



The Delta Council REVIEW

Vol. 9, Issue No. 3

THE NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF DELTA COUNCIL

May 2013

Rothenberg To Address Delta 1000 Members At Delta Council Day

Stu Rothenberg, widely recognized political analyst, will address Delta 1000 members and the Delta Council Officers at 9:00 a.m., on the date of the May 17 at the Delta Council Annual Meeting in Cleveland.

“**Stu Rothenberg** has become a staple at Delta Council meetings because his many friends and admirers in the region want to continue receiving his insights and knowledge,” stated **Bowen Flowers**, Executive Committee Chairman of Delta Council. “He is not only on target in his election predictions, but he also has a keen grasp of the factors that

influence the way those elections come out.”

Rothenberg will address the standing room only group of Delta Council Directors and Delta 1000 members in the McPherson Room of the Bologna Performing Arts Center. **Rothenberg**, one of the most respected voices in political commentary in the Nation, has addressed Delta Council numerous times during the past decade. The editor of the *Rothenberg Political Report*, a nonpartisan, nonideo-



Rothenberg

logical political newsletter covering U.S. House, Senate and gubernatorial campaigns. He is also a twice-a-week columnist for *Roll Call*. A frequent soundbite, **Rothenberg** has appeared on *Meet the Press*, *This Week*, *Face the Nation*, the *NewsHour*, *Nightline* and many other television programs. He is often quoted in the nation's major media, and his op-eds have

MEETING continued on page 7

Cameron Named 2013 Good Middling Lady

Greenville resident **Betty Lynn Cameron** has been named the 2013 Good Middling Lady of the Year. **Cameron** is the Director of Main Street Greenville. As director, she works with city and community leaders to keep the city beautiful



Cameron

and bring excitement back to the Port City.

She received a Bachelor of Arts in Business from Delta State University where she has received three Alumni Awards which includes the 2000 DSU Distinguished Alumni Award. Among

other awards won by **Cameron** are the 2000 Jake Stein Community Achievement Award for her diligent volunteerism in her community. As a staple in the community she is a member of the Greenville Jr. Auxiliary, Greenville Garden Club, Washington Coun-

CAMERON continued on page 3

2013 ANNUAL MEETING MAY 17, 2013

9:00 - 10:15 a.m.

DELTA 1000 POLITICAL EVENT
“Lame Duck: What’s Ahead for President Obama and the Republicans?”
Featuring **Stu Rothenberg**, *Political Analyst*
Location: McPherson Recital Hall

9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

2013 SALUTE TO DELTA HONOR GRADUATES
Mr. William LaForge, President, Delta State University, Host
Mike Espy, Former United States Secretary of Agriculture, Master of Ceremonies
Location: Southeast Side of Bologna Performing Arts Center

10:30 a.m.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS
Bill Litton, *President*

INVOCATION
Dr. Rusty Douglas

First Presbyterian Church, Greenwood

PRESENTATION OF COLORS
Boy Scout Troop 4200, *Greenwood*
Boy Scout Troop 91, *Belzoni*

PATRIOTIC MUSIC
St. Joseph/Our Lady of Lourdes Choir
Greenville, MS

Directed by **Mrs. Laura Jackson**

BUSINESS

- Recognition of Special Guests
- Achievement Awards
- Recognition of Delta’s Top Honor Graduates
- Wear Cotton Recognition
- Good Middling Lady Presentation
- Introduction of New Officers

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER
U.S. Senator **Thad Cochran**

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
U.S. Senator **Debbie Stabenow**
State of Michigan

Chairwoman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Nutrition

12:00 Noon
CATFISH LUNCHEON
Delta State University, Quadrangle Lawn



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DELTA COUNCIL

2012-13 Delta Council Officers

President: BILL LITTON, Greenwood
Vice-President: EMILY CARTER, Glen Allen
Vice-President: ROB FARMER, Cruger
Vice-President: PATRICK JOHNSON, Tunica
Vice-President: STEVE NAIL, Greenville
Vice-President: BILLY NOWELL, Cleveland
Vice-President: BUBBA SIMMONS, Arcola
Treasurer: RUSSELL STEWART, Anguilla

POSTMASTER:

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Layout and design of *The Delta Council Review*
Coopwood Communications
Cleveland, MS

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President Message

As a businessman in the Delta and one who has watched the feast and famine economy of Delta agriculture over my years in Greenwood, I am compelled to share perspectives which I feel more strongly about now than I did when I was a paying member of Delta Council and served on committees. From the observation point of someone who gets to see more of Delta Council from the inside, instead of the outside, I first want to report that without question, Delta Council is in shape to meet the future demands that might be ahead of us. In fact, whether you are evaluating the financial condition of Delta Council, the operational activities, or the recruitment of a new generation of leadership, Delta Council has a good balance sheet,



Litton

from a businessman's perspective.

