

# the delta devils GAZETTE

An award-winning college newspaper, by students for students

MARCH/APRIL 2023

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY • ITTA BENA, MISSISSIPPI

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## The Delta News' meteorologist headlines MVSU's WIST conference



by Kiara Love, Staff Writer

“Never let your childhood dream die.” The Delta News meteorologist Ashley Brewer told nearly 100 high school students in attendance at MVSU’s 25th annual Constance G. Bland Women in Science and Technology (WIST) Conference, Friday, March 24.

This year’s conference’s theme was “**Women in Science and Technology: Plug Into STEM.**”

“I knew since I was six what I wanted to be,” Brewer continued. “This stuck with me because as a child, we would have dream jobs of what we wanted to be such as a scientist, a firefighter, a doctor, or something impractical like a princess or pirate.”

Established by the late Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Constance G.

Bland, WIST conference is design to show students, particularly young women, that careers in STEM are opened to anyone. The MVSU Mathematics, Computer, and Information Sciences (MCIS) department holds the free conference for middle and high school young women.

According to the current MCIS department chair, Dr. Latonya Garner-Jackson, Dr. Bland was an avid researcher and writer. The conference has inspired hundreds of young girls to pursue STEM-related careers and majors since 1991. Other coordinators include AmberLampkin, and Cassandra Newsome.

Friday’s conference opened with a prayer from WIST Vice President Serethra Ware, followed by the welcome from Miss MVSU Essence Baggett.

Dr. LaTonya Garner-Jackson (right) presents an award to speaker Ashley Brewer. PHOTO: Courtesy of MCIS department

## MVSU's first Women's Empowerment Tea

By Latavia Williams, Co-Editor-in-Chief

“Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It shouldn’t be that women are the exception” - Ruth Bader Ginsburg

The above quote from the late RThe above quote from the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s represents the essence of the message received during the Royal Court’s Women Empowerment Tea, March 15. The tea was held in Room 4 of the H.M. Ivy Cafeteria.

Guest speaker was Dale Michelle Williams, Ph.D., founder of the non-profit Leadership for Queens. “Oh, I hope I was able to help the young ladies take away the importance of [focusing] in on their time in college to navigate successfully to their various career professions,” Williams said in a recent telephone interview with the Delta Devils Gazette.

“We must teach our students how to be well-rounded. Our kids are in a dilemma. They are being told and shown that they can be successful without college, but they are still going to need that degree!” she stressed. She said one can earn a degree and still “give oneself some options to feed the soul.” That’s what she does via Leadership for Queens.



Williams

“It’s volunteer work for me, a way to give back,” Williams said. She urges MVSU students to give back as well.

With more than 20 years in higher education, the former Miss Tennessee State University (1992-93), is currently Director of the Academic Counseling Center at the University of Memphis.

MVSU’s Queen Essence Baggett said the tea was “very enjoyable, entertaining and powerful.”

Baggett said the tea’s purpose was to “empower women to be who they are unapologetically. There is power in trusting God and trusting in ourselves.”

Take-a-ways Baggett said attendees gained from Dr. Williams’ “motivational” presentation were as follow:

- We are strong no matter the circumstance.
- We can be soft when needed.
- We shouldn’t let our past define our future; and
- We are leaders inside and out, and we must portray ourselves as such.”

Queens of MVSU’s 2022-2023 Royal Court are Miss Freshman-India Butler, Miss Sophomore-Ashanti Daley, Miss Junior- Zapouria Wadley and Miss Senior- Makiah Sherman.

## Valley family supports tornado victims



An image near Rolling Fork, Miss. one of the many devastations left by an EF-4 tornado that ripped through the South Mississippi Delta, Friday night, March 24. PHOTO COURTESY OF NOAA

“Our hearts ached as we watched the news coverage and have since heard of the reports of those who lost their lives, property, and so much more. I write to you with care and concern for all of those impacted by this tragedy, and I want you to know that the MVSU family is actively working to secure ways to be of support during this time to all the communities affected by the storms,

but especially the communities of Rolling Fork and Silver City,” said MVSU President Dr. Jerryl Briggs in a letter of support Saturday, March 25.

The Valley family and friends recently held a tornado relief drive for those impacted by the massive and destructive tornado. They also held a candlelight vigil in memory of those who lost their lives.

# Jones-Hall promoted to Co-Editor-in-Chief

DDG Staff Report

The Delta Devils Gazette (DDG or Gazette) recently elevated its Sports Co-Editor Gabrielle Jones-Hall to graduate student Co-Editor-in-Chief.

