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the delta devils GAZETTE

An award-winning college newspaper, by students for students

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A HISTORICAL CONVOCATION

By Cor'Darrell Self

What day could be more perfect to commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. than January 20, 2009? This particular day, the family of Mississippi Valley State University witnessed more than just a moving and dynamic program, it also witnessed the history making inauguration of Barack Obama, America's 44th and its first African American, president.

Our highly emotional program progressed simultaneously with an unforgettable inauguration. The purpose of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Convocation, according to Barbara Baymon, Speech Instructor Mass Communication, and member of the Convocation Committee, was to "...pay tribute to Dr. King, it is done every year to give honor and thanks to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., highlighting the dream, and how it has now come true." Baymon said.



The program went smoothly in traditional program format to start, but took an uplifting turn with a vibrant performance of "Elijah Rock" by the MVSU concert choir, and with Dr. Roy C. Hudson introducing the speaker and reflectors who gave their accounts of being acquainted with Dr. King.

Dr. Nathaniel Bocclair and Dr. Robert Clark finished their individual speeches smoothly; however, during Mr. Billy Joe McCain's speech, an uproar of applause went up. McCain assumed the applause were for him, then realized the president-elect was about to be inaugurated on the screen directly behind him. He accepted the applause, with pleasantries, for Obama, and the program was halted as all attention turned to "The Queen of Soul."

Aretha Franklin gave an inspiring and stimulating rendition of "My Country 'tis of Thee," and was promptly followed by the swearing-in of Joe Biden, now vice-president of the United States of America. There was a lengthy musical selection after the vice-president was sworn in; however, at 12:02 P.M., Barack Obama was named president of the United States of America without taking the oath of office.

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GUESS WHO'S HEADED TO THE 2009 SWAC CHAMPIONSHIP?

By Cassandra Griggs

For too many years, Mississippi Valley State University tennis has been laughed at, talked about and were known for holding the bottom spot of the SWAC Eastern conference. No longer on the bottom or getting laughed at MVSU men's tennis team has finally redeemed themselves by breaking the yearly curse and is on their way to the 2009 SWAC Championship!

Lead by the head Coach Chris Totten and his assistant, Coach Phillip Pratt. Sunday, March 29, 2009 began the Swac's 2009 East vs. East Round up in Birmingham, Alabama. The Delta Devils competed against; the Tigers of Jackson State, the Hornets of Alabama State and lastly the Bulldogs

of Alabama A & M, leaving MVSU Delta Devils Tennis Team with a record of 2-1 landing them in the number three spot. It has been quite a few years since a Valley men's tennis has competed for a SWAC championship.

The championship tournament, April 17-19 in Alexandria LA, will see the top 3 schools from the Western and Eastern divisions. This is a huge accomplishment and shows all their hard work and dedication has truly paid off.

To the members of Delta Devils Men's Tennis team, while in Alexandria LA, remember your schools motto; "Excellence to Preeminence", which means Superior to or notable above all others; outstanding, and that you are. Good Luck!



THE DELTA DEVILS GAZETTE

American Scholastic Press Association 1989, 1990, 1991, 1997, and 2002 **FIRST PLACE** winner.

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

by Denise Williams

One does not have to be a football, basketball, baseball, or track athlete to be popular. Not even a cheerleader, Student government Association, fraternity or sorority could measure up to the aspects of Amos Taylor.

Senior Amos "Famous Amos" Taylor a mass communications major of Memphis, Tennessee, is well known on campus not only for being the Delta Devils drum major, but for his outgoing personality and sense of humor. Taylor's main purpose at Mississippi Valley State University is to keep people happy. "I love to make people smile, said Taylor. I don't believe in settling because entertainment is what I do."

Famous Amos hosts many parties and school functions at Mississippi Valley State University keeping people hyped and entertained.

"Amos has the right attitude on what college should be about; having fun and showing school spirit," stated Sophomore Antia Cain. Sophomore Lisa Murry seconded the motion by stating, Amos is very school spirited and he always finds a way to make campus life fun."

Amos Taylor who plans on going in the entertainment business as an actor when he graduates says it's an honor to be the student spotlight, but I don't do it for the spotlight, I do it because it's me and I love it."

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MVSU STUDENT WINS REGIONAL TRIO SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION



Left... Joyce Roundtree-McCoy, director, and Chiquita McDaniel.

Senior Chiquita McDaniel, a Student Support Services (SSS) dual Chemistry and Biology major from Tutwiler, Mississippi, recently participated in and won a \$1000.00 TRIO scholarship competition sponsored by the Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (SAEOPP). SAEOPP is the regional association for southeastern TRIO programs in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. One college or adult winner and one pre-college winner are chosen from each of the eight states. Chiquita is the Mississippi adult winner.

