



Mississippi Delta 2012

**ALTERNATIVE
SPRING BREAK '12**

Mississippi State
University

UNDERSTAND THE PAST,
SEE THE FUTURE,
& MAKE AN IMPACT...

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EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST

Mississippi State University Contacts:

Cade Smith, Student Leadership and Community Engagement, Direct..... 662.418.0140
Jamey Matte, Alternative Spring Break Co-Coordinator 601.888.5826
Chris Ferrell, Alternative Spring Break Co-Coordinator601.720.0882
Meggan Franks, Program Coordinator662.648.9032

The physical addresses for Greenwood Baptist Church and the Wesley Foundation are:

North Greenwood Baptist Church
615 Grand Boulevard
Greenwood, MS 38930 US
662.453.2801

Wesley Foundation
Delta State University
1003 West Sunflower Road
Cleveland, MS 38733

This information is intended to provide your family members or significant others with emergency contact information in case they are unable to contact you.

GROUP RULES AND REMINDERS

- 1) Students are expected to abide by state and federal laws, as well as the Mississippi State Student Code of Conduct.
- 2) Everyone will participate in all of the group activities.
- 3) We will travel together on the vans as a group.
- 4) Please be on time and respectful of others during the trip.
- 5) Be mindful that quiet time is from 10 p.m. – 6 a.m.
- 6) Don't forget to bring your camera and have lots of fun!



BREAKFAST & CLEAN UP TEAMS

Team A	Team B	Team C	Team D
Kayla Cobb	Sharan Iyer	Jing Liao	Caitlyn Maddox
Adam Maynard	Perceus Mody	Kathryn Phillips	Jackson Moore
Theresa Raymond	Johnna Kretchman	Susannah Walden	Pablo Pereira
Phillip Tyler	Tran Ton	T.J. Park	Tamara Spann
Nelson Walker	Tim Rorie	DafneOliveria	Kim Jungeun
*Meggan Franks	*Chris Ferrell	*NiahJamerson	*Cade Smith
			*ShanShan Pang

SERVICE GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

Group A	Group B	Group C
Phillip Tyler	Dafne Oliveira	Kathryn Phillips
Susannah Walden	Tim Rorie	Perceus Mody
Nelson Walker	Jackson Moore	Adam Maynard
Kayla Cobb	Sharan Iyer	Jing Liao
Pablo Pereira	Johnna Kretchman	Theresa Raymond
Tamara Spann	Caitlyn Maddox	T.J. Park
Tran Ton	Kim Jungeun	*Meggan Franks
*Chris Ferrell	*Cade Smith	

***MSU Staff**



2012 ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK MAP



ITINERARY

DAY 1

Greenwood
Shelby
Sunflower

DAY 2

Cleveland
Ruleville
Drew
Merigold
Mound Bayou
Greenwood

DAY 3

Clarksdale

DAY 4

Scott
Greenville
Greenwood

DAY 5

Clarksdale
Sunflower
Cleveland
Merigold

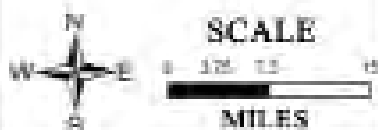
DAY 6

Mound Bayou
Shelby
Sunflower



LEGEND

 U.S. Highways
 Mississippi Highways





ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK '12

Trip Itinerary

UNDERSTAND THE PAST,
SEE THE FUTURE,
& MAKE AN IMPACT...

TIME	SUNDAY 3/11 GROUP A	SUNDAY 3/11 GROUP B	SUNDAY 3/11 GROUP C	SUNDAY 3/11 LOGISTICS TEAM
6 A.M.	Leave from MSU campus and travel to North Greenwood Baptist Church in Greenwood, MS (95.7 Miles / 1 Hour & 41 Minutes)			
7 A.M.				
8 A.M.				
9 A.M.				
10 A.M.	Attend 8:00 A.M. Worship Service at North Greenwood Baptist Church (NGBC)			
11 A.M.				
12 P.M.				
1 P.M.	Attend 11:00 A.M. Worship Service at Salem Missionary Baptist Church			
2 P.M.				
3 P.M.				
4 P.M.				
5 P.M.	Attend 11:00 A.M. Worship Service at Salem Missionary Baptist Church			
6 P.M.				
7 P.M.				
8 P.M.				
9 P.M.	Attend 11:00 A.M. Worship Service at Salem Missionary Baptist Church			

Est Dinner (Spaghetti) and watch The Help

NORTH GREENWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

GREENWOOD, MS



Dr. Jim Phillips,
Senior Pastor



North Greenwood Baptist Church will be our first stop on our week long trip. We will be attending the traditional worship service beginning at 8:00 A.M. on Sunday morning. NGBC will also be our living quarters for four nights, Sunday through Wednesday.



Small Common Room



Large Common Room



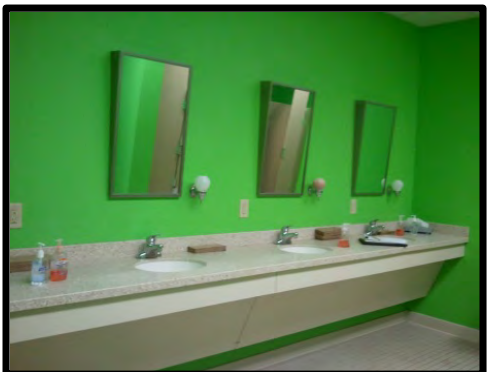
Small Common Room



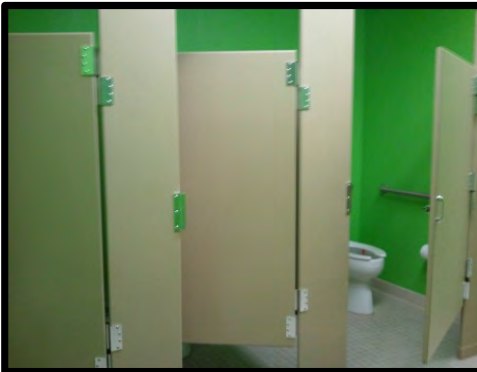
Kitchen



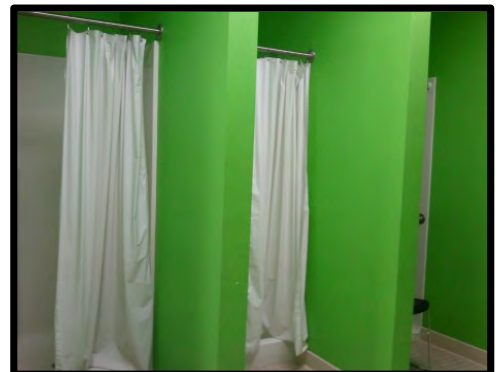
Dining



Bathroom



Bathroom



Showers

MISSISSIPPIANS ENGAGED IN GREENER AGRICULTURE (MEGA) SHELBY, MS



Dorothy Grady-Scarborough, MEGA Director

“I grew up less than 100 yards from here,” Dorothy says from her modest ranchhouse’s backyard in Shelby. “We lived on a plantation as sharecroppers. I picked cotton out the front door of my house. The owner gave us a place to live and about a football-size plot where we grew our food.” Dorothy is now 55 years old. She’s a soft-spoken woman, cool as a cucumber. But despite her quiet demeanor, she represents the power of community and the importance of building a network of shared knowledge among the growers in the Delta. She’s a registered nurse for the Coahoma County Schools, so she understands the community’s health needs. And she farms 6 acres, 1 in her backyard and 5 more in the county, so she knows about cultivating good food. In 1996, after serving on the board of a short-term Tufts University program aimed at developing food gardens in backyards, churches, and schools, Dorothy decided to expand that project’s scope into a larger vision for the greater community. She called her new project MEGA— Mississippians Engaged in Greener Agriculture. The organization now encourages and supports small-scale, high-yield growing projects and hosts training sessions in Dorothy’s backyard garden and other county locations.



LEAD CENTER - SUNFLOWER COUNTY FREEDOM PROJECT

SUNFLOWER, MS



MISSION

Our mission is to create a corp of academically capable, socially conscious, and mentally disciplined young leaders in the Mississippi Delta.

VISION

We envision the day when young people growing up in Sunflower County, Mississippi, have access to the same educational opportunities as children anywhere in America.

VALUES: COMMITMENT TO LEADERSHIP

At the Sunflower County Freedom Project, we believe that education is the seed of freedom. Without a challenging, achievement-oriented education, children in the Mississippi Delta will be as powerless in the future as were illiterate sharecroppers in the twentieth century.

- Love – Responsible leadership and lasting change starts with love and respect; Freedom Fellows commit to loving and respecting themselves, their teachers, their classmates, and their communities.
- Education – In the words of Malcolm X, “Without education, you’re not going anywhere in this world.” Freedom Fellows commit to pursuing educational excellence despite any challenges presented to them.
- Action – Knowledge without action is an opportunity lost; education without social conscience is a tragedy. Freedom Fellows commit to personal and social action to make themselves better people and to make the world a better place.
- Discipline – Self-control is vital to leadership; thus, Freedom Fellows must learn to be in control of their thoughts and actions at all times. Freedom Fellows commit to practicing and performing personal and mental discipline.

THE HELP

On Sunday night, we will watch *The Help*, which had scenes filmed in Greenwood, MS. *The Help* is a movie based on the book of an aspiring author during the civil rights movement of the 1960s who decides to write a book detailing the African-American maid's point of view on the white families for which they work, and the hardships they go through on a daily basis.



Set in Mississippi during the 1960s, Skeeter is a southern society girl who returns from college determined to become a writer, but turns her friends' lives -- and a Mississippi town -- upside down when she decides to interview the black women who have spent their lives taking care of prominent southern families. Aibileen, Skeeter's best friend's housekeeper, is the first to open up -- to the dismay of her friends in the tight-knit black community. Despite Skeeter's life-long friendships hanging in the balance, she and Aibileen continue their collaboration and soon more women come forward to tell their stories -- and as it turns out, they have a lot to say. Along the way, unlikely friendships are forged and a new sisterhood emerges, but not before everyone in town has a thing or two to say when they become unwittingly -- and unwillingly -- caught up in the changing times. (Written by Walt Disney Pictures)

TIME		MONDAY 3/12 GROUP A	MONDAY 3/12 GROUP B	MONDAY 3/12 GROUP C	MONDAY 3/12 LOGISTICS TEAM
6 A.M.	00 30	*Group A Prepare & eat breakfast, get ready and load up vans			
7 A.M.	00 30				
8 A.M.	00 30				
9 A.M.	00 30	Travel to Delta State University to meet with Dr. Luther Brown for Most Southern Place on Earth Tour (42.1 Miles / 53 Minutes)			
10 A.M.	00 30	<p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Luther Brown's Tour:</p> <p>*Question and Answer session at Delta State University (DSU) *Chinese Mission School/Baptist Church *Dockery Farms *True Crossroads - Old Dockery Road/Ole Ruleville Road *Fannie Lou Hamer's Grave (Civil Rights) *Lunch at Senator's Place in Cleveland (\$10 per person) *Rosenwald School (Segregated) *Marigold - McCarty's Pottery & Peter's Pottery *Mound Bayou - Delta Health Clinic</p>			
11 A.M.	00 30				
12 P.M.	00 30				
1 P.M.	00 30				
2 P.M.	00 30				
3 P.M.	00 30				
4 P.M.	00 30	Travel back to DSU to get in our vans. (11.7 Mi / 18 Min)			
5 P.M.	00 30	Travel to Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church to meet Sylvester Hoover (39.6 Mi / 57 Min)		Travel to NGBC (43.8 Mi / 56 Min)	
6 P.M.	00 30	History of Robert Johnson and visit his grave at Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church with Sylvester Hoover Travel to NGBC (6.2 Miles / 12 Minutes)		Prepare Dinner: Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Steamed Vegetables, Rolls and Dessert	
7 P.M.	00 30	Group Discussion on The Help			
8 P.M.	00 30	Dinner at NGBC			

DR. LUTHER BROWN - DELTA HERITAGE TOUR

CLEVELAND, MS



Dr. Luther Brown, Director of Delta State University's Delta Center for Culture and Learning, was honored by the Mississippi House of Representatives. Brown was cited for his years of service to the state as founding director of the Delta Center for Culture and Learning at DSU. Brown is also the associate dean for the Delta Regional Development at Delta State. He accepted the commendation of the Mississippi House of Representatives after being honored in the chamber on March 25, 2009.