The Mississippi Valley State University Master's Bioinformatic graduate student said she was "filled with excitement with a combination of being pleased" to learn of her promotion.

Jones-Hall will be taking on the role and responsibilities vacated by graduate student Joshua King who was very instrumental in helping the undergraduate Co-Editor-in-Chief Latavia Williams with the "big comeback" of the Gazette last fall.

"We truly appreciate his dedicated service while he was engaged," said Visiting Assistant Professor of Mass

Communication Gail H. Marshall Brown, Ph.D., who serves as Faculty Advisor for the Gazette.

Dr. Brown said that it was because of Jones-Hall's drive, work ethics, energy and eagerness in wanting to make the paper better that prompted the elevation.

"I am very ecstatic to have a dedicated and hardworking Co-Editor-in-Chief like Gabrielle to help bring positive change and her creative ideas to the table," said Williams, a Mass Communication major with a concentration in broadcasting. "I look forward to us working as a team to keep the Gazette as an award-winning student paper."

In the short time she has to serve before the semester ends, Jones-Hall says she has a few achievement goals

she would want to fulfill: "Recruit one or two staff writers. The second would be to bring spunk to the Gazette."

When asked what she means by bringing spunk to the campus newspaper, she replied: "My idea of bringing spunk to the campus newspaper is having interesting headlines." Jones-Hall said she believes the flow of the Gazette should be so interesting that students will see it as "something worth picking up." She wants to help "create a culture around the Gazette. That's what I mean by bringing spunk."

"Right now, we suffer from a deficiency, I think, in student morale," she said. However, in her position she hopes to help "set an example of what it means to actually be a MVSU student in this deficient. It takes determination. It takes willingness. It takes commitment and ability."

Brown said that since joining the Gazette staff, Jones-Hall has always exemplified "high energy."

She was once seen at a major campus basketball game distributing the Gazette to interested fans without being asked to do so. "Being one of the sports editors at the time, I felt that distribution at a game would suffice for exposure, and as for me taking the initiative, I have an innate drive for success. I aspire to be successful in many areas. So, however I can incorporate my best self or be my best self. That's what drives me and my want to be an example to others to have that same drive." Jones-Hall is affectionately known around campus as "Keep."

*MVSU students who actively serve on the Gazette staff or assists the Gazette in any way may earn community service hours for the time they are engaged. For more information, contact Dr. Brown at (662) 254-3458 or email: gail.brown@mvsu.edu*



Jones-Hall

## the delta devils **GAZETTE**

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1989, 1990, 1991, 1997,  
and 2002 FIRST PLACE winner. 2015 THIRD PLACE  
winner. 2016 SECOND PLACE winner.

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## Raegan's Advice to Excellence (RAE)

Hey Delta Devils!

I know sometimes school can be stressful. You're always studying. You're worried about your GPA. You may be having a hard time navigating through the college experience. And let's not add the pressures of having extracurriculars on top of all that! Let me give you all a few tips on self-care so you don't lose it all before the school year ends.



**1. Take care of you!** Make sleep a priority. Get your exercise daily or even try a relaxing activity. Eat healthily and stay hydrated. Doing these things not only promotes a healthy body but also supports your mental health. And we know that college is based on your mental strengths!

**2. Be with the people you love!** Make time for family and friends. Even if its just with a few friends in the yard or a warm conversation over Facetime. We are social beings who need regular interaction. Being in constant isolation while in college can cause a lot of stress on your men-

tal health, such as depression and anxiety.

**3. Do what you love!** Sometimes self-care can look like taking a break by doing things we love. Finding a new hobby, reading books, going shopping, or doing whatever helps to put us at ease and keeps us busy is one of the easiest forms of self-care.

**4. When you look good, you feel good!** I know, it is easier said than done! But it's true. Just putting on a nice outfit or getting a skincare or shower routine can get us out of a rut with the quickness! And most times, all it takes is putting a little effort into our everyday life to help pull us through the day, as we finish out the semester.

Alright, Delta Devils. That's all I have for this time. It is only a few more weeks, and the semester will be over!

We'll be going into the 2023-2024 school year, but we must first get through this year. Take care and make time for yourselves.

Signed, A Proud Delta Devil!

# MVSU faculty member is among boots on the ground helping tornado victims

DDG Staff Report

“When I first arrived, I was totally overwhelmed by the impact of the destruction,” said MVSU Department of Mass Communication’s faculty member Alfonso White about the aftermath of the EF-4 tornado that ripped through parts of Mississippi’s south Delta and the Hills, Friday night, March 24.