In completing the application process, Chiquita had to list her academic and non-academic awards earned,

membership and/or office(s) held in organizations, volunteer service, involvement in TRIO-sponsored activities, and her GPA (official transcript was also required). In addition, one of her professors and her SSS sponsor had to write letters of recommendation for her. Chiquita was also rated on her 300 - 350 word essay about how "SSS has helped her be a successful college student." Chiquita plans to use her scholarship to attend graduate school at either the University of Mississippi or Mississippi State University in Fall 2009. Her career goal is to become a dentist.

SSS has been on the campus of MVSU since 1973 and is funded by the U. S. Department of Education TRIO Programs. For more information about SSS, please call 662-254-3838.

AN EXECUTIVE AGENDA

By Dorice Beaman

Ever progressive, Mississippi Valley State University is an institution that supports Scholars of Excellence. In order to maintain this reputation, Valley networks with other universities and corporate entities. For the last six years, corporate America has connected with MVSU through the Black Executive Exchange Program known as BEEP. The recent meeting of the program was held in the business building Mar.25, 26 and 27, 2009. This program meeting consisted of executives from various companies talking to students through class meetings, seminars and mock interviews.

The BEEP Conference was guided by the theme "Cultivating New Leaders and Inspiring Achievement". A

number of well accomplished individuals and executives were on hand to promote this theme. Bobby Clayton, Corporate Diversity Director of Business Development Sales for UPS of Jacksonville, Florida. Clayton is an MVSU graduate with a degree in Business Administration and is the lead executive that networks with Valley for the annual BEEP Conference. Carlos Davis, Director of the Installations and Logistics Office for Central Intelligence Agency, (CIA). Alisha Earle, Management and Program Analyst for the U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of Intelligence. Paul Johnson, an Agency Energy Coordinator for the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Tina Leach, Senior Procurement Analyst for the U.S. Department

of Homeland Security, LaShawn Samuel, HR Program Manager for the Office of Personnel Resources for the CIA, Patricia Way, Human Capital Officer for the Human Capital Operations Division, Department of Homeland Security.

Each of these executives gave firsthand detail about their positions, what it took to get there and how to be continually progressing in your career. The BEEP Conference gave the students here a glimpse into possible executive careers, both in government and the private sector. The conference gave the necessary motivation and encouragement to be successful in college and life as well.

DID YOU KNOW...?

By Kevin Smith

Did you know if you want to apply for a scholarship, on-campus assistance applications need to be complete by the fall semester. Most of the financial procedures should be completed and available for the following school year you plan to attend. The lines for financial aid are longer in the fall registration so try to handle everything before the semester begins. The line is shorter in the spring due to many not having problems with their financial status. If you are an out-of-state-student, you can be a resident in Mississippi by petitioning the university for a change in residency classification. Any minor who enters the system from

another state must be at least 21 and establish residency via drivers' license change, voter registration, and proof of address. This will eliminate the cost for out-of-state fees. If you enter the university as minor and, your parents move out of the state for 12 consecutive months the minor will classify as a non-resident of Mississippi the following semester. The FAFSA application shall be completed no later than April 1 of each year. The sooner you submit your application for financial aid, the more money you can acquire. You must apply for FAFSA in order to attend a university. You can pay tuition by scholarship, grants, and other assistance programs.

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(The constitution states that the presidential term begins at noon, on inauguration day, even without the oath being taken.) The crowd applauded loudly. Following the applause, the official oath was given, and Barack Obama - a Black man - was sworn in as our nation's 44th president.

After the president's speech, the program resumed and Mr. Billy Joe McCain was allowed to finish his speech, a speech in which he even commented on his relationship to John McCain, Obama's Republican opponent. Then came the riveting, thought-provoking, and pulse-racing speech given by the first Black mayor of Itta Bena, MS, The Honorable Thelma Collins, herself an MVSU

alumni. Her speech aroused a highly emotional response for herself, as well as the audience.

Dr. Donna Oliver, the first female president of MVSU, praised the program and all its affiliates. The program was closed by the audience singing "We Shall Overcome," led vigorously by Orlando Moss, MVSU choir director, and a postlude given by Ricky Raine.

Professor Baymon also expressed her sentiments concerning the outcome of the program. "The program was energizing and comforting, considering that each year we highlight Dr. King's Dream and now we can finally say, Dr. King's dream has become a reality."

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES KICKS OFF WITH DR. ALPHONSO SANDERS

By Tyrainne Norton

The B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center hosted the first of many brown bag luncheons last Friday with a unique talent as the host. Dr. Alphonso Sanders, an educator of music for over 25 years, discussed the history and evolution of Delta blues and demonstrated the craft that progressed into a worldwide phenomenon.

