeland, was awarded the Woodworth Memorial Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers Association.

1974

Deborah McCollum, of Mandeville, LA, has been selected principal of Covington High School.

Reveland Wheat, of Brandon, was recognized as the USTA Sectional Queen in tennis in the *North Side Sun Magazine*.

1975



PEACE

Beatrice Peace, of Tunica, was awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award from President Barack Obama and was honored as the 2009 Community Stars Woman of the Year at the Northwest Mississippi Community Foundation's 10th Annual Crystal Ball.

1976

Jimmy Headrick, of Slidell, LA, has joined the team of contributors at neworleans.com/sports.



WATKINS

Larry Watkins, of Petal, was named Coach of the Year by Hattiesburg American after leading the Petal High Baseball team to win the first MHSAA Class 6A State Championship.

1977



ARNOLD

James Arnold, Jr., of Andover, MA, was appointed Chief Financial Officer of Kofax and a member of Kofax's Board of Directors (kofax.com).



RICHARDSON

Connie Richardson, of Nashville, TN, was named as a finalist for the 2009 CFO Award given by the *Nashville Business Journal*.

1980s

1980

Anthony Bouton, of Gainesville, FL, was recognized as being the man "behind the scenes," for recording lectures for online classes at the University of Florida.

1982

John Reed, of Houston, TX, was named the new Chief Executive Officer of Global Industries, Ltd. (globalind.com)



WHITEHEAD

Dr. Joe B. Whitehead, of Hattiesburg, has been named Dean of the University of Southern Mississippi College of Science and Technology.

1983

Aubrey Cox, of Carthage, has been appointed to the East Central Community College Foundation Board.

Mark Hargett, of Cleveland, received the "Book of Golden Deeds" from the Cleveland Exchange Club.

1984

Lenagene Waldrup, of Drew, received the Jefferson Award, recognizing those improving society through volunteerism, and was one of the recipients of the 2010 Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts presented by the Mississippi Arts Commission.

1985

Charles Michell, of St. Louis, MO, was named President and Chief Operating Officer of AgRobotics. (agrobotics.com)

1986

Dave Bufkin, of Clinton, has been named the Chief Information Officer for HORNE, LLP.

1987



LaVonne V. Hester-Smith, of Decatur, GA, was awarded a Ph.D. in Organization and Management from Capella University. She is employed by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, U.S. Department of the Treasury, in Chamblee, GA.

1989

Johnny Ray, of Olive Branch, was inducted into the Northwest Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame for baseball.

1990s

1990



Cindy Estes, of Horn Lake, was appointed as one of the new International Mission Board Missionaries.

1991

Jack Hart, of Murfreesboro, TN, is the lead pilot with Flight Management Corp. of Tennessee.

1992

Kimberly Broadwater, of Cleveland, has been appointed as Faculty Coordinator of General Education Reform for Mississippi Valley State University.



Greg Fahey, of Baton Rouge, LA, has been named head of retail banking for Chase in Louisiana.



Jim Young, of Hattiesburg, has been named Chief Financial Officer for the Wesley Medical Center.

1994

Jon Caudill, of Oxford, joined the Oxford Pediatric Group as a Pediatrician at Baptist Memorial Hospital-North Mississippi.



Lynn Smither, of Booneville, has been elected to a three-year term representing the state's 15 community and junior colleges on the Mississippi Professional Educators Board of Directors.

1995

Meredith Hayles, of Woodville, has joined Franklin County Memorial Hospital as a Family Nurse Practitioner.

1996

Marti Green, of Olive Branch, was promoted with ProLogis Management Company. (prologis.com)

Todd Lott, of Greenville, was named Head Football Coach at Greenville Weston High School.



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With the Classes



WEAVER

Paula Weaver, of Brandon, was recognized as one of the "Top 40 UNDER 40" by the Mississippi Business Journal for her success at Entergy Services as a Senior Environmental Analyst.

1997

Deshonda Brown, of Greenville, was named Greenville Public School District's "Teacher of the Year."

Martin Mitchell, of Greenville, was recognized in the Delta Democrat Times for serving as a soldier in the Iraq War.



PORTER

Ryan Porter, of Southaven, was recognized by the Southaven Rotary Club as "Teacher of the Month."

1998

Sean Cannon, of Florence, AL, has been named the Defensive Coordinator for Itawamba Community College.

Bonnie Gillespie, of Isola, has been working in Haiti after the earthquake as a seasoned disaster responder with the American Red Cross.

