

Delta Council

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The Delta Council Review

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THE NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF DELTA COUNCIL

February 2011

Celebration of Delta Council Adult Literacy Program

Delta Council recently held an event celebrating the Adult Literacy Program at the YMCA in Greenville. Dr. Connie Schimmel, President of Fairview Learning Company and Director of the Delta Council Adult Literacy Program, highlighted the progress this program has made over the past eight years as it has drastically improved the literacy of over 150 adults throughout Northwest Mississippi.

Shirley Forman, Martha Shields, Roscoe Shields, Annie Yarbor, all of Belzoni and Reverend Harrison Williams, of Greenville provided testimonies and discussed the impact the program has had on their lives. When asked why she wanted to participate in the adult literacy program, Shirley Forman said, "I am ashamed to read in Bible class because I don't know a lot of the words in the Bible. After going through the sessions with my instructor, I can read in Bible class without being ashamed and I can work with my autistic daughter to help her read. Now at church when they ask us to read, I raise my hand because I can read and I want people to know I can read!"

"This program has been successful only due to the hard work and countless hours from Delta Council members throughout Northwest Mississippi, local volunteers, and instructors," said Billy Percy. "Phillip Doiron and his staff at the YMCA have allowed several of these classes to take place here, and gone about the task of



Shirley Forman, Belzoni

recruiting participants and making sure they get here. There are Delta leaders throughout the region like Phillip that are the hands and feet of this operation, and without them, we would never have registered this great progress."

Thanks to the financial support of our sponsors, which are Delta Regional Authority, USDA Rural Development, BankPlus, Deer Creek Foundation, Field Cooperative Association, Guaranty Bank, Planters Bank, and Staplcoth, and the volunteer hours of other Delta leaders, this program remains free. However, we still face daunting challenges of identifying

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Future Delta Event

February 22-23, 2011
Horseshoe Casino & Resort

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. **Reception**
Founder's Club, Bluesville, Horseshoe Casino & Resort
Dress Casual

Wednesday, February 23, 2010

- 8:00 - 11:30 a.m. **Conference Proceedings**
Bluesville, Horseshoe Casino & Resort
- 9:00 - 9:10 a.m. **Welcome**
Carlisle Clarke, Legislative Aide, Senator Thad Cochran
- 9:10 - 9:30 a.m. **Farm Credit Considerations: The View from a Leader**
Steve Rochelle, President and CEO, First South Farm Credit
- 9:30 - 10:00 a.m. **What is the Crop Marketplace Telling You?**
Hank Reichle, Vice President, Staplcoth
- 10:10 - 10:30 a.m. **Resistance Management Issues**
Patrick Johnson, Grower, Tunica
Jason Bond, Delta Research and Extension Center, MSU
- 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. **Agriculture, 112th Congress and the Next Farm Bill**
John Maguire, Senior Vice President,
Washington Operations, National Cotton Council of America
- 11:00 a.m. **Announcement of \$1000 Dollar Raffle Winner**
Adjournment

Future Delta Conference February 22-23 in Tunica, Mississippi

The 3rd Annual Future Delta Event is scheduled for February 22-23 at the Horseshoe Casino and Resort in Tunica. The event, which is sponsored by First South Farm Credit and Delta Council, brings together young (under 45) producers and agri-businessmen from across the

Delta to address key issues facing the agricultural climate of the region. Cass Pennington, Delta Council President says, "This event provides young producers and agri-business specialists in our region with

FUTURE DELTA continued on page 6

Ag Pilots Recognized for Environmental Stewardship

Six ag pilots were recently recognized for exemplary environmental stewardship. Selected pilots were ranked highest among their peers based on criteria established through the A.C.E. Pilot Program. Those pilots selected for recognition include Kelly Peeler of Producers Flying in Yazoo City, MS, Casey Novak of Ferriday Flying Service in Ferriday, LA, Paul Riddell of A & L Farm Services in Helena, AR, Matthew Brignac of Brignac Flying Services in Columbus, MS, Gary Couey of Planters Flying Service in James Crossing, MS and Glenn Holloway, Jr. of Holloway Air Service in Drew, MS.

Mark Kimmel, former President of the Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Association and Itta Bena, MS based ag pilot point-



L to R: Casey Novak, Gary Couey, Glenn Holloway, Jr., Kelly Peeler and Matthew Brignac

ed out that "many pilots take additional, voluntary steps to ensure that they have no environmental impact." Kimmel continued, "The A.C.E. Pilot Program now affords us the opportunity to identify the best pilots among us in their efforts to protect our natural resources."

