

**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT
FOR THE HUMANITIES**

SAMPLE APPLICATION NARRATIVE



Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops for
School Teachers
Institution: Delta State University



NATIONAL
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DIVISION OF EDUCATION
PROGRAMS

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National Endowment for the Humanities Division of Education Programs

Narrative Section of a Successful Application

This sample of the narrative portion from a grant is provided as an example of a funded proposal. It will give you a sense of how a successful application may be crafted. It is not intended to serve as a model. Every successful application is different, and each applicant is urged to prepare a proposal that reflects its unique project and aspirations. Prospective applicants are also strongly encouraged to consult with staff members in the NEH Division of Education Programs well before a grant deadline. This sample proposal does not include a budget, letters of commitment, résumés, or evaluations.

Project Title: *Place as Text in the Most Southern Place on Earth*

Institution: Delta State University

Project Director: Luther Brown

Grant Program: Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops for School Teachers

Place as Text in the Most Southern Place on Earth
Proposed NEH Workshop – Summer 2009
Delta State University

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Place as Text in the Most Southern Place on Earth

Intellectual Rationale

The philosopher Edward S. Casey has written extensively about the ways in which *Place* is represented, particularly in painted landscapes, photographs and maps. Among his arguments is the contention that truly successful representation of *Place* requires that the artist move from simply drawing the physical identity (called topographic representation) to a more sublime “topopoetic” representation, capturing the emotional poetry of the *Place*. The Mississippi Delta is a *Place* of great emotional poetry, with glowing sunrises, misty cypress brakes and oxbow lakes, vast fields of cotton and rice, the River, heat, humidity, and all the emotional conflict, contrast and turmoil that is summed up in *The Blues*. The Delta is where annual flooding by the Mississippi River preserved wilderness until the early 1900’s. It is where cotton plantations replaced slavery with share cropping, where small towns boomed with immigrant merchants and then died, where the civil rights movement overthrew apartheid segregation, where the great migration peopled America’s cities, and where the Blues of the fields morphed into rock ‘n’ roll and created popular music. It is a *Place* of such significance that the National Park Service has written:

"Much of what is profoundly American- what people love about America- has come from the delta, which is often called '**the cradle of American culture.**'" [from Stories of the Delta, The National Park Service Lower Mississippi Delta Symposium, 1996]

The heritage of the Mississippi Delta is best explored in the Mississippi Delta. Here the poetry of *Place* can be heard, felt, smelled, and tasted. The voices of the people can be heard; the River can be touched; the cotton can be picked; the food can be tasted. At the same time, exploration of the Delta’s heritage provides insight into America’s stories, heritage stories that can be integrated into any exploration of American history anywhere in the country. The approaches used to explore the Delta’s heritage can be used anywhere. Every *Place* has its own topopoetry and its own stories that can engage learners with their own cultural landscape, making the Delta a case study that reveals ways of learning about *Place* that can be applied broadly and benefit teachers and students anywhere.

Content and Design

We propose two *Place*-based, experiential workshops, each for forty teachers, in what historian James Cobb has described as “the most Southern place on earth,” the Mississippi Delta. Cobb argued that if the South was “America’s mirror,” a place that allowed America to see its face reflected in all its good, bad and ugly dimensions, then the Delta was the “mirror within the mirror,” the “South’s South.” We will use an interdisciplinary approach as we probe the issues and forces that shaped the Delta and thus the country. These forces involve men struggling with nature and with other men. We will tell the stories of the settling of the wilderness, the civil rights movement, immigrants and emigrants, the arts and culture, exploitation, hardship, endurance, and triumph. Each day we will explore one thread of Delta heritage, weaving these threads into the tapestry that is the history of the Mississippi Delta. Participants will integrate the stories they explore into one complex narrative, the story of the Delta, the poetry of the *Place*, which they can re-present to their students as they explain America’s stories. In the processes, participants will also learn how to read place as text and how to weave the threads together until the gestalt emerges. We believe a *Place*-based, interdisciplinary approach can be used virtually anywhere as an effective strategy to understand the American story, and giving teachers the skills to lead their students in this approach will aid them greatly in their classrooms and their own *Places*.