My outlook? My business relies heavily on the economy of Delta agriculture. For years in the past, I wondered if future investments in agriculture were sound business decisions. However, the events that have happened over the past decade in Delta agriculture have convinced me that we have arrived at a new standard, in terms of the market demand for U.S. agricultural products. That means business opportunities for the Mississippi Delta. Make no mistake about it, there will be lean times in the future of Delta agriculture, and we should brace and be prepared for that event, but on balance, I am optimistic about the enormous contribution which agriculture will make to the future economy of the Delta over the next 50 years.

Since I will be Chairman of Delta Council next year, and consequently be

at the beck and call of the new President, I can say some things in reflection that I probably would not have said as the current President. Some of these things are as follows:

We will not achieve our true potential in a balanced and growing economy in the Delta if we complacently adopt pessimism about the future of our region. Further, there are thousands of towns like Delta communities across rural America that do not enjoy the economic sustainability of an agricultural base nor do they have a manufacturing or commercial economic base. We long for the return of piecemeal manufacturing jobs like those that were scattered across the Delta when I was in high school. Those jobs are not as prevalent in the U.S. as they once were, and according to the Bureau of Census,

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PRESIDENT continued on page 6

GUEST COLUMN | My Year in Washington

By **Thomas Wetzel**

Congressional Fellow of 2013 sponsored by DSU, Delta Council, and StapleCotn

The Congressional Fellowship of 2013 has been one of the most valuable life experiences I have had thus far. In the four months I lived on Capitol Hill, not only was I exposed to the legislative process that our Senators go through to advance Mississippi's interests, I was also able to get hands-on experience involving media relations, constituent services, health concerns, and agriculture. Nothing was shielded from me in Senator **Thad Cochran's** office, which enabled me to truly take in everything this internship had to offer.

I first arrived in Washington, D.C. awestruck and admittedly a little nervous to be in the place where "it all happens." Everyone had on suits and was swinging briefcases as they ran from one

side of the street to the other. It was then; I realized that I had willingly traded my truck keys for a pair of walking shoes. But, that did not stop me from spending my first weekend trekking to the National Mall to gaze at monuments and our great Nation's Capital. I felt humbled and looked forward to Monday morning when I would begin working in the Senate.

Parah Fishburn, Intern Coordinator, **Darrell Dixon**, a Legislative Aide, and **Daniel Ulmer**, a Legislative Assistant, were the first to greet me into the office and introduced me to the rest of the staff. After shaking hands with everyone, I was told repeatedly that if there were any hearings I wanted to attend, all I had to do was ask. What better way was there to find out critical concerns of our State than going to briefings? I took advantage of the opportunity and attended multiple meetings concerning health care, agriculture, and education as well as some of the more high-profile meetings involving national defense, drone usage, and big lobbyist.

Once I was given an office desk, each legislative aide seemed to rotate through and show me something new. My first assignment was to help **Chris Gallegos**, the Press Secretary with his morning press clips. He taught me how to gather information from the media that involved all of the Mississippi Representatives and compute them in a list that was easy for other staffers to utilize. In just a few days, I had it down pat. Other office tasks soon followed such as sorting through constituent mail, sending response letters, answering phones, running errands, and of course, making coffee. They might seem like small tasks, but it gave me an opportunity to ask questions and learn what matters to Mississippians the most. Thanks to those opportunities, I was asked to spearhead a handful of projects, most notably, creating a shareable database that compiled specific information on Mississippi counties.

Halfway through the internship, I had made some great memories: I had

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GUEST continued on page 3

LaForge named President of Delta State University

Recently, **William N. LaForge** was named the 8th President of Delta State University by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning. A Delta State University alumnus, **LaForge** has enjoyed a career in both the public and private sectors, spanning the fields of law, government, higher education and public policy. For more than 35 years, he has been involved with the public policy arena at local, State and federal levels.

"I am humbled and honored that the Board of Trustees has selected me to lead my alma mater," said **LaForge**. "I am excited to be coming home and to have the opportunity to help guide Delta State to new levels of

success. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. I am very mindful of the responsibilities with which I am entrusted, and I look forward to engaging and empowering all stakeholder groups to position Delta State University as a Mississippi public university of national distinction."

