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ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Delta Studies Center

“A MESSAGE FROM THE CENTER” PEGGY R. WRIGHT

First, I would like to ask that you demonstrate civic engagement and participation by voting in the November elections. It is crucial and important, therefore, I encourage you to go early or to the polls on November 7th.

ASU-DSC will be approaching the Arkansas State Legislature in January with a funding request for support for the Center. I am working with Robert Evans, Director of the ASU Governmental Affairs Office in this effort and know we will be successful.

Secondly, the Lower Mississippi Delta Caucus will hold it’s Annual Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, January 18-19, 2006 at the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce and the Clinton Presidential Library. If you have not registered, please send your registration and fee to Delta Consulting & Communications, Attn: Lee Powell). More information can be found on the ASU-DSC/Caucus website, <http://www.clt.astate.edu/dsc/MSDeltaGrassrootsCaucus.htm>.

Within the overall context of the Delta Regional Authority, several state legislative initiatives that target the DRA sub state poverty areas have begun. Notable initiatives include Governor Riley’s Black Belt Action Committee and the Mississippi Delta Region Revitalization Act of 2006. Hopefully, we will see such efforts/initiatives in Arkansas soon.

ASU-DSC in keeping with the mission of ASU as outlined in the authorizing resolution from the ASU Board of Trustees in 1994 to develop collaborations and partnerships across the Lower Mississippi River Valley Delta Region is pleased with two more recent efforts by national nonprofits targeting the Delta. Those are the United Way of America led by Rodney Slater as Board Chair and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America that are focusing on program development in the Delta. More on these initiatives will be posted on our Information Clearinghouse website at www.clt.astate.edu/dsc.

TRAIL OF TEARS RECOGNIZED

On Thursday, August 10, 2006, the Trail of Tears exhibit was unveiled at the Helena Levee near the Delta Cultural Center.

“Trail of Tears” is the name given to the routes by which the U.S. government forced 16,000 Cherokee Indians from their homelands in Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina and Georgia and marched to the Indian Territory (today known as Oklahoma). Hundreds died on the Trail, and thousand others died after arriving in Oklahoma.

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TRAIL OF TEARS CONTINUED



(L/R) Cathie Matthews, Director of the Dept. of Ark. Heritage, Ark. National Park Ranger, Bob Bailey, Exec. Dir. of the Ark. Humanities Council, and Paul Austin, Exec. Dir. of the Native American Center of Arkansas and Trail of Tears Association.
Photo courtesy of Kim Williams, Delta Cultural Center

The exhibits were created through partnerships of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, the National Park Service Long Distance Trails office in Santa Fe, Arkansas State Parks, Arkansas Humanities Council and the Trail of Tears Association.

Paul Austin, Executive Director of the Native American Center of Arkansas and the National Trail of Tears Association spoke at the dedication and said that “although Cherokees are usually remembered in connection with the Trail of Tears, lest not forget that there were other tribes as well.” He stated that there were more Chickasaws than Cherokees who

came through this area.

Many local residents turned out for the dedication on Thursday along with Delta Cultural Center Board Members of which Peggy R. Wright, Director of the ASU-Delta Studies Center is a member.

On Friday, August 11, 2006 the Trail of Tears was recognized at Village Creek State Park.

“...although Cherokees are usually remembered in connection with the Trail of Tears, lest not forget that there were other tribes as well”

SLATER BRINGS UNITED WAY OF AMERICA TO THE DELTA



[L/R] Rodney Slater, Chair, United Way of America, Brian Gallagher, President and CEO of United Way of America, Pete Johnson, Co-Chair of DRA, Sybil Hampton, Retired President of WRF, and Phil Baldwin, Southern Development Bancorporation.
Photo by: Peggy R. Wright

“A Chorus of Voices coming together in a Spirit United” was the opening words that resonated from Rodney Slater, New Chair of the United Way of America recently.

Peggy R. Wright, Director of the ASU-Delta Studies Center was one of several participants invited by Slater to come and participate in a community forum on “Economic Opportunity and Stability for Families and Individuals” at the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce on September 11, 2006.

Chair Slater welcomed over 150 participants from across the country and the Delta Region. The forum was one of several events in Little Rock held for the gathering of the United Way Board of Trustees from September 11-12, 2006.

bringing together the expertise of the Delta Region’s thought leaders for a series of public events aimed at addressing the economic needs of individuals and families.

