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ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Delta Studies Center

A Message From the Center

By: Peggy Robinson Wright

I am very excited about our newsletter this quarter because of all the activities, new projects, and new partner/collaborative opportunities forthcoming with new groups. I know that when you read the different articles, you will understand my excitement.

One thing that I have noted in conversations with folk across the region during my endless travel and with receiving news of upcoming meetings/events are the recurring themes of Health and Healthcare Disparities, Higher Education and Economic Development, Economic Development and Tourism. This is especially important and interesting because here at the center these are topics that we have looked at for quite some time now.

Later this month, Christine Perry, Terry Johnson, Heritage Studies Ph.D. Program, and I will attend the First Annual Delta Regional Authority Conference in New Orleans. At this meeting we will gather information to share with stakeholders across the region on how to bring about change.

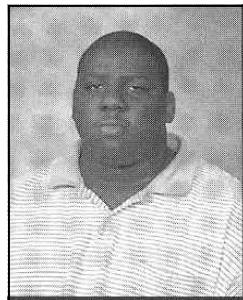
Key to the success of our region is the growth in economic development and therefore people must be sitting at the table when these discussions are happening, not after the fact. Voice is needed and we will be that voice for many who cannot attend these sessions. In our next newsletter, we will provide a report on the conference and the tangible outcomes, along with many other events happening across the region.

"A Legacy Continues" Stephen Carroll Graduates

On Friday, August 6, 2004 at 6:00 pm in the ASU Convocation Center, another highlight in the history of the Strong-Turner Alumni Chapter unfolded. Stephen B. Carroll, the 3rd generation of the Walter B. and Ellen T. Strong legacy received a BS in Sports Management from the College of Education.

Stephen is the son of William L. and Rosanna Strong Carroll, grandson of the late Walter B. and Mrs. Ellen T. Strong (1st African American Graduates of ASU).

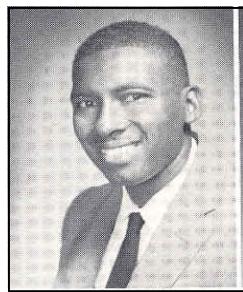
His life's ambition is to get his coaching certificate and work in training other youth in sports. We're proud of Stephen and wish him well.



Stephen Carroll
04'



Rosanna Strong Carroll
71'



Walter B. Strong
59', 71'



Ellen Turner Strong
64'

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Desperate in the Delta: The Dumas Experience

By: Lisa Waggoner, RN & Lisa Shefelton, RN
Family Nurse Practitioner Graduate Students

Did the title catch your attention? It was meant to! How many times have you heard of families and health care professionals leaving the country to give aide to those less fortunate? Take a moment because we would like to tell you, you do not have to go farther than the state of Arkansas to give relief and help to those in need.

We recently spent two weeks in Dumas, AR. We will be the first to admit that we had never heard of this town, much less ever thought that we would spend any time there. We participated in the Summer Immersion Program that was sponsored by Partners for Inclusive Communities at UAMS and its Rural Interdisciplinary Training Grant. Faculty from UAMS and UCA and trainees from AR, TN, and LA participated in the interdisciplinary activities. These activities were designed to recruit and retain health care professionals in underserved rural areas. The trainees lived with local families so we could truly experience the town and families we were there to help.

Lisa Shefelton graduated with a BSN in 1999 from York College of Pennsylvania. Lisa Waggoner graduated with a BSN in 2000 from ASU. Mary Burr is a 2001 BSN graduate from UCA. All of us have had very little experience working with underserved areas and volunteered for

this program in the hope we would gain valuable insight regarding these communities.

In 2000, John Grisham spoke to the graduating class at ASU. We as graduates were anxiously waiting to hear his words of wisdom. His message was "go change the world", "join the peace corps" and further more, was a little disappointing to those of us that needed a job to pay off school loans! We hear the same message from national and local politicians but do we even know where the greatest need is or where to go to help? So often, we think globally and travel beyond to give aide. Isn't that what we are taught? However, in the little time that we have been working in this profession, we saw a need that goes beyond words and imagination. So, okay John we get your message now. We can start to change the world a little closer to home, right in our own backyard.