"We are so fortunate, in the Delta, to have attracted one of the top people who could have ever been recruited to replace the vacancy left by **John Hilpert's** retirement," stated **Bill Litton**, Leflore County Business-

man and current Delta Council President.

Cass Pennington, longtime educator and civic leader, called the recruitment and placement of **Bill** and **Nancy LaForge** "a perfect fit for DSU." As a former Executive Assistant to President **David Potter**, I know that **Bill** is the man who can sustain and grow the progress which we have seen during the **Hilpert** years. We are so very pleased with the College Board's wise judgment in select-



LaForge

ing the **LaForges** for this challenge." Growing up in Cleveland, **LaForge**

attended the public schools and graduated with honors from Delta State University. He was one of the first four students inducted into Delta State's Student Hall of Fame. He earned his law degree from the University Of Mississippi School Of Law, received an LL.M. in international law from Georgetown University, and studied international law at Cambridge University. He received an honorary doctorate of laws from Stetson University College of Law.

LaForge and his wife **Nancy** have two children: **Caroline** and **Clayton** who are also lawyers.

LaForge succeeded **Dr. John Hilpert** who retired last month.

Ag Committee Chairman Prepares for Senate Committee Package as Appearance at Delta Council Approaches

Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman **Debbie Stabenow** submitted her committee proposal to be printed on Wednesday night in order to be introduced on Tuesday before the Delta Council Annual Meeting where she will be the Keynote Speaker. **Stabenow** and U.S. Senator **Thad Cochran**, the Ranking Republican on the Committee, have worked together closely to forge a relationship that produces that an end-product that is balanced regionally and by crop.

"Assuming the Committee passes the Chairwoman's pro-

posed Committee bill this week, we will have Chairwoman **Stabenow** on stage for her first public appearance following Committee passage," stated **Bill Litton**, Delta Council President.

The Senate Committee proposal reflects several changes in the Commodity Title which are important to resolving the regional and crop-specific objections which Senator **Cochran** shared in the 2012 Senate proposal.

"The 2013 Senate measure appears to be much friendlier to

Southern agriculture and we are grateful for the spirit of cooperation exhibited between Senator **Cochran** and Senator **Stabenow** in bringing this measure through the Committee," stated **Dan Branton**, Chairman of the Farm Policy Committee and Washington County farmer.

The next step, assuming final action by the Committee, will be Senate floor consideration, where **Cochran** and **Stabenow** will fight off unfriendly amendments. Reportedly, full Senate action will possibly take place before Memorial Day recess.

MSU Scientists Honored

Wayne Ebelhar, a research professor with the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, recently received recognition for outstanding career achievements by the Southern Branch of the American Society of Agronomy. His research emphasis has been on nutrient management for cotton, corn and soybean production in the Mississippi Delta.

MSU weed scientist **Jason Bond** was named the 2013 Rice Researcher of the Year at the 2013 Conservation

Tillage Systems Cotton and Rice Conference in Baton Rouge, La. Bond has conducted research with an emphasis on rice, corn and cotton at MSU's Delta Research and Extension Center in Stoneville for six years.

MSU Extension Service Cotton Specialist **Darrin Dodds** was named 2013 Cotton Researcher of the Year. **Dodds**, who has worked at MSU for six years, studies cotton variety performance and management, fertility, plant growth regulator use, irrigation management, and weed control.

Lady Award.

"There is no one in the Delta that is more "pure Delta" than **Betty Lynn**. She has energy, enthusiasm, and a deep devotion to civic pride and service," stated **Chip Morgan**, Delta Council Staffperson.

Cameron will be recognized at the 78th Annual Delta Council Meeting on Friday, May 17, 2013 at Delta State University Bologna Performing Arts Center in Cleveland, MS as Good Middling Lady of the Year. Coined after the term "good middling," the highest grade in quality cotton production, the Good Middling Lady Award recognizes individuals who have sustained significant efforts to promote community and economic vitality in the Mississippi Delta.

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met Senator of Arizona, **John McCain**, sat in on controversial hearings regarding Benghazi by former Secretary of State, **Hillary Clinton**, the confirmation of the new Secretary of State, **John Kerry**, the nomination of the Secretary of Defense, **Chuck Hagel**, and had a front row ticket to the State of the Union address by **President Obama**. It was nostalgic getting to watch all of this live, recalling seeing these political figures on television just a few months ago.