The A.C.E. (Applicators Conserving the

Environment) Pilot Program was developed to recognize top environmental stewards in the ag aviation industry and to incentivize other pilots to become better stewards. Those organizations involved in developing, administering and validating the program included CropLife America, Delta Council, Delta F.A.R.M., Mississippi

Agricultural Aviation Association, Mississippi Ag Industry Council, Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Monsanto, Southern Crop Protection Association, Syngenta, USDA Agricultural Research Service and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Karl Holcomb, President of the Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Association presented each A.C.E. Pilot with a plaque and a cash award for \$1,500.00 at the recent Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Association's annual meeting in Bay Saint Louis, MS. Each pilot will also receive a sign for their place of business, recognizing their achievement.

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DELTA COUNCIL

2010-11 Delta Council Officers

- President:** CASS PENNINGTON, Indianola
- Vice-President:** CLAY ADCOCK, Holly Bluff
- Vice-President:** BUCK CLARKE, Hollandale
- Vice-President:** ANGELA CURRY, Greenwood
- Vice-President:** RODGE RODGERS, Clarksdale
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Message from the President



**Cass Pennington, President
Delta Council**

As I pen this message to the membership of Delta Council, I can reflect upon the many positive experiences I have had as your Delta Council President since May. The scope of activities which this region-

al organization impacts spans from the vast water resources of this region which are key to agricultural productivity, to healthcare, literacy, and education programs that I am convinced are producing positive outcomes.

Delta Council is the leanest organization for the dollar invested that I have ever been affiliated with and there is nothing complicated about its formula for success, — local leaders set aside their differences, their prejudices, their party affiliations, their school colors, and even their own local identity to address regional issues that do not respect county lines or city limits.

If you want to know what Delta Council is doing, ask Lanny Kennedy of Inverness about the Adult Literacy Program; if you want to know what Delta Council is doing, ask people in Nitta Yuma why the dangerous, narrow bridge on

Highway 61 is being replaced; if you want to know who the greatest advocate is for Levee Board projects that are fundamental to maintaining Mississippi River Levee protection and vital channel projects throughout the Mississippi Delta, ask the Chief Engineer of the Mississippi Levee Board, Peter Nimrod; and, if you are among the 30,000 plus people in the Delta who are employed by the agri-industrial complex of the Mississippi Delta and you wonder who is already holding meetings in the Mississippi Delta in preparation for the commodity and conservation debate in the next Farm Bill, ask Cliff Heaton of Coahoma County or George King in Washington County, among the many who are engaged in this process.

My earlier observations of the work of Delta Council has been

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We're rolling

By Tricia Walker
Guest Column

Tricia Walker is the director of the Delta Music Institute at Delta State University in Cleveland, Miss.



Walker

a recording session. Think of your favorite music, in whatever format it may be...LP, 45, eight-track, cassette, CD, mp3...have you ever wondered about the effort it took, both creatively and technically, to have that music reach you as a music lover?

As a singer/songwriter/producer and longtime veteran of the music business, I understand that many people consider the recording process a technical, rather than creative one. I would propose, however, that the recording process happens at a true crossroads, in a collaborative effort uniquely blending art and science in order to achieve the desired vision and goal of an artist.

In the glory days of recording, from the 1940s through the 1970s, large sound stage studios in New York and Los Angeles captured magical moments with artists such as Frank Sinatra, Miles Davis, Kate Smith, and Nat King Cole. Studios in Detroit, Nashville, and Memphis produced the music of Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson, Hank Williams, Patsy Cline, and Elvis Presley. In addition to these artists

In The Groove With The Delta Music Institute

whose names we know, countless musicians and audio engineers from these sessions whose identity is known only to audiophiles and record jacket junkies, were essential in giving us the music we love...the soundtrack of our lives. Recording studios make it possible for music to get to us.

Who could have known that when little Dolly Parton recorded some of her first music in a small studio in Lake Charles, Louisiana, that she would go on to become the megastar she is? Who could have known that Macon, Georgia would be put on the map because of the Allman Brothers (after they were first mesmerized, they say, by B.B. King performing in Nashville)? Or Lubbock, Texas, due to the recordings of