The population of Dumas, AR is approximately 5,000. The average years of school completed for the area is 10.6, with 21.6% having completed elementary school and 30.6% graduating high school. The average household income is 28,649 with 42.2% that have a household income of under \$15,000. In a 15 mile radius of Dumas there are 2,834 persons employed. Of that number 10.3% are engaged in Agriculture/Forestry or Fishing, 25.1% are employed in

manufacturing, 17.0% in Retail Trade, and 29.00% in Service Industries. The population within the 15 mile radius is 54.4% white, 43.9% black, 0.2% Asian, and 1.6% Hispanic Ancestry. The Hispanic population fluctuates with the number of migrant workers at any given time.

Most of the children do not have access to medical care or the financial resources for that matter. There are no pediatricians in Dumas or in the seven surrounding counties. There was a tremendous problem with dental care, to the point that many of the children would attend school in such pain that they had to choke back tears on examination. The children are allocated one pair of glasses and in fear of losing them leave them home; you can imagine the difficulty this causes in doing or seeing their course work. We found children with undiagnosed scoliosis, murmurs, asthma, ear infections and so on. We felt like we were in the land of the forgotten and we were only 3 1/2 hours from Jonesboro.

In closing, Dumas is just one town of many in rural Arkansas that desperately need help. We were able to get involved with the Immersion Program that enabled us to help in these underserved areas. There are services and talents that ASU students and faculty can provide. We challenge you to make a difference in your own home state... volunteer and help a child!!

Crowley's Ridge Nature Center Opens



Crowley's Ridge Nature Center - Jonesboro, Arkansas
Photo by: Christine Perry

Congressman Marion Berry, Governor Mike Huckabee and many Arkansans came together on Wednesday, August 25, 2004 to celebrate the opening of the second Nature Center in Arkansas, the Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center located in Jonesboro.

Wednesday began the three day celebration which included many different events such as live music from Blues Legend John Weston, the Paleo-Indian and Mastodon Discoveries in northeast Arkansas by Dr. Julie Morrow, Archeological Survey, Tadpole Tales - a nature program for pre-K children, and

Feeding Frenzy: Feeding Time for pond & aquarium critters, just to name a few.

The Nature Center is hands on and will aid in teaching Northeast Arkansans more about the nature in their own back yard.

The center is located at 600 E. Lawson Road in Jonesboro and will be free to the general public thanks to Amendment 75 the Conservation Sales Tax. For more information please call (870) 933-6787 or check out the Nature Center's website at www.crowleysridge.org.

Arkansas Humanities Council Board visits Judd Hill/Tulot Cemeteries and the African American Cultural Museum

The Arkansas Humanities Council Board held their annual summer board retreat in Northeast Arkansas on July 29-21, 2004.

The Arkansas Humanities Council (AHC) was established in 1974 to "develop a statewide program to acquaint the citizens of Arkansas with the fields of study known as the humanities." The humanities focus on the understanding of the human experience, ideas, and beliefs.

The board that governs AHC is made up of a group of dedicated individuals from a broad range of disciplines across the state, who strive to bring the humanities to Arkansans of all walks of life.

The board, while in the Northeastern part of state, visited two sites that were funded with AHC grants. These sites included the Judd Hill and Tulot Cemeteries in Poinsett County, Arkansas and the African American Cultural Museum located in Jonesboro, Craighead County, Arkansas.

The Judd Hill and Tulot Cemeteries are maintained by the Judd Hill Memorial Scholarship Inc. and are located on the Judd Hill Plantation. The funding received by this committee is being used to maintain and preserve the ancestral heritage and legacy of some of

the last remaining African American cemeteries in Poinsett County.

The African American Cultural Museum is maintained by the Rights in Education for Students and Parents (R.E.S.P. Inc.) group in Jonesboro. This group received funds from AHC to produce a video documentary that focuses on the lives of the students of Booker T. Washington High School in Jonesboro. The Museum houses many exhibits pertaining to the legacy of Booker T. Washington High School graduates and also details the lives of African Americans in this area.

