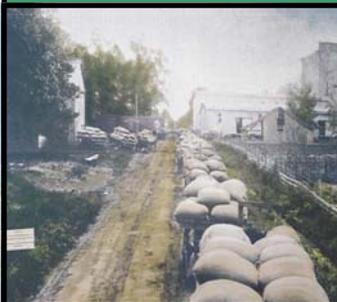


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ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Delta Studies Center

A Message From the Center Peggy Robinson Wright

With the coming of summer, there are a lot of meetings, reunions and conferences going on. I, as the newly elected Secretary of the Arkansas Humanities Council board of directors, and Lynda Medlock, my ASU colleague and fellow board member will be hosting the Council's summer board meeting here at Arkansas State University, July 29-31, 2004.

Through hosting the meeting here, the Council's board of directors will become better acquainted with Arkansas State University, and will be given an opportunity to visit several of the projects funded in this area, such as the Judd Hill Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc., Trumann, AR; RESPEC, Inc., Jonesboro, AR; along with several others.

We hope that the information provided to you in our quarterly newsletters continues to be a valuable resource.

DRA Hosts "First Steps" Tourism Meeting



Attendees listen to speakers at the "First Steps" Tourism Meeting.

Clarksdale, MS - The office of the Federal Co-chairman of the Delta Regional Authority held its "First Steps" Tourism Meeting Wednesday, June 16, 2004. This meeting was organized to bring tourism leaders and other interested individuals in the Delta together to begin the process of setting the priorities needed in order to address tourism as an economic opportunity for the region.

The goals for this meeting, according to DRA Federal Co-chairman Pete Johnson, were to set development priorities; to begin the process of developing a marketing and promotional

plan for tourism; to develop a plan to increase the tour bus business to come down through the region; and to improve the leisure tourism business. Some 54 attendees from Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Arkansas attended this meeting.

Presenters included John Elkington, of Performa Entertainment Real Estate Inc., Webster Franklin, President and CEO, Tunica Convention and Visitors Bureau, Beverly Robertson, Executive Director of the National Civil Rights Museum, Mike Jones and Alex Thomas, Mississippi Development Authority, Shelley Ritter Clarksdale Blues Museum, and Terry Winschel, Historian of the Civil War Park in Vicksburg, MS.

Winschel stated in his remarks "that no longer should we only think of the region in terms of black and white, but we should think of "green" when thinking of tourism and civil war heritage."

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Pete Johnson, DRA Federal Co-Chairman, described the conference as a "huge success and worthwhile for attendees, all of whom were interested in being a part of an effort that will have an economic impact throughout the region."

For more information about this or other DRA meetings, please contact Lillie M. Fears at (662) 624-8600, ext 14 or email her at lfears@dra.gov.

Eyes On Our History: A Conversation with Ernest C. Withers



Ernest C. Withers presents Eyes On Our History: A Conversation with Ernest C. Withers
Photo by: Christine Perry



Martin Luther King Jr., Montgomery Alabama
Photo by: Ernest C. Withers

The Corinne Sternheimer Greenfield Lecture Series, created through an endowment established by Drs. Rosalee and Raymond Weiss to honor the memory of her beloved mother, welcomed famed photojournalist Ernest C. Withers to the ASU campus on April 4, 2004.

Mr. Withers, with long time friend and historian F. Jack Hurley, chair of the Department of History at the University of Memphis, engaged in a public conversation that explored the background and meaning of Withers' body of work that spans over six decades.

Withers, who holds an Honorary Doctorate from the Massachusetts College of Arts, has been elected to the Black Press Hall of Fame. His photographs are

famous for capturing historical events such as the 1955 murder of 14 year-old Emmitt Till, the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Little Rock Central High crisis, the desegregation of Ole Miss, and the 1968 Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike. His pictures have appeared in The New York Times, Jet, Ebony, Newsweek, and Life magazines.