"It is an incredible honor to have been presented with the commendation from the House especially since I'm not from Mississippi," said Brown. "It was a very humbling and nervous moment for me." Brown is originally from Illinois and taught in Virginia for 22 years before coming to the Mississippi Delta. He's been at Delta State since 2000. "I was very shocked when I received the call from Rep. Linda Whittington (Greenville)," he said. "I didn't know it was going to happen. She called and informed me that I needed to be present." The resolution commends Brown's devotion to the advanced development of the Delta Center for Culture and Learning at DSU and his commitment to the development of the student mind and matriculation as associate dean for Delta Regional Development. "She (Whittington) said the resolution had already been voted on and I just needed to show up," Brown said. "It was amazing to be there and stand in front of all the representatives and everyone. It's just hard to describe the emotion." Brown said one of the reasons he moved to Delta was because of its rich heritage. "There are incredible heritage stories here in the Delta," he said. "The Delta Center for Culture and Learning supports the Mississippi Blues Commission and all kinds of efforts geared toward the Blues. The amazing history of the Blues is one of the reasons the center was founded."



CHINESE MISSION SCHOOL

CLEVELAND, MS

MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL SEGREGATION OF CHINESE: GONG LUM V RICE (1927)

Mississippi defined WHITE as “Caucasian” and everyone else as “Colored” so that Chinese were not allowed to attend the better funded white schools. In 1927, a Chinese grocer, Gong Lum, filed a court case to force Rosedale schools to admit his daughters. However, the Mississippi Supreme court overturned the initial favorable ruling. The case was appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court, but it sided with the Mississippi decision. Undaunted in his efforts to get the best possible education for his daughters, Gong Lum moved his family to Arkansas where they could attend white schools. It was not until after WW II that Chinese could attend white schools in most communities, although local districts varied in their actual admission policies.

CHINESE MISSION SCHOOL - CLEVELAND, MS

Chinese raised funds to build a mission school with the support of the Baptist church in Cleveland. It provided two white teachers for the standard English curriculum, one for lower grades and one for higher grades. Later in the day, a Chinese teacher provided instruction in Chinese language. Started in 1937 with about 60 students, some that lived in Cleveland and others from distant towns that lived in a dormitory, it continued for less than a decade when white schools began to accept Chinese students.



DOCKERY FARMS

CLEVELAND, MS



Dockery Farms was established in 1895 to produce cotton, America's biggest export at the time. African Americans who worked at Dockery, including blues pioneer Charley Patton, created a culture that inspired the music we know as the blues. Their songs influenced the development of popular music all over the world.

“...You might say it all started right here.” - B.B.King

1865

- The Civil War ends when General Lee surrenders the Confederate Army to General Grant at Appomattox.



- Abraham Lincoln is assassinated.
- The 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery, is ratified.
- Will Dockery is born in Mississippi.

1870



- Mississippi restored to the Union. Regains representation in Congress.
- Henry Sloan, often cited as the original bluesman, is born in Mississippi. Not much is known about him, but he is named as a key influence by every delta blues musician.

1890



- Mississippi ratifies a new constitution that disenfranchises most blacks and undoes gains forced by Reconstruction.
- Willie Brown is born in Clarksdale, Mississippi.

1891

- Charley Patton is born near Bolton, Mississippi.

1895

- Will Dockery buys 40 square miles in the wild Mississippi Delta and establishes Dockery Farms. Offers fair contracts to laborers and even allows some to prosper.



Tommy Johnson is born in Mississippi.

1900

- Mississippi state government effectively eliminates civil rights with Jim Crow laws, but northern delta plantations like Dockery continue to treat workers better.
- Bill and Annie Patton move to Dockery Farms with young Charley Patton seeking the fairer treatment and better pay that the plantation offered.



1902

- Son House is born near Riverton, Mississippi.

1905

- Charley Patton learns to play from resident blues man Henry Sloan.



1910

- Willie Brown and Tommy Johnson move to the Cleveland area and start playing with Charley Patton.
- Chester Burnett, later known as Howlin Wolf, is born in White Station, Mississippi.



1911

- Robert Johnson is born in Hazlehurst, Mississippi.

1915

- Honeyboy Edwards is born in Shaw, Mississippi.



1917

- U.S. Declares war on Germany and some blacks, including Patton's brother Willie, fight for their country in segregated units.

1920

- 18th and 19th Amendments ratified. Prohibition becomes law and women gain the right to vote.

1925

- Robert Johnson moves to the Cleveland area and starts playing with Willie Brown.



1926

- Will Dockery retires. Joe Rice Dockery takes over the farm.



1927

- The Great Mississippi Flood puts 27,000 sq miles underwater, leaves more than half a million homeless and kills at least 500.
- Charley Patton writes High Water Everywhere Part 1 and Part 2 as a response.

1929

- Charley Patton records 14 songs for Paramount Records. These are his first known recordings. Almost instantly, he becomes the best-selling blues artist.

1930

- Howlin' Wolf moves to the Cleveland area and starts playing with Charley Patton and Willie Brown.

1934

- Charley Patton dies at age 42.

1935

- Son House moves to the Cleveland area and starts playing with Robert Johnson and Willie Brown.

1936

- Will Dockery dies at age 70.

FANNIE LOU HAMER

RULEVILLE, MS



Fannie Lou Townsend was born October 6, 1917 in the Mississippi Delta on a plantation where sharecropping was the norm. She was tricked into picking cotton at the age of six in exchange for a few items from the “Boss Man’s” Store. By the time she reached age ten, Fannie was picking as much cotton as some adults. She earned the position of Timekeeper. To help calm her people down after a lynching, shooting or KKK riot, Mrs. Hamer would sing like “ain’t no tomorrow.” Fannie Lou married Perry “Pap” Hamer in 1942. In 1962, Mrs. Hamer decided she wanted to try to register to vote after attending a SNCC voter registration meeting at William Chapel Church in Ruleville, MS pastored by the late Rev. J. D. Story. It would turn out to be just another way of asking to die. After returning home, Mrs. Hamer was ordered to go and take her name off the registrar’s book. If she refused to do so, she would have to move. Refuse she did and move she did. I didn’t go register for you sir, I did it for myself”, replied Fannie Lou to her boss. Mr. W. D. Marlowe. She was kicked off the plantation where she had

lived for the past eighteen years. Sixteen shots were fired into The Tuckers home over the bed Mrs. Hamer slept where she had fled for safety. “God had already told me to move on, so I wasn’t there that night,” Fannie said. Fannie Lou Hamer, June E. Johnson, James West, Euvestor Simpson, Annelle Ponder and others were jailed in Winona, Mississippi. Two black prisoners were ordered to beat Mrs. Hamer. She was beaten so badly she no longer had feelings in her legs. Mrs. Hamer’s passion for her people and her interest and understanding of how powerful the political process was in America led her and others to create the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party to challenge the Credential Committee in Atlantic City, New Jersey in 1964 to be seated rather than the regular Democrats who they exclaimed were “illegally elected” based on discriminatory practices against blacks statewide. “We Will Not Accept The Compromise”, stated Mrs. Hamer. She had consulted with Bob Moses and Mrs. Unita Blackwell and others prior. Mr. Lawrence Guyot (Chairman MFDP) was in jail and couldn’t make the trip.

President Johnson interrupted the nationally televised convention in order to keep Fannie Lou and her views from spreading like wildfire. All of the major networks later ran her speech in its entirety and the whole country was spellbound to hear such convictions coming from a Southerner who felt she had nothing left to fear but fear itself. “If the Freedom Democratic Party isn’t seated today, I question America”, Fannie told the Credentials Committee. “Is this America where we have to sleep with our phones off the hooks because we be threatened daily just cause we want to register to vote to become first class citizens”. Mrs. Hamer’s efforts did not stop there. She challenged Black Educators to “teach our children more about our history since school books left it out”. She started a daycare center with the assistance of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) under the leadership of Dr. Dorothy Irene Height (President). Mrs. Hamer also, organized approximately, 640 acres of Freedom Farm land. June E. Johnson gets very emotional when speaking about Mrs. Hamer. I gave BLOOD with this lady,

do you understand me?" I love Mrs. Hamer and she discussed with me her "Unfinished Business" while she lay on her death bed, continues Johnson. June was beaten in jail with Fannie Lou for voter registration activities as a teenager. Fannie Lou Hamer's labor ceased at 5:15 p.m. on March 14, 1977 in Mound Bayou, Mississippi due to Breast Cancer and complications from her jail house beating. Fannie Lou Hamer worked with and sought assistance from Student Non Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), National Association of Colored People (NAACP), The Delta Ministry and numerous others. She was co-founder of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP). It was the Delta Ministry under the leadership of Mr. Owen H. Brooks along with Mr. Charles McLaurin and June E. Johnson that assured Mrs. Hamer a proper burial. Mrs. Hamer was the recipient of many awards and honors. She received an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humanities from Tougaloo College and Shaw University. She, also, received honorary degrees from Columbia College and Howard University. Fannie was honored with the National Sojourner Truth Meritorious Service Award, The Paul Robeson Award from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and The Mary Terrell Award from Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. Delta Sigma Theta made Mrs. Hamer an Honorary member of their sorority. Fannie Lou was inducted into the National Women Hall of Fame. On February 18, 1995, The United States Post Office in Ruleville, Mississippi was named in Fannie Lou Hamer's honor thanks to Congressman Bennie Thompson.



There is a Fannie Lou Hamer Day Care Center in Ruleville, Mississippi that Mrs. Hamer started, a Fannie Lou Hamer Library located in Jackson, MS, a Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom High School in Bronx, New York, The Fannie Lou Hamer Political Institute founded by Dr. Leslie McLemore at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi and The Fannie Lou Hamer "Women of Faith" Learning & Cultural Center. Mrs. Hamer's speech from the 1964 Democratic Convention is inscribed on column 10 in the Civil Rights Garden in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Several people do dramatic shows re-enacting "The Life & Times of Fannie Lou Hamer" and many books and documentaries are written and produced on her.

SENATOR'S PLACE

CLEVELAND, MS



The Senator's Place is a family owned and operated soul food restaurant that is located in the heart of the Mississippi Delta. The restaurant was established June 20, 2003, by Senator Willie Simmons and his wife, Rosie at 233 North Street, Cleveland, Mississippi. In April 2006, the owners relocated the restaurant to 1028 South Davis Avenue in Cleveland. Since opening, The Senator's Place restaurant has become a local favorite that brings satisfaction to every mouth fed.

Designed to seat 160 for lunch and dinner or 225 guests banquet style, The Senator's Place offers a daily lunch buffet along with Friday evening buffets allowing customers to dine-in or take-out. Our goal has always been one of providing a variety of southern soul foods such as fried chicken, smothered pork steaks, turnip greens, cornbread, peach cobbler and banana pudding prepared like mama and grand mama, using the wood stove.

Senator Simmons is hands on in creating a tasty soulful menu to be enjoyed in a family friendly environment. We endeavor to maintain consistency in our cooking so that returning customers will find the same taste and quality in our cabbage, butterbeans, chicken dressing, candied yams, chicken 'n' dumplings, and our special signature Â...smoked chicken and finger-lickin' ribs.

ROSENWALD SCHOOL

CLEVELAND, MS



Rosenwald Schools in Mississippi

By Jennifer Baughn

Public schooling in Mississippi did not become commonplace until after the American Civil War. After the United States Supreme Court decided in its 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* ruling that states could require separate public facilities for blacks and whites as long as they were equal (the so-called “separate but equal” doctrine), white-dominated school boards began concentrating more of their efforts and funding on schools for white children, rather than for black. By the early 1900s, while many white children studied their textbooks in new functional buildings, black students were often left to make do in churches, lodges, and poorly constructed buildings that barely kept out the wind and the rain.