According to Peggy R. Wright, AHC Board Secretary, visiting these two sites "allowed the board the opportunity to see first hand it's work in action."

For more information on AHC:

Arkansas Humanities Council
Phone: (501) 221-0091
www.arkhumns.org

Judd Hill/Tulot Cemeteries and the African-American Cultural Museum
ASU-Delta Studies Center
Phone: (870) 910-8034
Toll Free 1-877-731-3020
<http://www.clt.astate.edu/dsc>



Arkansas Humanities Council Board Members explore the Tulot Cemetery, Trumann, Poinsett County, Arkansas maintained by the Judd Hill Memorial Scholarship Fund Inc.

Photo by: Sylvester Wortham, Judd Hill Memorial Scholarship Inc.



Arkansas Humanities Council Board Members visiting the African American Cultural Museum located in Jonesboro, Craighead County, Arkansas. Museum is maintained by R.E.S.P. Inc.

Photo by: Christine Perry

ASU-Delta Studies Center Clearinghouse presents a three-part series on "Life on the Judd Hill Plantation"

The ASU-Delta Studies Center Clearinghouse is presenting a three part series on the sharecropping life of the Judd Hill Plantation. These articles are written by the former residents of the Judd Hill Plantation and are based on their standpoint of life growing up on the Plantation. The first article of the series is written by the President of the Judd Hill Memorial Foundation Inc., Mrs. Mattie Wortham. The article is entitled "Living Life on the Judd Hill Plantation." The next two segments will be published in the December 04 and March 05 editions of the ASU-DSC Clearinghouse Newsletter.

Living Life on the Judd Hill Plantation

By: Mattie Wortham



Mattie Scott grandmother to Mattie Wortham
Photo provided by: Mattie Wortham



Four generations: L/R Mattie Scott, Mae Lee,
Mattie Wortham, and Kim Wortham
Photo provided by: Mattie Wortham



L/R Richard, Lucy (Mattie Wortham's Brother & Sister), and John (Mattie Wortham's Cousin). The building in the right hand corner is the Judd Hill House that Mattie Wortham grew up in.
Photo provided by Mattie Wortham

I was born on the Judd Hill Plantation in 1958 and live there with my mother and her parents until 1972. As I grew up, I never knew that I would miss living out there and really never gave it much thought. Until February of 1978, I lost my grandmother, it was hard for me to accept the fact that she was gone and daily I would think of her and the times we spent together.

I always thought of my grandmother as a strong woman. She taught us at an early age things that would last a lifetime. The more I thought of my grandmother the more it reminded me of the good & bad times. I remember the three room shot gun house that we lived in, all nine of us, through the cold winter nights and the long summer days.

I love the summer more than anything because we always had a chance of staying outside until dark playing baseball. Most of the time we gather at the house of Mrs. Magnolia Mitchell's. They had the biggest front yard and that's where one of my best friends also lived at the time. Sometimes those games would go on forever or until we heard Mama or Grandma call us across the field to come home. But the next day it was the same thing. We would start off with marbles or jump rope but we always ended up with a good baseball game before the day ended.

I remember one summer that we could not afford a baseball and my grandmother made us one. She used a round rock and some brown string and wrapped it around the rock until it formed the shape of a round ball. Once it was the size she wanted it to be she would cut some old flower sack material and sew it on with needle and thread to hold it together and then she would play ball with us in our front yard. She was pretty good at it too.

Although we had days that were filled with play we also had days that we had to work especially if it was canning season for peaches and preserves and jelly. Pumping water all day to wash jars or to heat water for sterilizing and sealing the jars. I like that job better than having to dig up sweet potatoes and

picking peas I have always been afraid of snakes and worms.

I always looked forward to fall because that meant school would be starting and I liked school pretty good. At the time I attended the Judd Hill School, on the Plantation, until the end of the 2nd grade. Mrs. McClain was my and I spent a lot of time at her home when I was young on the weekends and sometimes through the week.