Dr. Alphonso Sanders is currently the Chair of Fine Arts and Director of the B.B. King Recording Studio at Mississippi Valley State University. He received degrees in music from Mississippi Valley State University, Valdosta State University and the University of Mississippi. As Director of the recording studio, he is involved in archiving the music of Delta musicians. He often presents music workshops and lectures, educating audiences on the culture of blues and jazz music. His recently released recording album, entitled "Mississippi Influences," is available at the Museum Gift Shop.

Sanders spoke on blue notes, or "bending of the notes" between corresponding notes of a major scale, and

how it underlies the sound of many Delta musicians. He also explained the method of twelve bar blues, one of the most popular chord sequences found in popular music. Sanders demonstrated both blue notes and twelve bar blues, and the demonstration provided as grand entertainment for the audience.

As a blues historian, he supplied information on how African American Slaves tried to find their sound in a European culture. "The blues itself in the Delta comes out of a lot of pain in history. The blues we have has the formula that came from sonnets; originating from the Caribbean islands...that were used because communication between African slaves was a problem," states Sanders stated.

The Museum will host their Brown Bag Lunch on the last Friday of every month at 12 noon. The Museum is located at 400 Second Street, in Indianola, MS.

For more information on how to participate, please contact Erin Mulligan, Education Coordinator, 662.887.9539 ext. 228, emulligan@bbkingmuseum.org

THE DOWNFALL OF SOCIAL NETWORKING

By Dorice Beaman

Social networking sites like Facebook and Myspace are extremely popular, but there is a downside to them. Employers are now taking notice of these websites. Using photos and information there and determining or eliminating prospective employees for their companies. These simple websites are the cause of some unsuccessful jobs searches. As the saying goes, "Every Picture Tells a Story, Doesn't it?" A thousands words can't undo the damage of one bad picture.

Another mistake of social network is listing your blog details or giving e-mail addresses on resumes. According to Alice Doyle of About.com "Employees have been fired when their employer construed their blog posts as sharing confidential information, making inappropriate comments about the company, or both." A social networking site should be for personal use, not public use. When e-mail and other links are given to employers they research prospective employees. College students and people already in their careers have to remain respectful and expose only what is appropriate.

Many social networking sites can be used for innocent connection, but should be restricted. No employer wants to see a potential employee or someone already on board who is half dressed drinking liquor and worse. All students and anyone who might be looking for employment should follow these rules: 1. Never post something on your Myspace, Facebook, or other social network sites you would not want potential employers to see. 2. Don't post your Blog site, personal web site or other ways to learn more than you want known about you. 3. NEVER POST INAPPROPRIATE words or photos that might come back to ruin a job search later.

ATHLETIC TRAINERS?

By Denise Williams

"To have as many sports as we do at Mississippi Valley State University, I don't think our athletes are as prepared and equipped as we need to be!" stated junior Jonee Collins.

Some athletes have been complaining about the athletic training program recently. They are concerned about health issues in their sport. Patti Ann Webb, the athletic trainer of seven years said, "I love working with athletes. Nothing is better than rehabbing an athlete and see them return to field of play."

Many wonder with seventeen Division I sports at Mississippi Valley State University why there is only one certified athletic trainer. When asked how she felt about being the only trainer, Webb simply replied, "I don't like the struggle I have to go through to get stuff for the athletes. I feel that I need graduate assistants that could be assigned to all major sports." Student trainer of 4 years Derrell

Qualls backed her up by stating, "I feel the athletic training program is great, but it could be much better if the trainers had classes in athletic training to provide better care for the athletes." Lisa Murray a sophomore track athlete stated, "I was injured a whole track season and I feel I didn't receive the treatment or attention needed. There should be more professional help because with one trainer, there is bound to be someone left out or not treated properly."

Some athletes and coaches feel that athletic trainer, Patti Webb, does not treat all sports equally when it comes to injuries. An anonymous soccer player commented, "I feel that Ms. Patti favors football and basketball players. Anytime a female athlete needs help, she always tells us to use stems or ice; without really knowing what the injury is." Junior LaDavey Meriwether seconded this feeling by stating, "I don't think she discriminates gender at all, she is just more dedicated to the bigger

sports." "We get a lot of attention and treatment says freshman basketball player Tashan Newsome. "Ms. Patti tries her best to make sure everybody is healthy and ready to compete."

What's really the problem with athletic training at Mississippi Valley State University? MONEY is a huge issue; because there is no way possible with one certified athletic trainer that every athlete will be healthy and well cared for. Ms Patti Webb admitted that she needs help, but does this give her a right to discriminate between certain athletes or certain sports? Playing sports is like a job to these athletes and with a real job when one feels that he or she have been treated unfairly they report it or may even terminate that employment.

If Mississippi Valley State University wants to continue to have winning programs something has got to change in the athletic training program, because keeping athletes healthy has greater significance than winning SWAC championships.