Beginning in the 1910s, however, new school buildings for African Americans began to spring up on the Mississippi landscape. The schools, constructed as a partnership between the Julius Rosenwald Fund and local citizens, represented a leap forward for black southerners who wanted to ensure an education for their children. When the philanthropic program ended in 1932, a victim of the Great Depression, more than 5,000 school buildings had been constructed under its auspices in fourteen southern states. Mississippi’s Rosenwald program constructed six hundred and thirty-three schools and ancillary buildings and was the South’s second-largest state program.

The Rosenwald Fund

The Rosenwald Fund — the product of an alliance between Booker T. Washington, president and founder of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, and Julius Rosenwald, president and chief executive officer of Sears, Roebuck & Co. in Chicago — was the only philanthropic effort in the early 20th century to concentrate on improving the learning environment of black students in the South. The fund accomplished this by giving grants to black communities to cover about a third of the cost of a building. The communities were expected to match the Rosenwald money with either cash or in-kind contributions of labor and materials and to gain financial support from the public school system. While the communities gained

a quality building, they also lost a measure of control over their children's education when the school, which had usually been run by its own board of trustees, came under the control of the county superintendent of education.

Begun at Tuskegee in 1912 and initially focused on the few counties surrounding that campus, the Rosenwald Fund's fame grew through the extensive personal networks of southern blacks. By the end of the 1910s, several states surrounding Alabama had a few Rosenwald schools. But after Washington's death in 1915, Rosenwald lost confidence in the fund's new leaders at Tuskegee Institute. He moved the fund's management away from Tuskegee and set up a new office run by foundation professionals in Nashville. During the 1920s, the Rosenwald Fund became increasingly standardized and efficient, approving thousands of grants in all of the southern states.

In Mississippi, only a dozen or so schools obtained help in the early years under Tuskegee's management. The early buildings were not built to standard plans and often were not much better planned than non-Rosenwald schools. A major shift occurred after the Rosenwald Fund's reorganization in 1919-1920. By 1922, the Rosenwald Fund reported that one hundred and forty-one Rosenwald schools had been built in Mississippi, including fifty-eight three-teacher schools and five houses for teachers.

A New School Building

A primary focus of the newly reorganized Rosenwald Fund was the quality of the construction of school buildings that would be built with its funds. The fund wanted to build the most schools it could, but it also wanted them to meet current building standards and to be solidly constructed of good materials. Rosenwald also wanted to incorporate knowledge gained during a decade of careful study into lighting levels and ventilation. At the time, rural schools, and even some town schools, did not have electricity to provide lighting or heat. Thus, lighting needed to come into the building through windows, and studies had shown that schools needed many more windows than had previously been thought in order to give students sufficient light. In addition, new research showed that good ventilation prevented the spread of germs and diseases.

Using the findings from a survey of the existing Rosenwald schools by consultant Fletcher B. Dresslar, a recognized authority on the topic of school hygiene and good school planning, the fund, led by its new director Samuel L. Smith, drew a new set of standard plans that would be used to construct almost all Rosenwald schools in the 1920s. From 1920 onward, the Rosenwald Fund's emphasis moved from funding "better schools" to encouraging "model schools" that could be standards for both black and white schools in the South.

The new plans allowed for a broad variety of schools, based on the number of teachers per school. Ranging from one-classroom structures with a gable front — a common school form in all areas of the country — to large twelve-classroom buildings with auditoriums, the plans relied on simple forms and construction techniques that would be accessible to the many volunteer laborers who built these schools. Several new features of the schools did in fact become models for school architecture in the 1920s, such as:

- One-story construction, which required slightly more land but was easier to build and was considered a safety improvement following several deadly school fires in two-story buildings.
- Large groupings of windows, concentrated on the east and west elevations of buildings, became the hallmark of schools for both black and white students in the 1920s. Previously, rural school

buildings would have a few scattered windows, with windows on several walls of each classroom. Studies showed, however, that light from many directions caused a glare that could damage a student's eyesight.

- Two school forms, the H-plan and the T-plan, became standard for rural and town schools alike in the 1920s. The Rosenwald standardized plans used these two forms almost exclusively for schools of four classrooms or more.

Both plans contained an auditorium for school and community gatherings, but the H-plan was designed to face north or south, with its windows on the sides facing east and west, while the T-plan was designed to face east or west with its windows on the front and back. These simple but effective plans show the ingenuity and flexibility of the Rosenwald Fund's program and the emphasis on quality even in difficult circumstances.

Only fifteen of the original five hundred and fifty-seven schools aided by the Rosenwald Fund are known to still stand in Mississippi. Of these, about half are either greatly altered or in a deteriorated state. The sole surviving one-classroom school is the Bynum School, built in 1926, in Panola County. Two good examples of the H-plan form are the concrete-block building (1926) at the Prentiss Institute in Jefferson Davis County, a six-classroom building constructed according to Rosenwald Plan #6-A, and the Brushy Creek School (circa 1930) in Copiah County, a clapboard Rosenwald Plan #4-A. The Drew Rosenwald school in Sunflower County began as a substantial T-plan Rosenwald, and grew over the years into a sprawling building with a large student population. The T-plan especially was popular because it could easily handle any needed expansion.

In addition to the known Rosenwald schools, Mississippi has some "ghost schools," a group of schools that were supposed to have received Rosenwald Funds but the money was fraudulently diverted for personal use between 1923-1928. The Rosenwald agent at the Mississippi Department of Education, Bura Hilbun, who was responsible for overseeing the Rosenwald Fund in Mississippi and sending in final reports to the Nashville office, was later found to have falsified records and pocketed the money meant for certain schools. Hilbun's fraud was found after he left the education department. He was convicted of embezzlement in 1931 in the Hinds County Circuit Court, after two hung juries. Hilbun appealed to the Mississippi Supreme Court but it upheld the lower court's decision.

As a result of Hilbun's falsified records, the historical records of the Rosenwald Fund at Fisk University Archives in Nashville list some schools that were not actually built, thus the "ghost schools." One of those ghost schools has survived. Poplar Hill School is a rare two-classroom black school in rural Jefferson County, and while the school appears in the Rosenwald Fund database on the Fisk website, it is not, in fact, a Rosenwald plan and did not receive any Rosenwald funding. This was distressing news to a group of interested alumni who in 2009 pursued a National Register of Historic Places listing for the building as a Rosenwald school. Nonetheless, the building is still significant as a rare surviving rural African-American school, once one of thousands that dotted the Mississippi landscape.

Building School Communities

The Rosenwald Fund did not stop with just building new classroom buildings for students. Located in rural areas with poor road systems, the schools came to be somewhat self-sufficient campuses, eventually including not only houses for teachers but also separate buildings for vocational and home economics education.

The Rosenwald Fund understood well the challenges of rural schools, and the first and most important one was attracting qualified teachers. School trustees often found it necessary to build a teacher's house on the campus as a way to entice a principal who could oversee the school's functioning. Not only did a teacher's house keep principals and teachers longer at the school, but it provided security for the campus and an on-site alarm in case of fire. As it did with school plans, the fund offered several different house plans for teachers to accommodate families of various sizes. The Rosenwald Fund helped build fifty-eight teacher houses in the state, and many school boards built houses for teachers as well. At least two of the Rosenwald houses still stand in the state, the John White School teacher's house (1925) in Forrest County and the former president's house (circa 1930) at Coahoma Community College north of Clarksdale, a campus that began as one of only two agricultural high schools for African Americans. The other school was Hinds County Agricultural High School in Utica (1946).

Vocational buildings or shops were also seen as a way to improve both the campus and the school's educational program. The Rosenwald Fund emphasized vocational education not only because of its origins at Washington's Tuskegee Institute but because training in agricultural and mechanical skills was thought to be the best way to educate rural children of both races for much of the first half of the 20th century. Indeed, backed by sufficient funding, white consolidated schools of the same period far outstripped black schools in providing buildings and teachers for vocational and home economics education and were considered better schools because of it. Only eighteen vocational buildings for black schools were constructed in Mississippi under the Rosenwald program, primarily because of lack of matching funds and because building a vocational building also meant hiring an extra teacher to teach the classes. This was often out of reach for the Rosenwald schools struggling to survive on limited funding from the public school boards.

By 1932, two years after Rosenwald's death and three years after the stock market crash slashed the value of its endowment, the Rosenwald Fund ceased its building program, leaving southern blacks and southern progressives to find another solution for black education.

MCCARTY'S POTTERY - MERIGOLD, MS

“You can have my mule barn.”

With that offer from “Aunt” Margaret in 1954, Lee and Pup McCarty moved the animals out, moved themselves and one tiny kiln into “The Barn,” and began what was to become an internationally recognized and award winning pottery business.

Almost 50 years later, the McCartys, recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters, have had their work shown in museums and galleries around the world. Some recent retrospectives took place at the Lauren Rogers Museum, the Samuel P. Horn Museum at the University of Florida in Gainesville, and one titled “The Masters of Merigold - Forty Years of McCarty Pottery” at the University of Mississippi in Oxford. A recent international showing took them to Japan for a three week exhibition.

The popularity of the McCartys has come not only from their original pottery and glazes but also from their outlook on life. Keeping things simple yet elegant has always been the strong focus: your McCarty pottery will be wrapped in newspaper and placed carefully in a heavy brown paper bag, with “McCarty’s” written on the front by Pup or Lee. When you come to The Barn and are welcomed by “Uncle Lee” and “Aunt Pup” you feel welcomed. The simple elegance, along with Lee’s boundless energy and steady stream of conversation, will be readily apparent as you may be steered through the Gardens, an amazing oasis in the middle of the bountiful fields of the Mississippi Delta.



PETER'S POTTERY - MERIGOLD, MS



From the small historic town of Mound Bayou comes Peter's Pottery. The Woods brothers come together to create unique works of art by combining talents and responsibility. Peter's Pottery captures the rich earth tones of the Mississippi Delta in the glazes and textures of their unique and renowned pottery.

MOUND BAYOU, MS

Mound Bayou was an all-black town in the Yazoo Delta in Northwest Mississippi. It was founded during the spring of 1887 by twelve pioneers from Davis Bend, a fledgling black colony impacted by falling agricultural prices, natural disasters, and hostile race relations. This migration movement was led by Isaiah Montgomery, former patriarch of Davis Bend. Purchased from the Louisville, New Orleans, and Texas Railroad (L, NO & T), Mound Bayou bordered a new rail line between Memphis and Vicksburg. From 1890 to 1915, Mound Bayou was a land of promise for African Americans. Encapsulated in this “promise” were self-help, race pride, economic opportunity, and social justice, in a self-segregated community designed for blacks to have minimum contact with whites until integration was a viable option to black freedom.

Mound Bayou had a U.S. Post Office, six churches, banks, stores, and several public and private schools. Its economy depended on the production of cotton, timber, and corn, and being an agent for the L, NO & T Railroad. Politically, Mound Bayou’s mayor Isaiah Montgomery protected it from white violence through political accommodation. Montgomery also ensured Mound Bayou’s growth by working closely with Booker T. Washington after 1900, through his “lieutenant” Charles Banks. Socially, Mound Bayou had an exceptionally low crime rate, high morals (i.e., no gambling or sale of alcohol), and everyone had to be a useful member of the community. Through outlets like the town’s newspaper, *The Demonstrator* (1900), Mound Bayou promoted education as an essential path to community survival, in particular vocational education in scientific agriculture through the Mound Bayou Normal and Industrial Institute. From 1907 to 1915, this infrastructure, along with Mound Bayou’s function as a railroad center, allowed it to flourish and grow to 8,000 people by 1911. Its noticeable decline occurred during the Great Migration period (1915-1930), in which cotton prices fell, Booker T. Washington passed away, and the black path towards freedom was redirected from independent towns towards the major cities of the United States.



TABORIAN HOSPITAL

MOUND BAYOU, MS

Historic Hospital to Become Pulse of Community Once Again

By Chance Wright

Thursday was a special day for U.S. Congressman Bennie Thompson and the Mound Bayou community. Working hand and hand with the rural development division of the United State Department of Agriculture to secure funding, Thompson announced on Thursday that the Taborian Hospital will once again open its doors and receive patients.