WALKER continued on page 5

Project HOPE Team Makes Visit to Delta

In 2005, Project HOPE answered the call for help from the state of Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina ravished the Gulf Coast, destroying numerous healthcare facilities and driving away many of the area's healthcare professionals. In less than a year after arriving, Project HOPE was able to construct a fully operational primary care center with medical equipment, furniture and supplies, along with donated pharmaceutical supplies for patient use. Because of Project HOPE's past interest and success in addressing the health of Mississippi's residents, Delta Health Alliance sought a relationship with them as a means to enhance DHA's abilities to help residents of the Delta better manage their chronic diseases and reduce the rates of occurrence. In January 2011, Dr. John Howe, CEO of Project HOPE, accepted the invitation of Dr. Karen Fox, CEO of DHA, to bring key members of his staff and join other representatives from healthcare corporations for a tour of DHA's programs. "The purpose of this tour was to strategically match the needs of DHA's programs with the core strengths Project HOPE possesses. The tour revealed areas of opportunity for a relationship moving forward. We are advancing our relationship with Project HOPE in order to bring much needed resources to the Delta to improve our efforts to expand our abilities in reducing health issues," according to Josh Davis, Director of Institutional Advancement.

During Project HOPE's visit, the committee was able to witness firsthand oppor-



Dr. John P. Howe, III, and Lt. Governor Phil Bryant at Project HOPE.

tunities DHA's projects provide Delta residents. The tour began with a visit to DHA's eICU Center at the University of Mississippi Health Care. The VISICU pro-

ject enables nurses to monitor up to 30 ICU patients in hospitals miles away through the use of telemedicine. Also during the Delta tour, the group was able to see how

the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy Delta Pharmacy Patient Care Management Services project has served patients with diabetes by providing coordination of care, particularly monitoring medications and reducing costs of care. Another segment of the tour provided value as the group visited two 21st Century clinics (Gorton Clinic in Belzoni and Good Samaritan Clinic in Greenville) to observe services provided and the care received by the working uninsured of the Delta, many who haven't seen a primary care health professional in years. Project HOPE members were impressed by the health education and monitoring Community Health Workers provide to ensure patients adhere to their medical treatments.

Upon returning from the Delta, the president and CEO of Project HOPE, John P. Howe, III, MD, reflected in his CEO blog, "at every location we visited, we (the committee) witnessed dedicated medical professional using innovative programs to not only treat patients, but to help prevent the high rates of chronic disease that often go untreated in the Delta." Howe noted there is still a great need for medications, equipment, medical professionals, and more health outreach programs to reach the residents of the fourth most rural area in the nation.

Given the history of Project HOPE's interest in reducing health disparities in Mississippi, their tour of the Delta gives much hope to Delta Health Alliance to further its mission.

ADULT LITERACY from page 1

potential candidates for the 10 one hour, one-on-one instruction, along with the constant challenge of ensuring that the participants are able to attend all of the sessions with the instructor. This is where the leadership of Delta Council members has been so critical.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can help bring some of

these sessions to your community, please contact Frank Howell of Delta Council (fhowell@deltacouncil.org) or Christie Sledge (csledge@mississippi.org) of the Mississippi Development Authority, who is the Delta Pilot Workforce Coordinator and housed in the Delta Council offices in Stoneville. They can set up a meeting to brief you further on the program, and can also be available to speak with civic groups you are affiliated with.

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vital information to help ensure the future of agriculture for the Mississippi Delta."

Registration begins at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, February 22 and is followed by a reception at the Founder's Club inside Bluesville at the Horseshoe Casino and Resort. The event continues the following morning at 8 a.m. with numerous presentations by experts in economics, agribusi-

ness, and communications. Speakers for this year's event include Carlisle Clarke, Legislative Aide of Senator Thad Cochran; Steve Rochelle, President and CEO of First South Farm Credit; Hank Reichle, President of Staplcoth; and John Maguire, Senior Vice President of the Washington Operations, National Cotton Council of America. For more information on the event please contact Delta Council at 662-686-3350.

Wicker Advocates New Amtrak Stop in Quitman County

Mississippi Senator presses for important economic opportunity in Delta

U.S. Senator Roger Wicker recently met with Canadian National Railroad officials to discuss a proposed flag stop in Marks, Mississippi. Canadian National Railroad operates the rail line running through Marks.

“This stop in Marks would benefit Quitman County and the surrounding area by creating important economic opportunities and more choices for

travelers,” said Wicker. “Canadian National should give strong consideration to the local community and Amtrak’s interest in initiating service in Marks. I will continue to work to make this a reality.”

The North Delta has been without a rail stop since the Batesville station closed more than a decade ago, and the Marks proposal would replace that previous service. Officials

in Quitman County and members of Delta Council have backed the service. In November, Delta Council wrote to Wicker, saying, “Presently, there are no stops on this route between Greenwood and Memphis, and the effort by leaders in Marks is important for passengers throughout Northwest and North Central Mississippi.”