We propose to offer two NEH supported workshops in the summer of 2009. The workshops, *Place as Text in the Most Southern Place on Earth*, will begin on a Monday and conclude on a Saturday; the first will run from June 15 through June 20 and the second will be from July 13 through July 18. Each program day will consist of a fieldtrip, a seminar, time for discussion, and a curriculum session led by master teachers from Delta State’s College of Education. Participants will read books prior to the camp (see Appendix 1) to acquaint themselves with some of the issues that will arise during the week, which will aid in discussion. During the fieldtrips, we will travel throughout the Delta to places of historical significance. Our bus, with its video and audio capabilities, will become a traveling classroom. The seminars will be led by leading scholars in their field. Discussions will follow the seminars and last about an hour. For a potential list of discussion questions see Appendix 2. The curriculum sessions will

conclude each day, as participants reflect on what was learned during the day while they develop lesson plans that they can use in their classrooms. Curriculum sessions will be led by two master teachers, Dr. Leslie Griffin, the Dean of the College of Education, and Dr. Jenetta Waddell, an education professor and the Chair of the Division of Teacher Education in the College of Education.

While each day will have its own bibliography, we will also present a song, text, and a food item that will tie into the day's theme and seminar. These items will be icons of the Delta in that they distill complex concepts into single images and give a tangible experience to an abstract theme. The significance of each icon is described in Appendix 3. We believe after the participants leave, whenever they hear that song, re-read that text, or eat that food item, they will be reminded of what they learned that day. Likewise, whenever they think about, for example, the Mississippi River or the Great Migration, they will think about the icons we presented. Indeed, the strongest memories are those with many connections, and Delta icons will help the participants' memories of the day's lesson stay with them long after they have left the Delta and returned to their classrooms.

Day 1 – Monday

Taming the River: The History of the Delta

- Song – “When the Levee Breaks,” by Memphis Minnie
- Text – “Down by the Riverside,” by Richard Wright
- Food – Fried catfish

Seminar Facilitator – Dr. Luther Brown

The morning will begin with an introduction to the workshop and overview of the week. Participants will discuss what they know and what preconceptions they have about the Delta. Dr. Brown will give an overview of the Delta's history and discuss how the Mississippi River has physically shaped the Delta, but with an emphasis on its impact on people. For example, the attempt to tame the River through levees is what made the Delta inhabitable, and the millennia of annual flooding is what made the soil so fertile and led to intense cotton production and share-cropping. He will also discuss how the River

continues to affect the lives of people today. Participants will learn about and discuss the importance of *Place* and how it can be used when teaching the humanities. A master teacher will discuss the curriculum projects that will be developed during the week. Finally, Dr. Brown will facilitate the discussion session.

In the afternoon, we will travel to Greenville to visit the Levee Board and learn the history of the levee system in the Delta. On the bus ride, participants will watch *Fatal Flood*, a documentary film about the Great Flood of 1927. After touring the Levee Board, we will drive to the site where the levee broke in 1927, unleashing the Mississippi River, destroying the Delta, and creating the greatest natural disaster in American history at that date, an early precedent to the destruction of New Orleans in 2005. The path the water took is still visible. We will then continue to the Great River Road State Park in Rosedale. There, participants will be able to view the River from a four-story tall tower and walk on the sand bar to the edge of the River. After a fried catfish dinner in view of the River, we will return to the Delta State campus. Participants will attend a 90 minute curriculum session that evening.