White is among the many boots on the ground helping victims devastated by the massive tornado.

Director of Mass Communication Television Studio/Instructor and a community organizer, he has been running back and forth from campus aiding citizens in the various ground-zero areas. “As a community organizer, this is my service area,” White said. “I am very concerned about their wellbeing and recovery efforts.”

The Duck Hill, Miss. native and mayor emphasized that Carroll and Montgomery counties have a strong MVSU Alumni Chapter. “As Valley alumni and concerned citizens, it is imperative to be engaged in helping these families recover and



A composite of tornado destruction and the Morning Star Church check presentation. - Courtesy Photo

maintain a quality way of life.”

White began as a community organizer after graduating from MVSU in 1977.

As part of his efforts, he has collaborated with other community partners to bring in solar panels. “The solar panels will be used to supply power in the absence of electricity,” he said. “The Footprint Project donated the solar panels. They will also be providing training in the installation

and operation of solar panels in the near future.”

White also shared that the Morning Star Church in Robinsonville, Miss. presented him with a donation to help families affected by the tornado in Montgomery and Carroll counties.

His students are fond of him, and they say his community organizing is indicative of who he is. “Proverbs 14:21

says, ‘Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor.’ As Mr. White’s student, he is always ready to help his students any way he can,” said Raheal Aka-ety, a graduating senior.

“Therefore, I’m not surprised he is doing the Lord’s work. May he stay untroubled to keep blessing those in need.”

## The lighthouse shines again

By MVSU Lighthouse Ministry

The Lighthouse Ministry at Mississippi Valley State University was founded over several years ago by a former student (Pastor Gregory Merriweather). Pastor Merriweather had a vision to bring more spiritual engagement among his fellow peers.

Our current Light House Ministry’s student president is Minister Trayvon Jack. Minister Jack has added his support and vision to this organization by welcoming spiritual leaders within our community to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Students needing spiritual engagement to stay spiritually encouraged can now have that opportunity through the Lighthouse Ministry. Our main focus is for students

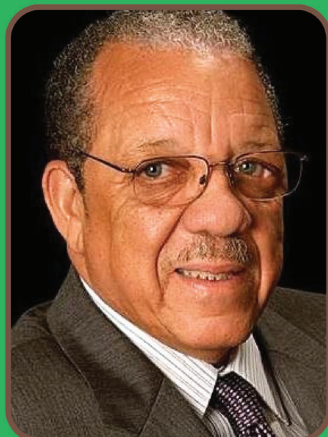


Jack

worship, singing and prayer. The purpose of the Lighthouse Ministry is to encourage and motivate peer college students with encouragement during difficult timing via spiritual guidance using the Holy Bible as biblical instruction. This organization can give students a spiritual and natural feeding through the word of God including transparency. The campus community, is always welcome to join us on Thursdays at 7 p.m. for weekly Bible Study, and praise service.

## Coming April 20th

The MVSU Mass Comm Speaker Series presents



David J. Dennis, Sr.  
Civil Rights Activist & Freedom Rider

*“We’ve had to survive from the day that our ancestors were brought into the country as enslaved people. So every day has been some type of resistance in terms of just being able to survive.”*

Business Ed. Bldg. Auditorium | 1 p.m.  
Free & Open to the Public

A book signing of “The Movement Made Us: A Father, A Son, and The Legacy of A Freedom Ride” by David J. Dennis, Jr. in collaboration with David J. Dennis, Sr. will immediately follow his presentation. Another presentation and book signing will also take place at Turn Row book store in Greenwood at 6 p.m. the same day.

For more info, call (662) 254-3593.



## Spring 2023 MVSU Student Leadership Election Winners

**Kathleen Sims**

*Miss Mississippi Valley State University*

**Jar’Kevious Edwards**

*Mister Mississippi Valley State University*

**Ollie Cajanique**

*Student Government Association President*

**JaMya Peoples**

*Student Government Association Vice President*

**Tamera Miles**

*Student Government Association Treasurer*

**Artraevian Epps**

*Student Government Association Secretary*

**Ashanti Daley**

*Junior Class President*

**Samaria Williams**

*Junior Class Vice President*

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# First-year graduate students in Bioinformatics attend MCBIOS Conference

Jordan Johnson – Reporter/Writer, NSEH

The Mississippi Valley State University first year graduate students in the Master of Science Bio-informatics graduate program; Jasmine Redmond, Caleb Wafer and yours truly, Jordan Johnson attended the Midsouth Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Society (MCBIOS) conference in Dallas, Texas that was held on March 15-17.