The one event that stands out most was my opportunity to experience budget balancing for the Senate. It had been 4 years since the last balancing, and tensions were high. Senator **Cochran's** office, however, was fully prepared for the obstacle as they reviewed each

and every bill that hit the floor; burning the midnight oil well into the early hours making sure that the Senator was kept well informed. After witnessing their hard work, I can assure all Mississippians we have one of the most, if not the most dedicated and effective team in Congress.

I would like to extend a very special thanks to Delta Council, Staplcothn, and Delta State University for supporting the Congressional Fellowship program and allowing me to gain an enormous wealth of experience. This program takes a selected student and allows him or her to couple their college experience with hands-on work at the federal level. I am grateful for being allowed the opportunity and will use the skills and connections gained from The Hill to promote the needs of the Mississippi Delta.

CAMERON from page 1

ty Republican Women, and Greenville Rotary Club. She enjoys volunteering with the American Red Cross and lobbying in Washington, D.C. for individuals affected by arthritis.

Cameron is the mother of one child and two grandchildren. She is a member of the First Presbyterian Church where she is an Elder.

"**Betty Lynn** is a real work horse for positive activities for Greenville and the Delta. When you want something done well, you ask **Betty Lynn** to get involved. She will be a nice addition to the Good Middling Ladies," said **Mary Virginia Watson** of Greenville, a past recipient of the Good Middling

Delta F.A.R.M. Leadership Grows by Five

Delta F.A.R.M. was founded in 1998 to ensure a more economic and environmentally sustainable future for agriculture in the Mississippi Delta. This private, producer lead organization has found success in addressing regional natural resource concerns by advancing the adoption of economically viable conservation practices on the farm. In February of this year, Delta F.A.R.M. Directors voted to expand the Executive Committee by electing five new producers to join the organization's leadership ranks. Those elected to serve included **Jeremy Jack** of Belzoni, **Patrick Johnson, Jr.** of Tunica, **Will Jones** of Yazoo City, **Darrington Seward** of Louise and **C.D. Simmons, III** of Arcola.

Delta F.A.R.M. Director and past-Chairman, **Mike Sturdivant, Jr.**, had good things to say about the group. "These five producers are among the most progressive and environmentally attuned in the Delta and will certainly strengthen the leadership of Delta F.A.R.M. with their experience and fresh perspectives." Current Delta F.A.R.M. Chairman, **Reese Pillow**, provided additional accolades to the group by stating, "This group will surely lead by example as each of the new Directors currently exhibit a tremendously high level of environmental stewardship on their own farms."

New Delta F.A.R.M. Directors

Jeremy Jack graduated from Mississippi State University after earning two degrees and lettering in football. **Jeremy**



Jack



Johnson



Jones



Seward



Simmons

later worked in Senator **Thad Cochran's** Office before returning home to farm in Humphreys County. Today, **Jeremy** actively serves several organizations to advance agriculture and conservation. He is married to **Elizabeth Jack** and is a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Belzoni.

After graduating from the University of Mississippi, **Patrick Johnson, Jr.** returned home to farm with his family where he is now a Partner in Cypress Brake Planting Company. **Patrick** lends his free time to several agricultural organiza-

tions and the Tunica Presbyterian Church. **Patrick** is married to **Emily Purifoy** and resides in Tunica.

Will Jones attended Mississippi State University before moving to Jackson Hole, Wyoming to work for several years. **Will** returned to the Delta in 2007 to begin farming with his family. Today, **Will** operates Jones Planting Company. **Will** and his wife **Liza Parkes** reside in Tchula and are members of the Tchula Presbyterian Church.

Darrington Seward attended the University of Mississippi where he earned a degree in History and English. **Darrington** returned to the Delta after college to become a fourth generation family farmer and is now the Managing Partner of Seward & Son Planting Company headquartered in Louise. **Darrington**

and his wife **Mary Katherine Crowley** have five children and attend the First United Methodist Church of Yazoo City.

C.D. "Bubba" Simmons, III graduated from Mississippi State University before working for the Kappa Alpha Order. In 2000, **Bubba** began farming with his family where he is now a Partner in Simmons Planting Company in Washington County. **Bubba** is a resident of Tribbett, a member of the Avon United Methodist Church and serves on several organizations that advance and promote agriculture.

Ag Pilots Recognized For Environmental Stewardship

Four aerial applicators 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 **Ellis Russell** of Planters Air Service, Inc. in Alligator, MS, **Kelly Peeler** of Producers Flying, Inc. in Yazoo City, MS, **Matt Brignac** of Brignac Flying Service, LLC in Columbus, MS and **Jimmy Duke** of Sunflower Flying Service in Sunflower, MS.