Amtrak at a stop in Greenwood, MS.

U.S.D.A Stoneville Plans Construction

Representatives attended the pre-construction conference for modernization of the 5-story USDA Jamie Whitten Delta State Research Center at Stoneville on December 13, 2010. The 113,000 square-foot Whitten Center building houses the USDA Agricultural Research Service’s office for the 5-state (Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Tennessee, and Kentucky) Mid South Area, as well as four research units, including Crop Production Systems Research, Genomics and Bioinformatics Research, Southern Insect Management Research,

and Crop Genetics Research. Three other ARS research units at Stoneville are housed in buildings separate from the 5-story building. Approximately 120 ARS personnel, including 35 research scientists, are housed in the building. The modernization project will cost \$40 million and will be performed on a floor-by-floor basis over a 7-year period. The building was constructed in 1969. Funding for the modernization project is provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.



Roberts Wins State Young Farmer Achievement Award

Humphreys County young farmers Pepper and Crystal Roberts of Belzoni do their part to educate the consuming public about agriculture. That is one reason they have been named state winners of the 2010 Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award contest. They were recognized for their farming innovations, leadership skills, and involvement in Farm Bureau and their community. The Roberts received a new pickup truck, the use of John Deere and Kubota tractors, and various cash awards. They represented Mississippi in national competition in Atlanta, Georgia, in January.

A fourth generation farmer, Pepper grows cotton, corn, and soybeans on family land in the Mississippi Delta. Pepper now farms with help from Crystal, who is responsible for the accounting/bookkeeping side of the operation.



The Roberts Family

MSU Recognizes DREC Researchers

Eight researchers at Mississippi State University’s Delta Research Center received State Pride Awards from the university. Recipients included agronomists M. Wayne Ebelhar and Tim Walker, entomologists Don Cook and Jeff Gore, pathologist Tom Allen, and weed researcher Jason Bond. Aquaculture researchers Menghe Li and Craig Tucker with the Thad Cochran National Warmwater Aquaculture Center also received

State Pride Awards. “The State Pride initiative awarded over \$1 million in State Pride Faculty Awards to 406 faculty members in recognition of outstanding teaching service or research,” said MSU’s President Mark Keenum. The State Pride private fundraising initiative started last year has raised over \$44 million toward the four-year \$100 million goal.



(L to R: Dr. Menghe Li, Dr. Craig Tucker, Dr. Jeff Gore, Dr. Wayne Ebelhar, Dr. Jason Bond, Dr. Tom Allen, Dr. Tim Walker and Dr. Don Cook (photo by DREC Communications/Rebekah Ray)

Pig Weed Resistance

Recently there was a meeting held to provide farmers with vital information about different ways to handle the Pig Weed problem, which put a damper in many farmers harvest last year, and it will reoccur this year if the correct precautions are not taken. Scientists from Mississippi State University, researchers from Stoneville, MS, and farmer’s from the Mississippi Delta were all in attendance at this meeting exchanging ideas and methods that could keep this problem to a minimum.



L to R: Rodge Rogers and Justin Green at the meeting.



Lauren Boyd

Lauren Boyd Selected as DSU Congressional Fellow

Lauren Boyd of Greenwood, Mississippi has been selected to participate in The Congressional Fellowship Program of Delta State

University in Washington, D.C. The program is sponsored by Delta State University in collaboration with Delta Council and it is endowed by Staplctm. It offers a unique educational opportunity for an outstanding student in the Mississippi Delta. Fellows gain direct knowledge of the Congressional system and track legislation while developing knowledge of public policy issues that directly affect the Delta Region by working in the office of U.S. Senator Thad Cochran.

Boyd is a Registered Nurse who recently graduated from Delta State University with a Bachelor of Science Of Nursing Degree with a G.P.A. of

3.79. She was a Dean’s List Scholar, a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society, and President of 2010 Class at Robert E. Smith School of Nursing at Delta State University. Lauren is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marion Boyd.

Each year, a Fellow is selected to serve during the spring semester as an intern in the Washington, D.C. office of Senator Cochran. The internship may be extended into the summer by mutual agreement of the Fellow and the Congressional office. Candidates must have an outstanding grade point average at Delta State University, a record of community involvement and service and exemplary communication skills. The

Fellow also receives a tuition waiver of 12 semester hours, which may be applied to credit-based internship courses taken during the Fellowship at Delta State University.