They attended with their graduate coordinator Dr. Victor M. Bii

The conference theme, “Big Data and Artificial Intelligence for Genomics and Therapeutics,” served as an introductory platform for bioinformatics-based research to the MVSU graduate students. The students were exposed to excellent modern bioinformatics technologies that were highlighted by keynote and plenary speakers, workshops, bioinformatics-based educational re-sources, oral and poster presentations.

Throughout the conference, students were able to engage and network with their peers and learn from top researchers in the bioinformatics field from schools such as the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, University of Memphis, Notre Dame University, Mississippi State University, and Emory University to name a few. Focus topics ranged from understanding new models for analyzing biological data obtained using new single-cell multi-omics techniques such as single cell RNA sequencing (scRNAseq) technologies. Other important areas



From left to right Jordan Johnson, Dr. Victor Bii, Jasmine Redmond, Caleb Wafer

featured included Machine learning, Artificial intelligence, Immunology, Network medicine and drug discovery.

Each attendee left the conference with a new sense of research direction to implement in their graduate thesis proposals.

Caleb Wafer summarized the trip by expressing his gratitude for the opportunity, “The researchers at the conference were very nice and informational. One topic that I did not know too much about was natural killer (NK) cells and how they can be modified to inhibit the breast cancer metastasis. With this exposure from the conference and constant instruction from my advisor Dr. Bii on how NK cells impact science, I am very confident on how my thesis will turn out next Spring.”

The group was also fortunate to have

dinner and fellowship with the MVSU Dallas-Fort Worth Metro Alumni chapter representatives.

Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) offers a Master of Science program in Bioinformatics. MVSU is currently the only university in the State of Mississippi that offers a program such as this one. It provides a curriculum which combines biology, computer science, and information technology with real-world knowledge and experience that will give you the skills essential to excel in this field. A Master of Science in Bioinformatics leads professionals to careers such as software engineer, microbiologist, data scientist, clinical data manager, biostatistician, and so much more. The program is currently accepting applicants for the 2023-2024 academic school year.

## A commentary you can use: ‘Rice does not fix your device!’



by Keyshaun Meeks, Guest Contributor

Life has progressed in its technological advancement with electronics and has become a common inexpensive tool of practice in everyday life.

Ninety-five percent of the earth’s population owns some sort of cellular device. In addition to most having one, we often take our devices with us everywhere we go, whether that is to work, school, restaurant, movie theater, bathroom, shower etc. That leaves room for habitual mishaps, like water damage.

Well, let me just set the record straight in case that happens, “RICE DOES NOT FIX YOUR DEVICE!” The myth of dropping your phone into a bag of rice damages cellphones rather than saving them. Starch and dust residue from the rice can get lodged into the mechanism of your cellphone.

Simply drying your phone with a dry cloth and leaving it to air dry is the most effective method for solving the issue. Afterwards, take it to a trustworthy electronic repair shop so a specialist can inspect it and make sure it is functioning properly.

# FACULTY CORNER -- MVSU faculty & student passion honored at Mississippi Academy of Science Conf.

By Gabrielle Jones-Hall, Co-Editor-in-Chief

A common meeting place for scientists to network, collaborate, and present scientific research is at a conference.

On Feb. 23 and 24, the 87th Mississippi Academy of Science (MAS) conference was held in Biloxi, Miss. at the Biloxi Convention Center, with three notable MVSU representatives in attendance: Dr. Rajashekhar Kanhanapally, Dr. Bhanu Nellore, and an international student from Nigeria, Oluwapelumi Shodubi.

Dr. Kanhanapally and Dr. Nellore served as co-chair and vice-chair, respectively, for the Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Division. That division is the largest, having almost 90 abstracts submitted for review this year.

“MAS is a large and important organization,” said Dr. Kanhanapally during a recent interview with the *Gazette*. “Despite the smaller number of universities in Mississippi, the membership and attendance to the conference is significantly higher compared to that of a few other southern states.”

His duties included effectively “managing the division” with such tasks as session scheduling and working “closely with the chair, the vice-chairs,

and... organizers” to ensure other aspects of the conference ran as smoothly as possible.

At the end of the conference, division members offered him a continuation in his position for next year. This honor will mark his second consecutive time serving in that role. He believes the honors stem from the dedication and passion he has for the organization and promoting/collaborating scientific research.