Pictured from left to right, **Ellis Russell**, **Matt Brignac**, **Jimmy Duke** and **Kelly Peeler**.

Threadgill Made Associate Director

The Mississippi State University Extension Service has strengthened its administrative team by adding a second Associate Director. **Dr. Paula Threadgill**, who served as the State Program Leader for Family and Consumer Sciences and the Interim State Program Leader for the 4-H Youth Development Program, has begun a new role as an Extension Associate Director.

Threadgill will be responsible for the 4-H Youth Development Program, the Family and Consumer Sciences program, and the Center for Continuing Education.



Threadgill

International Court Rules Against Foreign Imports of Catfish

The courts of international trade recently notified U.S. Senator **Thad Cochran** that Vietnam has violated anti-dumping because of unfair pricing of farm-raised catfish in the U.S. consumer market. The Catfish Institute and Catfish Farmers of America have spent millions of dollars of their farmer-research and promotional dollars toward insuring that the enforcement authorities of anti-dumping laws and the food safety issues surrounding foreign imports of catfish are carried out in a timely and aggressive manner.

"This is very good news for Mississippi's catfish farms and those who work on them. They

have been harmed for years by unfair trade practices. I am pleased that the Commerce Department will now begin to move toward ensuring fair trade for our American catfish producers," **Cochran** said. "I believe that on a level playing field, our producers can compete with anyone."

Sunflower County catfish operator **Austin Jones**, who serves as Vice Chairman of the Aquaculture Committee of Delta Council, expressed appreciation for a congressional support which Senator **Cochran** has provided in order to bring violations of international trade laws to the point of action by our government, but **Jones** explained that such continued viola-

tions, accompanied by reaction by our government, allow for "one more layer of the economic base of the catfish industry to be stripped away."

"For 10 years, we have been telling USDA, FDA, and the Congress that Trade violations and food safety standards are effectively being ignored by our government while a U.S. industry that is headquartered in the most impoverished areas of our country is disintegrating due to the slow response and less-than-enthusiastic enforcement of standards that would not be tolerated if the U.S. public knew the whole story," added **Jones**, the Sunflower County catfish operator.

"We have lost thousands of jobs in my home county alone, because even after U.S. Senator **Thad Cochran** enacted a law requiring that catfish inspection, similar to that performed by USDA on chickens, beef, pork, and eggs, be implemented, we are sitting here 5 years hence, and our government has refused to enact the inspection programs that Congress mandated—consequently the public keeps consuming foreign imported catfish because our government refuses to perform food safety inspections on our domestic and imported catfish," **Jones** exclaimed.

The Delta... working together.



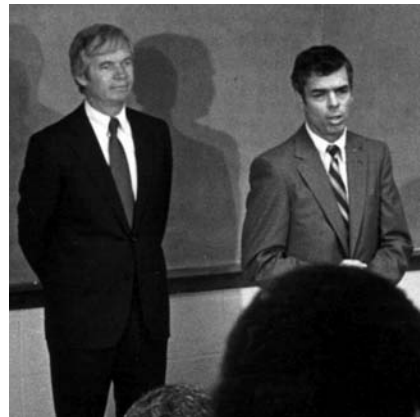
Angela McClure displays her cotton attire at the Wear Cotton Fashion Show in 1976.



1960 Annual Meeting Guest speakers (L to R) **Richardson Wood** and **Robert Stevens** enjoying dinner.



Mike Sturdivant, Jr. (left) of Itta Bena introduces Keynote Speaker, Governor **Kirk Fordice** to the media at the 50th Delta Council Annual Meeting.



Senator **Thad Cochran** appears with Secretary of Agriculture **John Block** at the 36th Annual Meeting of Delta Council.



The late **John Aldridge** and the late **Betty Dean** display their cotton attire as Wear Cotton Winners in 1996.



(L to R) **Betty Jo Parker**, **Bobbie Jean Hill**, **Melissa Thomas**, **Susan Carter**, **Tammy Hargett**, and **Joy Barret** displays paper dresses at the 2000 Annual Meeting Fashion Show.



(L to R Front) **Ray Makamson** (Greenwood), **Ray Rounsaville** (Charleston), **Senator Thad Cochran**, **Ben Lamensdorf** (Cary), **Cliff Heaton** (Clarksdale), **Howard Sanders** (Hollandale). (L to R Back Row) **Bryan Jones**, (Yazoo City), **Sledge Taylor** (Como), **Huey Townsend**, (Belzoni), **Frank Sibley** (Marks), **Al Rankins** (Greenville)



Delta Council Past President **Curt Presley** of Clarksdale seen at the 55th Annual Meeting of Delta Council with Governor **Ronnie Musgrove**.