In welcoming the group Slater said that there was a wonderful opportunity for partnerships between those in the Delta and the United Way of America. His equation: ECONOMIC SUCCESS = HUMAN SUCCESS.

Partners on one level, compete on another, we have not learned how to do each ...this is the greatest challenge we face.

Other observations from Slater noted were:

- There is a need for more United Ways.

“...we must remember the Rockefeller legacy and commitment and President Clinton’s efforts to bring folks (races) together. We must work with each other better to bring about change.”

Slater stated that they were

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SLATER BRINGS UNITED WAY OF AMERICAN TO THE DELTA CONTINUED

- Racism is still a problem in the Delta.
- Change is difficult to implement with some agencies, they are trapped in a model that they cannot get out of.

In his closing thoughts... Slater said we must remember the Rockefeller legacy and commitment and President Clinton's efforts to

bring folks (races) together. We *must* work with each other better to bring about change.

A community dinner was held later in the evening in the Clinton Presidential Library with the Board and invited guests. We look forward to the continuation of dialogue with Chair Slater in new alliances and partnership opportunities.



[L/R] Peggy R. Wright, Director ASU-DSC and Mayor of Little Rock Jim Dailey

Photo courtesy of Willette Romolous

REGIONAL AFRICAN-AMERICAN PHILANTHROPY CONFERENCE HELD

Philanthropy: A Tradition of the African-American Community- *It's what we do!* was the theme for the Second Annual Mid South Regional Conference on African-American Philanthropy held at the Hilton Metro Center in Little Rock, Arkansas September 21-23, 2006.

The two day conference goals were:

- to promote the understanding and development of philanthropy in African-American communities;
- to provide a forum for open, honest dialogue and learning regarding structured giving and philanthropic options particularly as it relates to African-American donors;
- to develop common solutions, strategies, and best practices that shape African-American philanthropy in areas of individual giving, faith-based philanthropy, grant making, and fundraising;
- to provide opportunities for personal and professional growth and development to African-Americans in the field of philanthropy through increased representation on boards and

staffs of foundations in the region, including community foundations.

The conference featured several keynote speakers, numerous workshops, panel discussions, business and philanthropy session and an awards ceremony.

Odies Wilson, City of Little Rock in welcoming participants on behalf of the city emphasized that we (African-Americans) give back in our communities but it is not often publicized.

Dr. Ivey Allen, President of the Foundation for the Mid South said that in our community of extended family, that we have been doing and giving for many years....but didn't know it was "philanthropy". GIVING is a long standing African tradition.

The keynote address was given by Rodney Jackson, President, National Center for Black Philanthropy. In his presentation he noted three important things: 1) Black Philanthropy speaks to our indomitable spirit of giving; 2) we have always given (although we had little) to those who had even less; and 3) giving has been an



Rodney Jackson, President of the Center for National Black Philanthropy

Photo by: Peggy R. Wright

integral part of our history before we were forcibly brought here.

Highlighting the conference were the presentations of the Black Business & Philanthropy Award to Attorney Wilbur O. Colom of Columbus, Mississippi and the Philanthropist of the Year Award to Reverend William Robinson of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Peggy R. Wright, Director of the ASU-Delta Studies Center and a member of the Regional Conference Advisory Committee stated that we must remember that *Philanthropy* is not just giving of *money and treasure*, but the *giving of time and talent* as well as echoed by so many at the conference. We must do a better job.

JUDD HILL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE RECEIVES ARKANSAS HUMANITIES CEMETERY GRANT

Congratulations to the Judd Hill Memorial Scholarship Committee who have been awarded a cemetery grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council.

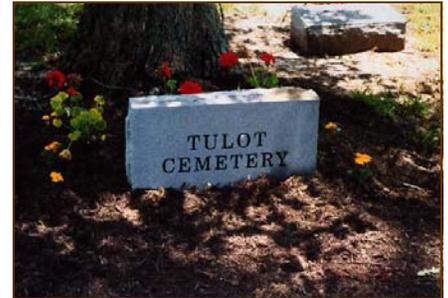
This grant will focus on the restoration of the Judd Hill and Tulot African-American Cemeteries located in Poinsett County, Arkansas in the following areas :

- To permanently mark all gravesites in the Tulot and Judd Hill cemeteries,
- to more aggressively pursue archival research and outreach of Judd Hill descendants to “Name” the persons and gravesites

currently unnamed;

- To secure and protect the Tulot and Judd Hill cemeteries against further vandalism and encroachment from agricultural production, highway and road construction and residential growth;
- To further promote and interpret the post World War II African-American sharecropper history and legacy.