Dr. Kanhanapally’s goal as an assistant professor in Environmental Health and as co-chair at the 88th is to build upon relationships and connections between institutions and researchers for which could “lead to collaborations and partnerships that benefit MVSU and its students.”

Dr. Nellore shares comparable passions. One of her intensified tasks was the organization of “discussions to enhance collaboration among scientists in Mississippi.”

Even with experiencing technical difficulties and last-minute cancellations, she feels that the conference’s experience was positive, and the face of complex challenges call for contemporary solutions; therefore, “it is essential to continue to support and invest in scientific



research and education.”

In her role as an assistant professor in Chemistry, her main objective is “to guide and mentor... students as they pursue their academic and professional goals.”

Shodubi complimented Dr. Nellore -- she is “always ready to help me navigate the academic system, provide insight into funding opportunities, and connect me with potential collaborators.”

Shodubi is one of her students that presented, for her first time at MAS, a research poster, and she was awarded two honors. Her undergraduate research experience has been on the “creation of EXT1-deficient 293 cells... for exploring the roles of heparan sulfate proteoglycans in exosome biogenesis and viral dynamics.”

Using a type of biotechnology called “CRISPR/Cas9 to generate mutant HEK293 cells that lack the genes

encoding EXT1, NDST1, Syntenin, and Alix, ...observations on the effect of these mutations on the expression of their gene products, their impact on Heparan Sulfate expression, and their effects on exosome biogenesis” were reported.

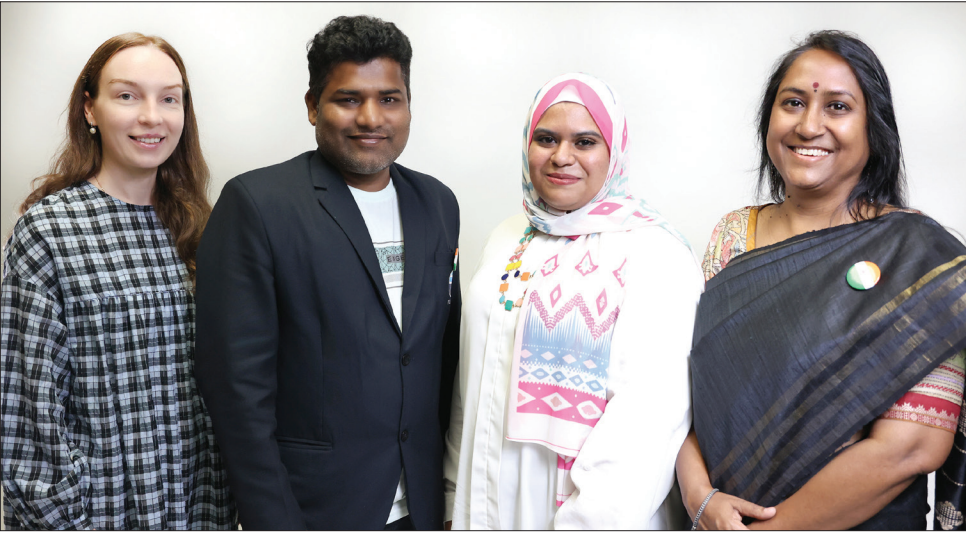
With her deep passion for research and interest in improving health outcomes, Shodubi plans to pursue a graduate degree in biomedical science.

“Her drive and determination will make her an outstanding scientist in the future,” said Dr. Nellore.

Something Shodubi would like to encourage readers to do is, “keep pushing... to learn more and to develop new skills.” She also urges those who are interested in research to seek mentorship!

Whatever level of success one wishes to obtain, “it takes hard work, dedication, and focus,” she said.

# MVSU recognized as a Fulbright HBCU Institutional Leader



Pictured from left are Fulbright Language Teaching Assistants Olga Ponomareva (Russia), Dr. Vikas Kadam (India), Ms. Omnia Mahmoud (Egypt), and Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence: Prof Dr. Vandana Saxena (India). PHOTO: Courtesy, International Program.

*Staff Report*

The Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) Office of International Programs and its administration and staff are still elated that MVSU was named a Fulbright Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Institutional Leader last year, by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA).

“We are honored to be recognized by Fulbright as an HBCU Institutional Leader for 2022,” said Dr. Kathie Stromile Golden, Provost/Senior Vice-President for Academic Affairs. “Participation in various Fulbright Programs has enriched our Institution and the communities we serve.”

Fulbright HBCU Institutional Leaders have demonstrated outstanding support for Fulbright exchange participants during the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 academic years and have promoted Fulbright program opportunities on campus.