Mr. Withers continues to work as an active photographer with a studio located at 333 Beale Street in Memphis, Tennessee. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Dorothy Curry, and they have eight children.

For more information on the Corinne Sternheimer Greenfield Lecture Series or Ernest C. Withers, please contact the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at (870) 972-3973 or visit their website at <http://www.chss.astate.edu/>.

Delta Cultural Center in Helena Officially Opens New Permanent Stage



Cherry Street Pavilion - Helena, Arkansas
Photo submitted by:

Kimberly J. Williams, Development Coordinator, Delta Cultural Center

On Friday, April 23, 2004, the Delta Cultural Center hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the Cherry Street Pavilion.

The Cherry Street Pavilion is an outdoor, permanent performance stage, located in historic downtown Helena. The new facility will become the home of the Arkansas Delta Family Gospel Festival and the King Biscuit Blues Festival, as well as various other community performances and events.

"We are so excited about the Cherry Street Pavilion," said Katie Harrington, director of the museum. "Not only does the stage give downtown Helena a permanent performance venue, but it also adds a new architectural feel to the cityscape."

For more information on the Cherry Street Pavilion, please contact the Delta Cultural Center at (870) 338-4352 or (800) 358-0972. You may also access the museum's website at www.deltaculturalcenter.com. The Delta Cultural Center is a museum of the Department of Arkansas Heritage.

9th Biennial Symposium on Minority Health

By: Jacquelyn Gilbert

I am pleased to announce that there were 11 students from Arkansas State University who were selected to receive scholarships to the 9th Biennial Symposium on Minorities, The Medically Underserved & Cancer. This premier student mentoring program where promising scholars in research are mentored, funded, and assisted academically, had the best and brightest of the state of Arkansas. 46 schools participated with over 300 students in attendance. 1300 participants, researchers, community advocates, funders, as well as academicians were able to interact and assist one another regarding the issues of cancer research. Many speakers were available to answer questions as well as give suggestions regarding the disparities of Cancer for minorities and the underserved. Informative cutting edge speakers rendered information on the latest research and status of the US. A few of those included: Dr. Francis Collins, MD PhD the Director of the National Human Genome Research Committee, Dr. LaSalle D. Leffal, Jr. MD FACS who is the Chair of the President's Cancer Panel, Dr. Antonia C. Novello, MD, DrPH, MPH the former US Surgeon General who is presently the Commissioner of Health for the state of New York.

Mandatory workshops for participants were geared for students interested in the areas of Basic Research, Behavioral and Social Sciences Research and Clinical Research. Students interested in these areas were able to speak to the scientists at the NIH regarding their role in developing new research agendas. All students were able to meet individually with mentors from the NIH to assist them in mapping their careers.

An extremely good highlight of the trip included a meeting with Senator

Blanche Lincoln on March 25, 2004. Students were able to question policies of health care and jobs in the Delta. Evening banquets and awards dinners included one from Dr. Nathan Stinson, Jr. MD PhD MPH, the Director of Minority Health and the Department of Human Health and Human Services. Other highlights included student participation with honored guests such as Ms. Dorothy Height, Presidential Gold Medalist, The Honorable Edward Brooke, former Senator, State of Massachusetts, and Susan G. Braun, president and CEO of The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Our program began on March 23rd and ended on March 28, 2004. Many other opportunities were available for students to learn resume writing, the process of applying to graduate school, and how to conduct interviews. Since the students were able to meet other students, many cultural exchanges occurred with students from Hawaii, South Texas, California, New York, Virginia, and Florida to name a few. The festive activities included those in which students and all participants were able to experience Native American, Asian, Mexican, and African American cultural foods all in one setting.

Many thanks to the Office of Diversity-Dr. Glen Jones for assisting in transportation, Dr. Susan Hanrahan, Dean of the College of Nursing & Health Professions for supporting the students in their absentee from classes and allowing faculty to attend, Mrs. Peggy Wright, Delta Studies Center, for financial support for students and Dr. Jeannette Loutch in support of students and recruitment for this endeavor.