I remember having little red readers and sitting in the building with the partition between the two classrooms and the stove at the back of the room. Just before the school became integrated, they installed a refrigerator for milk and the milk truck would come twice a week. That was when I got my first taste of chocolate milk.

My favorite time of the day was reading and recess. I loved to jump rope and swing. The typical day at school started in the morning with the pledge and singing, then classes.

Lunch was the next best thing. We all carried little tin buckets that the older brother or sister would keep and when lunch came you would eat what was in your tin bucket. Or if you had money you could go to the store where you could buy oatmeal cookies, holloways, or stage-planks, and a soda.

I love the days when grandma gave us a nickel or a dime to go to the store. I always liked to buy a holloway because you could make it last all day.

In the early fall when it was time to pick cotton we would get home from school, change clothes, get our croaker sacks and head out to join them in the fields to pick cotton until almost dark. Grandma would tell us to pick, as much as you can, I need to get a hundred pounds before I quit.

She would then empty all of our sacks but she would always leave a little in one of our bags and for the longest time I could not figure out why. Until winter came and I saw her get that bag

Continued on Page 5

Living Life on the Judd Hill Plantation Continued

down and get the cotton out and clean it. She would then use that cotton for her quilts. I loved to watch her quilt. She would start after we left for school and quilt until bedtime.

I had a red dress that I loved to wear but as I grew out of it I stopped wearing it and hung it on the wall above my bed for a keepsake. One day I came home and grandma was cutting it up and I was crying because I thought I would never see that dress again. I was upset because she had always told me that she was going to make that dress last forever and the next day it was sewed into the quilt that she made for my bed.

Not only did I attend the Judd Hill School Monday through Friday but I also

attended the Judd Hill Church on Sundays. My grandfather was a minister there. On Saturday evenings the members would go down and move the partition to one side and turn the entire room of desk to face the pulpit for Sunday morning.

Sunday school would be between 9:30 and 10:00 follow by a long Sunday evening service. My brothers and sister along with my two cousins would be on the first row or close enough for grandpa to see us to make sure we didn't act up or fall asleep. The best part of the day was listening to Mrs. Dixon play the piano. All the music was the same for every song and loud enough to keep you awake or if you did fall asleep it would wake you to let you know that was the last song for that day.

After Church we would go home on Sunday nights and play church all over again and sing the songs that we had heard or, if any of the women had shouted that day we would decided or take turns as to who would be that person and do the shouting. It was fun until grandpa caught on to what we were doing.

I have fond memories of the people that lived on the plantation and think often of them and the stories that have been told of them over the years. I have also had the pleasure of meeting many of them and look forward to seeing them again. I will continue to share my life through my children and grandchild. The Judd Hill Memorial Scholarship Committee will continue to preserve our heritage.

Peggy R. Wright speaks at the East Arkansas Resource & Conservation Council's Annual Meeting

ASU-Delta Studies Center's Peggy R. Wright spoke at the East Arkansas Resource Conservation & Development Council's annual meeting held at the Jonesboro Holiday Inn on August 25, 2004.

Mrs. Wright spoke during the portion of the program dedicated to outreach projects. She shared with the participants the accomplishments of the Oral History Project which is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture

through the Natural Resources Conservation Service, under the auspices of the East Arkansas Resource Conservation and Development Council.

This project documented the Arkansas Delta Agricultural Transitions during the period of 1920-1980 through the use of Oral Histories. The project has been very successful in completing 141 interviews in 18 Arkansas Delta Counties.



Peggy R. Wright at the East AR RC&D Annual Meeting Photo by Christine Perry

ASU-DSC Receives \$10,000 from East Arkansas RC&D to Continue Oral History Efforts

Peggy R. Wright of the ASU-Delta Studies Center received a \$10,000 check from State Representative Travis Boyd and Burr Swann with the East Arkansas Resource Development Council, Inc. on Monday, September 27, 2004.