The USDA announced earlier in the week that a Rural Development Grant has been approved in the amount of \$2,993,954 to restore the dilapidated building and open the Taborian Urgent Care Center of Mound Bayou. “This project has been somewhat of a dream for me since taking office,” said Thompson. “A major concern of mine has always been centered around providing adequate health care to everyone in Mississippi. Many residents in rural towns across the state live everyday with the realization that they will have to travel elsewhere in the case of a medical emergency. That should not be the case and here in Mound Bayou, residents will once again have access to a quality medical facility.”

The Taborian Hospital of Mound Bayou, a facility developed and financed by the Knights and Daughters of Tabor organization, first opened its doors in 1942. Focused on attainment of a better life for the people of Mound Bayou, the Taborian Hospital secured adequate medical treatment for the all black community.

Founded by Rev. Moses Dickson, the Knights and Daughters of the Tabor is an African-American fraternal order. The society explains that there was an antislavery secret organization of Negroes in the South that numbered nearly 147,000 fighting for the Union during the Civil War. After the war, an organizational roll call showed that only seven members survived the war effort. From these seven men, Dickson formed the International Order of Twelve, Knights and Daughters of Tabor. This name originated from the original Knights of Liberty and a mountain in Galilee, Mount Tabor.

Mississippi’s chapter of the Tabor organization began in 1889 under the leadership of Mound Bayou native and Chief Grand Mentor Perry Monroe Smith, who was instrumental in bringing the Tabors to the Mississippi Delta to promote African-American progress.

“Upon completion, this hospital will be the area’s first urgent care medical facility,” said Trina George, state director for the USDA Rural Development agency. “Currently, there are no urgent care facilities within an 80 mile radius of the Mound Bayou area.”

According to the Academy of Urgent Care Medicine, Urgent Care Medicine is the provision of immediate medical service offering outpatient care for the treatment of acute and chronic illness and injury. It requires a broad and comprehensive fund of knowledge to provide such care. Excellence in care for patients with complex and or unusual conditions is founded on the close communication and collaboration between the urgent care medicine physician, the specialists and the primary physicians.

The Taborian Hospital was the first medical institutions of health with hospital facilities and equipment wholly owned and operated by the black race. It was also the first medical institution in America that had an all black staff. “The Taborian Urgent Care Center will offer residents extended hours, including evenings and weekends, as well as other expanded services,” said George. “It will also provide walk in access for acute illness and injuries as well as physical and occupational therapy.”

This is a glorious day for the people of Mound Bayou and Bolivar County,” added Thompson. “It is our hope that restoring the old Taborian Hospital will also improve and encourage more economic development projects in the area. So today I am excited to be in Mound Bayou and I cannot wait to see this project begin to move forward.” The Taborian Hospital is on the list of Mississippi Historic sites and at one time was on list of the 10 most endangered historic places in Mississippi.



U.S. Congressman Bennie Thompson, Miss. Sen. Derrick Simmons, Rural Development State Director Trina George, Mound Bayou Mayor Kennedy Johnson, newly elected supervisor Preston Billings and descents of the founding fathers of the Taborian Hospital were on hand Thursday for the announcement of a \$2,993,954 grant bringing the Taborian Urgent Care Center to Mound Bayou.

Taborian Hospital and the Delta Health Center: The Role of Health Care in Social Change and Community Empowerment

Posted By Suzassippi

The Mississippi unit of the Sir Knights and Daughters of the Tabor was established in 1889 for the purpose of providing insurance—burial, life, and health care (Hodding Carter, Saturday Evening Post, February 23, 1946). Membership in 1946 had increased to 40,000 and the director, P. M. Smith, began the task of raising \$100,000 in order to build a hospital in Mound Bayou.

At that time, there was little in the way of hospitalization for African Americans in Mississippi. If they were admitted at all to white facilities, it was usually in a basement and care was substandard (David T. Beito, 1999). The Taborian Hospital officially opened February 12, 1942. Prior to the Taborian, health care had been provided by a mobile clinic.

Dr. Phillip Moise George, a Mound Bayou physician, was recruited as medical director and internist for the Taborian Hospital, and Dr. T.R.M. Howard was selected as Chief Surgeon (Dr. Matthew Walker of Meharry Medical School, 1973). Mrs. Katherine Dandridge was the director of nursing. Other personnel were hired from the community or nearby area and trained for the position. Dr. Howard not only treated patients' disease, he cared for their nutrition and social needs as well. Among the things he helped engender for the community was the Good Will Park, with its tennis courts, swimming pool, and zoo. Dr. Howard asserted "This little town has a symbolism for many...without restraints imposed because of race" (Carter, 1946). This symbolism was recently validated by Dr. D. J. Moore, originally from Tupelo, who said of it, "Growing up, it was like this mythical place to us. We heard stories about it."



Dr. Howard owned a private clinic across the street from the Taborian, and this caused friction between Howard and the Knights and Daughters of Tabor (Beito). Howard was dismissed, the Knights and Daughters of Tabor split, and Dr. Howard became chief of surgery at Friendship Clinic, founded by the United Order of Friendship of America in 1948. Some reports (Dr. Walker, 1973) indicated the clinic was later named Sarah Brown Hospital. It was built across the street from the Taborian. Fraternal hospitals were the original self-help and mutual aid model in the segregated south. (During those years, there were many self-help programs in black communities, one of the most well-known being Lt. Lawrence

Oxley's work in child welfare in North Carolina). Both hospitals merged into the federally funded Mound Bayou Community Hospital in 1967 with the establishment of the Delta Health Center (Beito). The hospital finally closed in 1983, in large part due to loss of federal funding.



The Delta Health Center also had a significant role in both providing quality health care, and holistic environmental change. The Delta Health Center was grounded in a belief that (1) health care could be a point for social change, (2) health care was a right, not a privilege, and (3) it could promote empowerment by giving community members control of services (Dr. Jack Geiger, one of the founders of DHC). Geiger first learned these principles while studying community-oriented primary health care in South Africa. Dr. Sydney Kark served impoverished black communities by focusing on primary care, preventive medicine and health promotion. In addition to medical services for disease, the South African model focused on the environment: sanitation and nutrition. Geiger implemented these methods in Mound Bayou, and the health center was as likely to drill wells for access to clean water or build sanitary privies as they were to dispense medication and treatment.

It is interesting to note that at about the same time Dr. Geiger was in South Africa studying Kark's model for community-oriented health care, Dr. Howard and the Taborian Hospital, in conjunction with support from Meharry Medical College, were implementing a similar approach in Mound Bayou. At least part of the decline of the fraternal hospitals resulted from the infusion of federal monies and the inability of fraternal hospitals to compete due to loss of membership base and increased cost of technology. With the loss of federal dollars during the cutbacks of the Reagan years and later, but no longer with the self-help mutual aid that had been part of the foundation of the community, what is next?

TIME		TUESDAY 3/13 GROUP A	TUESDAY 3/13 GROUP B	TUESDAY 3/13 GROUP C	TUESDAY 3/13 LOGISTICS TEAM	
6	00					
A.M.	30					
7	00					
A.M.	30	Prepare & eat breakfast, get ready and load up vans				
8	00					
A.M.	30					
9	00					
A.M.	30	Travel to QuaPan Canoe Company in Clarksdale (56.2 Mi / 1 Hr 9 Min)				
10	00					
A.M.	30					
11	00					
A.M.	30					
12	00					
P.M.	30					
1	00					
P.M.	30					
2	00					
P.M.	30					
3	00					
P.M.	30					
4	00					
P.M.	30					
5	00					
P.M.	30					
6	00					
P.M.	30					
7	00	Load up and travel to Stone Pony Pizza for Dinner (around the corner from Qua Pan Canoe Company)				
P.M.	30	Dinner at Stone Pony Pizza - Pizza, Salad & Soft Drink at \$7.50 per person				
8	00					
P.M.	30					
9	00					
P.M.	30	Travel to North Greenwood Baptist Church in Greenwood (56.2 Mi / 1 Hr 9 Min)				

QUAPAW CANOE COMPANY

CLARKSDALE, MS

In its 11 years of operation Quapaw Canoe Company has demonstrated the viability of safe canoeing on the Lower Mississippi River with countless expeditions involving churches, schools, boy scouts, girl scouts, families, couples and individuals. Quapaw has successfully & safely guided over 1,000s of people on the river. Quapaw Canoe Company is underwritten by Lloyd's of London through Worldwide Outfitters & Guides Association. All expeditions are outfitted with first-aid kits, rescue ropes, life preservers, cellular communication, and VHF marine radio. Life Jackets are best quality US Coast Guard approved type III Life Jackets. Guides stringently practice safe canoeing and are knowledgeable in all aspects of wilderness survival and canoe rescue. Please remember that river travel is always somewhat dependent on river level and prevailing weather.

Founder/Owner John Ruskey has been paddling the river since 1982, and is probably its most knowledgeable guide. Quapaw Canoe Company provides custom-guided canoe & kayak expeditions, day floats and other paddling adventures along the Lower Mississippi River from Cairo Illinois to St. Francisville, Louisiana. Spectacular reaches include the Kentucky Bluffs, Bessie's Bend (20 mile bend of the river to go one mile), the 4 Chickasaw Bluffs, Memphis to Vicksburg (300 miles of remote river, only 2 bridges, only one town), Confluence of the Arkansas River & surrounding wilderness areas (rich habitat for the Louisiana Black Bear), Vicksburg to Natchez-Under-the-Hill, Natchez to St. Francisville. Long stretches of river, almost no industry or point-source polluters, few towns, few bridges, big islands, big forests, most varied inland fishery in North America, 60% of America's songbirds, 40% of its migrating waterfowl. Longest free-flowing River (1160 miles). No dams. No schedule: we go whenever our clients are ready. Apprenticeship program for Clarksdale youth, the Mighty Quapaws. Friends of the Sunflower River established 2005.



John Ruskey - River Guide



John Ruskey has been paddling the Mississippi River since 1982 and is the most knowledgeable guide on its Lower reaches, with extensive canoeing & kayaking experience on the Arkansas, the Yazoo, the St. Francis, the White, the Big Sunflower and the Big Black Rivers. In 1998 he founded the first wilderness outfitting business on the entire Lower Mississippi River, Quapaw Canoe Company. John has guided National Geographic Adventure, Outside Magazine, the BBC, Irish Public Television, the Food Network, ESPN Outdoors.com and other media in various river adventures & expeditions on the Mississippi, as well as prominent authors John Barry (Rising Tide) and Tony Horwitz (Blues Latitudes, A Voyage Long & Strange). John builds voyageur style stripper canoes for use on the wild waters of the Lower Mississippi River, and is one of the most experienced builders of dugout canoes in the

country. 2002-2006 John oversaw the construction of 3 dugout canoes for the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Re-enactment, and helped the twenty-first century Corps of Discovery paddle those canoes up and down the Missouri, the Yellowstone, the Clearwater, the Snake, the Columbia, and other rivers of America. In 2007 Chinook elder & master canoe builder George Lagergren (94y/o) asked John to renovate 2 of his traditional Chinook dugouts which are now ceremonially housed in tribal headquarters, Wilapa Bay Washington. John is a musician, painter and writer. He was the first curator of the Delta Blues Museum (1992-98) and is co-founder of the Delta Blues Education Fund. In 1998 he established Quapaw Canoe Company to provide guided canoe & kayak expeditions on the Lower Mississippi River & its muddy tributaries. Simultaneously he founded the Mighty Quapaws Apprenticeship Program for the youth of the Mississippi Delta, most of whom come from severely distressed neighborhoods. Please visit www.island63.com for more information about the Mighty Quapaws and Quapaw Canoe Company.