Day 2 – Tuesday

Immigrant Stories

- Song –“Sail Away,” by Randy Newman, sung by Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee
- Text – Supreme Court decision *GONG LUM v. RICE*, 275 U.S. 78 (1927) **275 U.S. 78**
- Food – Delta Chinese

Seminar Facilitators – Dr. Charles Reagan Wilson

After spending Monday learning how the land was made inhabitable, we will spend Tuesday learning about the people that flooded into the Delta after the River was tamed. Although widely viewed in terms of stark black and white, the Delta is actually a land rich in diversity. Many groups of people have made the Delta home, including Chinese grocers, Lebanese hardware store owners, Russian Jewish shop keepers, and Italian farmers, among others. Many people are surprised to learn that in 1880, fully two thirds of all merchants in the Delta were foreign born. Religion is generally the part of life most

resistant to assimilation, so it is the ideal area to look to study the culture of immigrant groups. In the morning we will travel to Greenville to learn about some of the immigrants that made the Delta their home by visiting their churches and cemeteries. We will learn about the Chinese community in the Delta and tour the Chinese cemetery with Reverend Ted Shepherd, the retired pastor of the Chinese Mission. We will also tour the Hebrew Union Temple and its small museum and listen to Benji Nelkins tell the history of the congregation. Participants will also tour the Greenville (i.e., “white”) cemetery and the neighboring black and Jewish cemeteries. Finally, we will visit the Catholic Church where Father Summers will discuss its history. Participants will eat lunch at a locally-owned Chinese restaurant before returning to campus. The drive back will include a showing of the film “Delta Jews.”

In the afternoon, Dr. Charles Regan Wilson will lead a workshop about religious and cultural history in the Delta as it pertains to immigrant groups. Participants will also learn what motivated immigrants who came to the Delta and how their food, ideas, and cultural traditions changed the place they came to call home. Dr. Wilson will then lead the discussion session. After time for dinner, a 90 minute curriculum session will conclude the day.

Day 3 – Wednesday

The Blues: American Root Music and the Culture that Produced It

- Song – “Crossroad Blues” by Robert Johnson
- Text – “The Weary Blues” by Langston Hughes
- Food – Hot tamales

Seminar Facilitators – Dr. David Evans or Dr. Shelley Collins and Don Allan Mitchell

The Delta is the birthplace of the Blues, arguably America’s first art form. In the morning, we will tour the Delta, exploring where it all began. The harsh social conditions discussed on Monday will be revisited, and participants will see first-hand how *Place* influenced the music produced in the Delta. We will also compare and contrast the immigrant Delta experience with the African-American Delta experience. Sites visited will include Dockery Farms (www.dockeryfarms.com), the plantation widely

viewed as the birthplace of the Blues because Charley Patton, the father of the Delta Blues lived there. We will also visit the new B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center. Finally, participants will go to Moorhead, to see where the “Southern crosses the Dog,” a historic railway crossing that was described in the very first Blues lyrics ever recorded. On the drive home, we will stop at Charley Patton’s grave site. Time in transit will be spent listening to a collection of Blues songs that will show how the sound developed and matured over the years, and there will be a discussion as to why.

The afternoon session will include a seminar by Dr. Evans or a lecture by Dr. Collins and Mr. Mitchell, who will describe the origin and evolution of the Blues as the ancestor of Rock, R&B, and other genres. Participants will discuss what exactly the Blues is, why it originated in the Delta, how the *Place* affected it, how it re-presents *Place*, and how the Blues affected the *Place*. Participants will also discuss the cultural milieu of contrasts between rich and poor, powerful and powerless, literate and illiterate that produced the Blues. Dr. Evans or Dr. Collins and Mr. Mitchell will then lead a discussion session. After dinner, we will conclude the day with a 90 minute curriculum session.