The monies will be used to continue in the development of additional public information and outreach strategies, plans and materials for the Agriculture and Community in Transition, 1920 to 1980 Oral History Project. This project is in association with the Preservation of Oral History in the Lower Mississippi River

Delta in Eastern Arkansas.

Funding for the project was provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the Natural Resources Conservation Service, under the auspices of the East Arkansas Resource Conservation and Development Council.

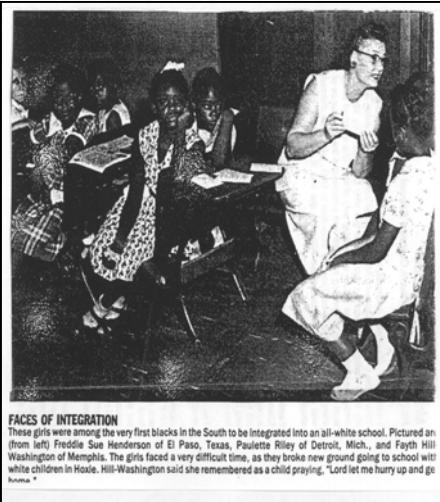
For more information on this project, contact the ASU-Delta Studies Center at (870) 910-8034 or (toll free) at (877) 731-3020.



L/R: State Representative Travis Boyd, Peggy R. Wright and Burr Swann. Boyd and Swann are with the East Arkansas RC&D. Photo by Christine Perry

The “Hoxie 21” Reunion

By: Peggy Robinson Wright



Picture in article ran in Life Magazine



Dr. Charity Fleming Smith, Assistant State Director, Arkansas Department of Education Accountability Division
Photo by: Peggy R. Wright



L/R Deborah Barksdale Frazier (Hoxie 21 Student), Yvonne Barksdale Taylor (Hoxie 21 Student), and Mrs. Charlene Trotter
Photo by: Peggy R. Wright

49 Years later.....

On May 17, 1954, the United States Supreme Court announced its decision that “separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.” The decision effectively denied the legal basis for segregation in Kansas and 20 other states with segregated classrooms and would forever change race relations in the United States.

In a small rural community 23 miles from Jonesboro, Arkansas and 122 miles from Little Rock, Arkansas, the Hoxie School Board on June 25, 1955 made a decision to integrate Hoxie Schools not only because it was the law, but because it was right.” (Tom Walters, Memphis Commercial Appeal, June 26, 2003). This was two years prior to Little Rock’s school integration crisis.

September 4-5 2004, The “Hoxie 21” Reunion 2004, a reunion with the theme, “Success Against the Grain” was held. This was the 1st ceremony held in remembrance of the integration of the Hoxie School District. Originally there were 25 students who enrolled, two immediately withdrew and two more did not continue for various reasons. Through it all 21 remained, and 17 came back for the reunion that was planned by a steering committee composed of: Fayth Hill-Washington, Chairperson (1955 Hoxie Student), Junior Briner, Treasurer, Rosemary Hill (1955 Hoxie Parent and Advisory), Marlyn Tate, Current Hoxie School Board Member, Don House, Arkansas State House of Representatives, Dennis Truxler, Superintendent of Hoxie School District 46, Ethel Tompkins, Communications (1955 Hoxie Student) and Linda White, Secretary.

The purpose of the Hoxie reunion was to come together, celebrate and record into historical record, the

success of the 1955 integration of the Hoxie Schools and to recognize the students, board members, teachers and families that demonstrated positive leadership roles.

The reunion kick off began on Saturday, September 4, 2004 on the Courthouse Square in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas with the national anthem sung by Mr. Justin Griffin, Junior Vocal Performance Major from Sikeston, Missouri and a musical selection by the Hoxie High School Band. A large group of individuals, all ages, and backgrounds attended the event. Also in attendance and on the program were: Senator Blanche Lincoln, U.S. Senate, Attorney General Mike Beebe, Representatives Hank Wilkins IV, John Eason, Lindbergh Thomas, John Lewellen, Don House, and Senator Tim Wooldridge. Many were disappointed because the Former President Bill Clinton was scheduled to attend but was unable to do so because of recent health problems. But everyone knew he was there in spirit.