TIME		WEDNESDAY 3/14 GROUP A	WEDNESDAY 3/14 GROUP B	WEDNESDAY 3/14 GROUP C	WEDNESDAY 3/14 LOGISTICS TEAM
6 A.M.	00 30	Prepare & eat breakfast, get ready and load up vans			*Group B
7 A.M.	00 30				
8 A.M.	00 30				
Load up and travel to Delta & Pineland Co. (66.5 MI / 1 Hr 20 Min)					
9 A.M.	00 30				
Delta & Pineland					
10 A.M.	00 30				
11 A.M.	00 30				
Catfish Lunch (End by 11:45 p.m.)					
12 P.M.	00 30				
Load up at 11:45 and travel to Winterville Indian Mounds (18 MI / 26 Min)					
1 P.M.	00 30				
Tour Museum & Mound					
2 P.M.	00 30				
Travel to Viking Range Corporation (52.9 MI / 1 Hr 4 Min)					
3 P.M.	00 30				
Viking Range Corporation *Tour of Plant					
4 P.M.	00 30				
*Question & Answer Session on Corporate Vision and Responsibilities *Tour of Revitalized Downtown Greenwood *Cooking Demonstration *Social and Dinner					
5 P.M.	00 30				
6 P.M.	00 30				
7 P.M.	00 30				
8 P.M.	00 30				
Return to NGBC					

DELTA & PINELAND COMPANY - LEARNING CENTER

SCOTT, MS

What is Monsanto's "Scott, MS Learning Center?"

The Learning Center at Scott, Mississippi provides growers and producers the ability to tour our research and demonstration plots focused on presenting advanced agronomic studies.

At a Glance

- Scott, MS
- 130 acres of research and demonstration plots
- Showcases all three of Monsanto's core crops: corn, cotton and soybeans
- Rain-fed, and furrow irrigation systems
- Soil types from rich, river-deposited silty loams to heavier clays
- State-of-the art classroom facilities

What will I see on a visit to The Learning Center?

Visitors to the Learning Center will see research and demonstration plots with the latest corn, cotton and soybean germplasm and technologies from Monsanto from a systems perspective. While specific Monsanto germplasm and traits are utilized, determining the best agronomic practices for these products is the focal point for our investigations. In addition to these studies, visitors will be able to view the newest technologies from Monsanto which are currently in the development pipeline.



WINTERVILLE INDIAN MOUNDS

GREENVILLE, MS



Winterville Mounds, named for a nearby community, is the site of a prehistoric ceremonial center built by a Native American civilization that thrived from about A.D. 1000 to 1450. The mounds, part of the Winterville society's religious system, were the site of sacred structures and ceremonies. Archaeological evidence indicates that the Winterville people lived away from the mound center on family farms in scattered settlement districts throughout the Yazoo-Mississippi River Delta basin. Only a few of the highest-ranking tribal officials lived at the mound center.

The Winterville ceremonial center originally contained at least twenty-three mounds. Some of the mounds located outside the park boundaries have been leveled by highway construction and farming. Twelve of the site's largest mounds, including the 55-foot-high Temple Mound, are currently the focus of a long-range preservation plan being developed by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the University of Mississippi's Center for Archaeological Research.

Archaeological evidence indicates that the Indians who used the Winterville Mounds may have had a civilization similar to that of the Natchez Indians, a Mississippi tribe documented by French explorers and settlers in the early 1700s. The Natchez Indians' society was divided into upper and lower ranks, with a person's social rank determined by heredity through the female line. The chief and other tribal officials inherited their positions as members of the royal family. The elaborate leadership network made mound building by a civilian labor force possible.

A great fire during the late 1300s consumed the original building on the Temple Mound at Winterville. According to archaeological evidence, the cause of the fire remains a mystery. The site continued to be used afterwards, but no more mounds were built or maintained. Even though the site continued to be occupied after the fire, the general population declined at Winterville while increasing at settlements and mound sites 50 miles to the south, in the lower Yazoo River basin. By 1450 A.D. the Winterville Mound site appears to have been abandoned completely.



VIKING RANGE CORPORATION

GREENWOOD, MS

Made in America: Viking Range Corporation: Revitalizing Greenwood, Mississippi One Kitchen Product at a Time



Over the last decade Greenwood, Miss., a town of 18,000, has lost more than 2,000 jobs as the town's top employers took their manufacturing abroad.

"About eight years ago, we lost about three manufacturing plants due to companies leaving here and going to Mexico where they can get labor done cheaper, but Viking saved Greenwood, because Viking decided to stay here with us," said Bridgette Matthews, an employee at Viking Range Corporation who has lived in Greenwood for more than 40 years. "If Viking had left us like the other three manufacturing plants have done, Greenwood would be, it would be awful."

Viking, began making ranges in 1989 and has branched out to produce a variety of kitchen goods that include ovens, dishwashers and refrigerators. For CEO Fred Carl choosing Greenwood as the location for his company was easy.

"This is my home, it's very simple, this is where I'm from, this is my home so this is where it needed to be," said Carl. "We (Greenwood) were in a real serious state of decline ... well before the time I started the company. ... We've (Viking) been able to create jobs, and become one of the town's biggest employers, we are real serious about being a corporate citizen and giving back to the community."

Viking's impact in the community is evident everywhere. The company's headquarters is located in the town's old opera house and in addition to its four plants and one distribution center it also runs a cooking school, a restaurant and has opened a boutique hotel and spa in an abandoned downtown building.

The company has not only revitalized Greenwood, but also come to define it. "The business has been successful, we are a well-known brand, a high-end brand, and it gives our little town something to brag about," said Carl.

"It's always good for a little town like ours to have something to brag about, so I get a big kick out of that too, and I think that's important. Community pride is just so important." "It's a good feeling to know that it was made right here in Greenwood, Mississippi," said Matthews. "Whereas a lot of people really don't know that the root is right here in Greenwood, ... it's very important to us, and we pray that we keep it right here. ... If it wasn't for Viking, Greenwood would be a ghost town."

Carl says that despite the recent economic pressure he refuses to even think about moving the company abroad. "Unemployment is fairly high here. We are in the most impoverished area of the most impoverished state in the US. So you can imagine the need for jobs here." The down economy has caused Carl to cut his workforce as well as the number of production days. In 2009 the company employed 1,200 people, today it employs 975. "Sales have dropped off, so we have just had to adjust our employment accordingly," said Carl. "We used to run six day a week, now we are four or five days a week. So its been tough."

As an active member of the community, Carl sees the pain of the cutbacks first hand. "It's awful, it's terrible. Especially when you live here and a lot of these people are your friends, and you know them and you see them out on the assembly line, and you see them in town, it's just terrible, worst thing I've ever been through."

"I know people that have lost their jobs, they miss it tremendously. There's nothing else round here like what we have," said Matthews. "Viking is one of the best, one of the best companies around here." Carl says in addition to price, where a product is made should factor into people's purchasing decisions. "It's my responsibility to buy American made products, and I hope that becomes a movement." A movement that Carl believes can create jobs and keep Americans working.



TIME	THURSDAY 3/15 GROUP A	THURSDAY 3/15 GROUP B	THURSDAY 3/15 GROUP C	THURSDAY 3/15 LOGISTICS TEAM
6 A.M.	00 30	*Group C Prepare & Eat Breakfast and Get Ready		
7 A.M.	00 30	Load Vans and Travel to Dulaney Farm in Clarkesdale (64 Mi / 1 Hr 18 Min)		
8 A.M.	00 30	Visit Dulaney Farm in Clarkesdale		
9 A.M.	00 30	Travel to Delta Blues Museum (10.6 Mi / 22 Min)		
10 A.M.	00 30	Tear into Delta Blues Museum		
11 A.M.	00 30	Eat Brown Bag Lunch while Traveling to Clarkesdale High School for Service (2.3 Mi / 6 Min)		
12 P.M.	00 30	Service Project with Ben Pinon at Clarkesdale High School - 1) Construct four low, wooden planters; 2) Building several composting bins; and Plant some seeds if time permits		
1 P.M.	00 30	Service Project with Sunflower Freedom Project at the LEAD Center - Painting Red and Yellow Rooms		
2 P.M.	00 30	Travel to DSU to Shower at Fitness Center (25.1 Mi / 53 Min)		
3 P.M.	00 30	Get Ready for Dinner - Shower and Get Dressed DSU's Fitness Center		
4 P.M.	00 30	Travel to Ground Zero (37.8 Mi / 48 Min)		
5 P.M.	00 30	Dinner at Ground Zero (Dutch \$18) & Listen to Live Band that starts at 8:00 P.M.		
6 P.M.	00 30	Optional trip to Poor Monkey Lounge or back to Wesley House in Cleveland		
7 P.M.	00 30			
8 P.M.	00 30			
9 P.M.	00 30			

DELTA BLUES MUSEUM

CLARKSDALE, MS

Mission Statement

The Delta Blues Museum is dedicated to creating a welcoming place where visitors find meaning, value, and perspective by exploring the history and heritage of the unique American musical art form of the blues.

History

The City of Clarksdale, located at the intersection of Highways 61 and 49 (“the crossroads”), and the surrounding Delta region are known as “the land where the blues began.”

Since its creation, the Delta Blues Museum has preserved, interpreted, and encouraged a deep interest in the story of the blues. Established in 1979 by the Carnegie Public Library Board of Trustees and re-organized as a stand-alone museum in 1999, the Delta Blues Museum is the state’s oldest music museum. A five-member board appointed by the Mayor and Board of Commissioners of Clarksdale governs the museum. Funded by the City of Clarksdale, admissions, memberships, gift shop revenue, granting agencies and donations, the museum uses public and private funds to carry out its mission.

Museum Sites

Since 1999, the Delta Blues Museum has been housed in the historic Clarksdale freight depot, built in 1918 for the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad. The building was designated a Mississippi Landmark Property in 1996. The former freight area- about five thousand square feet of ground floor space – is devoted to permanent and traveling exhibits.

The Delta Blues Museum Stage is adjacent to the museum classroom, which hosts a year-round music education program as well as lectures and symposia. The Delta Blues Museum Stage serves as the main venue for local festivals such as the Sunflower River Blues and Gospel Festival in August and the Juke Joint Festival in April.



HEALTH CORPS AT CLARKSDALE HIGH SCHOOL

CLARKSDALE, MS

Vision

HealthCorps®, a proactive health movement co-founded by heart surgeon Dr. Mehmet Oz and his wife Lisa, is fighting the obesity and mental resilience crisis by getting American students and communities across the country to take charge of their health.

Our three priorities are:

- 1) **Educating the Student Body**— our in-school program to empower and educate youth and faculty about their bodies, their environments and their abilities to affect them.
- 2) Like a ***Peace Corps for Health***, HealthCorps is a national service and peer mentoring initiative. In high schools, HealthCorps “Coordinators” empower teens in underserved populations to make simple lifestyle changes to enhance their well-being and resilience and take the message to friends, families and neighbors.
- 3) Recent college graduates become HealthCorps “Coordinators” for two years and defer medical school or graduate health program studies to peer-mentor as public service - helping teens, their teachers and their families become health activists through:
 - Our fun, experiential curriculum, developed with leading health and integrative medicine experts; Nutrition, Fitness and Mental Resilience in-school seminars and after school clubs.
 - Pedometer contests for students and teachers
 - Tools to create educated consumers: food label, portion and ingredient label deciphering
 - Tools to build mental resilience: stress reducers, self esteem and hope builders
 - Practical exercise like walking, yoga and simple strength building routines
 - Service learning projects to teach other students HealthCorps lessons
 - Field trips to organic farms, hospitals, museums
 - Teen Iron Chef cooking lessons and competitions
 - Parent’s Nights

Agriculture/Farming Clarksdale High School Garden



Working with the Healthcorps Coordinator placed at Clarksdale High School, Delta Directions helped to establish a school garden at Clarksdale High School. The garden includes a 20'x40' hoop house, several raised beds, and a plot of land. The students worked in the garden as an afterschool activity during the school year and four students were hired as summer workers in the garden. These students also come to sell the produce at the Clarksdale Farmers Market each week to raise money for the sustainability of the garden.

This project was created through the generosity of the Rock River Foundation, the Get A Life program of the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi, the Clarksdale Garden Club, and the Coahoma County Health Council.



LEAD CENTER - SUNFLOWER COUNTY FREEDOM PROJECT

SUNFLOWER, MS



Why is it Called the 'Freedom Project'?

The “freedom” in the Sunflower County Freedom Project honors both the past and the future. Inspired by the “Freedom Schools” that were established in Sunflower County and throughout Mississippi during Freedom Summer in 1964, our organization uses the history of the 1960s civil rights movement to motivate our students to become capable and compassionate leaders in their communities.

