

Gear Up Session I: Geography



Students and staff pose after the camp's closing ceremony.

Sunday, June 3

Registration

Time: 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Place: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To register students for the camp

Summary: The campers were welcomed and registered to the camp in a green and white Delta State University tent outside of the Holcombe Norwood Art Building. After filling out a pre-survey, the students were given their dorm key, a water bottle, a DSU Okra card, and GEAR UP t-shirt before being escorted to their dorms to put away their belongings. Students were shown campus buildings they would be in on the walk to the dorm.



Introduction to Staff and Camp



Time: 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Place: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To introduce students to the staff, each other, to explain the rules of the camp, and to introduce expectations for the week.

Summary: John Heggen, assistant camp director, welcomed the campers and went over rules, expected behavior, and consequences for violations. The staff then introduced themselves. Next, Cynethia Coleman and

Teretha Lewis led icebreakers to help the students and counselors get to know each other as well as begin to build group rapport. In one icebreaker, staff and students were required to take as many squares of tissue as they wanted, but without knowing the purpose. They then had to say a fact about themselves for each square taken.

Successes/Challenges: Overall, this was an excellent introduction and group-building event. The tone was informal to encourage dialogue and participation. The only problem was that a few of the students had done the icebreaker before and thus took only one square.

Career Assessment

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Place: Broom 173

Mission: To encourage the students to think about their future and their goals

Summary: Jason Umfress, Director of Career Services at Delta State, led the students through an online career assessment, a service that is usually only offered to Delta State students. Mr. Umfress also talked to the students about some of the things Career Services offices offer to students.



Journal Making



Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Place: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To have students create journals to use during the week

Summary: Pat Brown, camp director and Delta State Professor of Art, led the students in the creation of journals. The project was simple in terms of materials, but allowed for much creativity. Each journal turned out to be very unique.

Monday, June 4

Migration In The Delta



Time: 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Place: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To hear an introduction to the human geography of the Delta

Summary: Students met with Lee Aylward, Program Associate for Community Outreach at the Delta Center for Culture and Learning, to talk about migration in the Mississippi Delta. Ms. Aylward lectured on the migration of immigrants to and from the Delta. She discussed the different groups of people that had come into the Delta and why they

had come. Ms. Aylward also explained what had led to the Great Migration out of the

Delta.

Successes/Challenges: This was a perfect introduction to the heritage theme of the week. Mrs. Aylward's talk was broad, which allowed her to set the scene for many of the speakers to come later in the week.

Art



Time: 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Place: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To begin making clay

Summary: The campers joined Pat Brown to begin one of the extended art projects, jewelry making. She taught the campers how to make clay, which eventually they will mold for their art pieces.

Essay Writing

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Place: Student Union 302

Mission: To improve the essay writing skills of the students

Summary: The campers arrived at the student Union to discuss writing with Jeanine Roach, a graduate student in English. After reviewing the basics of writing and having the students relay some of their strengths and weaknesses, Jeanine gave the students a writing exercise. After the students had finished she collected their papers so she could critique and return them later in the week.



The Academic Support Lab

Time: 10:30 am to 11:00 am

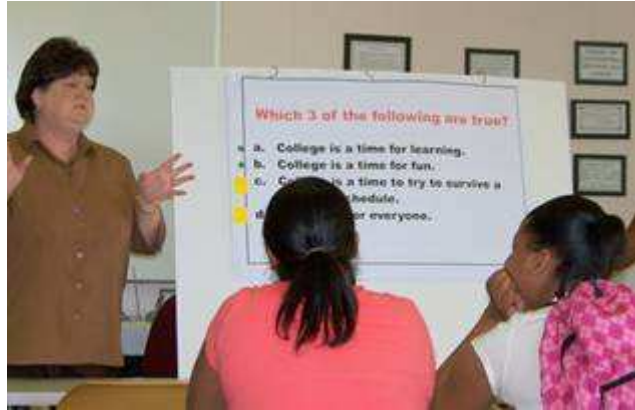
Place: Student Union 309

Mission: To teach the campers how to handle the responsibilities of college as well as show campers the resources available to students at Delta State

Summary: Diane Blansett, a Delta State professor and the director of the Academic Support lab, gave the students a brief overview of the Academic Support Lab and what services it offers. She then played a game with them called SUCCEED which presented a series of multiple choice questions that the students had to answer. The questions in the

game addressed the habits of successful college students and were applicable to all incoming or soon-to-be college students.

Successes/Challenges: The campers seemed to enjoy this session as Diane Blansett presented the material in an interactive format. The students wanted to be the first person with the correct answer, and hence were very engaged.



Frieda Quon



Time: 11:30 am to noon

Place: Union 306

Mission: To learn about Chinese culture in the Mississippi Delta.

Summary: Mrs. Frieda Quon, whose parents were immigrants in the Mississippi Delta, opened up a door to the campers about a culture that is not their own. Giving stories of growing up and the Chinese customs her family has brought to America, Mrs. Quon talked candidly about her life and how the Delta has influenced it. Besides expanding

upon the reasons that Chinese came to the Delta that Mrs. Aylward addressed, Mrs. Quon was able to give a first-person account of the discrimination she faced because of her race. Mrs. Quon also brought Chinese artifacts for the students to examine.

Successes/Challenges: This session did have a challenge. We had a culturally insensitive question from one of the campers, which prompted a talk about respect and stereotypes.

Lunch at Little China Kitchen

Time: Noon to 1:00

Place: Little China Kitchen

Mission: To experience Chinese cuisine.

Summary: Students and staff traveled to Little China Kitchen to sample Chinese food.

Successes/Challenges: The challenge we faced during the meal was that some students would not try most of the food. Some students were willing to try things they had never had, but some picked out everything but the beef.



