Interview with Valerie Ross

May 17, 2010

For the American Music Archives at the University of Mississippi

Miles Laseter did a follow up interview with Valerie Ross at 1:00 pm on the third floor of the Student Union Building in a conference room next to her office.

I monitored the sound and operated the recording equipment.

The interview was for the ongoing project to interview people involved in the making of religious music in the North Mississippi area to be archived in the American Music Archives within the University’s Special Collections at the J.D. Williams Library on Campus.

The interview lasted approximately 1 hour. She talked about her role as an advisor to the university gospel choir. She advised the students through the process of going from an organization within the Black Student Union to becoming an independent organization within the University. She advised the organization of how to obtain the initial grants they needed and she acts as a liaison between the administration and the choir. She continues to be an administrative advisor to the choir as well as a personal counselor to the students in the choir.

The interview was relaxed, Mrs. Ross was not overly nervous and she replied to questions in a straight forward, direct and thoughtful way as a professional would talk in a business meeting. Her previous interview with Miles Laseter was more about her personal life and emotional connections with gospel music and the choir. I was not present for that interview, but at the beginning of this interview she mentioned that she hopes she does not get emotional in this one the way she did before.