L/R Dr. Henry Talley and Julian Carter, Minorities in Medicine Seminar, College of Nursing and Health Professions
Photo by: Peggy R. Wright



Ms. Hubbard at the Delta Class Spring 2004 Health Camp, College of Nursing and Health Professions
Photo by: Jacquelyn Gilbert



L/R Dr. Robert Abraham and Dr. Lorna Layton, featured speakers, Minorities in Medicine Seminar.
Photo by: Jacquelyn Gilbert

Preserving and Documenting African American Cemeteries in Arkansas Regional Conference



"Preserving and Documenting African American Cemeteries in Arkansas" Regional Meeting Participants

Photo by Peggy R. Wright



L/R Lavona Wilson, Program Officer for the Arkansas Humanities Council and Dr. Ann Early, State Archeologist, Arkansas Archeological Survey.

Photo by Peggy R. Wright



"Preserving and Documenting African American Cemeteries in Arkansas" Regional Meeting Participants

Photo by Peggy R. Wright

The "Preserving and Documenting African American Cemeteries in Arkansas" Regional Meeting was held at Arkansas State University on April 24, 2004. The meeting was spearheaded by the Arkansas Humanities Council and hosted by the ASU-Delta Studies Center.

With the use of general improvement funds, the Arkansas legislature established this African American Cemeteries Initiative through Bill 673, now Act 1568 of 2003. This act authorized a two-year pilot program for the Arkansas Archeological Survey "to help local organizations to identify and preserve poorly documented cemeteries in Arkansas where African Americans are interred using archeological and historical research methods."

In order to fulfill this initiative, a series of regional meetings have been set up to focus on the grass roots efforts of preserving African American cemeteries across Arkansas. This regional meeting was the second of several to be held in the state. Many organizations and individuals from the Arkansas Delta Region converged on the ASU campus to discuss their efforts in maintaining the cemeteries in their particular regions.

Conference topics and guest speakers included:

- Preserving Cemeteries on Former Plantations: Mrs. Mattie Wortham, Judd Hill/Tulot Cemeteries.
- Perspectives of Local Cemetery Preservation Groups: Ms. Carla Coleman, AAHGS and PAAC,

Mr. John Gause, Spring Lake Cemetery, Mr. Arthur McClinton, Dixon Cemetery and PAAC, and Ms. Ira Miller, Mt Moriah Community Center.

- Cemetery Laws and Databases and Locating, Repairing, Recording, and Protecting Cemeteries: Dr. Ann Early, State Archeologist, Arkansas Archeological Survey
- Memory Gardens: Ms. Robbie Lyles, R.E.S.P. Inc.
- Listing a Cemetery on the National Register of Historic Places: Ms. Annie Winfrey, Scott Bond Cemetery Association.

The event was deemed a success according to ASU-Delta Studies Center Coordinator, Peggy R. Wright. Mrs. Wright explained that despite the bad weather forecasted for the days event several people attended the meeting. Information was shared and many contacts were made between the attending participants.

Even with this successful meeting, Mrs. Wright believes there is still much work to be done when it comes to "preserving and documenting African American Cemeteries in Arkansas." These regional meetings are just the beginning of collaborations between individuals, groups, and organizations across the state that strive to protect these historical sites.

For more information, please contact Lavona Wilson, 10800 Financial Centre Parkway, Suite 465, Little Rock, AR 72211, (501) 221-0091 or email her at lavonawilson@sbcglobal.net.

DSC Staff Attends the “Reclaiming Rosenwald Schools: Preserving a Legacy” Conference

Peggy R. Wright and Christine Perry, ASU DSC Staffers, attended the “Reclaiming Rosenwald Schools: Preserving a Legacy” conference held on May 21-22, 2004 at Fisk University. The conference was presented by the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Rosenwald Schools Initiative.