Day 4 – Thursday

The Emmett Till Story: a Case Study in Oppression, Revolution, and Reconciliation

- Song – “The Death of Emmett Till” by Bob Dylan
- Text – Confession of J.W. Milam and Roy Bryant in *Look* magazine, "The Shocking Story of Approved Killing in Mississippi."
- Food – Kool-Aid pickles

Seminar Facilitators – Dr. Marilyn Schultz, Emily Weaver, Dr. Henry Outlaw

On Wednesday participants learned how the Blues was an outlet to deal with harsh social conditions. Thursday we will use the Emmett Till story as a case study to explore how those same social conditions would periodically lead to terror and violence. The morning session will be held on campus in the Capps Archive and Museum, which holds many items related to the lynching of fourteen year old Emmett Till. Dr. Outlaw, who has collected extensive oral histories concerning the Till case, will review

the history of the murder and its aftermath. He and Emily Weaver, DSU Archivist, will discuss and present the traveling exhibit they have created on the Till case, and Ms. Weaver will demonstrate how primary documents can be used to reconstruct historical events. Participants will be able to examine primary documents from the case, many of which are now available electronically through the DSU archive. Marilyn Schultz, a faculty member in Delta State's Department of English and liaison to the College of Education, will discuss how she teaches about the Emmett Till case in her classes and review the extensive fiction and non-fiction literature that is available. She will detail how she uses literature to supplement examinations of historical cases in the classroom, using her background with the Emmett Till story as a case study. Finally, Charles McLaurin will speak to the group. Mr. McLaurin is a veteran of the Civil Rights Movement who was an active member of SNCC and close friend of Fanny Lou Hamer. He will give a first-hand account of what Mississippi was like at the time of the Till murder, but he will also speak about his role in the Civil Rights Movement, which will be the main focus on Thursday. His role in the Civil Rights Movement is detailed in Townsend Davis's *Weary Feet, Rested Souls*. A discussion session led by Dr. Schultz and Dr. Outlaw will follow Mr. McLaurin's talk.

In the afternoon we visit the courthouse in Sumner where the trial of Till's murderers was held in 1955. Mrs. Betty Pearson, who was a member of the press corps at the trial, will talk to the group about the trial itself and the subsequent changes she has observed in the Delta's attitudes to race. She will be joined by Senator David Jordan, a long serving African American state Senator who also attended the trial. Senator Jordan will discuss how he thinks the Delta has changed since 1955 and what the prospects for economic and community development resulting from the Till case may be. We will stop at the Till Museum in Glendora, and the spot where Emmett Till's body was pulled from the Tallahatchie River. Finally, participants will tour the ruined Bryant store in Money, where Till allegedly wolf-whistled at 21-year-old Caroline Bryant. While on the bus, workshop participants will view and discuss a documentary about the Emmett Till case. The day will conclude with a 90 minute curriculum session on campus.

Day 5 – Friday

The Civil Rights Movement and the Music it Produced

- Song – “Fried Green Tomatoes” by Booker T and the MG’s
- Text – 1963 letter from the Reverend James Bevel “to the white citizens of Cleveland, Mississippi”
- Food – BBQ

Seminar Facilitators – Museum directors

The Emmett Till case is widely seen as one of the catalysts of the Civil Rights Movement; indeed, only a few months after the murder of Till and the sham trial, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat in Montgomery. Thus, on Friday we will explore the Delta’s role in the Civil Rights Movement. One of our focus areas will be the music that fueled the Movement, which is significantly Delta-influenced. To do this, we will travel to Memphis to take advantage of the museums that city offers. In transit, we will watch portions of *Eyes on the Prize*, a film about the Delta and Civil Rights, and recruiting propaganda films produced by SNCC, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Facilitators will also frame the day, explaining in detail the Delta’s role in the Civil Rights Movement and how the music of that era was influenced by the Movement and also its roots – Blues. Once in Memphis, we will tour the Rock ‘n’ Soul Museum and the Stax Museum of American Soul Music. The Stax Museum does an excellent job of setting the stage for the National Civil Rights Museum, where we will see how the fight for equality in the Delta played out alongside the national struggle. Exhibits emphasizing the Delta and the Poor People’s Campaign and Memphis Sanitation Worker’s Strike will be given special attention. Museum directors at the three institutions will speak to our group. Discussion and a curriculum session will be held in the evening after we return to campus.