Delta Music Institute

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Place: Delta Music Institute (Whitfield Gymnasium)

Mission: To introduce the students to another career option and educational opportunity

Summary: Tricia Walker, director of the Delta Music Institute and 25-year-veteran of the music industry in Nashville, sat down with the campers and talked to them about the music industry and the majors and programs offered by the Delta Music Institute, which is a department at Delta State University. She told them about her own experiences and what kind of careers they might expect if they pursued the music industry.

Art

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Place: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To continue the art projects

Summary: The campers continued to make clay and also began to mold it into the shapes appropriate for jewelry. The students seemed to enjoy the hands-on activity and everyone worked well. Ms. Brown also discussed the use of beads and jewelry in Native American culture, the original Deltans.



Movie

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Place: Capps Archive seminar room

Mission: To learn about the Great Flood of 1927

Summary: The students were shown *Fatal Flood*, a documentary produced by PBS. The movie covers the events of the Flood of 1927, which devastated the Mississippi Delta and until Hurricane Katrina was the largest natural disaster faced by this country. The Flood was one of the factors that led to the Great Migration, the largest peace-time migration in modern human history. The staff then facilitated a discussion about the movie to enhance understanding of the topics discussed by the film.

Tuesday, June 5

Tunica River Park Museum & The Tunica Queen



Time: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Place: Tunica River Park Museum, Tunica, Mississippi

Mission: To further educate the campers on the geography of the Mississippi Delta.

Summary: The campers and counselors traveled to Tunica, Mississippi, where they explored the Tunica RiverPark Museum. The students first viewed a film about the “Mighty Mississippi River,” and then had the opportunity to explore the different exhibits of the

museum. Exhibits included the wildlife of the River, the history of explorations of the River, the Great Flood of 1927, and current methods of controlling the River. Some students even ventured to the roof of the building which the museum secured as a site for museum visitors to safely gaze upon the Mississippi river. Afterwards the campers boarded the Tunica Queen Riverboat for a voyage and a closer look at the Mississippi River.

Financial Aid Workshop

Time: 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Place: Broom 173

Mission: To discuss the financial aspects of attending college.

Summary: The campers sat down with Ashley Scott, a financial aid counselor, who presented pertinent information on scholarships, grants, loans (subsidized and unsubsidized), the FAFSA, and work-study opportunities.

Successes/Challenges: This session was successful. The students had an opportunity to ask any questions they had about what can seem like a daunting task, and were also given materials to take home and go over with their parents. Ms. Scott encouraged the students to contact her office in they had any questions during the application process.

Art

Time: 3:30 pm to 5:30 p.m.

Place: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To continue working on the art project.

Summary: The campers continued designing jewelry for an African costume. Besides working on clay beads, Ms. Brown introduced the history of coil baskets, which



were used in Native American and African cultures. The students then made their own baskets.

Lebanese Speaker

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Place: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To learn about the experiences of the Lebanese immigrants of the Delta

Summary: Joe Abide, a Delta State Professor of Art, spoke to the campers about his family's experience in the Delta, as well as Lebanese culture. Mr. Abide's grandparents were from Lebanon, and his father grew up there. Mr. Abide then served homemade hummus, a Lebanese dish.

Successes/Challenges: Mr. Abide's presentation was very enlightening about Lebanese culture and Lebanese experience in the Delta. The hummus was excellent, but we again had the challenge of students not wanting to try a food with which they were not familiar.



Swim

Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Place: Delta State Aquatic Center

Mission: To have relax and have fun

Summary: The students were given the opportunity to unwind and go swimming. They all enjoyed themselves. The night counselors supervised, and also swam with the students.

Wednesday, June 6

Rotating Schedule

Time: 8:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Place: Student Union

Mission: To help prepare students for aspects of the college process

Summary: The campers were split into three groups and rotated through different sessions. Each session lasted approximately 45 minutes. One session was a meeting with Admissions counselors, who talked about the application process and answered questions the students had. The Admissions counselors then met with the students individually to go over their transcripts. Another session was a meeting with Jason Umfress, who the students took the career assessment with on Sunday night. Mr. Umfress went over the results of the assessment with the students in his office, giving advice on careers that might suit the students' skills and interests. The last session was an ACT prep workshop with Audrey Morehead, a local counselor who teaches classes on test-taking and the ACT.

Successes/Challenges: The ACT session was very successful, as all the students like Ms.

Morehead, who was very engaging. The career session also went very well, as the students all enjoyed learning about what careers match their interests. We did have challenges with the Admissions session, in that some of the transcripts the high schools sent us did not include grades and classes taken in the 11th grade. This, unfortunately, make it harder for the counselors to give advice on classes that the students ought to take next year. The other challenge was the students reported that they had already signed up for classes next year, and it seems that the students would have been more interested if they were still looking for classes to take.

Art

Time: 10:30 a.m. to noon & 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Place: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To continue work on art projects

Summary: The campers continued working on their jewelry. Pat Brown also introduced the students to the art and history of basket weaving.

The students began weaving in the afternoon session after lunch. The basket, which will be worked on by all camps, will be sculptural. It will be around 5 feet tall and will be made to reflect the river theme, through waves and color.



Visit to Synagogue

Time: 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Place: Adath Israel Synagogue

Mission: To learn about the Jewish religion and Jewish immigrants to the Delta

Summary: The campers arrived at the synagogue in Cleveland where a congregant named Barbara Livingston talked to them about Jewish customs, life, and the temple. She touched on both Judaism in general and her own experiences growing up in the Delta. The campers then asked questions they had about the religion.

Successes/Challenges: This session was very successful. After Ms. Quon's talk about Chinese in the Delta had resulted in an inappropriate question, the talk about respect seemed to have worked. The students had many questions, but were respectful.

Cookout



Time: 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Place: Pavilion

Mission: To eat and relax

Summary: The student were served hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, baked beans, and cake while they relaxed to the sounds of Bill Abel, a blues artist from Duncan, Mississippi. Mr. Abel also talked

about the development of the Blues and how the Blues developed and changed when musicians migrated out of the Delta.