We, here at the Center, congratulate them on preserving these African-American cemeteries in the Arkansas Delta.



Tulot Cemetery Marker

Photo by: ASU-DSC Information Clearinghouse



Judd Hill Cemetery Grave Marker

Photo by: ASU-DSC Information Clearinghouse

ARKANSAS CHAPTER OF AFRICAN AMERICAN PRESERVATION ALLIANCE INC. COMING SOON

ASU-Delta Studies Center’s African-American Cultural Heritage Tourism initiatives will receive a boost with the organization of an Arkansas Chapter of the African American Preservation Alliance. During the first week in August, ASU-Delta Studies Center joined over 140 participants in Memphis, TN to attend AAPA’s capacity-building conference.

AAPA’s mission is to promote the preservation of African American cultural heritage and historic places. The goals of the Alliance are:

- to raise public awareness of the value of African American cultural heritage and historic places throughout the United

States and the Greater Caribbean;

- to provide leadership, education and advocacy to revitalize historic African American communities;
- to encourage the organization statewide networks and individual AAPA membership to increase minority participation in preservation.

With the endorsement of AAPA President, Ralph B. Johnson, AIA, an Arkansas native, and technical support from AAPA’s Vice president and Memphis Landmarks Commission board member, Earlice Taylor, a chapter orientation and organization meeting will be held in the next few weeks.

At the August gathering, Jeffrey Harris, Diversity Director for the National Trust for Historic Preservation introduced the keynote speaker for the conference Rodney Reynolds, founder and publisher of American Legacy Magazine. Harris stated that “help needed to spread to more diverse communities.” Discussions during the conference led to the call for the organization of an Arkansas chapter. This organizing effort is being led by Curtis Craft, Curtis Craft & Associates. Information about the AAPA organizing effort can be obtained by contacting ASU-Delta Studies Center in c/o Peggy R. Wright at pwright@astate.edu

SOUTHERN TENANT FARMERS MUSEUM OPENS IN TYRONZA, ARKANSAS

Delta Studies Center Director, Peggy R. Wright attended the October 6, 2006 grand opening of the Southern Tenant Farmers Museum in Tyronza, Arkansas.

The full one day event featured an overview of tenant farming, two panel discussions, heirs of the Movement and Roll the Union on, a sharecroppers luncheon and a grand opening ribbon cutting.

Exhibits at the Southern Tenant Farmers Museum include historic photographs, artifacts related to tenant farming, oral history excerpts, 1930s newsreel footage, and interactive exhibits featuring STFU songs, poems, and interviews with former union leaders.

The museum will be open from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Monday

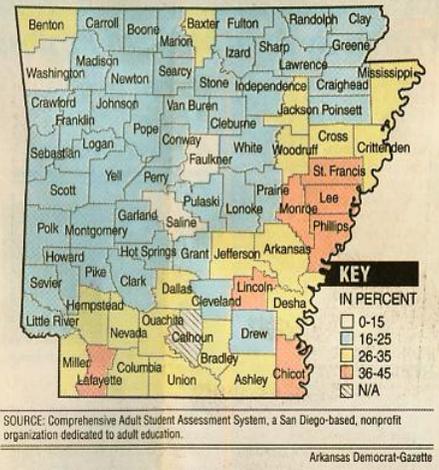
through Friday and by appointment on Saturdays. Special programs can be arranged for school groups. After the grand opening weekend, admission is a \$5 donation, or \$3 for senior citizens and groups of 10 or more.

For more information, please contact Delta Heritage Initiatives at (870) 972-2803.

ASU-DELTA STUDIES CENTER'S COMMUNITY LITERACY COLLABORATION CONTINUES

Adult literacy – by the numbers

This chart shows by county the estimated percentage of Arkansas adults, 16 and over, who have had fewer than eight years of school or are low-level readers, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the National Adult Literacy Survey.



Map: Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Tuesday, August 5, 2006.

Planning continues for the Judd Hill African American Farm Labor Community Literacy Project with the Judd Hill Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc. and the Mississippi River Delta Anthology with Free River Press, Inc. In

September, the Center joined 100 other teachers, at a meeting to develop a framework for tutors, administrators and policy-makers in Fayetteville for a town hall a “state of the state” report on literacy in Arkansas. Convened by University of Arkansas English Professor Dr. David Jolliffe, under the auspices of the University of Arkansas’ endowed Brown Chair for Literacy, this gathering will result in the first adult literacy report in Arkansas in over 20 years.