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

YEAR	NAME	HOMETOWN
2002	Mary Huhnke	Helena, AR
2003	Justin Ferguson	Coldwater, MS
2004	Suzanne Simpson	Cleveland, MS
2005	P.J. Waldrop	Vicksburg, MS
2006	Mary Luther	Shaw, MS
2007	Ryan Betz	Cleveland, MS
2008	Emily Jennings	Brandon, MS
2009	Kate Kinnison Van Naman	Oxford, MS
2010	Darrell Dixon	Washington, D.C.

PRESIDENT from page 2

through my experiences with the Development Department, the Education and Health Committee of Delta Council, and Delta Health Alliance. Through my service as President, my perspective has broadened and I can truly attest that there are some significant economic issues that simply would not and could not be addressed if people in the Delta did not continue to tap into the resource which Delta Council has become over the past 75 years.

I want to close my message

by striking a chord of caution about a matter which distresses me. The ongoing debate about congressional earmarks is, at its core, a constitutional issue about who controls the spending. Those who framed the Constitution clearly placed that responsibility in the hands of those individuals elected to be your representatives in Congress. In a more practical sense, I find it less than amusing that all of the political rhetoric about congressional earmarks only accounts for less than .7% of the federal budget, — and the irony is that these Congressional

directives in a \$3.6 trillion federal budget have never been in an excess of the approved federal budget. Rather they have been under the budget ceiling, meaning they represent no additional spending levels. Currently, even though the new Congress appears poised to adopt a ban on Congressional directives, there is no indication that this .7% will be applied to the federal debt reduction effort.

I trust in God that He will restore stability, leadership and sound judgment that has been the hallmark of this Nation’s greatness.

Deltan On The Move: Dru Morgan

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Delta native Druanne Morgan is a life-long resident of Leland. “My professional background is diverse and “not-the-norm” sequence of events. Married to a farmer, Rance Morgan, I had the opportunity to stay at home with our children, work a few years, come home and then work again.” Morgan has always worked in banking, computers and office administration. “After 12 years of ‘jobs’, I decided it was time for a career.”

“Of course I am an alumnus of MDCC, completing all the credit hours that would transfer to a degree before going to Delta State. I was a ‘mature’ student at DSU long before it was the norm; a very humbling experience to be in undergraduate classes with students 15 years younger. At Delta State I earned a degree in business, then my Masters of Education with an emphasis in counseling, and completed doctoral studies ABD (all-but-dissertation). Grandchildren changed my focus away from completing that last step to a doctorate.”

“After 5 years teaching Business Computer Applications at Leland High School, I joined MDCC as the Career Development Counselor in 1995 and worked with students and businesses. It was a logical move in 2002 to MDCC’s division of Workforce Education, the Capps Technology Center, as a Workforce Development Coordinator.”

CURRENT JOB TITLE & RESPONSIBILITIES

Dru currently serves as the Director of Workforce Education at MDCC’s Charles W. Capps, Jr. Technology Center where she is charged with strategic development, soliciting funding and resources for training initiatives, and establishing partnerships with economic development



organizations to achieve common goals for the Delta area. The Capps Center team works with local businesses to identify training needs and deliver customized training solutions.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

“The years of experience in this position gave me the opportunity to build relationships with business and industry partners. I enjoy working with each company to support the strategies that work best for that organization. Every training event offered by the Capps Technology Center is a customized training solution.”

Details about workforce education opportunities can be viewed at www.thecappscenter.com.

WHAT DOES THE DELTA SAY ABOUT DRU?

“Dru has been on the front lines of meeting the needs of business and employers since the Capps Center opened its doors, and her promotion by Mississippi Delta Community College is a testament to her work. Workforce training is vital to ensuring the health of our economies and communities, and Dru will continue the positive impact that the Capps Center is having in its service area,” said Tom Gresham, Chairman of Delta Council.

UPDATE

Rice Hired at Capps Technology Center

Tonya Rice of Moorhead has recently been hired as the Workforce Development Coordinator at Mississippi Delta Community College's Capps Technology Center. Rice comes to the Capps Technology Center with over twelve years industry experience in Environment, Health & Safety Management and Human Resources. Rice comes to The Capps Technology center by way of John Richard Company and Faurecia Automotive. Rice earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Alcorn State University and a Master of Science in Occupational Safety & Health from Murray State University (Murray, KY).

Rice stated, "Sustaining a quality workforce through valuable training opportunities is key to attracting world-class businesses to the Mississippi Delta. I look forward to assisting Delta businesses in the development of their workforce and bringing unique training opportunities to the Capps Technology Center."