Beginning in their first summer, all students are immersed in a curriculum that emphasizes the civil rights movement, and the leaders of the freedom struggle stand as historical models for our students to follow. From reading about the movement, interviewing movement veterans, and visiting movement sites, students learn that to live up to their heritage and make freedom real today, they must take advantage of the opportunities available to them — opportunities won through their ancestors’ struggles. They learn that they must push themselves to become educated and disciplined enough to make positive changes in themselves and their communities.

Where We Work

The Freedom Project’s LEAD Center is located in the Town of Sunflower (population approximately 1000, located roughly 100 miles north of Jackson and 150 miles south of Memphis). Freedom Fellows come from Sunflower and the surrounding towns of Indianola, Moorhead, Ruleville, and Leland. Despite its cheery name, Sunflower County can be a tough place to grow up. Sunflower has a median family income that is roughly half the national average, while the teenage pregnancy rate is roughly triple the national average, according to the Census Bureau. Local public schools struggle to provide an adequate education. The average ACT score in Sunflower County is 16.3, nearly 25% lower than the national average. Nearly 41% of students will leave high school without earning a diploma. Compounding these already daunting problems is the difficult truth that the Mississippi Delta continues to be one of the most racially segregated and racially charged regions in America.

Despite these obstacles, the community in Sunflower County is a dynamic force primed for change and willing to work hard to create a better future for children. The Freedom Project is a resource for public school students and their families who are motivated to achieve more than their situations have afforded them, and who are willing to do so by striving toward higher education. We are continually working toward creating a corps of academically capable, socially conscious and mentally disciplined young leaders in the Mississippi Delta.





History

The Freedom Project is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to educational excellence and leadership development in Sunflower County, Mississippi. We use the history and spirit of the 1960s freedom struggle to motivate young people to become capable and compassionate leaders in their communities.

The Freedom Project was founded by Chris Myers Asch, Shawn Raymond, and Gregg Costa in 1998. All three had served as Teach for America/Americorps teachers in Sunflower County and were thus acutely aware of the need for an educational program that would challenge and engage young people in the area. Initially a summer program held at Mississippi Delta Community College, the Freedom Project grew into a year-round fellowship with a residential summer program at the University of Mississippi. In 2002, we purchased two abandoned buildings in Sunflower, Mississippi, and built the LEAD Center, a permanent home for all our programs.

Now in its 13th year, the Freedom Project offers middle and high school students intensive academic enrichment, mentoring, educational travel, physical education, drama performances, and art classes. Four consecutive classes of Freedom Fellows have graduated from Sunflower County high schools and enrolled in colleges around the country. We develop our students' confidence and leadership ability by demanding genuine achievement and performance — we accept no excuses for anything less.

GROUND ZERO BLUES CLUB

CLARKSDALE, MS



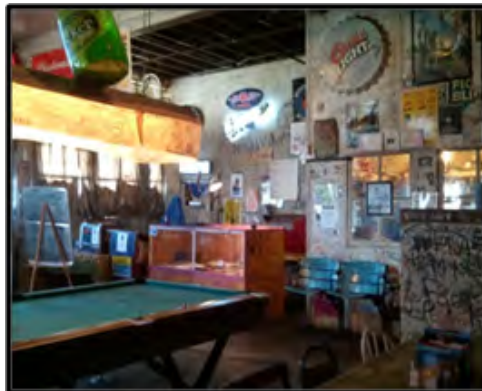
Clarksdale, Mississippi has long been described as "Ground Zero" for blues aficionados from around the globe. It all started here. That's why Ground Zero Blues Club® was created — to celebrate the area's rich blues heritage and to provide a forum in which it can continue.

Located at Ø Blues Alley next door to the Delta Blues Museum in the heart of historic downtown Clarksdale, Ground Zero Blues Club® opened in May 2001. Owned by local attorney and businessman, Bill Luckett; Academy Award-winning actor and Mississippi Delta resident, Morgan Freeman; and Clarksdale native and Memphis entertainment executive, Howard Stovall; Ground Zero Blues Club® is the place for anyone looking for an authentic Delta Blues experience.



Our mission is to showcase the best of today's Delta Blues musicians. Although some national acts perform from time to time, visitors are more likely to find the "real deal" at Ground Zero Blues Club® — those musicians who live in the Mississippi Delta and continue in the tradition of their musical forefathers Charley Patton, Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker. Wednesday through Saturday there is always live music at Ground Zero Blues Club® (and even on a few Sundays when the occasion arises). We serve a "down home" menu ranging from plate lunches featuring the freshest vegetables and traditional Southern dishes to juicy hamburgers and - of course — crispy fried catfish and slow-cooked pork barbecue.

Ground Zero Blues Club® has been featured on CBS' 60 Minutes, CNN, Turner South, The Food Network, The Travel Channel, and The Discovery Channel and was the site for filming of *Last of The Mississippi Jukes* and *Blues Divas*. Named in 2005 as one of the "Top 100 Bars and Nightclubs in America" the club has been featured in publications such as *National Geographic Traveler*, *Southern Living*, *USA Today*, *Esquire* Japan, *Food and Wine*, *The Washington Post* and *TV Guide* — to name but a few.



POOR (PO') MONKEY'S LOUNGE

MERIGOLD, MS

Inside Poor Monkey's
By Luther Brown, Delta State University



Transformed in the 1950s from a sharecropper shack that was built probably in the 1920s, Poor Monkey's Lounge is the one of the last rural jook joints in the Mississippi Delta. There are several remaining urban jooks, and some modern reincarnations designed to reflect old time places, but virtually no rural jooks remain. These places were once common. Before the Great Migration to the North and the exodus to towns and cities, hundreds of thousands of sharecroppers and small farmers peopled the countryside in the days when one person and one mule worked ten acres. Today, on this depopulated countryside, one tractor works a thousand acres. The effects of TV, and the appeal of casinos, recorded music, iPods, and restaurants have also drawn customers away.

Poor Monkey's epitomizes the jook, the kind of place where the Blues was incubated until it gelled into a recognizable art form. As one local woman told me recently, when you go to a jook, you feel like everyone there is all one person, all sharing the same feelings.

Introduction

Poor Monkey's sits in a cotton field in Bolivar County, west of the town of Merigold on the Hiter farm, land worked by members of the same family for generations. Monkey's is the only surviving sharecropper shanty on this land, although there are remains of a few others nearby. In the early 1950s, Willie Seaberry, known as Poor (Po') Monkey, began to operate the unused sharecropper house as a lounge.

The building is made of unpainted cypress planks, roofed with corrugated galvanized steel that is often referred to as a "tin." It is windowless, but has three doors. The front sports several faded, hand-painted signs. One describes the dress code by saying "not like this" next to a picture of a man with his cap on backwards, and "not like that" next to an image of a man with his underpants showing above his waist. Other signs tell patrons not to bring beer inside, "no loud music" (consistently spelled "lounld"), and "no dope smoking."

Lounge

In the early twenty-first century, Poor Monkey's is only reliably open Thursday nights, starting around 8:30 and closing in the early hours of Friday morning. This is the night Po' Monkey calls "Family Night," and many people in the Delta will tell you that the weekend starts then. Guests are met at the door, either by Monkey or one of his regular greeters. Admission is normally \$5. A DJ plays soul blues, R&B, and soul. Beer and soft drinks are sold from the kitchen through a Dutch door. Many customers bring their own Crown Royal, which is acceptable as long as they buy mixers. By ten o'clock, although the lounge grows smoky and raucous, a code of behavior operates: no drugs, no violence, and no disrespect.

The Poor Monkey crowd is made up almost entirely of local regulars, and is usually integrated. It is not uncommon to meet an American travel or blues writer or a visitor from Europe or Asia, and these special guests are taken around the room by Mr. Seaberry and introduced to the regulars, who are generally eager to talk. Crowds rarely exceed two dozen at any given time. Traditional blues bands as well as fraternities from nearby Delta State University sometimes book the lounge, but these uses don't interfere with the Thursday night routine.

Seaberry's small space has also made a mark on the global landscape. Poor Monkey's Lounge has been featured as a cover photograph of the Oxford American, a two-page spread in Annie Leibovitz's American Music, photos in Vanity Fair and Esquire magazine's Japan edition. Newspapers from the Memphis Commercial Appeal to the New York Times have published descriptions and photos. The floor plan of the lounge has been analyzed as an example of vernacular architecture in Mississippi Folklife. The Lounge and Willie Seaberry were featured in a two-hour Japanese television show, and a Voice of America television broadcast to Chinese viewers. Bluesman Floyd Lee filmed a portion of his bio-pic here, and websites feature the Lounge in English and French.

The Hiter family gave Mr. Seaberry a lifetime lease on the property. There are some locals who would prefer to see the place end after Seaberry's death, since he is personally so much a part of it. Others would like it preserved, and some have even suggested that it should be moved and "cleaned up" as was done to the log cabin that Muddy Waters grew up in. The Delta Center for Culture and Learning is filing preliminary paperwork to have the building added to the National Register of Historic Places, and the Bolivar County Board of Supervisors renamed the nearby road, "Poor Monkey's Road." Tour groups stop here regularly, as do college students on field trips from around the United States.

NOTE: In early spring 2006, Seaberry started calling the Lounge, "Poor Monkey's Social Club."



Poor Monkey

Since 1963 Willie Seaberry has lived in a tiny single room of the building, filled almost completely by his bed. A slightly larger kitchen serves as a bar when the lounge is open, and the rest of the building includes space for several large tables, a pool table, and a stage area for live bands or a disc jockey. Sixty to seventy people can dance, move around, or sit.

Seen from the outside, the lounge is a shanty. Inside, the space opens into an array of colors and sounds. Three mounted TV sets display different programs. Strings of Christmas and rope lights flash. A disco ball reflects

a rainbow of colors off walls covered either with foil or loud floral prints. Large, cut-out letters spell “Season’s Greetings” year round, and tinsel in multiple lengths and shapes hangs from the ceiling. Walls are carpeted with photographs of images ranging from school graduation to promotional shots of strippers. Stuffed or sculptural monkeys, some amended with a plastic banana or a lifelike dildo, hang from beams or sit in corners, along with a few naked plastic baby dolls. A sign over the Dutch door separating the kitchen from the main public space, through which beverage purchases are passed, reads, “This is a high class place. Act respectable.”

In one corner stands a large, welded-metal sculpture of Willie Seaberry holding a guitar, made by Monkey’s friend Larry Grimes. From the sculpture’s mouth protrudes a bolt with a red end, representing Monkey’s signature cigar. Attached to the sculpture’s waist is a pair of handcuffs, perhaps indicating that he is the local “law.” A monkey sits on the sculpture’s head. At the far end of the main room is the DJ’s booth, surrounded by large speakers and a huge sign advertising Heineken beer.

On most Thursdays, an elderly man sits quietly behind the DJ on a stool. This is “Dr. Tissue,” who has been a fixture at the Lounge “from the beginning” according to Mr. Seaberry. On Halloween, 2005, a wooden military surplus coffin was added to the outside of the Lounge with the words “Rest in Peace Poor Monkey” painted on it and a stuffed toy gorilla sticking out of one end.

The metamorphosis that changes the shanty into a party-land affects its proprietor and his regulars. Most days, as he drives a tractor or operates a cotton picker, Seaberry wears overalls. In his lounge he favors bright, color-coordinated suits, with matching belt buckles, derby or cowboy hats, and boots. If he’s feeling up to it, he changes clothing in his bedroom every hour or so and emerges, strutting as if on a fashion show runway, in baby blue, bright white, crimson, yellow, plaid, or even highly reflective silver. Seaberry sometimes further accessorizes his wardrobe with large signs around his neck. One reads “For Sale” on one side, and is flipped over to reveal “Private Property.” Another reads “Beer Drinkers Make Better Lovers,” with “3 Way or 4 Way” on the reverse.



WESLEY FOUNDATION AT DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

CLEVELAND, MS



We will be staying Wesley Foundation House located on Delta State University's campus in Cleveland, MS on Thursday night. The Wesley Foundation is a campus ministry affiliated with the United Methodist Church for the students of Delta State University. The Wesley is a place for all students, regardless of denominational background, to come and freely worship God, hangout with other believers, and to grow in their relationship with Jesus.