Heather Wanner, of Memphis, TN, was hired by Peabody Family Care as a nurse practitioner.

1999

Brian Bishop, of Cleveland, was named "Rookie of the Year" by the Mississippi Firefighters Memorial Burn Association.

Kadisha M. Cain, of Mesquite, TX, was named "Teacher of the Year" 2009–2010 at S.S. Conner Elementary School in Dallas, TX.

Brett Marchant, of Cleveland, was named District III New Agent of the Year by Farm Bureau Insurance.



OLIVER

Ruth Marie Oliver, of Owens Crossroads, AL, has been named the Director of Education at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, home of Space Camp and Aviation Challenge, in Huntsville, AL. (spacecamp.com)



WARMACK

Dwaun J. Warmack, of Cordova, TN, has been hired by Bethune-Cookman University as Vice President of Student Affairs.

2000s

2000



JOE

Lylla Cooper Joe, of Madison, accepted a job at the Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency as community outreach coordinator. (msora.org)

2001



GRIFFIN

Antonio Griffin, of Southaven, is the buffet manager at the Paula Dean Buffet Restaurant at Harrah's Casino in Tunica.

2002



ARMSTEAD

Demetric Armstead, of Kosciusko, is the Chair of the School of Criminal Justice at ITT Technical Institute in Chattanooga, TN.



SIMPSON

Larkin Simpson, of Diamondhead, has been named Chamber of Commerce Director/Project Manager by the Economic Development Authority of Jones County.

2003

Andy Dillard, of Saltillo, was named an assistant coach for the Tallahatchie Rascals in the Cotton States Baseball League.

Robert Taylor, of Alligator, was promoted to Assistant Vice President at Mississippi Land Bank of Cleveland.

Jacob Pryor, of Water Valley, has been named one of the emcees for an upcoming fashion show presented by the Charleston Arts and Revitalization Effort.

2004

Demethous Morris Chambliss, of Mansfield, TX, received the Livesay Award from Millsaps College; the award honors the spirit of commitment of Jim Livesay and his volunteer work.

2005



ELDER

Marks Elder, of Northport, AL, will serve as a graduate assistant and primary contact for men's basketball and men's golf while also assisting in the day-to-day duties of the Delta State Athletic Communications Office. (gostatesmen.com)

Elizabeth Joel, of Cleveland, has been hired as Coordinator of Continuing Studies at Delta State University.

Stephany Owens, of Corinth, was named one of the North Mississippi State Hospital Employees of the Quarter.

John Polles, of Madison, graduated with the 2009–2010 Leadership Mississippi class and currently works with the Mississippi Material Corporation, Inc. in commercial sales and business development. (mmcmaterials.com)

Brett Walker, of Gulfport, has been promoted to financial advisor within Hancock Investment Services for all Hancock Banks in Biloxi and D'Iberville.

Laura Fleeman Walker, of Cleveland, was recognized along with the Delta State Office of Communications and Marketing for receiving seven awards from the American Advertising Federation.

2006

Scott Eyster, of Cleveland, was named the head football coach at Cleveland High School.

Michael Lipford, of Cleveland, accepted a position as Assistant Director of Housing and Residence and Director of Multi-Cultural Affairs at Delta State.

Colleen Long, of Southaven, is the new principal at Desoto Central Primary School.

Stephen Ludlam, of Olive Branch, has been named the Director of the Delta State University Wesley Foundation.

2007

Michael A. Hilborn, of Pascagoula, graduated from basic training as an Air Force Airman 1st Class.

Andrew Steele, of Diamondhead, accepted a job at Northrop Grunman Information Systems as a Geospatial Engineer.

2009

William Everitt, of Brandon, was named Assistant Director of the Madison Campus of Tulane University.



Bruce McCaleb, of Roswell, GA, re-signed with the Sioux Falls Storm of the Indoor Football League as an offensive lineman. (siouxfallstorm.com)

Fernando Reis, of Pearl, was promoted to Pack-Off Manager at Sanderson Farms, Inc.

Garrett Williams, of Bay Springs, was hired by Hol-Mac Corporation as a production supervisor.

Drew Wright, of Greenville, was promoted to Assistant Manager at Sherwin-Williams in Southaven.

2010

Jutta Ferretti, of Shelby, will graduate during the Fall 2010 commencement from Delta State with her bachelor's degree in general business at the age of 84.

Jason Webster, of Lakeland, FL, has accepted a position with Advance Auto Parts.