Day 6 – Saturday

The Delta in Diaspora

- Song – “Sweet Home Chicago” by Robert Johnson
- Text – Articles from, and letters to, the *Chicago Defender*
- Food – Fried chicken and pound cake

Seminar Facilitators – Dr. John Strait

In the morning participants will learn about the Delta in Diaspora. We will start by talking about the Great Migration, the largest peace time movement of people in American history. As millions of African-Americans (and other ethnicities) from all across the South moved north, they took with them their music, literature, family structure, customs, and food. In this session, participants will learn how the Great Migration became the vehicle that has spread the Delta’s influence across the country, creating the Delta Diaspora that we have today. For example, as African-Americans traveled north on Highway 61 or on the Illinois Central, they carried their Blues with them, but as they moved, the music itself changed, giving rise to jazz, soul, and rock and roll. Similarly, migrants carried their foodways and lifestyles, which also changed during the migration. In the process, migrants transformed parts of Chicago, Garry, Ypsilanti, Detroit, Oakland, and New York City, among other places. The focus of the day will be dispersal of people and culture, but this topic will also provide an opportunity to review issues of music, food, civil rights, religion and other aspects of cultural heritage, making it an ideal topic to end the week. A 60 minute curriculum session will follow.

The afternoon seminar will provide an opportunity to compare and contrast the heritage of the Delta with that of the *Places* from which participants have come. Discussion will be facilitated by Dr. Strait and will focus attention on how participants’ own *places* tell stories and how those stories can be used to engage learners. Participants will then present the lesson plans they have developed during the week.

Faculty and Staff

Project Staff

Luther P. Brown, PhD (Project Director): Founder and Director of the Delta Center for Culture and Learning and Associate Dean for Delta Regional Development at Delta State University; Mississippi

Humanities Educator of the Year, 2003; member Mississippi Humanities Council; founding member of the Mississippi Blues Commission; author of numerous articles on the Mississippi Delta; possesses three decades of experience developing experiential learning programs that take an integrated approach to learning. Dr. Brown was also the project director of the 2007 teacher workshop, *Live From the Birthplace of the Blues*.

Lee Aylward, MA: Program Associate for Education and Community Outreach in the Delta Center for Culture and Learning, Delta State University; responsible for arrangements and scheduling for the Delta Center. She will play a similar role during the camp.

Graduate Assistants: Two students enrolled in Delta State University's Graduate program will be hired to work during the camps. The graduate assistants will ensure that the logistics of running the workshops are arranged, copies are made, etc.

Master Teachers

Leslie Griffin, Ed.D: former classroom teacher, principal and current Dean of the School of Education at Delta State University; knowledgeable in curriculum development and methodology; author of numerous publications for teacher education and study guides. Dr. Griffin will be responsible for overseeing participants' projects and teaching the curriculum sessions.

Jenetta Waddell, Ed.D: currently chair of the Division of Teacher Education at Delta State University; former public school teacher and administrator; will provide expert assistance in teaching modules and curriculum development; presenter at national conferences on teacher education. Dr. Waddell will also be responsible for overseeing participants' projects and teaching the curriculum sessions.

Project Faculty

David Evans, PhD: Professor of Music, The University of Memphis; author of several books including The NPR Curious Listener's Guide to the Blues, Big Road Blues, "The Coon in the Box": A Global Folktale in African-American Tradition; over 90 published articles concerned with African-American folk music and folklore; numerous films and recordings; performed vocal and guitar at

numerous blues and folk festivals and concerts throughout the world; consultant for publishers, museums, court cases, films, festivals (local, national, international), and government agencies (local, state, national).

Henry Outlaw, PhD: former Program Associate in the Delta Center for Culture and Learning; retired chair of the Physical Science Department at Delta State University; currently an adjunct professor in the School of Theology, University of the South and Development office for the Delta State University Alumni Foundation; recipient of the Chairs Award, Mississippi Humanities Council, 2006.