Movie

Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Place: Capps Archive seminar room

Mission: To learn about the Great Migration

Summary: The students were shown *Goin' to Chicago*, a documentary produced by PBS. The movie covers the Great Migration, which was the largest peace-time migration in modern human history. A worksheet was then done by the students to encourage reflection and enhanced understanding of the film.

Thursday, June 7

River Road Park

Time: 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Place: Great River Road State Park, Rosedale, Mississippi

Mission: To gain first-hand experience of the Mississippi River.

Summary: The campers and counselors drove to Rosedale, Mississippi to River Road State Park, which is situated inside the Mississippi River levee. Dr. Luther Brown, Director of the Delta Center for Culture and Learning and Associate Dean of Delta Regional Development, talked to the students about the physical impact of the Mississippi River and how it is used today (e.g. its commercial impact).

Successes/Challenges: We wanted to hike on the sandbar to the river's edge, which is normally ½ mile wide. We wanted to let the students collect object for their mojos and let them take in the magnitude of the River. Unfortunately, the part of the sandbar directly next to the bank was flooded and we were unable to do the hike. We did collect objects in the park.

Winterville Mounds

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Place: Winterville Mounds (near Greenville, MS)

Mission: To learn about the Native American burial grounds at Winterville Mounds.

Summary: The campers and counselors then traveled to Winterville Mounds. An employee at the Mounds led a tour of the museum that displayed Native American artifacts found at the site. After the tour, the students walked to the mounds and climbed the largest one. On the way back to campus, the group stopped at the Mississippi State Historical Marker commemorating the Flood of 1927 and Dr. Brown pointed out the exact spot of the levee break.

Hot Tamales

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Place: Union 306

Mission: To eat a Delta delicacy, hot tamales

Summary: After getting back from the day trip to River Road Park and Winterville Mounds, the campers enjoyed Delta hot tamales for lunch. Besides being a break from the cafeteria, hot tamales prepared in the Delta style are a unique item that shows the influence different groups of people have had to creating the unique heritage of the Delta. A discussion of the theories of the origins of the Delta style of hot tamales showed students how Delta culture is a mix of many different racial and ethnic groups.

Art



Time: 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Place: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To continue work on art projects

Summary: In art, the students finished their handmade jewelry and also worked on the basket weaving. Students painted the beads different colors and strung some of them together to create necklaces. Students continued to work on their coil baskets and groups worked with Ms. Brown on

the sculptural basket.

Essay Writing

Time: 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Place: Student Union 302

Mission: To continue Tuesday's writing workshop

Summary: The campers once again joined Jeanine Roach, this time for an evaluation of their writing. The campers were individually given pointers on how to improve their writings and how to make their strong points stronger.



Italian Speaker



Time: 4:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Place: The Knights of Columbus Hall in Cleveland

Mission: To learn about Italian culture in the Mississippi Delta

Summary: The students traveled by van to the Knights of Columbus Hall and were greeted by Julius Gainspoletti. Mr. Gainspoletti explained that his parents were Italian immigrants who came to America many years ago. Mr.

Gainspoletti talked about their experience and his own, in particular about how the treatment of Italians in the Delta has changed during his lifetime. After talking to the campers, Mr. Gainspoletti gave the students instructions on how to play bocce ball, a game of Italian origin similar to horseshoes. The students were then able to play several games.

Italian Dinner

Time: 5:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Place: Student Union 306

Mission: To further the Italian experience with Italian food

Summary: The students came back to campus and went to the Student Union where the counselors had prepared an Italian dinner. The menu included spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, sparkling grape juice, and tiramisu.

Successes/Challenges: Unlike previous attempts to introduce foreign foods to the students, the students enjoyed this meal. They were wary of the tiramisu at first, but when it was described as being like cheesecake, all the campers had some.

Closing Ceremony Preparation

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Place: Capps Archive seminar room

Mission: To prepare for the closing ceremony

Summary: The students, with the aid of the night counselors, devised and practiced a program for the following day's closing ceremony.

Friday, June 8

Presentation by Jason Umfress

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 am

Place: Broom Hall 115

Mission: To teach the campers how to successfully transition from high school to college.

Summary: Jason Umfress met with the students again, this time to give a PowerPoint presentation on some of the differences between high school and college and to show them how to be successful in their transition. Mr. Umfress stressed the increased responsibility that college brings and advised the students to take an 8:00 to 5:00 mentality upon matriculation.



Art



Time: 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Place: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To make mojos.

Summary: The campers returned back to the Holcombe Norwood Art Building to make mojos for the camp. Mojoes are little pouches filled with found objects that are supposed to bring good luck. They are often sung about in Blues songs. The campers filled the bags with objects they had

collected during the week as well as some objects traditionally used in mojos (e.g. snakeskin and the fur of a black cat).

Closing Ceremony

Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Place: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: Commemorate and celebrate the week of camp

Summary: The students ended the Gear Up camp with performances that illustrated all they had learned during the week to their family and friends in attendance. The campers sang, did several skits, read poems, and spoke about their experience. In the skits the students recreated the Great Migration experience. After the skits the students were presented a certificate of competition and two books donated by First Book.

Successes/Challenges: The closing ceremony was very successful. By having the students present the information they had learned during the week, they had to reflect on all the bits of information they had learned and integrate it into an intelligible whole.



Gear Up Session II: The Blues



Painting at the Highway 61 Blues Museum in Leland, MS

Sunday, June 24

Registration

Time: 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Outside the Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To register the campers

Summary: The campers were welcomed to the camp by all the staff and given their dorm room keys, t-shirts, and other assorted materials that they would need during the coming week. After filling out a pre-survey, they were escorted to their dorms to put away their belongings. Students were shown campus buildings they would be in on the walk to the dorm. A group dinner in the cafeteria followed.