Due to the amazing number of requests the National Trust formed the Rosenwald Schools Initiative in 2002 and also placed it on their America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list that same year. This designation brought national attention to the schools and a task force was set up to guide the Rosenwald Initiative and “devise a plan for the identification and preservation of Rosenwald Schools across the region.” The two-day conference was a direct outcome of that plan.

This conference was held at Fisk University, which is a small liberal arts HBCU located in

Nashville, Tennessee. The 2-day event held several educational and research sessions for the Rosenwald Archives located on the campus. Sessions included: The Search for Rosenwald Schools: Successful Survey Strategies; The Ideas and People that Built Rosenwald Schools; National Register Nominations: A Nuts and Bolts Workshop, Transforming Rosenwald Schools into Tourist Attractions; and Finding New Uses for the Old Schoolhouse.

The conference brought men and women with both personal and professional expertise together to share tools, educational materials, funding sources with other activists from the South and Southwest regions. There were many networking and educational opportunities available throughout the 2 day event.

If you would like more information about the Rosenwald Schools Initiative please visit their website at www.rosenwaldschools.com.



Alice Rosenwald, Granddaughter of Julius Rosenwald.



Conference Participants listen to Ms. Alice Rosenwald talk about her grandfather.

Photo by Peggy R. Wright

Fisk University Spotlight

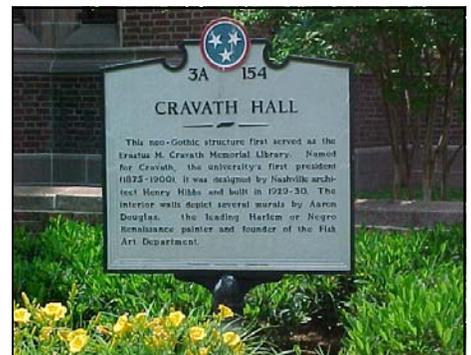


Cravath Hall
Fisk University
Nashville, Tennessee.

Photo by Christine Perry

Fisk University is a small liberal arts HBCU that offers a strong science program. Currently it is listed as one of the best colleges or university in the nation by the Princeton Review. It has also been selected as one of the top fifty universities for African Americans in the nation by the Black Enterprise.

With Alumni such as Congressman John Lewis and Alcee Hasking, Hazel O’Leary, John Hope Franklin and Nikki Giovanni, Fisk University continues to produce talented students who assume leadership positions in the nation. For more information, visit www.fisk.edu.



Cravath Hall Historic Marker
Fisk University
Nashville, Tennessee.

Photo by Peggy R. Wright

Global American South Conference

March 3-4, 2005

University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

(with generous support from the Rockefeller Foundation)

In collaboration with the Center for the Study of the American South, the University Center for International Studies (UCIS) at UNC-Chapel Hill is pleased to host a major interdisciplinary conference on the globalization of the American South.

The conference commemorates UCIS' six-year exploration of the Global South, funded by the Rockefeller Resident Fellowship Program. In addition, we seek to support ongoing research and launch new initiatives devoted to the changing face of the American South.

We invite proposals for conference presentations by scholars, policymakers, activists, artists, and other professionals whose work deals with contemporary issues of the Global American South. We encourage submissions on a broad range of topics within a variety of disciplines, including but not limited to: *Anthropology, Business, City & Regional Planning, Cultural Studies, Demography, Economics, Education, Environmental Science, Film, Fine Art, Folklore, Health Care, History, Law, Literature, Media & Communication, Music, Politics, Religion, Social Work, and Sociology.*

We are particularly interested in exploring issues such as:

Changing technologies and labor markets, cultural and regional identity, ethnic, racial, and cultural conflict, loss of traditional industries, media and public awareness, political representation, public services (education, health care, legal aid,) refugee resettlement, and transnational relations.

To be considered as a panelist, please send a **presentation proposal** (not to exceed 500 words) and an **abbreviated CV** (not to exceed 2 pages) to the address below.