Dan Branton (left), Former Delta Council President, Governor **Barbour** and **Marsha Barbour** present 1st Delta top Honor Graduate **Rachel Wheeler** with grand scholarship award at 2004 Annual Meeting.



John Sharp Howie, Past Delta Council President (middle) and Congressman **Mike Espy** (right) present plaque to Keynote Speaker and Chair of the House Agriculture Committee, **Kika de la Garza** at the 1989 Annual Meeting.



Platform Dignitaries at Annual Meeting of 1954: (L to R) Congressman **Frank Smith**, **J.R. Flautt**, **Mrs. Wynn Richards Taylor**, **Mrs. W. W. Gre-sham**, **Howard Grittman**, **W. M. Garrard, Jr.**, **John Coleman**, **Walter Sillers**, and Governor **Hugh White**

Mississippi Delta 2013 Honor Graduates

BOLIVAR: Laura Hayden Bowen - Bayou Academy

TeKierra Bush - East Side High

Lavenus Dudley - East Side High

Maleena Frazier - Broad Street High

April Harris - John F Kennedy High

William Hawkins - Cleveland High

Mary Parker Janoush - Cleveland High

Regina Johnson - John F Kennedy High

Antwanette Keys - Broad Street High

Fatima Leaks - West Bolivar High

Jasmine McRoy - Shaw High

Michael Portner - Bayou Academy

Shannon Smith - Ray Brooks

Dalvin Williams - West Bolivar High

Demerrius Williams - Shaw High

Tericka Wright - Ray Brooks

CARROLL: Peyton Baner - Carroll Academy

Rachel Brewer - Carroll Academy

Kasey Holman - J.Z. George High

Raul Ledesma - J.Z. George High

COAHOMA: Shelby Babb - Lee Academy

Cierra Citchens - Coahoma Co. Agricultural High

Candi Ellis - Clarksdale High

Marquisha Lester - Coahoma Co. Agricultural High

Andra Lewis - Clarksdale High

Grace Briana Mitchell - Lee Academy

Ashley Smith - Coahoma County High

Jakirah Starks - Coahoma County High

DESOTO: Kemary Barnes - Olive Branch High

Kelsey Boyd - Olive Branch High

Dallas Bright - Southaven High

Byron Davis - Horn Lake High

Melissa Dollar - Center Hill High

Victoria Ferguson - Lake Cormorant High

Hunter Gibbs - Southern Baptist Educational Center

Ryne Golden - Desoto Central High

Caitlyn Hamilton - Hernando High

Grace Hamm - Lewisburg High

Colleen Hughes - Hernando High

Marissa Kizer - Desoto County Academy

Isaac Lias, Jr - Southaven High

A J Parmley - Lewisburg High

Julia Roberson - Lake Cormorant High

Jeremy Sorel - Southern Baptist Educational Center

Naomi Taylor - Desoto Central High

Jonathan Uksas - Horn Lake High

Jennifer Weeks - Center Hill High

HOLMES: Keyoshia Donelson - S.V. Marshall High

Brandi Hudson - S.V. Marshall High

Lily Fran McCrory - Central Holmes Christian School

Destiny Mitchell - Durant High

Kordarius Parker - Williams Sullivan High

Kaneesha Roby - Durant High

Artrista Saffold - J.J. McClain High

Tamara Sly - J.J. McClain High

Brett Spell - Central Holmes Christian School

Shanice Wimsett - Williams Sullivan High

HUMPHREYS: Cody Alleman - Humphreys Academy

Tayla Frizell - Humphreys Co. High

Alexius Paige - Humphreys Co. High

Daniel Reed - Humphreys Academy

LEFLORE: Shanecia Beckworth - Leflore County High

Marvin Conrod - Leflore County High

Cayla Freeman - Greenwood High

James Jackson, III - Pillow Academy

Zoe Moore - Greenwood High

Mikia Rich - Amanda Elzy High

Joseph Tillman - Pillow Academy

Jamelia Whitehall - Amanda Elzy High

PANOLA: Amelia Bailey - South Panola High

Charla Darby - North Delta School

John Huntington Howell - North Delta School

Anastasia Johnson - North Panola High

Lauren Middleton - South Panola High

Teariny Wheatley - North Panola High

QUITMAN: Emma Haynes - Delta Academy

Ivy Spradling - Delta Academy

Larry Strickland - M.S. Palmer High

Akeyla Young - M.S. Palmer High

SHARKEY/ISSAQUENA: Roger Davis, Jr. - South Delta High

Amber Ford - South Delta High

LaKen Fulton - Sharkey-Issaquena Academy

Taylor Howle - Sharkey-Issaquena Academy

SUNFLOWER: Terradeshia Dixon - Gentry High

Peyton Garrett - North Sunflower Academy

Antonia Jetts - Ruleville Central High

Holly Pitts - Indianola Academy

Justice Scott - Ruleville Central High