Introduction to Staff and Camp

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Place: Holcombe-Norwood Art Building

Mission: To introduce students to the staff, each other, to explain the rules of the camp, and to introduce expectations for the week.

Summary: John Heggen, assistant camp director, welcomed the campers and went over rules, expected behavior, and consequences for any violations. The staff then introduced themselves. Next, Cynethia and Teretha led an icebreaker to help the students and counselors get to know each other as well as begin to build a group rapport. In the icebreaker, staff and students wrote 10 facts about themselves and then shared them with the group.

Successes/Challenges: This was an excellent introduction and group-building event. The tone was again informal to encourage dialogue and participation. Learning from last time, we did an icebreaker that set a definite number of facts to share with the group.

Career Assessment

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Place: Broom 173

Mission: To encourage the students to think about their future and their goals

Summary: Jason Umfress, Director of Career Services at Delta State, led the students through an online career assessment, a service that is usually only offered to Delta State students. Mr. Umfress also talked to the students about some of the things the Career Services Office offer to students.



Introduction to the Blues

Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location: Capps Archive Seminar Room

Mission: Introduce the campers to the Blues

Summary: Terry “Big T” Williams, a professional Bluesman from Clarksdale, introduced the students to the Blues by giving a combined performance/introduction. He talked a little about a concept or style or famous Bluesman and would then demonstrate on his guitar. He also took questions from the students.

Successes/Challenges: This was a great way to introduce the Blues. The advantages over a standard lecture were that the students were able to hear musically how the Blues developed in addition to being told why, and the more modes in which information is presented increases the retention of that information.

Monday, June 25

Art



Time: 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Location: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To make journals and to begin the weeklong art project

Summary: After breakfast, the students began the art component of the camp. Camp director and art instructor Pat Brown first led the students in the creation of their own journals. The students then began their first weeklong project, an African dance costume. Ms. Brown talked to the

students about the tradition and history of costumes in the art of different African peoples.

Academic Support Lab

Time: 11:00 a.m. to noon

Location: Student Union 309

Mission: To teach the campers how to handle the responsibilities of college as well as show campers the resources available to students at Delta State

Summary: Diane Blansett, a Delta State professor and the director of the Academic Support lab, gave the students a brief overview of the Academic Support Lab and what services it offers. She then played a game with them called SUCCEED which presented a series of multiple choice questions that the students had to answer. The questions in the game addressed the habits of successful college students and were applicable to all incoming or soon-to-be college students. The students were again very engaged.

Leland Blues Museum

Time: 12:45 pm to 3:30 pm

Location: Leland Blues Museum

Mission: To educate the campers about the Delta's blues musicians

Summary: The campers and counselors traveled to Leland, Mississippi, where they explored the Leland Blues Museum. Many of the campers were unaware of the museum's existence and seemed very eager to learn. Students were given a worksheet to ensure participation from every member of the group. After the museum they stopped by a mural a block away that beautifully illustrated all of the artists featured in the museum.



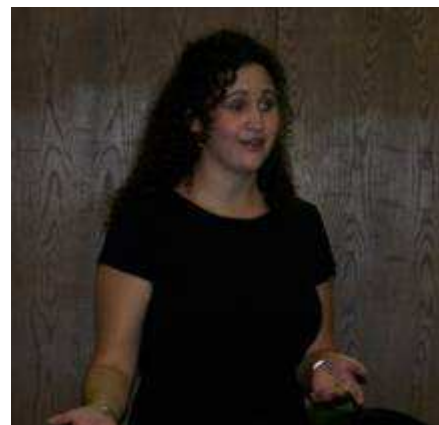
Essay Writing Workshop

Time: 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Student Union 302

Mission: To improve the writing skills of the students

Summary: Jeanine Roach, a graduate student in English, led a workshop on how to write a well-constructed essay. After reviewing the basics of writing and having the students relay some of their strengths and weaknesses in writing, Jeanine gave the students a writing exercise. After the students had finished she collected their papers so she could critique and return them later in the week.



Delta Music Institute

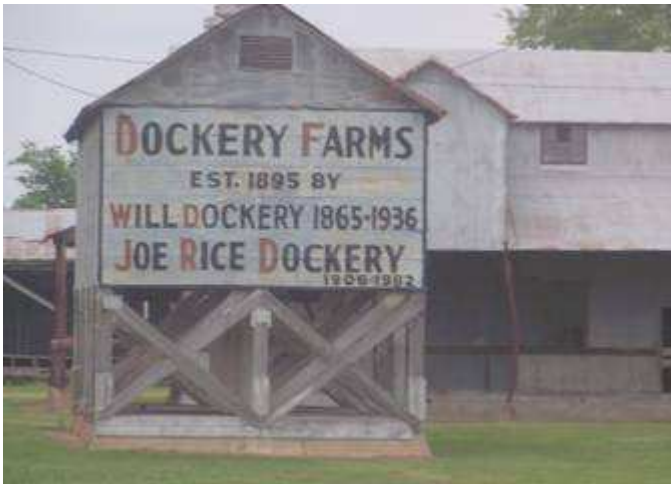
Time: 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Location: Whitfield Gymnasium

Mission: To introduce the students to another career option and educational opportunity

Summary: Tricia Walker, director of the Delta Music Institute and 25-year-veteran of the music industry in Nashville, sat down with the campers and talked to them about the music industry and possible majors and programs to pursue in higher education. She then took the students on a tour of the Delta Music Institute, a department at Delta State University.

Dockery Farms & Harmonica Workshop



Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Dockery Farms

Mission: To learn the history of Dockery Farms and participate in a harmonica workshop by a local Delta artist.

Summary: The students and counselors traveled by van to Dockery Farms, a plantation located several miles east of Cleveland. Dockery Farms is an important location in Blues history. Many greats, including Charley Patton, the Father of the

Delta Blues, lived and played at Dockery. For many, it is the birthplace of the Blues. The students were told this history and were fed dinner. Then Leroy Payne, a local harmonica player, gave a harmonica workshop. The campers were given their own harmonicas so they could try to learn.