To propose a **special panel session**, please send a **session proposal** describing the proposed topic (not to exceed 500 words), the **abbreviated CVs** of the session leader and participating panelists, and a **presentation proposal** (not to exceed 500 words) for each of the panelists.

Global American South Conference
University Center for International Studies
223 East Franklin Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-5145
globalsouth@unc.edu

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: September 30, 2004

Newsletter Layout: Christine Perry

Newsletter Editors: Peggy R. Wright, Terry Johnson

2004 AAHGS Annual Conference "Tying the Threads"

Washington D.C. - The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) will hold its 26th Annual Conference October 21-24, 2004 at the Doubletree Hotel, 424 West Markham, in Little Rock, Arkansas. Participants will have an opportunity to attend a series of workshops and programs in celebration of a quarter century of service to the community. Each year, family historians and genealogists from across the country and Canada gather to seek answers to discovering their family roots. This year's theme, "*Tying the Threads*" depicts us all as part of the fabric of which this nation is woven. Each thread is significant and brings together diverse backgrounds that bind a nation of people.

Conferees will have the opportunity to meet the authors and guests to exchange thoughts and ideas. The conference will provide broad choice of workshops and speakers. Over 30 sessions will focus on resources, research methods, and historic events. Experienced historians and genealogists will provide lectures geared for the beginning researcher to the advanced, for the hobbyist and the professional. This conference will offer a variety of software vendors, resource books, apparel, ethnic collectibles, and will provide conferees an opportunity to network with others from around the country.

AAHGS is a non-profit, membership organization committed to the preservation of history, genealogy, and culture of diverse groups from local, national, and international communities. AAHGS stresses the importance of history and genealogy by encouraging active participation in recording research and documenting personal family histories.



For registration, vendor, or presenter
information contact:

Tamela Tenpenny-Lewis: (501) 425-5578

Khadijah Matin: (718) 421-7908

Carolyn Corpening Rowe: (301) 292-2751

Visit AAHGS website at:
<http://www.aahgs.org>

Newly Released Reports

THE NEW GREAT MIGRATION: BLACK AMERICANS' RETURN TO THE SOUTH, 1965-2000

The Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy released a report by William H. Fry on migration patterns of Black Americans to the South in the last thirty-five years.

This report can be found on the Brookings Institution website:
http://www.brookings.edu/urban/publications/20040524_frey.htm

KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK

The Annie E. Casey Foundation released the most recent data on child well being. The data covers, by state, information on such topics as the percentage of low birth babies, infant mortality rate, child death rate, teen birthrate, and percentage of teens who are high school dropouts.

This report can be found at:
<http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/databook/>

THE STATE OF THE SOUTH 2004: FIFTY YEARS AFTER BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

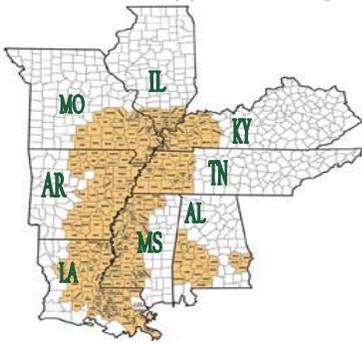
This report looks at the Southern Region's public education system fifty years after the Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education decision.

The report can be found at:
<http://www.mdcinc.org/pdfs/sos2004.pdf>

**ASU
Delta Studies Center**

PO Box 245
State University, AR 72467-0245
Phone: (870) 910-8034
Fax: (870) 910-8036
Information Clearinghouse:
1 (877) 731-3020
Email: dsc@astate.edu

Lower Mississippi Delta Region



We're on the web
www.clt.astate.edu/dsc

NEWSLETTER OF INTEREST

The Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program

THE CONDUCTOR

Newsletter

www.nps.gov/ncro/conductor.htm

NOTICE

The ASU - Delta Studies Center will be making the newsletter available to our readers via email this fall. If you would like to receive the newsletter in this format, please forward your email address to Christine Perry at cperry@astate.edu.