Chris Seto - Indianola Academy

Melanie Stuckey - Gentry High

J B Willingham - North Sunflower Academy

TALLAHATCHIE: Jamal Brock - Charleston High

Jacquelyn Brooks - Strider Academy

Sepreta Ellis - West Tallahatchie High

Alkeira Gooch - West Tallahatchie High

Alexis Ross - Charleston High

Bradley Williamson - Strider Academy

TATE: Emily Ballheller - Magnolia Heights School

Ashley Blackburn - Coldwater High

Parker Durham - Magnolia Heights School

Kassie Geeslin - Independence High

Raven Gordon - Senatobia High

Diana Grindlay - Strayhorn High

Letia McGee - Coldwater High

Mallory Payne - Senatobia High

Alexandria Rowland - Strayhorn High

Ben Stump - Independence High

TUNICA: Samuel McGee - Tunica Academy

Claire Schubert - Tunica Academy

Brittany Smith - Rosa Fort High

Jamal Stevenson - Rosa Fort High

WARREN: William Ballard - Warren Central High

Steven Cialone - St Aloysius High School

Tabitha Hayden - Vicksburg High

Claire Kendall - Warren Central High

Hannah Krapac - Porter's Chapel Academy

Victoria Lewis - Vicksburg High

Katherine Ann Locke - Porter's Chapel Academy

Mallory McGuffee - St Aloysius High School

WASHINGTON: Krista Barrett - Washington School

Lauren Bostic - St Joseph High School

Christian James Bradshaw - Greenville Christian School

Keshia Brady - Riverside High

Courtland Brown - Simmons Jr/Sr High

Richard Deangelo Carter - St Joseph High School

Hannah Gammill - Greenville Weston High

Haley Hobart - Deer Creek School

Amber Love - Simmons Jr/Sr High

Christopher McWright - Leland High

Hailey Melton - Washington School

Scanita Miller - O'Bannon High

Keyanna Nealon - Leland High

Olivia Peyton - Deer Creek School

Austin Smith - Riverside High

Kennedy Washington - Greenville Weston High

Keyondria Williams - O'Bannon High

YAZOO: Nora Grace Davis - Benton Academy

Jenquil Dent - Yazoo City High

Kathryn Homel Dooley - Benton Academy

Stephen Matory - Yazoo County High

Lyncyn Reliquias - Manchester Academy

Cubdeerix Robinson - Yazoo City High

Royce Swayze - Manchester Academy

Alice Thornton - Yazoo County High

PRESIDENT *from page 2*

those jobs have been shrinking across the Nation at an escalating pace for all of the past 3 decades.

So, my message is that if we are to be as successful in attracting non-agricultural employment to the Delta as we have been in building one of the largest agri-industrial complexes of jobs in the Nation here in the Delta, we are going to need to renovate our thinking about the zip code on our mailing address. Instead, we must consider combining our resources, similar to the way Delta agriculture has done

for so many years, and focus on our strengths as a region.

We have a large number of responsible and effective public officials throughout most of our counties and cities. In order for them to become comfortable with regional approaches to job development, whether these jobs are agricultural or non-agricultural manufacturing, their local constituency must agree to support these new approaches. As President of Delta Council, I have been in conference rooms and in meetings with State and local officials who have re-enforced the value of regionalism, as the catalyst for job development and new

investments. The Delta has no task in creating regionalism, because we are regional.

Someone told me once that salt would have never become the popular commodity which it has been over the past 200 years in America, if it didn't melt and lose its identity. The Delta has always melted over 5 million acres, over 75 towns, and 18 counties, underscoring the absolute fact that we are regional. When I went to college, we were not from Clarksdale, Greenwood, Indianola, Yazoo City, or Rolling Fork—we were known as a group because we were simply from the Delta. I am proud of our home. I believe that Delta people have a strong

work ethic. I have a lot of employees and I know firsthand, that Delta people of all income levels have good workplace values.