Movie

Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Place: Capps Archive seminar room

Mission: To learn about the Great Migration

Summary: The students were shown *Goin' to Chicago*, a documentary produced by PBS. The movie covers the Great Migration, which was the largest peace-time migration in modern human history. A worksheet was then done by the students to encourage reflection and enhanced understanding of the film.

Tuesday, June 26

Rotating Schedule

Time: 8:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Place: Student Union

Mission: To help prepare students for some aspect of the college process

Summary: The campers were split into three groups and rotated through different sessions. Each session lasted approximately 45 minutes. One session was a meeting with Admissions counselors, who talked about the application process and answered questions the students had. The counselors then met with the students individually to go over their transcripts. Another session was a meeting with Jason Umfress, who the students took the career assessment with on Sunday night. Mr. Umfress went over the results of the assessment with the students in his office, giving advice on careers that might suit the students' skills and interests. The last session was an ACT prep workshop by Rachel Tate, a local counselor who teaches classes on test-taking and the ACT.

Art

Time: 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To continue art projects

Summary: The campers began working on the basket that the previous camp had begun making. The students also bleached black cloth with patterns to make the African costumes to help complete their camp's portion of the African costume. The African dance costume reflects the African roots of the Blues.



Blues History

Time: 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Location: Capps Archive Seminar Room

Mission: To further educate the campers on the history of the Blues

Summary: Don Mitchell, a professor in the Language and Literature department at Delta State, and Dr. Shelley Collins, a professor in the music department, teamed up to present a PowerPoint complete with audio samples on the history of the Blues. Outside of his English classes, Mr. Mitchell teaches a three-hour semester course called "The Blues." He also is the former host of *Highway 61*, a weekly radio program on the Blues broadcasted by



Mississippi Public Broadcasting. Dr. Collins teaches “History of Rock and Roll” at Delta State. Together, they traced the early history of the Blues and explained how the Blues impacted and was impacted by different genres of music.

Successes/Challenges: This was successful but yet still presented a challenge. On the one hand, Mr. Mitchell and Dr. Collins are both experts on the Blues and music in general, and what they had to say was very enlightening. However, an hour lecture at the end of the day was pushing the limits of some the campers’ attention spans.

Swim

Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Place: Aquatic Center

Mission: To relax and have fun

Summary: The students were given the opportunity to unwind and go swimming. They all enjoyed themselves and it seemed to be a good bonding experience for the group.

Wednesday, June 27

Fieldtrip to Clarksdale

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Location: Clarksdale, Mississippi

Mission: To further explore the Delta Blues

Summary: After breakfast, the students boarded the bus and were given the transit time to journal. Once in Clarksdale, the first stop was the Delta Blues Museum. After an introduction from a museum staff member, the students were able to explore and find artifacts of musicians of whom previous speakers had spoken. The students were also given a worksheet to complete to facilitate participation. Then the campers and counselors



walked to Cat Head, a Blues and folk art store with a very unique décor. This gave the campers an opportunity to see the intersection of Blues and art, like they had been studying with Ms. Brown, and to see in what ways the Blues are still affecting the Delta. The campers then got back on the bus and went to the Riverside Motel, a famous Blues site. The Riverside Motel was one of the first sites to receive a Mississippi Blues Trail marker and among other things, is the place where famed Blues performer Bessie Smith died.

(The above picture is of Dr. Brown and students reading the marker at the Riverside). The campers then headed to Hick's, a soul food restaurant, for lunch before returning back to the Delta State campus.

Successes/Challenges: We had planned to tour the inside of the Riverside Motel. John Heggen had confirmed with Frank Ratliff, the operator of the Motel, the time the group was coming and had spoken to him the day before, but when the group arrived Mr. Ratliff was not there and we were unable to go inside. Dr. Brown, who in addition to being the Director of the Delta Center for Culture and Learning is also on the Mississippi Blues Commission, explained the history and significance of the site in lieu of Mr. Ratliff.

Financial Aid Workshop

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Location: Student Union 302

Mission: To discuss financial aid and other college finance issues.

Summary: The campers listened to Ashley Scott, a financial aid counselor, who presented pertinent information on scholarships, grants, loans (subsidized and unsubsidized), the FAFSA, and work-study opportunities. She answered questions and handed out materials. She encouraged students to call the Financial Aid Office next fall if any questions arise during the application process. Staff also handed out information on the Gear Up scholarship available to the students.

Art

Time: 1:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Location: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To continue the art projects

Summary: After a break the campers went to the art building to continue the process of making the clothes for the African costume. Ms. Brown talked to the students about the use of indigo in African art and the students began to use indigo for the dance costume. A small group also worked on the sculptural basket.

Song Writing

Time: 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Location: Delta Music Institute

Mission: To learn how to write a Blues song

Summary: Tricia Walker led the students in a song writing workshop. During the session the campers were split into groups and began writing their own blues songs to be performed in front of the class.

Successes/Challenges: The students all really enjoyed this session and created some great songs.

Cookout

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Location: The Pavilion

Mission: To relax and enjoy good food

Summary: The students were treated to barbeque, chips, and fruit by the counselors. A volleyball net was set up to allow those who wanted to an opportunity to play.

Successes/Challenges: This was an informal and relaxed event, and it seemed to be what the campers needed. The schedule had kept them very busy, and a little downtime was what many of them needed.

Movies

Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location: Capps Archive Seminar Room

Mission: To learn more about art tradition in Mississippi

Summary: The students were shown two films. The first, *I Ain't Lying*, is a short film about storytellers and Bluesmen from Mississippi and includes footage from juke joints. Shot in the early 1970's, it provided an excellent background to the Blues culture of that era. The second film, *Folk Art of Mississippi*, explores the folk art tradition in the state and includes some overlap with Blues musicians. A group discussion followed the films.