The 17 members of the Hoxie 21 were introduced and applauded by those present. It was a very electrifying moment to see them come forward after so many years.

A wonderful picnic lunch was prepared and served on the lawn and everyone enjoyed reminiscing and sharing their stories.

The festivities continued on Saturday night with a banquet at the Hoxie School District 46 cafeteria. Congressman Marion Berry was one of the speakers and he said in his remarks that “as a state and as a community we must remember that it is important that we not forget as sometimes we think that the battle is over but it’s not. In our spirit and our heart there must be a determination that it will be better for others than it was for us.”

"Hoxie 21" Reunion Continued

Many spoke but none more eloquently than Dr. Charity Smith, AR Department of Education and product of another small rural town (Forrest City, AR) who remembers the implications of integration on her parents who were educators during this time. She gave lessons from Hoxie in looking at the word "SUCCESS"...

Stand for what you believe in;

Unite, there is often a one sided story told but it takes blacks and whites and all people to make a difference;

Call upon someone higher than us;

Course, Communicate, not for shut down, stay the course;

Educate, make sure all children are educated all the time;

Stay the course;

Standing and bridging the gap from old to new.

A special tribute was given to Mrs. Essie Stedman who drove 100 miles per day transporting students from Hoxie to Walnut Ridge to Booker T. Washington High School in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

On Sunday, September 5, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. with the sun bright and temperatures a little high, the energy was still raging as students, family and friends met at Hoxie Football Stadium for the final program. Digital cameras, camcorders, paper, pens were evident everywhere as the final event

was held. After beautiful selections by the Hoxie Choir, Representative Don House introduced the speaker, Senator Tracy Steele, Director of the Martin Luther King Commission in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Senator Steele started his remarks by saying, that, "we have come along way but we have a long way to go."

A very interesting question was posed to the crowd, How are we going to spend our dash (-) making a difference? The dash that is between our birth and our death. He went on to say that there are three things that he feels are left to be done:

1. Rid ourselves of the evil of racism that hurts us, cripples us; Talking about it will not make it go away. There is only so much we can stuff under the bed, Talk about those individuals that are in positions to make a difference. Talk about how it doesn't make sense in this day and time to hate;
2. There seems to be more problems with our children in the education system today. We have to come together in our communities to help our children. Example, spending \$150 on tennis shoes on feet not going anywhere, does this make sense?

And lastly, we have to teach our children how to overcome.

Hoxie Class of 1955

1. DonJean Barksdale
2. Rosetta Barksdale
3. Yvonne Eddie Barksdale
4. Billie Joe Braxton
5. Jodie Lee Braxton * (Withdrew)
6. Clark Braxton Jr.*
7. Terry Lee Braxton*
8. Robert Larry Brown
9. Freddie Sue Henderson*
10. Fayth Genie Hill
11. Wesley Hill*
12. Margaret Kelly
13. Annie Bell Kelly
14. J.B. Kelly
15. Chester Kelly
16. Willie Mae Kelly
17. Paulette Riley
18. Billy Don Ruffin
19. Robert Owen Ruffin
20. Louis Ruffin
21. Mary Lillian Ruffin*
22. Sally Ann Ruffin
23. Sharlene Ruffin
24. Beverly Ruffin
25. Ethel Tompkins

* Deceased

Newsletter Layout: Christine Perry

Newsletter Editors: Peggy R. Wright, Terry Johnson

Dr. Gloria Gibson Becomes Dean of the Newly Created College of Humanities and Social Sciences



Dr. Gloria Gibson, new dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Photo by: Peggy R. Wright

In August 2004, Dr. Gloria Gibson became the first Dean of the newly created College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

This college was the product of a split of the old Arts and Sciences into two distinct colleges in July 2003:

- **College of Humanities and Social Sciences** housing the departments of English, Philosophy, Language, History, Heritage Ph.D. Program, Criminology, and Sociology;
- **College of Science and Mathematics** housing the departments of Biological Science, Chemistry and Physics, Computer Science, Mathematics and Statistics, and Environmental Science.