ATTENDED/PROFESSOR

Bill Durham (attended), of Clarksdale, released his second album, *I've Got The Song*. His album has received press in *UP Country Magazine*, a popular country magazine in England. (billdurhammusic.com)

Dr. Sharon Ford (professor), of Cleveland, was presented the AT&T Mississippi Outstanding Faculty Teacher Award.

Dr. Susan Allen Ford (professor), of Cleveland, was presented the Woman of Achievement Award from the AAUW (American Association of University Women).

Teresa Kilpatrick (attended), of Indianola, is a financial services representative with MetLife Financial Group.

Frank R. Knight (attended), of Greenwood, has joined State Bank and Trust Co. as vice president in agricultural lending.

James Koestler (attended), of Vicksburg, joined The Conservatory of the Fine Arts as an instructor in trombone and low brass instruments.

Dr. Aubrey Lucas (President Emeritus), of Columbia, has been selected as the 2010–2011 vice president of the Marion County Historical Society.



Dr. Paulette Ann Meikle-Yaw (professor), of Cleveland, has been selected as the Black History Month Educator of the Year by the Board of Trustees of the State Institutes of Higher Learning's Black History Month Committee.

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Baby Statesmen



Delta State University Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity brothers and their future Statesmen and Lady Statesmen.



BARHAM

Caitlyn Leilani to M/M **Michael Aoa '96** (Sandy Campbell), of Boaz, AL, on June 8.



COLLINS

Emma Kate to M/M **Drew Barham '09** (Keri Bennett, Current Student), of Cleveland, on June 21.

John Thomas, to M/M Andrew Brantley (**Nicki Abraham '05**), of Bovina, on February 8.

Olivia Sue to M/M **Hays Collins '04** (Brooke Rutledge '04), of Brandon, on January 29.



COOPER

Chase Edward to M/M **Robert Ed Connell '96** (Laura Lee Lance '00), of Cleveland, on August 21, 2009.

Colby Bennett to M/M **Bryant Cooper (Attended)** (Meagan Haselton '06), of Cabot, AR, on April 14.



CUMMINS

Trilby Grace to M/M **Dave Cummins '91** (Erin Roberts '94), of Madison, on February 2.

Charlie Grace to M/M **Abe Draper '06** (Jennifer Fratesi '06), of Brandon, on January 26.



ELLIOTT

Tucker Eldridge, to M/M Brady Eldridge (**Amy Hamilton '05**), of Summit, on January 31.

John Coley to M/M **John Mark Elliott '97** (Emily Dye '02), of Tupelo, on July 29, 2009.



FIORANELLI

Mary Katherine to M/M **Robert Franks '05** (Stacey Vlahos), of Birmingham, AL, on May 6.

Beckham Gary to M/M **Russell Gainspoletti '04** (Rivers Gist '06), of Cleveland, on April 15.



FRANKS

Carter Myers to M/M **Corey Griffin '03** (Bridgette Deters), of Jackson, on April 13.

Noah Winston to M/M **Ryan Griffin (Jennifer Rice '02)**, of Gulfport, on December 24, 2009.



GRIFFIN

Nolan Ty to M/M Clint Groce (**Wendy Vance, Attended**), of Hatchechubbee, AL, on May 12.



JENNINGS

Cooper Fioranelli to M/M Eric Fioranelli (**Leanne Havens '04**), of Cleveland, on October 27, 2009.

Lex Jennings to M/M **T.A. Jennings (Attended)** (Lindsay Harkins '06), of Coldwater, FL, on December 29, 2009.



MAY

Pierce Thomas to M/M **Matt Jones (Attended)** (Heather Hilderbrand '05), of Goodman, on May 6.

William Tate to M/M **John Kyzar '98** (Carrie Kay), of Pensacola, FL, on June 20, 2009.



PICKARD

Charles Caedmon and Helen Asher to M/M **Robert Line '01** (Tish Taylor '01), of Hattiesburg, on November 20, 2009.

Olivia Louise to M/M Chris May (**Mandy Dunnagan '05**), of Horn Lake, on March 25.



SAVAGE

Evie Rose Pickard to M/M **Bert Pickard '06** (Leigh Bridges '04), of Cleveland, on June 24.

Caroline Astin to M/M **Fernando Reis '09** (Savannah Valentine '07), of Pearl, on June 14.



TOMASZEWSKI

Lydia Campbell to M/M **Mark Robinette '93** (Aimee Hammack '97), of Cleveland, on July 16, 2009.

Guy Hathorn Robinson II to M/M **Ed Robinson (Attended)** (Scarlett Sheldon, Attended), of Indianola, on September 23, 2009.