TIME	FRIDAY 3/16 GROUP A	FRIDAY 3/16 GROUP B	FRIDAY 3/16 GROUP C	FRIDAY 3/16 LOGISTICS TEAM
6 A.M.				*Group D
7 A.M.				
8 A.M.				
9 A.M.				
10 A.M.				
11 A.M.				
12 P.M.				
1 P.M.				
2 P.M.				
3 P.M.				
4 P.M.				
5 P.M.				
6 P.M.				
7 P.M.				
8 P.M.				

*Group D

Prepare & eat breakfast, get ready and load up vans

Travel from Cleveland (Wesley House at DSU) to Farm in Mound Bayou (11.7 Mi / 18 Min)

Visit Black Farm in Mound Bayou

Travel to Shelby for Service (5.7 Mi / 11 Min)

Service Project with MEGA Training Center

- 1) Construct greenhouse,
- 2) Design herb garden, &
- 3) Work with youth- community garden and composting

Travel to LEAD Center
(39 Mi / 47 Min)

Meet and Interact with LEAD Students -

- 1) 45 minutes of ice breakers
- 2) 30 minutes of small group discussion
- 3) Dinner with kids - local grocer will prepare us a meal at a cost of \$7.50 per person

Travel to Mississippi State University
(116 Mi / 2 Hr 10 Min)

MISSISSIPPIANS ENGAGED IN GREENER AGRICULTURE (MEGA)

MEGA: Mississippi Delta

Knowing people on a southern road trip is especially important on Sunday. That's when the food spreads across tables like an edible flea market. After the Hoxie situation, we had caved and slept in our first motel, the Scottish Inns of Jonesboro, AR. We wake up with a shower and head straight for Memphis and a good friend, Ellen Rolfes. There we whip up a Kansas-City-farm egg scramble with dill, spinach, and garlic shoots. We brew Sumatra coffee. Ellen, who has packaged and published numerous books celebrating southern food and its story-telling power, has buttery biscuits, a fruit salad, and an orzo dish of shrimp and dill and feta. We feast and talk, the French Open finals playing in the other room.



Highway 61 through the Delta is all about blues, corn, and soybeans.

Meanwhile, about a hundred miles south via Route 61 (aka The Blues Highway), Dorothy and Owen Grady-Scarborough attend church before sitting down to their own Sunday Supper. We find them after the meals have settled.

Dorothy and Owen stay beside Country Road 32, a half-mile and one left turn out of downtown Shelby. They live in a simple one-story ranch house with similar homes on either side. Yellow-green coco grass covers the front yards with the greater landscape a mono-color green of soybean or corn. This is the Mississippi Delta, home of the Harvard of high-tech agriculture research stations, Leland's Stoneville, and to the highest rates of diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease in the nation.

Dorothy believes one of the answers to these communities' health issues lies in the backyards and side-yards and churchyards. Behind the Grady-Scarborough's house lives part farm, part folk art installation. On one acre, Owen and Dorothy raise rabbits (in cages suspended over a compost pile), chickens, and a few goats that climb up and down the upturned baptismal tub that welcomed both Dorothy and Owen into the church as infants.

Peaches, plums, apples, and pear trees offer occasional shade and their trunks support a series of life-size hip-hop celebrities (50 Cent, Beyonce, Eminem) on wood paintings salvaged from a shuttered juke joint. There are rows of okra, butter beans, squash, cucumber, spinach, watermelon, grapes, lavender, lemon balm, oregano, basil, sage. And, of course, tomatoes.

“Back in the day, you could find tomatoes out there in the cotton fields,” Owen says. “You just go pick you some tomatoes, brush it off and eat it right there. We used to pick okra in the middle of the cotton field. They’d just grow wild. Now they’re spraying this stuff and killing it out. I used to like walking through those fields.” Dorothy and Owen, like most Delta residents over the age of 50, grew up on sharecropper farms. They chopped rows of cotton for twelve hours a day and made \$3 to \$12 for the work. The families never got ahead. That’s just how it worked until they started leaving for city jobs in the north.

“There was no option but to work in the fields,” Dorothy says. “That’s why a lot of people left the south – to get away from the fields.” “To get away from this,” Owen holds out the hoe he’s been leaning on. “I did. Moved to New York and didn’t come back ‘til I met this lady.” Dorothy has been backyard gardening for almost twenty years. In a town as small as Shelby, people notice and people listen to someone as strong, proud, and rooted as Dorothy, especially when she speaks through the ten churches in town. But even the churches hesitated back in the mid- 90s.

“The churches weren’t ready (for farming/gardening),” she says. “Our minister said, ‘Isn’t that what we’re getting away from?’ I said we’ve already gotten away from it. It’s been a lost art. I tell them now it has nothing to do with sharecropping. It’s for you. It can save you money and can make you money when you sell at market. This isn’t working in the fields. This is bettering your family and your health. People are getting into it.”

And Dorothy’s ripples reach outside of Shelby. A national leader in the urban farm movement, Will Allen of Milwaukee’s Growing Power organization, has christened Dorothy and her MEGA operation (Mississippians Engaging in Greener Agriculture) as the first ROTC program in the country. What began as a gift of chickens from Heifer International to Dorothy and Shelby has become the next satellite demonstration garden for a national movement aimed at teaching individuals about backyard and community gardening.

We meet Richard Coleman, the County Supervisor, at his ranch house in town. The family crowd is just leaving from their Sunday supper – a big one since there was a birthday. Richard shows us his plot out back – about 120 feet by 50 feet and full of okra, squash, butter beans, peas, tomatoes.

“I just sit indoors in an office,” he says. “I didn’t know what sweat was. So it’s a two-fold thing for me – it provides vegetables for my family and a pastime for me. I’ve already lost ten pounds this season. “You have to travel to Cleveland south or Clarksdale north to get what you need and that gets expensive, just with gas bills. It’s no comparison to get it right here.”

About twenty yards away, a smaller plot of the same produce thrives in a small square amid the coco grass. A dozen kids stay cool in a large inflatable pool nearby. Sean Jefferson walks over. Sean’s 32 years old and lives in the trailer next to Richard’s home. He works at Nature’s Catch, a bass-raising plant in Clarksdale, 20 miles north. His wife and four kids stay in the trailer with his mom and step-dad. “My grandfather used to raise food. I was about 11 or 12 when I had my first garden. I try to grow one every year. I usually just shovel it out but this year I tilled it. It cost me about \$7 or \$8 for seeds plus one bag of fertilizer. I grew it all from seed except for the tomato plants – bought those at a nursery.” He tends to it every day. Comes home after work and chops a little bit, does it all by himself.



Sean Jefferson gardens just like his grandfather taught him.

We visit a few other gardens. Louise, Dorothy's sister, shares a long row with two other gardeners. She describes some of the local lingo – “choppin’” means weeding down the rows with the hoe. “Rippin’ and runnin’” means staying busy and getting things done. Nearby we see the Shiloh Baptist Church's garden where members of the church work a rotational schedule to grow produce that's available for pick-up from the church fridge. Listen to Louise choppin’.

And our final stop takes us to Cornelius Toole's rambling property down in Mound Bayou, five miles south of Shelby. It's like the backyard, down-home version of Stoneville's “Big-Agriculture” experimental research station.

Maybe an answer to the Delta's and the nation's food deserts lies somewhere here among Toole's mad-farmer-scientist laboratory of tilapia tanks, hand-built backyard irrigation pipes, chicken coops, greenhouses, and one huge, faded-green John Deere sinking into the weeds.



Dorothy at one of the experimental greenhouse operations on Cornelius Toole's property.

A large green handprint graphic, oriented with the fingers pointing downwards. The text "ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK '12" is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the hand. Below it, the words "Daily Reflections" are written in a black, cursive-style font.

ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK '12

Daily Reflections

UNDERSTAND THE PAST,
SEE THE FUTURE,
& MAKE AN IMPACT...

DAILY REFLECTIONS

Sunday, March 11, 2012

- 1) What was “The Lesson” about? What was something you learned from reading this story?
- 2) How does “The Lesson” relate or apply to the MS Delta’s history and its future?

Monday, March 12, 2012

Group discussion on “The Lesson” and The Help facilitated by Kesha Perry.

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

- 1) What did you do today? How did this experience impact you? How did Mississippi River Clean Up project make an impact in the local community? Share a personal highlight from today’s experience and explain why it was significant to you.
- 2) What did you learn about the role that the Mississippi River played regarding the creation of the MS Delta? What is the River’s current influence and what does it mean for the future?

Wednesday, March 14, 201

- 1) What did you do today? Share a personal highlight from today’s experience. Why was this significant to you?
- 2) What are some of the historical remnants of the Delta that are still present? Do you think these are liabilities that will prevent progress or assets to be captured for a brighter tomorrow? Justify your answer.
- 3) What are your thoughts regarding the Viking Range Corporation? Do you think local folks would share your thoughts about the Viking Range Corporation or differ? Explain.

Thursday, March 15, 2012

- 1) What did you do today in terms of service? What are two things that you learned today while doing this service project? Share a personal highlight from today’s service and explain why this was significant to you.
- 2) How did this service project make an impact in the local community? Will what you did today have a lasting impact on improving conditions in the Delta?

Friday, March 16, 2012

- 1) What was the most rewarding part(s) of the Alternative Spring Break experience? Why is this significant to you?
- 2) Is there an opportunity for these Mississippi Delta communities to work together as a state-region to improve conditions? Are there broader opportunities for “Delta” regions in Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana to collaborate across state lines? What would the intrastate and interstate collaborations look like?
- 3) How did the Alternative Spring Break experience deepen your understanding of the MS Delta, its history, current conditions, and future opportunities? Explain.

The Lesson

Toni Cade Bambara (1939-1995)

Back in the days when everyone was old and stupid or young and foolish and me and Sugar were the only ones just right, this lady moved on our block with nappy hair and proper speech and no makeup. And quite naturally we laughed at her, laughed the way we did at the junk man who went about his business like he was some big-time president and his sorry-ass horse his secretary. And we kinda hated her too, hated the way we did the winos who cluttered up our parks and pissed on our handball walls and stank up our hallways and stairs so you couldn't halfway play hide-and-seek without a goddamn gas mask. Miss Moore was her name. The only woman on the block with no first name. And she was black as hell, cept for her feet, which were fish-white and spooky. And she was always planning these boring-ass things for us to do, us being my cousin, mostly, who lived on the block cause we all moved North the same time and to the same apartment then spread out gradual to breathe. And our parents would yank our heads into some kinda shape and crisp up our clothes so we'd be presentable for travel with Miss Moore, who always looked like she was going to church though she never did. Which is just one of the things the grownups talked about when they talked behind her back like a dog. But when she came calling with some sachet she'd sewed up or some gingerbread she'd made or some book, why then they'd all be too embarrassed to turn her down and we'd get handed over all spruced up. She'd been to college and said it was only right that she should take responsibility for the young ones' education, and she not even related by marriage or blood. So they'd go for it. Specially Aunt Gretchen. She was the main gofer in the family. You got some ole dumb shit foolishness you want somebody to go for, you send for Aunt Gretchen. She been screwed into the go-along for so long, it's a blood-deep natural thing with her. Which is how she got saddled with me and Sugar and Junior in the first place while our mothers were in a la-de-da apartment up the block having a good ole time.

So this one day Miss Moore rounds us all up at the mailbox and it's puredee hot and she's knockin herself out about arithmetic. And school suppose to let up in summer I heard, but she don't never let up. And the starch in my pinafore scratching the shit outta me and I'm really hating this nappy-head bitch and her goddamn college degree. I'd much rather go to the pool or to the show where it's cool. So me and Sugar leaning on the mailbox being surly, which is a Miss Moore word. And Flyboy checking out what everybody brought for lunch. And Fat Butt already wasting his peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwich like the pig he is. And Junebug punchin on Q.T.'s arm for potato chips. And Rosie Giraffe shifting from one hip to the other waiting for somebody to step on her foot or ask her if she from Georgia so she can kick ass, preferably Mercedes'. And Miss Moore asking us do we know what money is like we a bunch of retards. I mean real money, she say, like it's only poker chips or monopoly papers we lay on the grocer. So right away I'm tired of this and say so. And would much rather snatch Sugar and go to the Sunset and terrorize the West Indian kids and take their hair ribbons and their money too. And Miss Moore files that remark away for next week's lesson on brotherhood, I can tell. And finally I say we oughta get to the subway cause it's cooler an' besides we might meet some cute boys. Sugar done swiped her mama's lipstick, so we ready.