MDA Director Meets with Area Developers and Delta Council Leaders

Gray Swoope, Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority, recently spoke at the MS Delta Developers Board meeting. Delta Council held a reception honoring Swoope where area developers and Delta Council leaders could get to know more about Swoope and MDA's efforts in the Delta.

Masingill Visits the Delta

Delta Council recently held a meeting with Chris Masingill, Federal Co-Chairman of the Delta Regional Authority. Masingill met local community leaders and economic developers from across the Delta at the reception. Masingill also spoke at the Delta Council Adult Literacy Celebration in Greenville.

Delta Pilot Workforce Training Project Cabinet Convenes

The Delta Pilot Workforce Training Project Cabinet recently convened in Yazoo City to discuss the progress of the pilot project. The pilot program aims at implementing coordinated strategies for improving the retention and expansion of jobs in the Mississippi Delta region. The goals of the pilot program include reducing or eliminating the complexity of access to workforce assistance programs for existing and prospective employers and to create a one-stop accountable, accessible and reli-

able means to join workforce needs with the workforce services in the Delta.

Christie Sledge, Delta Workforce Coordinator, reported on the progress of the program since hired in August. Sledge discussed industry visits, companies' perceptions of the workforce and strategies to make it easier for businesses to access the workforce system.

The Workforce Cabinet unanimously approved the continuation of the Delta Workforce Training Project and is proposing through Bill 2952 Section 57-107-1 that the project is extended until 2016.

Sledge Presents at Lions Club

Christie Sledge, Delta Workforce Coordinator, recently spoke to Leland's Lions Club about the Delta Workforce Training Project. Please contact Delta Council if you would like to schedule Sledge to speak at your local civic club.

Farm Bureau honors Clarke with Friend of Agriculture Award

The Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation presented its Friend of Agriculture Award to Senator Buck Clarke of Hollandale. Senator Clarke is the Chairman of the Senate Insurance Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee. He represents District 22. He is also serving as Vice President of Delta Council.

Farm Bureau honors Ward with Friend of Agriculture Award

The Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation presented its Friend of Agriculture Award to Representative Greg Ward of Ripley. Representative Ward is the Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. He represents District 4.

L.C. White

L.C. White passed away January 13, 2011. For many years, L.C. was an active member and supporter of the Southern Hardwood Forest Research Group (annual indoor) and Southern Hardwood Forestry Group (biennial outdoor) meetings. He strongly supported the Southern Hardwoods Laboratory.

After the war, L.C. studied forestry at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge where he graduated with his Bachelor of Science Degree. He specialized and excelled in hardwood forestry throughout the South and became President of the Mississippi Forestry Association. L.C. is

recognized for his longstanding service to Delta Council and for his appointment by the Governor to chair and serve on the Mississippi Forestry Commission.

NBC Today Show Investigation of Imported Catfish and other Seafood: "Is our favorite seafood dangerous?"

Recently the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's inspection system for imported seafood is so weak that many Americans are eating foreign catfish and other seafood tainted with chemicals that could cause cancer, birth defects and other serious health problems, according to an investigation aired by the NBC Today Show on Nov. 17.

In the investigation titled "Is your favorite seafood dangerous?" NBC aired video showing "dirty sewage water used to raise seafood in Vietnam—the fish pumped with toxic antibiotics and banned drugs just to keep them alive, boosting production and driving down costs."

NBC reported that although 80 percent of the fish consumed in America is raised overseas, the FDA inspects only two percent of all imports.

<http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/26184891/vp/4023053#399>

D.A.R.E.

The Delta Council Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.®) program jumpstarted the 2010-2011 school year with D.A.R.E. classes operating in thirty-three schools within fifteen counties (Bolivar, Coahoma, Desoto, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Leflore, Panola, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tunica, Washington and Yazoo). Twenty of the schools started implementation of the program in the fall semester and the other thirteen will take place in the spring semester.

In addition, to serving students in the classrooms, twenty-one school teachers from eleven Delta counties (Bolivar, Coahoma, Holmes, Leflore, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tunica, Washington, and Yazoo) were exposed directly to the curriculum used in the D.A.R.E. classes. The inservice was held at Delta State University in Cleveland, MS on December 1, 2010. The facilitator for the inservice was D.A.R.E. America's Deputy Director of Education Anita Bryan (Raleigh, North Carolina). As a result of the inservice, teachers and D.A.R.E. Officers have been working more closely to teach the D.A.R.E. lessons to the youth of our communities.

In the picture are Coahoma County Sheriff Department's D.A.R.E. Officer Brenda Prewitt and seventh grade students from Coahoma County Jr. High School in Clarksdale, MS.