TOWLES

Robert Hayes to M/M **Robert Cannon Savage '06** (Lynn Nickels '07), of Senatobia, on November 25.

William Semmes to M/M Andy Strehlow (**Fran Haaga '00**), of Brandon, on February 18.



WALKER

Vance to M/M **Steven Tomaszewski '02** (Lauranne Vance '03), of Ocean Springs, on February 26.

Lawson Allen to M/M **Allen Towles '03** (Callie Sellers '02), of Cleveland, on March 10.



WALLACE

Aiden Russell to M/M **Jim Walker '02** (Susan Hellen '05), of Olive Branch, on June 4.

Myla Paige to M/M **Kyle Wallace '04** (Jamie Hudson '04), of Yazoo City, on April 24.



WILLIAMS

Abby Lawrence to M/M **Geoffrey West (Attended)** (Hannah Woolf '04), of Cleveland, on March 15.

Whittington 'Whit' Jackson to M/M **Eli Whiteside '01** (Amy Farris '00), of New Albany, on February 24.

Wedding Bells

All dates are in 2010 unless otherwise noted.



BAILEY-SPENCER

Alicia Bailey '04 to Curt Spencer, of Hernando, on September 26, 2009.



GRANBERRY-BARRICK

Christy Granberry '08 to Dustin Barrick '07, of Jackson, on June 5.



MURPHY-BURCHFIELD

Lucie Murphy to John Burchfield '00, of Murfreesboro, TN, on March 13.

Ashley Robinson to Brett Cerda '05, of Yazoo City, on March 6.



CHRISTMAS-WASHINGTON

Maggie Washington '07 to Tyler Christmas (Attended), of Shelby, on September 26, 2009.



MACMILLAN-COLEMAN

Kayla Leigh MacMillan '09 to Brian Coleman (Attended), of Cleveland, on November 21, 2009.

Katie Crow '03 to Gabe Massey, of Brandon, on June 19.

Rachel Marie Brasfield '09 to Mason Scott Dean '09, of Boyle, on March 27.

Kacy Lynn Collier '04 to William Patrick Dixon '99, of Olive Branch, on March 16.



FEASTER-CARROLL

Anna Feaster '08 to David Carroll, of Nashville, TN, on May 15.



GEKIDES-GROSSMAN

Emily Gekides '05 to Brian Grossman, of Jackson, on June 4.

Mary Gretchen Stubbs '10 to Jason Paul Giachelli (Attended), of Greenville, on June 26.



HODGES-BARNES

Kathryn Brookshire Barnes '08 to Christopher James Hodges '06, of Grenada, on May 22.



HUTCHISON-ADAMS

Riley Hutchison '07 to Blake Adams, of Little Rock, AR, on April 18, 2009.



WARD-HYATT

Brandi Lyle Ward '08 to Brett Hyatt '08, of Soso, on June 12.

Natalie Hope Kemp '07 to Joshua Davis Duckworth, of Magee, on May 22.



KIMBROUGH-MONTALTO

Elizabeth Montalto to Will Kimbrough '00, of Bethpage, TN, on March 21, 2009.



BUCKLEY-LANGKAWEL

Mary Elizabeth Buckley (Student) to Chad Langkawel (Student), of Cleveland, on December 19, 2009.

Brittany Flippo '08 to Darryl McCreary '07, of Cleveland, in April 2009.



KINNISON-VAN NAMEN

Laura Kate Kinnison '09 to Jake Van Namen '09, of Cleveland, on June 26.



RUCKER-PRATHER

Shayla Rani Prather '01 to T. C. Rucker, of Ripley, on March 20.

Marilyn Kate Riley (Attended) to Joseph Heath Atkins, of Columbus, on April 24.

Jessica Nicole Stanley '06 to Gregory Chad Roberts '08, of Leland, on February 27.



SEWELL-BRIGHT

Natalie Bright '07 to Derek Sewell '05, of McKinney, TX, on June 12.

Elizabeth Smith '04 to Justin Winn, of Memphis, TN, on February 27.



STEEN-DAMPEER

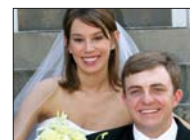
Emily Steen '08 to Brooks Dampeer, of Birmingham, AL, on June 19.

Meggie Sykes '10, to B.J. McKay, of Kilmichael, on June 19.



COPE-TATUM

Allegra Cope '08 to Zach Tatum '10, of Cleveland, on March 18.