Gibson, who comes to ASU from Bloomington, Indiana, explained in a recent meeting held with the Criminology, Sociology, & Geography Department that she has "been here for two months and has

faced lots of challenges." One of the more vital challenges the new college is facing, according to Dr. Gibson, is student recruitment and retention.

In her remarks, she told the faculty that the College "needs more students." Bringing more students into the college will be one of her goals as Dean. She went on to explain that she is "willing to work with others to get more students" and that "she will be going out and actively recruiting."

Dr. Gibson received her Ph.D. in Folklore and Ethnomusicology from Indiana University with minors in African American Studies. Before accepting the Dean's position at ASU she was Associate Vice Chancellor for the Multicultural Affairs for Indiana University in Bloomington.

Dedications held at ASU...

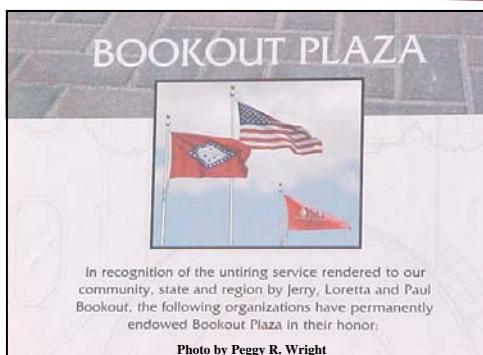


Photo by Peggy R. Wright



ASU President and Board of Trustees cut the ribbon at the ABI Grand Opening.

Photo by: Peggy R. Wright

September 18, 2004 was a day filled with dedications at Arkansas State University. At 9:30 a.m., the Bookout Plaza named in honor of Senator Jerry Bookout, a 1955 alumnus of ASU, was dedicated. It is a flag court located at the southern edge of the campus on the Centennial Pedestrian Mall just as you arrive off Caraway. Elected to 11 terms in the Arkansas Legislature and working with government leaders, ASU administrators and faculty, Senator Bookout has helped develop and secure funding for every classroom, library, and administrative facility built on the ASU campus within the last 30 years. No one is more deserving than Sen. Bookout for this honor. Senator Bookout stated in remarks to those present that, "things could not be better for ASU.....and it is a pleasure for me to be a part of."

Immediately after the dedication ceremony, the Grand opening of the Arkansas State University Biosciences Institute was held. The new facility is located at the intersection of Caraway Road and University Loop East, on the south edge of the campus.

There were remarks by Dr. Les Wyatt, ASU President; Attorney General Mike Beebe and ASU Alumnus, Dr. Harry Ward, chancellor emeritus of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; Dr. Carole L. Cramer, Executive director of the ASU Biosciences Institute; and Mike Medlock of Jonesboro, chair of the ASU Board of Trustees. Dr. Cramer stated that, "the ASU Biosciences Institute is a model across the state as to how tobacco money should be used and that no building is successful without the enthusiasm and quality of people involved."

ASU Library Celebrates 90 Years As Federal Depository Library

The ASU Dean B. Ellis Library celebrated 90 years as a Federal Depository Library on Monday, September 27, 2004.

The Federal Depository Library program (FDLP) was started by Congress in 1813 to ensure that Americans had no-fee access to information published by the government. Libraries that have Federal Depositories supply the public with access to resources from the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the federal government.

Depository library collections include documents in many formats, including print, CD/DVD and online. They are available for anyone to use at no charge and cover a wide range of topics.

