USM

Grant will aid the study of fracking

The University of Southern Mississippi has received a federal grant to study the impact of the increased use of hydraulic fracturing, commonly known as fracking, on freight transportation distribution patterns.

The grant directed to the Department of Economic Development and Tourism in the College of Business comes from the U.S. Department of Transportation Research and Innovative Technology Administration.

The project is a collaborative effort among USM, Vanderbilt University and the University of Alabama at Huntsville as part of a university transportation center consortium research program. Vanderbilt will serve as the project leader.

The ultimate goal is to provide guidance for freight transportation planners and policy makers in determining where to concentrate their attention to mitigate safety and economic risks.

The USM team will focus on the emerging Tuscaloosa Marine Shale region that stretches across southwest Mississippi into Louisiana.

“Fracking in Mississippi will present great opportunities and challenges, particularly on the transportation arena,” said Tulio Sulbaran, director of USM’s Center for Logistics, Trade and Transportation, which is also involved in the research.

“Fracking activities mainly rely on trucks which travel through our roads providing job opportunities as well as additional demands on our roads.”

Delta State University

Grammy Museum names DSU affiliate

Delta State University has become an official university affiliate of the Los Angeles-based Grammy Museum.

As such, Delta State will have access to the museum’s content for educational purposes, curriculum resources, research programs, internship opportunities, professional development seminars, collaborative marketing and promotions, and project-based learning.

“With Grammy Museum’s university affiliate program, we’re inviting educational institutions to engage in a unique resource-sharing opportunity,” said Bob Santelli, executive director of the museum.

He said the designation is even more special due to the fact that the Grammy Museum will be opening its first-ever satellite location on Delta State’s campus next year.

Additional museum university affiliates are expected to be announced throughout 2014.

William Carey University

Restored artwork to go on exhibit

The Sarah Ellen Gillespie Museum of Art at William Carey University will host from Nov. 11 until Dec. 18 an exhibit of artwork restored following Hurricane Katrina.

The collection was housed at the former Coast campus of WCU, which was destroyed by Katrina in 2005.

Since then, the collection has undergone extensive conservation and preservation measures and is now stored at the Gillespie Museum.

The opening reception for the exhibit will be held from 4:30-6 p.m. Nov. 11 at the museum, located on the Hattiesburg campus.

There will be a gallery talk by Iris Easterling, former curator and coordinator of the restoration project for the Gillespie Collection.
The Gillespie Collection is considered to be the most comprehensive and extensive collection of art executed by Mississippians during the 20th century.

There are more than 600 works by Mississippi artists, employing various media and exploring wide-ranging subject matter.

Mississippi Valley State University

Cotton Pickers symposium set

Khafre Inc. and Mississippi Valley State University will host the third annual Cotton Pickers’ Sweat Equity Investment Symposium, scheduled for Nov. 7 in the Social Sciences Auditorium on the Itta Bena campus.

The Cotton Pickers Ball will be at 7 p.m. that day in da’ House of Khafre in Indianola.

The deadline for the “Call for Papers and Presentations” now in circulation is Friday.

Khafre’s goal is to develop a $26 million Cotton Pickers Memorial site, Cotton Pickers of America Monument and Sharecroppers Interpretive Center, in Bolivar County just outside of Mound Bayou.

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