HERRICK-WILLIFORD

Sarah Elizabeth Herrick '08 to Robert Wesley Williford '08, of Cleveland, on May 29.

Sherri Lynn Sherwood '10 to Nathan Alan Woodward (Attended), of Cleveland, on June 5.

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In Memoriam

All dates are in 2010 unless otherwise noted.

Gregory T. Bell, Attended, of Cleveland, on May 11.

Hudean Burkhalter, Friend, of Rolling Fork, on March 19.

Dinni Clark '68, of Columbus, on May 27.

Gary "Joe" Clark Sr., Attended, of Shaw, on February 17.

Marine M. Cole '63, of McComb, on June 4.

Ronnie Crowson '68, of Tupelo, on May 28.

John Cunningham Jr. '83, of Clinton, on February 7.

Robert L. Dow '73, of Canton, on December 9, 2009.

Olis D. English '53, of Jackson, on June 4.

Ovene K. Grimm '39, of Carrollton, GA, on March 14.

Bennett Dolfis Hardin '33, of Vicksburg, on October 30, 2009.

Lucille M. Hardy '52, of Cleveland, on October 4, 2009.

James R. Hodges '47, of Gulfport, on March 1.

Oscar Holbrook, Friend, of Cleveland, on January 12.

Jenell A. Holland '74, of Gulfport, on February 23.

Martha P. Janous '47, of Oakridge, TN, on March 15.

Irma E. Johnson '53, of Vicksburg, on May 30.

Marion A. Johnson '36, of Albuquerque, NM, on April 21.

Curtis Kimbrell '51, of Clarksdale, on Feb 27.

Elaine D. McCoy '57, of Longview, TX, on April 20.

Van George Meek Jr., Attended, of Clarksdale, on May 12.

Clara Middleton, Attended, of Cleveland, on December 21, 2009.

Doyce S. Mitchell '39, of Madison, on April 16.

Vashti Underwood Muse, Attended, of Jackson, on July 9.

Billy E. Naron, Friend, of Cleveland, on March 13.

Mary Ann Heflin Norris '51, of College Station, TX, on March 2.

Dorothy I. Nunnery '43, of Clinton, on January 9.

Elinor Pierce, Attended, of Greenwood, on January 30.

James D. Reynolds '53, of Olive Branch, TN, on March 1.

Alyce West Richardson '52, of Cleveland, on June 23.

Martha Robertson '46, of Albuquerque, NM, on March 9.

Gilda E. Saunders '67, of Ocean Springs, on June 2.

Jane Webb Shepherd '37, of Sumner, on January 4.

Sidney G. Shurden '64, of Cleveland, on May 14.

Paul L. Sizemore '55, of Cleveland, on May 2.

Mary S. Thomas '41, of Clarksdale, on May 31.

Evelyn B. Turner '33, of Tutwiler, on May 23.

Alberta C. Watts, Attended, of Eudora, AR, on March 2.

W. L. Whittington '65, of Brandon, on April 23.

Randolph R. Williams '46, of Maplewood, NJ, on May 28.

Robert A. Wilkinson '59, of Ridgeland, on April 21.

William T. Wilson '62, of Cleveland, on February 10.

Horace McCool 1929 – 2010



Horace McCool ('54), of Cleveland, passed away on March 23, 2010. Coach McCool was former Delta State Head Football coach, Athletic Director, and Director of Delta State Physical Plant. He is preceded in death by his wife Barbara Bole McCool. Survivors include two sons, Mike McCool of Fleming Island, FL, and Scott McCool of Houston, TX; a daughter, Memorie Naron of Cleveland; seven grandchildren, Paige Latorre, Mary Michael McCool, Anne Lowry McCool, Thomas McCool, Lane McCool, Khaki McCool, and David Naron; and one great grandchild, Elliott Latorre.

Memorials may be made to Delta State Foundation—Horace McCool Stadium Fund, Box 3141, Cleveland, MS 38733.

MILES AWAY

Where has the road taken you?

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



1,289 Miles Away

Dr. Rose Strahan (Chair/Professor Emeritus), Dr. Wayne Lee ('57), and Maggie Garrett ('59) at Yellowstone National Park.



4,672 Miles Away

Amanda Russell ('06) and Kenneth Terry (student) in front of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France.



1,639 Miles Away

Dr. Bucky Brooks (Professor Emeritus), Dr. Maureen Brooks (Professor Emeritus), Dr. Henry Outlaw ('61) (Chair/Professor Emeritus), and Dr. Pat Crawford ('61) sailing off the Coast of Maine near Rockport.