As the following map illustrates, in an August 2003 Arkansas Democrat Gazette article by Stephen Deere, in some Delta counties, “40 percent of the adult population reads at a basic limited level or can’t read at all.”

Community literacy, workforce development and community health are closely linked. Community adult literacy, as significant as math and science skills, promotes workforce

productivity and community economic development opportunities while offering a wide array of service learning opportunities particularly for non-traditional and community college students. As the Partnership for Health Communication indicates, literacy skills are a “stronger predictor of an individual’s health status than age, income, employment status, educational level, or racial/ethnic group.” <http://www.ASKME3.org>

Additional information on the issue of community literacy and service learning, as well as the Center’s current and future community literacy collaborations with the Judd Hill Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc. and the Mississippi River Delta Anthology of Free River Press, Inc. can be found at <http://www.clt.astate.edu/dsc>.

2007 MISSISSIPPI DELTA CAUCUS CONFERENCE

The 2007 Delta Caucus Conference will be held on January 18-19, 2007 at the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce and the Clinton Library respectively.

The Conference will promote a wide-ranging dialogue about economic development, racial justice and regional tourism.

Key speakers for this event will include several members of Congress, former Secretary of Transportation and current national Chair of the United Way of America, Rodney Slater, James "Skip" Rutherford, Dean of the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service, Rex Nelson, Presidential appointee serving as Federal Alternate Co-Chair of the Delta Regional Authority and many other Delta leaders from the region and Washington, DC.

The registration for this event is \$35.00 and checks should be made payable to Delta Consulting & Communications with a notation "For

Delta Conference," and sent to the following address:

Delta Consulting & Communications
(Attn: Lee Powell, Delta Caucus)
5030 Purslane Place
Waldorf, MD 20601

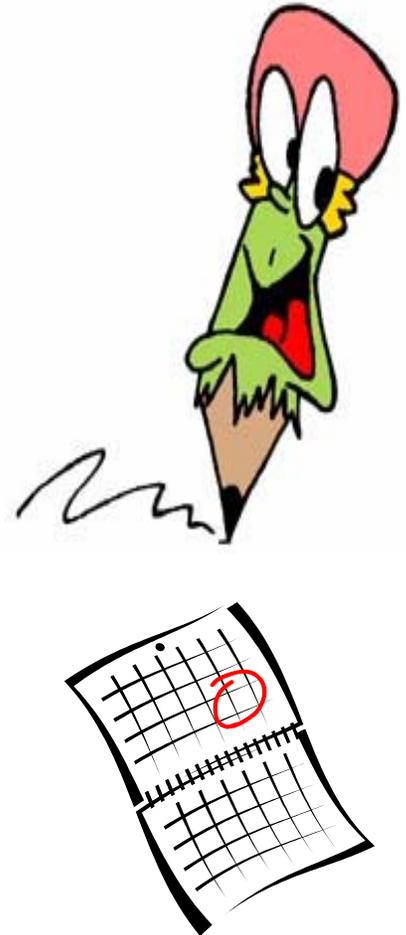
The conference hotel will be the Holiday Inn Presidential and the group rate is \$79.00 for the Thursday evening.

To make reservations, please call 1-866-900-7625 and specify that you are with the "Delta Caucus Group" to get this discounted rate.

Mark your calendars now for this event. More information will be given as arrangements are completed. For any questions about this event, please contact:

Lee Powell, Director
Delta Grassroots Caucus
(202) 360-6347

<http://www.clt.astate.edu/dsc/MSDeltaGrassrootsCaucus.htm>



Mark your calendars!

NEWLY RELEASED REPORTS

Beyond Biases and Barriers: Fulfilling the Potential of Women in Academic Science and Engineering

While women earn more than 30 percent of doctoral degrees in the social and behavioral sciences, and more than 20 percent of doctoral degrees in the life sciences, their representation as full professors in academia hovers around 15 percent in both disciplines. The National Academies of Science report found that while the pipeline is full of women in the sciences, the lack of women in full professor positions is the result of a number of factors including discrimination and bias. The full report can be read online at: <http://darwin.nap.edu/books/0309100429/html>