So we heading down the street and she's boring us silly about what things cost and what our parents make and how much goes for rent and how money ain't divided up right in this country. And then she gets to the part about we all poor and live in the slums which I don't feature. And I'm ready to speak on that, but she steps out in the street and hails two cabs just like that. Then she hustles half the crew in with her and hands me a five-dollar bill and tells me to calculate 10 percent tip for the driver. And we're off. Me and Sugar and Junebug and Flyboy hangin out the window and hollering to everybody, putting lipstick on each other cause Flyboy a faggot anyway, and making farts with our sweaty armpits. But I'm mostly trying to figure how to spend this money. But they are fascinated with the meter ticking and Junebug starts laying bets as to how much it'll read when Flyboy can't hold his breath no more. Then Sugar lays bets as to how much it'll be when we get there. So I'm stuck. Don't nobody want to go for my plan, which is to jump out at the next light and run off to the first bar-b-que we can find. Then the driver tells us to get the hell out cause we there already. And the meter reads eighty-five cents. And I'm stalling to figure out the

tip and Sugar say give him a dime. And I decide he don't need it bad as I do, so later for him. But then he tries to take off with Junebug foot still in the door so we talk about his mama something ferocious. Then we check out that we on Fifth Avenue and everybody dressed up in stockings. One lady in a fur coat, hot as it is. White folks crazy.

"This is the place," Miss Moore say, presenting it to us in the voice she uses at the museum. "Let's look in the windows before we go in."

"Can we steal?" Sugar asks very serious like she's getting the ground rules squared away before she plays. "I beg your pardon," say Miss Moore, and we fall out. So she leads us around the windows of the toy store and me and Sugar screamin, "This is mine, that's mine, I gotta have that, that was made for me, I was born for that," till Big Butt drowns us out.

"Hey, I'm goin to buy that there."

"That there? You don't even know what it is, stupid."

"I do so," he say punchin on Rosie Giraffe. "It's a microscope."

"Whatcha gonna do with a microscope, fool?"

"Look at things."

"Like what, Ronald?" ask Miss Moore. And Big Butt ain't got the first notion. So here go Miss Moore gabbing about the thousands of bacteria in a drop of water and the somethinorother in a speck of blood and the million and one living things in the air around us is invisible to the naked eye. And what she say that for? Junebug go to town on that "naked" and we rolling. Then Miss Moore ask what it cost. So we all jam into the window smudgin it up and the price tag say \$300. So then she ask how long'd take for Big Butt and Junebug to save up their allowances. "Too long," I say. "Yeh," adds Sugar, "outgrown it by that time." And Miss Moore say no, you never outgrow learning instruments. "Why, even medical students and interns and," blah, blah, blah. And we ready to choke Big Butt for bringing it up in the first damn place.

"This here costs four hundred eighty dollars," say Rosie Giraffe. So we pile up all over her to see what she pointin out. My eyes tell me it's a chunk of glass cracked with something heavy, and different-color inks dripped into the splits, then the whole thing put into a oven or something. But for \$480 it don't make sense.

"That's a paperweight made of semi-precious stones fused together under tremendous pressure," she explains slowly, with her hands doing the mining and all the factory work.

"So what's a paperweight?" asks Rosie Giraffe.

"To weigh paper with, dumbbell," say Flyboy, the wise man from the East.

"Not exactly," say Miss Moore, which is what she say when you warm or way off too. "It's to weigh paper down so it won't scatter and make your desk untidy." So right away me and Sugar curtsy to each other and then to Mercedes who is more the tidy type.

"We don't keep paper on top of the desk in my class," say Junebug, figuring Miss Moore crazy or lyin one.

"At home, then," she say. "Don't you have a calendar and a pencil case and a blotter and a letter-opener on your desk at home where you do your homework?" And she know damn well what our homes look like cause she nosys around in them every chance she gets.

"I don't even have a desk," say Junebug. "Do we?"

"No. And I don't get no homework neither," says Big Butt.

"And I don't even have a home," say Flyboy like he do at school to keep the white folks off his back and sorry for him. Send this poor kid to camp posters, is his specialty.

"I do," says Mercedes. "I have a box of stationery on my desk and a picture of my cat. My godmother bought the stationery and the desk. There's a big rose on each sheet and the envelopes smell like roses."

"Who wants to know about your smelly-ass stationery," say Rosie Giraffe fore I can get my two cents in.

"It's important to have a work area all your own so that . . ."

"Will you look at this sailboat, please," say Flyboy, cuttin her off and pointin to the thing like it was his. So once again we tumble all over each other to gaze at this magnificent thing in the toy store which is just big enough to maybe sail two kittens across the pond if you strap them to the posts tight. We all start reciting the price tag like we in assembly. "Hand-crafted sailboat of fiberglass at one thousand one hundred ninety-five dollars."

"Unbelievable," I hear myself say and am really stunned. I read it again for myself just in case the group recitation put me in a trance. Same thing. For some reason this pisses me off. We look at Miss Moore and she lookin at us, waiting for I dunno what.

"Who'd pay all that when you can buy a sailboat set for a quarter at Pop's, a tube of glue for a dime, and a ball of string for eight cents? It must have a motor and a whole lot else besides," I say. "My sailboat cost me about fifty cents."

"But will it take water?" say Mercedes with her smart ass.

"Took mine to Alley Pond Park once," say Flyboy. "String broke. Lost it. Pity."

"Sailed mine in Gentrul Park and it keeled over and sank. Had to ask my father for another dollar."

"And you got the strap," laugh Big Butt. "The jerk didn't even have a string on it. My old man wailed on his behind."

Little Q.T. was staring hard at the sailboat and you could see he wanted it bad. But he too little and somebody'd just take it from him. So what the hell. "This boat for kids, Miss Moore?"

"Parents silly to buy something like that just to get all broke up," say Rosie Giraffe.

"That much money it should last forever," I figure.

"My father'd buy it for me if I wanted it."

"Your father, my ass," say Rosie Giraffe getting a chance to finally push Mercedes.

“Must be rich people shop here,” say Q.T.

“You are a very bright boy,” say Flyboy. “What was your first clue?” And he rap him on the head with the back of his knuckles, since Q.T. the only one he could get away with. Though Q.T. liable to come up behind you years later and get his licks in when you half expect it.

“What I want to know is,” I says to Miss Moore though I never talk to her, I wouldn't give the bitch that satisfaction, “is how much a real boat costs? I figure a thousand'd get you a yacht any day.”

“Why don't you check that out,” she says, “and report back to the group?” Which really pains my ass. If you gonna mess up a perfectly good swim day least you could do is have some answers. “Let's go in,” she say like she got something up her sleeve. Only she don't lead the way. So me and Sugar turn the corner to where the entrance is, but when we get there I kinda hang back. Not that I'm scared, what's there to be afraid of, just a toy store. But I feel funny, shame. But what I got to be shamed about? Got as much right to go in as anybody. But somehow I can't seem to get hold of the door, so I step away from Sugar to lead. But she hangs back too. And I look at her and she looks at me and this is ridiculous. I mean, damn, I have never ever been shy about doing nothing or going nowhere. But then Mercedes steps up and then Rosie Giraffe and Big Butt crowd in behind and shove, and next thing we all stuffed into the doorway with only Mercedes squeezing past us, smoothing out her jumper and walking right down the aisle. Then the rest of us tumble in like a glued-together jigsaw done all wrong. And people lookin at us. And it's like the time me and Sugar crashed into the Catholic church on a dare. But once we got in there and everything so hushed and holy and the candles and the bowin and the handkerchiefs on all the drooping heads, I just couldn't go through with the plan. Which was for me to run up to the altar and do a tap dance while Sugar played the nose flute and messed around in the holy water. And Sugar kept givin me the elbow. Then later teased me so bad I tied her up in the shower and turned it on and locked her in. And she'd be there till this day if Aunt Gretchen hadn't finally figured I was lyin about the boarder takin a shower.

Same thing in the store. We all walkin on tiptoe and hardly touchin the games and puzzles and things. And I watched Miss Moore who is steady watchin us like she waitin for a sign. Like Mama Drewery watches the sky and sniffs the air and takes note of just how much slant is in the bird formation. Then me and Sugar bump smack into each other, so busy gazing at the toys, 'specially the sailboat. But we don't laugh and go into our fat-lady bump-stomach routine. We just stare at that price tag. Then Sugar run a finger over the whole boat. And I'm jealous and want to hit her. Maybe not her, but I sure want to punch somebody in the mouth.

“Watcha bring us here for, Miss Moore?”

“You sound angry, Sylvia. Are you mad about something?” Givin me one of them grins like she tellin a grown-up joke that never turns out to be funny. And she's lookin very closely at me like maybe she plannin to do my portrait from memory. I'm mad, but I won't give her that satisfaction. So I slouch around the store bein very bored and say, “Let's go.”

Me and Sugar at the back of the train watchin the tracks whizzin by large then small then gettin gobbled up in the dark. I'm thinkin about this tricky toy I saw in the store. A clown that somersaults on a bar then does chin-ups just cause you yank lightly at his leg. Cost \$35. I could see me askin my mother for a \$35 birthday clown. “You wanna who that costs what?” she'd say, cocking her head to the side to get a better view of the hole in my head. Thirty-five dollars could buy new bunk beds for Junior and Gretchen's boy. Thirty-five dollars and the whole household could go visit Grand-daddy Nelson in the country. Thirty-five dollars would pay for the rent and the piano bill too. Who are these people that spend that much for performing clowns and \$1000 for toy sailboats? What kinda work they do and how they live and how come we ain't in on it? Where we are is who we are Miss Moore always

pointin out. But it don't necessarily have to be that way, she always adds then waits for somebody to say that poor people have to wake up and demand their share of the pie and don't none of us know what kind of pie she talking about in the first damn place. But she ain't so smart cause I still got her four dollars from the taxi and she sure ain't gettin it Messin up my day with this shit. Sugar nudges me in my pocket and winks.

Miss Moore lines us up in front of the mailbox where we started from, seem like years ago, and I got a headache for thinkin so hard. And we lean all over each other so we can hold up under the draggy ass lecture she always finishes us off with at the end before we thank her for borin us to tears. But she just looks at us like she readin tea leaves. Finally she say, "Well, what did you think of F.A.O. Schwarz?"

Rosie Giraffe mumbles, "White folks crazy."

"I'd like to go there again when I get my birthday money," says Mercedes, and we shove her out the pack so she has to lean on the mailbox by herself.

"I'd like a shower. Tiring day," say Flyboy.

Then Sugar surprises me by sayin, "You know, Miss Moore, I don't think all of us here put together eat in a year what that sailboat costs." And Miss Moore lights up like somebody goosed her. "And?" she say, urging Sugar on. Only I'm standin on her foot so she don't continue.

"Imagine for a minute what kind of society it is in which some people can spend on a toy what it would cost to feed a family of six or seven. What do you think?"

"I think," say Sugar pushing me off her feet like she never done before cause I whip her ass in a minute, "that this is not much of a democracy if you ask me. Equal chance to pursue happiness means an equal crack at the dough, don't it?" Miss Moore is besides herself and I am disgusted with Sugar's treachery. So I stand on her foot one more time to see if she'll shove me. She shuts up, and Miss Moore looks at me, sorrowfully I'm thinkin. And somethin weird is goin on, I can feel it in my chest. "Anybody else learn anything today?" lookin dead at me. I walk away and Sugar has to run to catch up and don't even seem to notice when I shrug her arm off my shoulder.

"Well, we got four dollars anyway," she says. "Uh hun."

"We could go to Hascombs and get half a chocolate layer and then go to the Sunset and still have plenty money for potato chips and ice cream sodas."

"Uh hun."

"Race you to Hascombs," she say.

We start down the block and she gets ahead which is O.K. by me cause I'm going to the West End and then over to the Drive to think this day through. She can run if she want to and even run faster. But ain't nobody gonna beat me at nuthin.