7,847 Miles Away

Dr. Wilmer Nichols ('60), bungee jumping in Queenstown, New Zealand.



SIMPLY SPECTACULAR

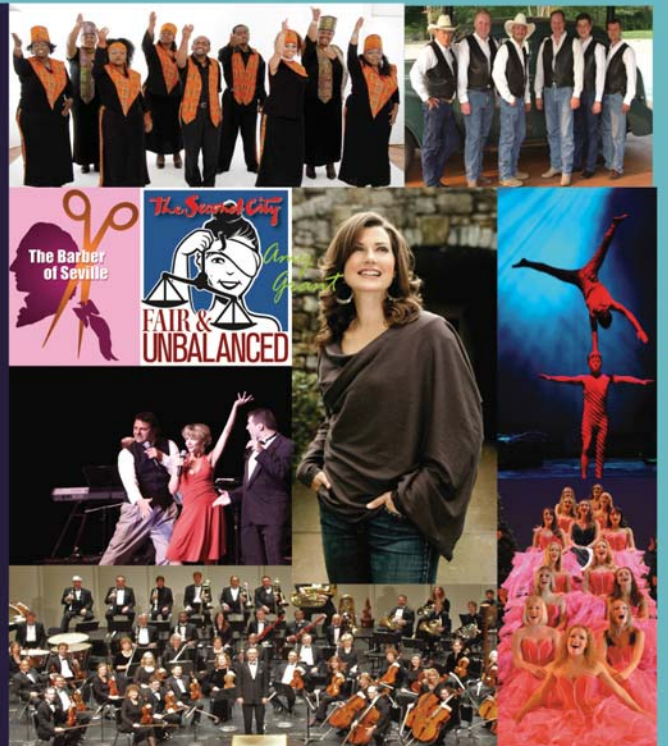
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Alumni Happenings



DSU Alumni group at the 2010 Atlanta's Picnic in Chastain Park.



Billy Dorgan ('02), Pat Chambliss ('69), Ella Lucas, and Dr. Aubry Lucas (President Emeritus) at the southeast alumni event in Hattiesburg.



Ephraim and Sheila Patterson Urevbu ('96) at the 2010 Memphis Alumni Gathering.



Kathleen Walker ('01), Lauren Lewis ('01), Patrick Dixon ('99), and Hank Ludwig ('00) at the Memphis Alumni Gathering.



Senator Bob Dearing ('57), Bobby Pruitt ('51), and Marion Cole ('52) at the 10th Annual "Ole" grad reunion in Louisville, at Lake Tiak-O'Khata.



Denece Rozzell (Friend), Dr. Wayne Lee ('57), John Hamner ('59), and Dotsy Williamson ('57) at the "Ole" grad reunion.



Earnest Hart ('77), Alice Hart, Gloria Goins ('75), and Jordan Goins ('73) enjoying the Alumni Association B.B. King Preshow Reception.



Ron Selby ('91), Dr. Wayne Blansett ('73), and Mike Ainsworth ('94) at the 2010 Washington County Alumni Event.



Linda Ross ('69) and the Phi Mu Sorority Girls celebrating her years at Delta State at the 2010 Bolivar County Jambalaya Jam.



Josh West ('05), Amy Trotter ('93), and Bud Horman ('05), at the 2010 Northeast Chapter Gathering.



Kaye Buchanan ('83), Curtis Buchanan ('66), and Kim Dowdy ('03) at the 2010 Washington County Alumni Event.



George Bassi ('87), John Cox ('96), Deborah Cox (staff), and Andy Mundy ('00) at the Alumni Association B.B. King Preshow Reception.



Tommy McKiernan ('68), Sidney Runnels ('73), Sallie Tomaszewski ('74), Sandra McKiernan ('69), and Steven Tomaszewski ('74) at the 2010 Gulf Coast Alumni Gathering.



Paul "Bubba" Mancini ('00), Keith Fulcher ('83), Shea Skeen ('96), Will Bradham ('01), Brady Pate ('08), and Ann Marie Mayers Pate ('04) at the 2010 Bolivar County Jambalaya Jam.



Todd Hairston ('02), Lacey Hairston ('02), Shelley Williams ('92), Keith Williams ('86), Al Tapper ('86), and Libby Tapper ('88) at the 2010 Gulf Coast Alumni Gathering.



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Ned Mitchell '62, Laura Howarth '09, Paul Mancini '00, and Michael Upford '06

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