NEWLY RELEASED REPORTS

A New Rural Economy: A New Role for Public Policy

This report done by the Center for the Study of Rural America (CSRA) of Kansas City Federal Reserve discusses the faster employment and income growth that occurred in rural counties from 2003 to 2005. The article illustrates how rural communities must develop the leadership capacity and regional cooperation to develop an economic development plan that leverages assets across jurisdictions. These regions can then utilize federal research across industry sectors, such as advanced manufacturing, medicine, transportation and agriculture, aligned with their economic development plan. Lastly, regions must build the infrastructure needed to create and support rural entrepreneurs. To view the report visit: http://www.kansascityfed.org/ruralcenter/mainstreet/MSE_4_06.pdf

Hurricane Damage to the Ocean Economy in the U.S. Gulf Region

A recent Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) publication includes a series of articles dedicated to labor and business issues surrounding Hurricane Katrina. The article, *Hurricane Damage to the Ocean Economy in the U.S. Gulf Region*, highlights the economic impact and job loss of hurricanes Katrina and Rita in maritime industries. *Conducting the Mass Layoff Statistics Program* notes the dramatic increase in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi mass-layoffs resulting from Katrina. In September 2005, more than 358 companies closed their doors laying off nearly 60,000 workers. Of the Katrina-affected companies that did not lay off any workers, 47 percent of those surveyed said that their employees did not return to their jobs despite work being available. The August 2006 *Monthly Labor Review* is available at: <http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/mlrhome.htm>

Computer and Internet Use by Students in 2003

Virtually all U.S. schools are connected to the Internet and although gaps between Caucasian and minority Internet and computer usage still exist during the school day, the news is encouraging for universal access during school. Not so at home, says a new report by The National Center for Education Statistics, part of the U.S. Department of Education. The report, *Computer and Internet Use by Students in 2003*, found that 54 percent of white students use the Internet at home, compared with 26 percent of Hispanic and 27 percent of black students. The racial divide in computer usage is tied to broader problems, including poverty in black and Latino communities and even a cultural reluctance to use the Internet. Among other students, 58 percent of Asian children and 47 percent of American Indian students use the Internet. See the report at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2006/2006065.pdf>.

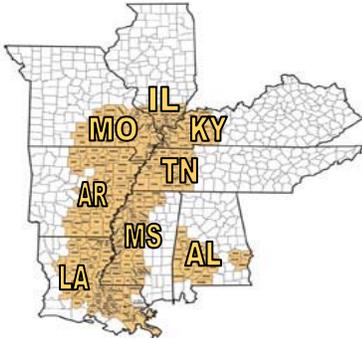
Strengthening State Policies for Working Families

The Working Poor Families Project (WFPF) united the resources of the Annie E. Casey, Ford, Joyce and Mott Foundations making critical investments to lift low-income families out of poverty. Twenty states currently participate in the WFPF, but only three southern states, Arkansas, North Carolina and Mississippi, are represented in the initiative. For more information on funding, or participating in the Southern Sector Strategy Initiative contact Sandra Johnson at sjohnson@southern.org. For a summary of the WFPF visit: http://www.aecf.org/lists/fes/aug06/strengthening_state_policies.pdf

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Lower Mississippi Delta Region



We're on the web
<http://www.clt.astate.edu/dsc>

UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

**New Madrid Earthquake Conference - Delta Regional Authority
Millennium Hotel * St. Louis, MO * November 2-3, 2006**

The first ever New Madrid Earthquake Conference sponsored by the Delta Regional Authority is free and open to Government employees, business leaders and economic development officials from the states served by the DRA are invited to attend. Registration is free. To register, go to <http://www.dra.gov>. To make hotel reservations, call 1-800-325-7353 or (314) 241-9500. For additional information, e-mail skidd@dra.gov.

Delta Issues Summit

Mid-South Delta Leaders * November 9-10, 2006 * Gold Strike Resort

This summit is sponsored by Class II of the Id-South Delta Leaders (MSDL) program. MSDL class members, who have been studying effective strategies that exist in the Tri-state Delta region, will share their findings through presentations. For more information, please contact Christy Riddle Montesi at cmontesi@delastate.edu or (662) 846-4336

Southeast Wireless Symposium

UC The William and Ida Friday Center * November 13 & 14, 2006

This years Southeast ICT Symposium will focus on the new and evolving technical, political, legal and financial issues surrounding municipal broadband deployment. Industry experts and community leaders will present research results and practical hands-on experience derived from case studies on applying ICT to create digital opportunities that enhance rural life. For more information, please check out their website at: <http://www.e-nc.org>.