Thursday, June 28

Art

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Location: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To make Diddley bows

Summary: Ms. Brown led the students in the creation of diddley bows, which are one-stringed guitars that are significant to the Blues. They were often made by children, so many Bluesman probably got their starts on their homemade diddley bows. It is played with a slide, a technique common in the Blues.



Jazz and the Blues



Time: 11:00 am to noon

Location: Student Union 302

Mission: To give the campers information on the relationship between jazz and the Blues

Summary: Dr. Alphonso Sanders talked about the differences between jazz and the Blues and how the two genres relate to (and impacted) each other. He also performed songs for the campers' entertainment and enjoyment.

Song Recording



Time: 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Delta Music Institute

Mission: To record the song that the campers had written at the previous DMI session

Summary: The campers went to a recording studio in the DMI and began to record their songs. Studio technicians explained the process of recording and showed the campers

how to use the technology available to enhance the quality of the finished product.

Successes/Challenges: This session went really well. First, the students really enjoyed getting to record what they had written. Second, since the technicians were working with the students' work, the campers were much more interested in learning about recording technology than they would otherwise have been.

Essay Writing Workshop

Time: 4:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Place: Student Union 302

Mission: To continue Monday's writing workshop

Summary: The campers once again joined Jeanine Roach, this time for an evaluation of their writing. The campers were individually given pointers on how to improve their writings and how to make their strong points stronger.

Art

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Place: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To finish art projects

Summary: The students worked on the basket and finished the dyeing the African dance costume. Ms. Brown explained that the dye they were using, indigo, is the oldest natural dye in the world and showed the students examples of resist-dyeing.

Closing Ceremony Preparation

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Place: Capps Archive seminar room

Mission: To prepare for the closing ceremony

Summary: The students, with the aid of the night counselors, devised and practiced a program for the following day's closing ceremony.

Friday, June 29

Presentation by Jason Umfress

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 am

Place: Broom Hall 115

Mission: To teach the campers how to successfully transition from high school to college.

Summary: Jason Umfress met with the students again, this time to give a PowerPoint presentation on some of the differences between high school and college and to show them how to be successful in their transition. Mr. Umfress stressed the increased responsibility that college brings and advised the students to take an 8:00 to 5:00 mentality upon matriculation.

Art

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Place: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To make mojos.

Summary: The campers returned back to the Holcombe Norwood Art Building to make mojos for the camp. Mojoes are little pouches filled with found objects that are supposed to bring good luck. They are often sung about in Blues songs. The campers filled the bags with objects they had collected during the week as well as some objects traditionally used in mojos (e.g. snakeskin and the fur of a black cat).

Closing Ceremony

Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Location: Holcombe Norwood Art building

Mission: Commemorate and celebrate the week of camp

Summary: The students ended the camp with a presentation that illustrated all they had learned during the week. The campers sang, performed several skits, read poems, and spoke about their experiences in front of family and friends. They traced the Blues, from its infancy in sharecropper's shacks to Muddy Waters'



electrified version that emerged in Chicago. The students also presented their art work – the African dance costume, jewelry, diddley bows, and an almost completed basket. The students were given certificates of completion and two books donated by First Book.

Successes/Challenges: The closing ceremony was again very successful. By having the students present the information they had learned during the week, they had to reflect on all the bits of information they had learned and integrate it into an intelligible whole. Their understanding of the importance of the Delta Blues to the world was demonstrated by what they performed in front of their family, the counselors, and other attendees.

Gear Up Session III: Civil Rights



Campers and staff in front of the ruined Bryant Store in Money, Mississippi, where Emmett Till allegedly wolf-whistled at Carolyn Bryant

Sunday, July 8

Registration

Time: 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Place: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To register the campers

Summary: The campers were welcomed to the camp by all the staff and given their dorm room keys, t-shirts, and other assorted materials that they would need during the coming week. After filling out a pre-survey, they were escorted to their dorms to put away their belongings.



Students were shown campus buildings they would be in on the walk to the dorm. A group dinner in the cafeteria followed.

Introduction to Staff and Camp

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Place: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To introduce students to the staff, each other, to explain the rules of the camp, and to introduce expectations for the week.

Summary: John Heggen, assistant camp director, welcomed the campers and went over rules, expected behavior, and consequences for any violations. The staff then introduced themselves. Next, Cynethia and Teretha led an icebreaker to help the students and counselors get to know each other as well as begin to build a group rapport. In the icebreaker, staff and students wrote 10 facts about themselves and then shared them with the group. An informal memory game was also played.

Successes/Challenges: This was an excellent introduction and group-building event. The tone was again informal to encourage dialogue and participation. We used the same icebreaker as in the previous camp, and it again proved to be effective.

Career Assessment

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Place: Broom 173

Mission: To encourage the students to think about their future and their goals

Summary: Jason Umfress, Director of Career Services at Delta State, led the students through an online career assessment, a service that is usually only offered to Delta State students. Mr. Umfress also talked to the students about some of the things the Career Services Office offer to students.

Journal Making

Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Place: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To have students create journals to use during the week

Summary: Pat Brown, camp director and Delta State Professor of Art, led the students in the creation of journals. The project was simple in terms of materials, but allowed for much creativity in the final production. Each journal turned out to be very unique.

Successes/Challenges: This was a great way to start art because each student was busy and at the end of the session he or she had a finished product.

Monday, July 9

Emmett Till Trip

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Place: Money, MS and Greenwood, MS

Mission: To visit historic sites in the Delta.

Summary: The campers visited the decrepit, abandoned Bryant store where 14-year-old Chicagoan Emmett Till allegedly whistled at Carolyn Bryant in 1955. During the bus ride to the site,



the campers watched *The Murder of Emmett Till*, a PBS documentary on the case. The campers also toured the cemetery at Mt. Zion church, which is the site of one of the three grave sites (and the one with the best claim) that are alleged to hold the remains of famous Bluesman Robert Johnson.