Shelley Collins, DMA: Assistant Professor of Flute, Delta State University; presented “Mississippi Rhythm and Blues” for secondary educators; presenter “An Introduction to Rhythm and Blues” and numerous other lectures and presentations on the arts.

Marilyn Schultz, PhD: Currently serves as an Assistant Professor of English and the English Education Coordinator at Delta State University; supervises student teachers as well as teaching in both the education and languages and literature depts.; authored articles done extensive research in teacher education.

Emily E. Weaver, MA: Delta State University Archivist; partner with the Delta Center for Culture and Learning’s award winning traveling exhibit on the “The Death and Trial of Emmett Till,” curator of many exhibits and recipient of numerous grants; Mississippi Humanities Educator of the Year, 2006.

John B. Strait, PhD: Professor of Geography at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, TX; major academic interests in race/ethnicity, migrations, residential segregation and poverty; author of numerous publications.

Charles Reagan Wilson, PhD: currently the Kelly Gene Cook Sr., Chair of History and Professor of Southern Studies, the University of Mississippi has written and presented extensively on the South and Southern culture; editor of [The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture](#).

Don Allan Mitchell, MA: currently an assistant professor in languages and literature at Delta State University; formerly producer and host of Mississippi Public Broadcasting’s *Highway 61*; a special

projects assistant in the Barksdale Reading Institute at the University of Mississippi; has presented and lectured at various workshops and conferences on rhythm and blues.

Selection of Participants

Place as Text in the Most Southern Place on Earth will be open to K-12 teachers in public, private, parochial, and charter schools, as well as home-schooling parents. NEH guidelines for eligibility and selection criteria will be followed. Application materials will be similar to what was requested from applicants for our *Live From the Birthplace of the Blues* teacher workshop in 2007 (funded by NEH through the Mississippi Humanities Council) and will require a resume and a short essay (Appendix 4). In the essay, applicants will be asked to describe their interest in the topics to be discussed, how the workshop will impact their classrooms, and what special skills and experiences they have that will enhance the workshop. To make the discussions and collaborations more dynamic, one of the goals of the selection committee will be to select as diverse of a group as possible. There will be teachers from all parts of the country, from rural and urban schools, and who have different levels of experience and backgrounds. Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by the selection committee, which will consist of the following people: Dr. Luther Brown, Project Director; the workshop's master teacher; the Project Assistant; and a workshop faculty member.

To meet our goal of recruiting a diverse group of teachers, we will implement an extensive, national publicity campaign. We will send information about the workshop to state Humanities Councils and national teacher and school administrator organizations, including but not limited to the National Council for the Social Studies, the National Association for Humanities Education, the Urban Superintendents Association of America, the American Association of School Administrators, and the National Education Association. Information will also be sent to state departments of education. Finally, information about the workshop will be available on the Delta Center website (www.blueshighway.org).

Professional Development

Upon completion of *Place as Text in the Most Southern Place on Earth*, participants will be awarded certificates of completion that specify the contact hours of the workshop. For interested participants, Delta State University's College of Graduate and Continuing Studies will award CEU's for a small fee. For those participants who do chose to obtain CEU's, an unofficial transcript will be sent to them along with a verification letter on Delta State letterhead a few weeks after the workshop. Participants can also request official transcripts from the Office of the Registrar for \$7.50.