Batesville's GE Aviation Plant Receives Recognition in New York Times

In a recent article titled, "G.E.'s Bright Idea: Get Back to the Basics," The New York Times mentions strategies incorporated at the Batesville plant where parts are made for fuel-efficient jet engines. The article goes on to say that in order to get hired, applicants must first take a reading, math

and problem-solving test administered by the staff at the WIN Job Center in Batesville. Those who do well on the test are sent for interviews and are evaluated in team settings.

Pennington to speak at ARS' 34th Annual African-American History Program

Cass Pennington has been named the Keynote Speaker for the ARS' 34th Annual African-American History Program. By participating in this program, Pennington will join a long list of distinguished speakers that includes Congressmen, State Senators, State Supreme Court Justices, State Representatives, Deans, Professors, Judges, Mayors, Lawyers, USDA Officials, Scientists, and other business executives.

This program will be held on Friday, February 25, 2011, at 11:00 a.m., in the conference room of the Charles W. Capps Entrepreneurial Center of the Delta Research and Extension Center in Stoneville, Mississippi.

Millsaps College Announces New Board of Trustee Members, Delta Native Tapped to Serve

Mike Sturdivant, Jr., has been named to the Millsaps College Board of Trustees. Sturdivant is a farmer at Due West Plantation in Glendora and vice-president of Sturdivant Brothers Flying Service. He received an M.B.A. from Harvard in 1974. He is a director and member of the Executive Committee of Staple Cotton Cooperative of Greenwood, director of Delta F.A.R.M., a former director and chair of

Memphis Branch of the St. Louis District of the Federal Reserve Bank, producer delegate to the National Cotton Council, director of the Chickasaw Council of Boy Scouts, past chair of Farmers Supply Cooperative of Greenwood, past president of Delta Council, director of Mississippi Methodist Hospital and Rehabilitation Center, and an elder at First Presbyterian Church of Greenwood.

Kincaid Named to External Research Associate at the Delta Data Center

Amonzo Kincaid has been hired as External Research Associate for Delta Data Center housed at Delta Council in Stoneville, MS. The Delta Data Center is a component of the Delta Project, which is a partnership between Delta Council and Mississippi State University to help promote economic development in the region.

Kincaid, a Holcomb native, comes to Delta Council by way of Intime, Inc. in Cleveland, MS, where he served as a G.I.S. Lab Manager and Database Programmer. While in Cleveland, MS, he also worked with Cleveland Chamber of Commerce as an Information Analyst, as well as Faurecia, Inc.

Kincaid graduated from Northwest Community College with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Computer Programming in May 2003. He then transferred to Delta State University and completed his undergraduate studies with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Computer Information System/Computer Programming with a minor in Business.



Amonzo Kincaid
completed his undergraduate studies with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Computer Information System/Computer Programming with a minor in Business.

Q/A with Mr. Rasuli Lewis of HC Zone

Mr. Rasuli Lewis is the Director of the Practitioner's Institute, at the Harlem Children's Zone. G. Rasuli Lewis joined the Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) team in 1993 to help establish the Harlem Peacemakers Program, a youth leadership development program. Also in 1993, representing HCZ, Mr. Lewis became the Eastern Regional Director of the Black Community Crusade For Children, an initiative of the Children's Defense Fund. Since 2003, Mr. Lewis has been the Director of the HCZ's Practitioners Institute which is designed to share the HCZ model with other practitioners, funders and policy makers. The Indianola Promise Community was launched in 2009 modeled after the Harlem Children's Zone. This was his third trip to the Mississippi Delta.

1. Many community members expressed mistrust when the Indianola Promise Community was launched because of disappointment in programs that had come in, done little, then disappeared. How do we pace ourselves for success, sustainability, but not lose momentum?

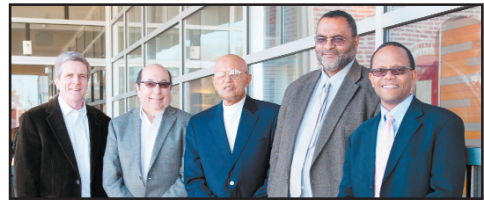
To reverse a highly metastasized pessimistic attitude that has developed over a lifetime is difficult and it doesn't happen overnight. For people with children or grandchildren, it's not about them anymore, it's about their kids so you only have to ask, what are you willing to do to help them? A lot of times people say that it's not convenient to help because they are working several jobs, but they would like to be involved. So it's critical to be creative and flexible and find other ways and times that they can engage in the project.