Successes/Challenges: We had a technology problem during the trip, as our DVD stopped playing halfway through the film. To utilize the travel time we still had, Lee Aylward of the Delta Center took the microphone and facilitated a discussion about what it must have been like to be in the situation Emmett Till or his cousin or his mother were. We had several very thoughtful responses, and it was a great lead-in to the site visit.

Essay Writing Workshop

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Place: Student Union

Mission: To improve the essay writing skills of the students

Summary: The campers arrived at the student Union to discuss writing with Jeanine Roach, a graduate student in English. After reviewing the basics of writing and having the students relay some of their strengths and weaknesses in writing, Jeanine gave the students a writing exercise. After the students had finished she collected their papers so she could critique and return them later in the week.

Handmade Paper

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Place: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: Make paper and paper mache moulds

Summary: Ms. Brown first talked to the students about the history of paper making. She then instructed the students on how to make paper. The students tore up old paper and put it into a Hollandale beater, which grinds the paper into a pulp which they then matted onto screens and let dry to make the paper. They also made clay molds of famous civil rights activists which they then covered with paper and glue to make an imprint of the face which would serve as masks. They then left the moulds out to dry.

Emmett Till Movie

Time: 4:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Place: Capps Archives Seminar Room

Mission: To finish the documentary about Emmett Till

Summary: The campers finished the documentary that had quit playing on the bus earlier in the day. Luckily the Delta Center has several copies of the film, so the students were able to view the entire film.

Movie

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Place: Capps Archives Seminar Room

Mission: To further educate the campers on the Civil Rights movement in the Delta.

Summary: The campers viewed a film from the PBS documentary series, *Eyes on the Prize*, which examines various eras during the fight by African-Americans for equality and freedom. The students watched program 5, "Mississippi: Is This America? (1962-1964)." Among other topics, the film covered Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, a Delta native, and her work with the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. A discussion followed the film to allow for reflection of what had just been seen.

Tuesday, July 10

Rotating Academic Schedule

Time: 8:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Place: Student Union

Mission: To help prepare students for some aspect of the college process

Summary: The campers were split into three groups and rotated through different sessions. Each session lasted approximately 45 minutes. One session was a meeting with Admissions counselors, who talked about the application process and answered questions the students had. The counselors then met with the students individually to go over their transcripts. Another session was a meeting with Jason Umfress, who administered the career assessment on Sunday night. Mr. Umfress went over the results of the assessment with the students in his office, giving advice on careers that might suit the students' skills and interests. Finally, students attended an ACT prep workshop led by Mrs. Pat Kirkpatrick, who teaches an ACT class for the Literacy Council. In the workshop, the campers learned strategies to increase their scores on the ACT, such as skimming and not leaving any questions blank. After the talk, they took an abbreviated mock ACT to try out the new strategies.

Handmade Paper

Time: 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Place: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To teach the students other paper making techniques

Summary: Ms. Brown began instructing the students on how to make their own special paper for the books they would make later on in the week, using various materials to use for paper. Specifically, students prepared cotton linters and then used special equipment to make paper for pages and the cover of books. Ms. Brown discussed the history of book-making, which until recently was an art form.

Academic Support Lab

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Place: Student Union 309

Mission: To teach the campers how to handle the responsibilities of college as well as show campers the resources available to students at Delta State

Summary: Diane Blansett, a Delta State professor and the director of the Academic Support lab, gave the students a brief overview of the Academic Support Lab and what services it offers. She then played a game with them called SUCCEED, which presented a series of multiple choice questions that the students had to answer. The questions in the game addressed the habits of successful college students and were applicable to all incoming or soon-to-be college students. The students were again very engaged during this session.

Handmade Paper Continued

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Place: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To show students more techniques of paper-making

Summary: Students, under the instruction of Ms. Brown and the art interns, made paper from magnolia leaves. The campers also pulled clay out of the paper mache molds they had made the day before and filled them with the magnolia paper in order to make paper mache masks. They also continued weaving the basket that had been started during the first camp and had been worked on during the second camp.

Fannie Lou Hamer Gravesite



Time: 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Place: Fannie Lou Hamer Memorial Gravesite in Ruleville, MS

Mission: To visit the grave of historic civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer.

Summary: The campers rode in Delta State University vans to Ruleville, Mississippi, the home of Fannie Lou Hamer. The campers viewed her grave as the staff gave a history of Fannie Lou Hamer's life. Her involvement with the

Civil Rights movement and Freedom Summer, the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Part, and her speech in front of the Credentials Committee at the Democratic National Convention were discussed. Also discussed was her later involvement in human rights and hunger issues, including Freedom Farms. The site of the memorial is on what was Freedom Farms before it was given to the city of Ruleville.

Dockery Farms

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Place: Dockery Farms

Mission: Eat dinner and learn about the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi

Summary: The campers went to Dockery Farms and ate a traditional southern meal of chicken, sweet potatoes, rice, and green beans. Afterwards, Charles McLauren spoke to the students about the Civil Rights movement in Mississippi, and especially the Delta. Mr. McLauren is a veteran of the Civil Rights Movement and was a close friend to Mrs.



Hamer. Mr. McLauren is the man who initially took Mrs. Hamer to register to vote, was her campaign manager when she ran for Congress, and even handled the arrangements after Mrs. Hamer's death. Mr. McLauren talked about Mrs. Hamer, his experiences with the Civil Rights Movement, what he thought had improved and what still needed to improve, and encouraged the students to exercise their right to vote.

Successes/Challenges: The students were very interested in what Mr. McLauren had to say. It is not often one gets to hear a first-hand account of important events in our history, and it was special to hear Mr. McLauren speak.

Recreation

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Place: Delta State University

Mission: Relax

Summary: The campers had a well-deserved off-night. They socialized in the Student Union and played cards.