Institutional Context

Delta State University is one of eight public institutions of higher learning in Mississippi. With a full-time enrollment of just more than 4,000 students, the school is a regional university in the heart of the Mississippi Delta. With minority enrollment at 42%, DSU is the most integrated University in the Mississippi system. The campus is compact and all facilities are within walking distance of each other. Participants will receive Delta State identification cards, which will allow them full access to campus facilities. Seminars and curriculum sessions for *Place as Text in the Most Southern Place on Earth* will be held on-campus in Ewing Hall, which houses the Delta Center for Culture and Learning and the College of Education and in the nearby Archives and Museum. There is also a computer lab in Ewing Hall that participants will be able to use. Traditional dormitory housing will be available to participants for about \$20 a night. Dorm residents must bring linens, but will be provided a single occupancy room with an Ethernet port. Each dormitory also is equipped with a laundry room. Dormitories provide easy access to campus facilities, including the food court in the Student Union, the campus coffee house, the cafeteria, a fitness facility, and the library. The food court offers Chick-Fil-A, a pizzeria, and a smoothie shop. The cafeteria offers an array of food prepared by Aramark. The fitness facility houses a 5,000 square foot fitness center with weights and cardio equipment, basketball and racquet ball courts, and an Olympic-sized pool. The Delta State Library is home to over 360,000 bound volumes and the Instructional Resource Center (IRC), which contains curriculum materials and other teacher resources. In the IRC, participants will have access to over 2,000 teacher activity books, an array of textbooks, juvenile

fiction, and teacher journals, and even Ellison die cut machines. All facilities are handicapped accessible and parking is available free of charge.

The Delta Center for Culture and Learning, an interdisciplinary Center for Excellence that focuses on the humanities as they relate to the Mississippi Delta, will plan and implement *Place as Text in the Most Southern Place on Earth*. Our mission is to promote the understanding of the history and culture of the Mississippi Delta and its significance to the rest of the world. The Delta Center was recently lauded by the Mississippi Humanities Council, who awarded the Delta Center the 2007 Public Humanities Achievement Award. While based in the University, the Delta Center works throughout the region with local Chambers of Commerce, K-12 school districts, Community Development Organizations, and visiting college groups. The Delta Center also has a long history of providing summer workshops for teachers. In 2006, the Delta Center presented a two-week long geography workshop, *The Three R's of the Delta: Rivers, Rails, and Roadways*, to 20 K-12 teachers. The workshop was funded by National Geographic. In 2007, the Delta Center presented, *From the Birthplace of America's Music: The Music and Musicians of Mississippi*. The weeklong workshop was funded by the Mississippi Humanities Council and served 20 K-12 teachers from Mississippi. In the summer of 2008 the Delta Center will again present *The Three R's*, but this time to 25 K-12 teachers. Funding will be provided by The Croft Institute at The University of Mississippi.

For those who wish to stay off-campus, there are several national chain hotels located within 3 miles of Delta State, including Days Inn, Holiday Inn Express, Econo Lodge, Comfort Inn, and Hampton Inn. Price ranges between \$50 and \$100 per night. There is also a diverge range of dining options in Cleveland. Traditional southern food, Italian, Mexican, and bistro restaurants are all available, in addition to national fast food chains. The Chamber of Commerce lists 27 non-chain restaurants on its website, and we can also direct participants to a few of our favorite eateries that are not Chamber members.

Dissemination and Evaluation

Before the workshops begin, we will set up a blog on which participants can post. We will post questions relating to readings participants will be responsible for before they arrive at the workshop.

Participants can then have discussions before the workshop starts. After the camp, participants will continue to have access to the blog and will hopefully continue to share ideas and success stories. For teachers unable to attend *Place as Text in the Most Southern Place on Earth*, reading and listening lists, an extended Delta bibliography (see Appendix 5), discussion questions, and some lectures will be posted on the Delta Center website. When possible, images and readings will also be posted. By November 1st, participants will submit lesson plans developed through resources acquired at the workshop. These lesson plans will be freely available on the Delta Center website.

The program will be evaluated in several ways. At the end of the workshop, participants and lecturers will be asked to complete a survey evaluating the usefulness of readings, lectures, site visits, tours, facilities, faculty, and assignments. We will also send surveys to the participants in November asking them to evaluate how attending *Place as Text in the Most Southern Place on Earth* had impacted their classroom.

Appendix 1. Participant Reading List.