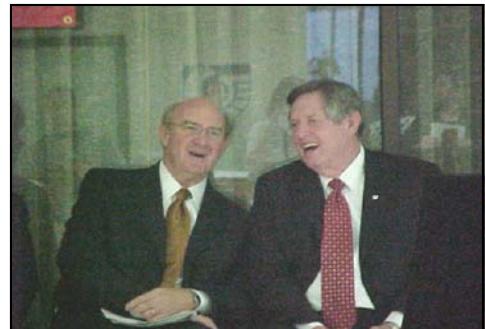
The depository library at ASU is one of 1,273 in the United States. There are only 14 in the state of Arkansas and ASU is the second

oldest one in the state and the only one located in the 1st Congressional District.

ASU is believed to have received its designation through Thaddeus H. Caraway, who 90 years ago served as Congressman from Jonesboro.

Many people from around the state attended the celebration. Some special guest included Judith C. Russell, Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C.; Dr. Les Wyatt, ASU President; and Congressman Marion Berry, U.S. House of Representatives.

For more information on the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) please visit their website at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdlp>.



L/R ASU President Les Wyatt and Congressman Marion Berry
Photo by: Christine Perry



Congressman Marion Berry speaks at the 90th anniversary celebration
Photo by: Christine Perry

McNair Achievement Program Holds Open House

Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program held its first Open House on Wednesday, September 15, 2004.

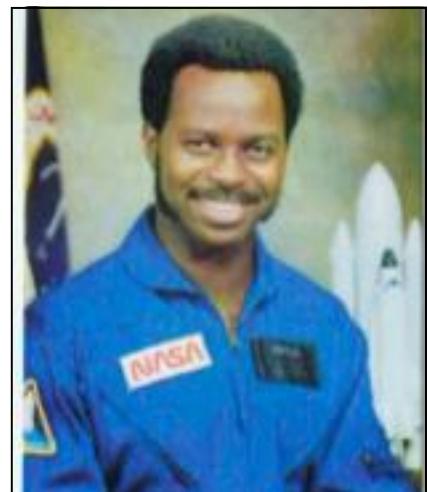
The program is named after Dr. Ronald E. McNair, a physicist who became one of the first African American astronauts in space. It was McNair's dedication and high standards of achievement that would become the inspiration for this program.

The McNair program is designed to prepare undergraduates for doctoral study through involvement in research and scholarly activities. It will assist in academic and professional

development of undergraduates whose goals are to teach and research at the college level.

The program is staffed by Dr. Robyn Hannigan, Director; Mrs. Ruth Greenfield, Program Coordinator; Ms. Gail McDonald, Academic Coordinator; and Ms. Betty Pulford, Program Assistant.

The McNair Program is currently seeking new scholars. The applications deadline is October 15, 2004. For more information, please contact the McNair Program at (870) 972-3451, mncair@astate.edu, or visit their website at <http://www.mcnaire.astate.edu>.

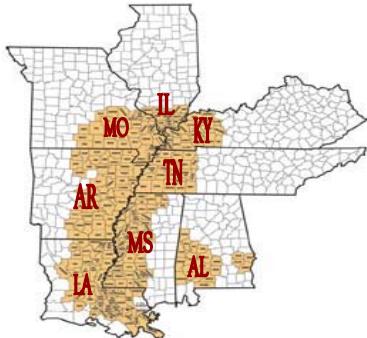


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**THE NEW GREAT MIGRATION: BLACK AMERICANS' RETURN TO THE SOUTH,
1965-2000**

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

NEW CENSUS REPORT PROVIDES DATA ON U.S. INCOME, POVERTY & HEALTHCARE

A new report from the U.S. Census Bureau provides a recent snapshot of income, poverty, and health insurance coverage in the U.S. The report provides state level data on each of these three indicators. Information is found at: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/p60-226.pdf>

COMPETITIVENESS IN RURAL U.S. REGIONS: LEARNING & RESEARCH AGENDA

Michael Porter of Harvard University was commissioned by the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The report includes a list of "leading rural counties" that includes: DeKalb County in Alabama; Tunica, Pontotoc, and Lee Counties in Mississippi; and, Whitfield County in Georgia (page 26). Information is found at: http://www.eda.gov/ImageCache/EDAPublic/documents/pdfdocs/eda_5frural_5regions_2epdf/v1/eda_5frural_5regions.pdf