Successes/Challenges: We had planned to let the students use the recreational facilities at Delta State (e.g. the pool, the gym, etc.). However, because of the low enrollment in the July summer session, the facilities were not open.

Wednesday, July 11

Stax Museum

Time: 10:30 a.m. to noon

Place: Memphis, Tennessee

Mission: Learn about the impact of black musicians as it relates to Civil Rights and the struggle for equality

Summary: The students' first stop in Memphis was the Stax Museum of American Soul Music. It is a beautifully made museum dedicated to Stax Records, a record company that revolutionized music with its colorblind approach to soul music and its artists. The students did a scavenger hunt to focus their time at the museum.

Successes/Challenges: Despite the scavenger hunt, we still had some students who went through the museum very quickly.

Civil Rights Museum

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Place: Memphis, Tennessee

Mission: Learn about the struggle for Civil Rights

Summary: The National Civil Rights Museum is an amazing telling of the history of the struggle of African Americans, from slavery through today. The Museum is housed at the Lorraine Hotel, the site of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The tour moves visitors from the era of slavery through the modern Civil Rights era and shows the triumphs in addition to the struggles. The students were able to move at their own pace and were very engaged. Unlike at Stax, we did not have students finishing too fast.

Cookout

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Place: Pavilion at Delta State

Mission: Eat and listen to the blues

Summary: Counselors prepared barbeque for the students, who were entertained by Pat Thomas as they ate. Mr. Thomas is a Bluesman from Leland, MS, and is also an artist. He talked about what the Blues meant to him and brought some of his artwork to show the students.

Jerome Williams

Time: 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Place: Capps Archive Seminar Room

Mission: To learn how today's music can be used to address social issues

Summary: Jerome Williams, a hip-hop artist from Clarksdale, spoke to the campers about his music and how music can be used for social change. This tied in to Freedom songs, which were songs sang by Civil Rights workers to give them strength and encouragement. Discussion was about how people use music to comment on the world, and to try to change it.

Thursday, July 12

Art

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Place: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To instruct the students on how to make their own books using their hand made paper.

Summary: Ms. Brown distributed to the campers the paper they had made which had put cut into different shapes, sizes, and colors. With the aid of the campers own artistic vision, Ms. Brown instructed them on how to make their own books. They turned out great and made a nice keepsake for the students.

Essay Writing

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Place: Student Union 302

Mission: To continue Tuesday's writing evaluation

Summary: The campers once again joined Jeanine Roach, this time for an evaluation of their writing. The campers were individually given pointers on how to improve their writings and how to make their strong points stronger.

Successes/Challenges: This group worked well in the essay writing sessions. Ms. Roach commented on how much they had improved.

Financial Aid Workshop

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Place: Student Union 302

Mission: To discuss financial aid and other college finance issues.

Summary: The campers listened to Paula Laws, assistant director of Financial Aid, who presented pertinent information on scholarships, grants, loans (subsidized and unsubsidized), the FAFSA, and work-study opportunities. She answered questions and also handed out materials. She encouraged students to call the Financial Aid Office next fall if any questions arise during the application process. Staff also handed out information on the Gear Up scholarship available to the students.

Mound Bayou Field Trip

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Place: Mound Bayou, Mississippi

Mission: To look at the historic town of Mound Bayou.

Summary: The campers were taken to historic Mound Bayou, MS, "the oldest all-black municipality founded by ex-slaves in 1887." Booker T. Washington declared that there was no other community in the world outside of Tuskegee that he was so deeply interested. It was also the town Emmett Till's mother stayed in during the trial, as it was the only place thought to be safe for her. Mrs. Aylward told the students this history as the group took a tour of the town. Tour stops included the house of the town's founder, Isaiah T. Montgomery, and the Taborian Hospital, a hospital built for the residents of the town and home to the first HMO. It was enlightening for the students, many of whom did not realize that there were such wealthy and well-off African-Americans in that time period (early 1900's).

Art

Time: 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Places: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To finish all unfinished art projects.

Summary: The campers returned back to the art building to finish their art projects. The basket, with the weaving done, was dyed using indigo. Indigo was used to turn the basket blue, which represented both the color of water (for the river) and the Blues. The students also drew self-portraits. Art staff later used heat transfer to put the image on a shirt. Their faces were chosen to encourage self-reflection and the motif of uniqueness.

Friday, July 13

Q&A About Residence Life

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Place: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To answer questions about residence life

Summary: DeAndre House, the Coordinator for Housing and Residence Life, talked to the students about residence life as a college student. He then answered all questions the students had. The students seemed to enjoy talking to Mr. House, who was very good about keeping students' attention so early in the morning.

Presentation by Jason Umfress

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 am

Place: Broom Hall 115

Mission: To teach the campers how to successfully transition from high school to college.

Summary: Jason Umfress met with the students again, this time to give a PowerPoint presentation on some of the differences between high school and college and to show them how to be successful in their transition. Mr. Umfress stressed the increased responsibility that college brings and advised the students to take an 8:00 to 5:00 mentality upon matriculation.



Art

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Place: Holcombe Norwood Art Building

Mission: To make mojos

Summary: The campers returned back to the Holcombe Norwood Art Building to make

mojos for the camp. Mojoes are little pouches filled with found objects that are supposed to bring good luck. They are often sung about in Blues songs. The campers filled the bags with objects they had collected during the week as well as some objects traditionally used in mojos (e.g. snakeskin and the fur of a black cat).

Closing Ceremony

Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Place: Holcombe-Norwood Art Building

Mission: Commemorate and celebrate the week of camp

Summary: The students ended the Gear-Up camp with a performance that illustrated the experiences of the week. The campers sang Freedom songs, put on short skits, read poems, and spoke. The skits presented the information of the Emmett Till case to the audience. The campers were then presented with a certificate of completion and two books donated by First Book. Artwork done during the camp was on display for family and friends to admire, including the completed African dance costume and the sculpted basket.