Prior to the workshop, each participant should read:

At least ONE of the following TWO books-

Barry, John M. 1998. *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How it Changed America.*
New York: Touchstone.

Daniel, Pete. 1997. *Deep'n As it Come: The 1927 Mississippi River Flood.* Oxford University Press.

At least ONE of the following TWO books-

Cobb, James . 1992. *The Most Southern Place on Earth: the Mississippi Delta and the Roots of Regional Identity.* New York: Oxford University Press.

Willis, John C. 2000. *Forgotten Time: the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta after the Civil War.* Virginia: The University Press of Virginia.

All THREE of these books-

Crowe, Chris. 2003. *Getting Away With Murder: The True Story of the Emmett Till Case.* Dial Books.

Curry, Constance. 1995. *Silver Rights.* New York: Harcourt Brace & Company.

Lemann, Nicholas. 1991. *The Promised Land: An Account of Sharecropping Families in Their Journey from the Mississippi Delta to Chicago.* Pan McMillan.

AND we also RECOMMEND these for anyone who is especially interested in the Mississippi Delta-

Faulkner, John. 1942. *Dollar Cotton.* A Hill Street Classics Book.

Ferris, William. 1978. *Blues From the Delta.* New York: Da Capo Press.

Taulbert, Clifton. 1995. *When We Were Colored.* New York: Penguin Group.

Appendix 3. An Explanation of Icons.

"We remember and know what is imprinted *as long as the image lasts.*"-Plato

Icons are images that represent complex processes and programs, concepts, or beliefs. We hope to facilitate the memory of experiences and discussions during our workshop by linking these events with "icons" in the form of text, music and food. The significance of each icon will become clear to participants during the workshop, and is briefly explained here.

The River and the Land: Geography and Culture

- Song – "When the Levee Breaks," by Memphis Minnie tells the story of the great flood of 1927 and links Delta Blues with more recent popular music.
- Text – "Down by the Riverside," by Richard Wright gives a brutal perspective to the flood and shows its racial consequences.
- Food – Fried catfish is self explanatory.

The Blues: American Root Music and the Culture that Produced It

- Song – "Crossroad Blues" by Robert Johnson is probably the most widely recognized Blues song.
- Text – "The Weary Blues" by Langston Hughes explains the poetry of the Blues.
- Food – Hot tamales are standard "Blues food" in the Delta.

The Civil Rights Movement and the Music It Produced

- Song – "Fried Green Tomatoes" by Booker T and the MG's is one of Stax Records greatest hits.
- Text – 1963 letter from the Reverend James Bevel "to the white citizens of Cleveland, Mississippi" is a dramatic primary document that makes the whole civil rights struggle clear.
- Food – BBQ is the quintessential Memphis food.

The Emmett Till Story: a Case Study in Oppression, Revolution, and Reconciliation

- Song – "The Death of Emmett Till" by Bob Dylan tells the story of Till's lynching.
- Text – Confession of J.W. Milam and Roy Bryant in *Look* magazine "The Shocking Story of Approved Killing in Mississippi" is self explanatory.
- Food – Kool-Aid pickles are the newest and most popular treat for school aged kids in the Delta. Till was buying a stick of bubble gum when he whistled at Caroline Bryant, precipitating his murder.

Immigrant Stories

- Song – "Sail Away," by Randy Newman, sung by Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee tells the story of the optimistic immigrant.
- Text – Supreme Court decision *GONG LUM v. RICE*, 275 U.S. 78 (1927) **275 U.S. 78** makes it legal to segregate the non-white races from the white.
- Food – Delta Chinese, representing one of the largest ethnic groups to immigrate to the Delta.

The Great Migration

- Song – "Sweet Home Chicago" by Robert Johnson reflects the whole "Goin' to Chicago theme.
- Text – Articles from, and letters to, the *Chicago Defender* reflect the hopes and dreams of the migrants.
- Food – Fried chicken and pound cake were common "road foods" for African Americans in the days when they could not be served in most restaurants.