2. A long-term goal for this program, is to build tomorrow's leaders. What resources, training, and accountability may be sought to help build the next generation of leaders for this community?

Everyone involved in this is mortal and you must recognize that and realize that the next generation may have to take up where you leave off. That means there has to be some intentionality about the next generation. The standards that we have, must be passed down to the next generation. We have to keep telling them stuff, so they can build on what we give them. If they are as good as we think, they are going to expand and be better than us.

You also must have processes that allow for this development. In the Peacemaker Program we give them longer days, and intense work, and we don't relent. If you survive that first year, you get a second year, and it's worse. If you survive two years, we give you the support to become our next leaders. Because you now have the mindset, the culture, the sense of urgency we need and you've demonstrated the skills and perseverance to be a leader. Mediocrity won't cut it.

Put the processes in place, demand the standards and do not apologize for it. Adults have a responsibility to our youth. We have to give them everything we've got. That's what we owe them, and what they owe us is to take it further. If we want our young people to be leaders, we have to show them the way, we have to give them the opportunity and we have to give them the understanding that there are consequences to the things you do.



Second from Right Rasuli Lewis of Harlem Children's Zone; L to R: Tom Gresham, steering committee member; Indianola Mayor Steve Rosenthal; Cass Pennington, president of Delta Council and steering committee member; and Gordon Goodwin of Policy Link.

3. What is the single most important piece of advice you can offer as the Indianola Promise Community grows?

Geoffrey Canada, of the Harlem Children's Zone, introduced a saying that is the single most important saying we all have, which is this: 'the tyranny of opportunity'. This means opportunities only come when they decide. They don't ask you if you are ready. They don't tell you what you need to do. They are just there and either you take advantage of them or you don't. Then they go away and may never come back again.

It's also about having a single-minded focus and understanding what your role is. Then start making it something that everyone binds around and continually remind yourself of why and how you are doing that. Clarity of role, then pursuing that with tenacity is key. This project will house a lot of programs, and now you are leading a coalition. So, know how to get people focused on what you really want them to do.

WALKER from page 2

Buddy Holly? Or Muscle Shoals Sound and Fame Studios in Alabama?

Mississippi has been identified as the Birthplace of America's Music, and it would be almost impossible to dispute that fact. We proudly lay claim to the Father of Country Music, the King of the Blues, the King of Rock and Roll, and more Grammy™ winners per capita than any other state in the Union.

As the next generation of young musicians, singers, songwriters, and entertainers are working to hone their craft and "find their voice," let me pose again a simple question for citi-

zens of the Delta:

DO YOU KNOW WHAT WE HAVE HERE?

The Delta Music Institute on the campus of Delta State University is a recording arts and music industry studies program now in its fifth full year of operation. Approximately 60 students take courses in music business, audio engineering, songwriting, and other aspects of the music industry. The DMI, housed in what was previously Whitfield Gym, contains three exceptional recording studios. Studio A is a large format tracking room, large enough to hold a 150 piece choir or orchestra, and is one of the few studios of this scope in the eastern United States. Studio B is a

digital room, versatile enough to record various types of ensembles and mix in 5.1 surround sound, and Studio C is a practical demo project studio. The DMI promotes two student ensembles...one R&B/ Soul/ Funk/ Blues band called OI' Skool Revue, and one Classic Rock band called DeltaRoX.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT WE HAVE HERE? To further the educational mission of the DMI and Delta State, the DMI studios are made available to the public in order for our students to learn and practice the art and science of recording clients in a real world situation. Grammy™ award winning artists Keb' Mo', Ashley Cleveland, and Kathy Mattea,

Marty Stuart, Thelonius Monk, Jr. and B.B. King have visited our facilities and worked with our students, and they stand amazed at what we have here. Combine the art of music and the technology of recording at the DMI with the history, mystique, and vibrant culture of the Mississippi Delta, and we've definitely got a 'win-win' situation in which to honor the past and embrace the future of music technology and the recording arts.

The newest addition to the mission of the DMI is the Mobile Music Lab, which will provide music and music technology education to students in the underserved Mississippi Delta by means of a service vehicle outfit-

ted with digital audio recording technology and musical instruments. Through collaboration with the Delta Music Institute, this mobile unit will provide opportunities for students to interact with music technology and creative music education projects.

SO, DO YOU KNOW WHAT WE HAVE HERE? WE DO: The opportunity to capture for all time the music and the sound of what could be the next wave of great moments in American music. There is much to look forward to. Right here in the Mississippi Delta at the Delta Music Institute at Delta State University.

Everything's in place...the red light is on....we're rolling.