My parting message as I move into another role in Delta Council is that whether working with industrial site location specialists, the Mississippi Development Authority, the recruitment of school teachers, or seeking new investors on the growing inland waterway system that borders our western boundary, our best efforts will fall short if we do not work hard, work smart, but more than any other ingredient, work together as a Delta.

Sponsors



For over 100 years, BankPlus has served the people and businesses of Mississippi. BankPlus has over 60 banking offices in 33 Mississippi communities. As a bank that started in the Delta and maintains strong community values, BankPlus is proud to sponsor Delta Council.

BankPlus offers cutting-edge services and products coupled with the best in customer service and customer care. For additional information on BankPlus, please visit www.BankPlus.net.



Jimmy Sanders, Inc., established in 1953, is one of the largest agricultural input supply and distribution businesses in the Mid-South. Family owned and headquartered in Cleveland, Mississippi, the company currently services growers through 70 retail locations in Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, and Georgia.

Sanders is multifaceted in its operations, which include seed production and sales, agricultural chemical distribution, bulk handling of fertilizer and, through its award-winning OptiGro® program, variable rate technology and other precision agriculture services. The company also provides wildlife food plot products and services through its Wildwood Genetics™ brand.



Part Of The Farm Credit System

Mississippi Land Bank and Southern Ag Credit provide long term and short term financing solutions for land, operation capital, equipment and farm equity. From a few acres to a few thousand acres, these Farm Credit Association lenders have been working with growers and rural land owners in Mississippi for over 95 years. They offer flexible loan programs, knowledge of the territory, expertise in land values and agricultural operation needs. As cooperatives, the borrowers are the owners of these banks and, as such, share in the profits through a patronage refund at the end of each successful year. Mississippi Land Bank has ten locations across north Mississippi. Southern Ag Credit also has eleven offices located throughout south Mississippi and North Louisiana. Both of these financial institutions are proud to support Delta Council and welcome the opportunity to discuss a financing solution designed to help you grow. Visit them online at www.MississippiLandBanks.com.



“Voices of Mississippi Agriculture” represent the farmer-funded research and market development efforts of the five major commodities produced in the Mississippi Delta — catfish, corn, cotton, rice and soybeans. Combined, these industries account for the economic chassis that the economy of the region rides upon, producing over 31,000 jobs and accounting for more than \$580 million in local, state, and federal tax revenues to support basic services, from school teachers to garbage pick-up. These farmer funded programs work to invest in the future of agriculture, so that the ag part of our Delta Gross Domestic Product (GDP) continues to generate a positive cash flow on the farm and provide a major contribution to the State’s economy.



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MEETING from page 1

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appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal* and other newspapers.

Rothenberg served during the 2008 and 2010 election cycles as an analyst for the *NewsHour* on PBS. During the 2006 cycle, he was a political analyst for CBS News. Prior to that, he was a political analyst for CNN for over a decade, including election nights from 1992 through 2004.

Delta 1000 is a program begun by Delta Council over 30 years ago to ask all of the members of Delta Council to pay \$100 above and beyond their regular membership

dues. This support through the “Delta 1000” program has helped Delta Council maintain one of the most effective area-wide economic development programs in the entire nation.

The Delta Council Annual Meeting will be held at the Bologna Performing Arts Center, Delta State University, beginning at 10:30 a.m. The Delta Council meeting, highlighted by Chairwoman **Debbie Stabenow’s** keynote address, is scheduled to conclude at noon, when the Delta Council members and guests will move to the University quadrangle for a fried catfish lunch on the grounds.

Delta Council

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Delta Council Executive Vice President Chip Morgan Conferred with Honorary Degree at Delta State's Spring Commencement



Delta Council Executive Vice President **Chip Morgan** was bestowed with one of the university's highest honors—an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree, as 422 Delta State University graduates received their degrees during the 2013 Spring Commencement held Saturday, May 4, in the Walter Sillers Coliseum.

A native of Oxford, **Morgan** earned a B.A. in Public Administration from University of Mississippi. A year after receiving his degree,

he came to work for Delta Council as Director of the Industrial and Community Department of Delta Council. Seven years later he was named Executive Vice President of Delta Council. During his 38 years of service to Delta Council, **Morgan** has helped advance the Delta's 18-county region in the areas of agriculture, transportation, higher education, river management, tourism, literacy, and health care.

Delta State University President Emeritus **Dr. John M. Hilpert** (left) and new Delta State University President **William N. LaForge** (right) bestow Delta Council Executive Vice President **Chip Morgan** with one of the university's highest honors — an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree.



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