UP 'TIL DAWN

By: Crystal C. Foster

The Student Government Association (SGA) is participating in a life changing fund-raising program this semester. Up 'til Dawn, is the motto used to help fight childhood cancer for the patients at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. It is lead by students hosted by colleges and universities nationwide. Mississippi Valley State University is one of the universities that have been chosen to participate in this program. In doing so, students, faculty and the community will unite to support the life-changing treatments and research of childhood cancer. It is up to the students at Valley to challenge themselves to help make a difference in someone's life.

A campus executive board has been formed to create student teams to participate in a variety of fundraising activities. While at the same time, the students will learn more about St Jude Hospital patients and the mission of the hospital. Students will stay up all night (Up Til dawn) celebrating their fundraising success. It is a night of fun, celebration, and giving honor to the patients and families of St. Jude.

By dedicating yourself and time in this program, you will help childhood cancer patients around the world. It unites the school campus to work together for one cause and give you the opportunity to make new friends and work

together to help support the St. Jude goal. One of the fundraising activities in progress is a special raffle to "Win a Private Room" on campus. Tickets are \$5.00 and are available in the SGA Office. Sales will last until April 23, 2009, and will be raffled off on April 23, 2009. Get your tickets now and give yourself the chance to win a private room while at the same time help support the patients of St. Jude Hospital.

Well, now you're wondering "How can I get involved?" It's very easy. Just register to be a part of an Up 'til Dawn team. The teams can consist of your very own friends, classmates, or fellow organization members. Find out the members of the executive board and attend all meetings. During the meetings you will discuss and learn how to raise the money that is needed to support the kids of St. Jude. Gather your teammates and begin hosting a variety of activities and fundraising events to reach the fundraising goal. Then the night of honor, miss a night of sleep in celebration and honor of your hard work to help save lives.

Challenge yourself to make a difference and become a part of Up 'til Dawn. Come support and help fight childhood cancer. It will allow you to give hope in the lives of St. Jude patients, hope they need to live, to have the same opportunities, to grow, grow up and someday attend MVSU, just like you!

DO YOU KNOW YOUR STATUS?

By Crystal C. Foster

Sickle cell disease or sickle cell anemia is an inherited blood disorder that affects the red blood cells. The red blood cells form into abnormal, rigid, sickle shapes causing people to have a variety of complications. Studies reported an average life expectancy of 42 to 48 years of age. One in every ten African Americans suffers from sickle cell disease or has the trait, yet most people don't even know it.

When sickle-shaped cells block the small blood vessels, less blood is able to flow through that part of the body. The tissue that does not receive a normal blood flow will become damaged. Hemoglobin is the main function of the red blood cell. It helps the red blood cells carry the oxygen from the air into our lungs and all the parts of our body. Normal blood cells contain hemoglobin A, while abnormal contains hemoglobin S and C. People who have the disease make up a different form of the hemoglobin, theirs would be made up of hemoglobin S. The S represents sickle. This is an abnormal cell and causes complications of the disease sickle cell anemia (SS).

On the other hand, there are people who carry the trait. The trait consists of hemoglobin A and hemoglobin S. Although it is not a type of sickle cell disease, it still needs to be considered when deciding to have children. People who have the trait are normally healthy, but at times may suffer some of the symptoms of the disease.

It's important for people to know whether or not they carry the trait because it will be passed down from generation to generation. This is an inherited disease, so it is inherited from parents just like hair color and texture, eye color, and blood type. The child will inherit two sets, one from each parent. According the SCDAA (Sickle Cell Association of America, Inc.), "For example, if one parent has Sickle Cell Anemia and the other is Normal, all of the children will have sickle cell trait. If one parent has Sickle cell anemia and the other has sickle cell trait, there is a 50% chance (or 1 out of 2) of having a baby with either sickle cell trait with each pregnancy. When both parents have Sickle Cell Trait, they have a 25% chance (1 out of 4) of having a baby with sickle cell disease with each pregnancy."

This is vital in the black community because

some people are not educated enough about the disease. It is a possibility that they may have the trait, or even the disease and not know it. Without the proper treatment it can result to life-long complications and even death. People need to be aware of their hemoglobin trait so they will know the risk of having children. This disease is just as important as HIV/AIDS, but it is often overlooked.

Most people are familiar with the disease and are aware of their status. But for the people who don't know are curious to know if they carry the trait. A blood test can be taken and a laboratory technician will run the persons blood through an Electrophoresis to determine which hemoglobin that person has. If found that you have the sickle hemoglobin, genetic counseling will be requested to inform the proper care for your health.

Living in today's society with so many health disorders it's essential for young adults to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Continue to get regular check-ups. If you have a child with sickle cell disorder, maintain appropriate immunizations, visit a genetic counselor to be educated about the disease, eat a balanced meal, drink lots of water, and find out your hemoglobin status.

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For more information about application and admission conditions, please contact:
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