MVSU is hosting one Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence and three Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTAs) during the 2022-23 academic year. Dr. Vandana Saxena, Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence, is teaching in the Department of Education.

“The journey from Delhi India to Valley was long but not tiring as I was full of enthusiasm for a new beginning in my professional life,” said Dr. Saxena.

“The huge, green and clean campus was the first positive vibration...I don’t know many people here but the people are so friendly. Mostly everyone will wave with a smile and would pause for a moment to ask “how is your day” or “how are you doing today...,” she said. “Valley rocks!” Dr. Saxena said the students have been the most engaging part of this experience.

MVSU has three FLTAs - Olga Ponomareva (Teaching Russian and from Russia), Dr. Vikas Kadam (Teaching Hindi and from India), and Ms. Omnia Mahmoud (Teaching Arabic and from Egypt).

“Being FLTA at MVSU has given me ample opportunities for cultural exchange and individual and professional growth,” said Dr. Kadam (MVSU - Hindi FLTA).

“Various cultural events, like India Night, Nigerian Night, Chinese New Year, and Holi, make the cultural exchange process smooth and achievable

for the Fulbrighters,” Dr. Kadam added. Omnia Mahmoud (MVSU Arabic FLTA) commented, “Being a part of MVSU has been a wonderful experience. They made me feel like part of the family. It is a great community and support system to all its international staff and students.”

Olga Ponomareva (MVSU Russian FLTA) said, “Being a Fulbrighter at Valley is a great opportunity to share your own language and culture and get a real taste of the Southern hospitality.”

Provost Golden said FLTA “exposes our students and the community to languages and cultures that they might not otherwise experience first-hand.”

She proudly shared “that at least five MVSU faculty members have been Fulbright Teaching and Research Scholars.”

The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government’s flagship international academic exchange program. Since its inception over 75 years ago, the program has given over 400,000 talented and accomplished students, scholars, teachers, artists, and professionals of all backgrounds and fields the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research abroad, exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to critical international problems.

Each year, the U.S. Congress appropriates funds to the U.S. Department of State to sponsor the Fulbright Program. Many foreign governments contribute substantially as well. Additional funding and in-kind funding are provided by U.S. and foreign host institutions, non-governmental organizations, private organizations, corporate partnerships, and individual donors.

MVSU Executive Director of International Relations Dr. Lokesh Shivakumaraiah said, “the prestigious Fulbright programs offer a great opportunity to bring the best scholars in their fields from around the world to Valley and put MVSU branding out in the world.”

“It also gives an opportunity for MVSU students and faculty to pursue their research, teaching and studies abroad. Fulbright faculty and teaching assistants help our students expand their skill set and world awareness,” he added.

For more information, visit its website: <https://us.fulbrightonline.org/>

# 2023 Holi fest exposes Indian subcontinent traditions to nearly 100 attendees



By IP and DDG Staff Writers

On March 25, Holi fest granted students an opportunity to welcome in the season of spring with colors and love, outside in the middle area between the library and student union building on campus.

According to MVSU – Hindi Fulbright Language Assistant Dr. Vikas Kadam, approximately 80 student and faculty were in attendance. “Holi, an Indian festival, is the festival of colors and love,” Dr. Kadam said. “The festival is celebrated differently in various states in India, but it does have similar underlined

values, that is, the victory of good over evil. The office of International Programs at Mississippi Valley State University celebrates this festival of vibrant colors and shades of Indian culture in a grand manner.”

It has been celebrated for centuries in the Indian subcontinent, on the day of Holi each year, which started March 8 this year, colored powders were thrown in the air to splash on others to symbolize the triumph of good over evil.

Each color carried a meaning. For example, red symbolized love and fertility while green stood for new beginnings.



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**MONDAY, APRIL 10**

- 4:00 PM: BOLLYWOOD MOVIE  
Business Classroom #105
- 6:30 PM: CULTURAL FAIR  
Student Union
  - Country Tables
  - Henna Tattoos
  - Russian Doll Painting
  - Cultural Exhibits
  - International Cuisine

**TUESDAY, APRIL 11**

- 11:00 AM: WORLD POETRY\*
- 12:00 PM: JAPANESE CALLIGRAPHY  
Student Union
- 3:30 PM: YOGA WORKSHOP  
Social Science Auditorium
- 6:30 PM: FASHION FIESTA  
Social Science Auditorium

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12**

- 11:00 AM: PARADE OF FLAGS  
Sutton Administration Building
- 12:00 PM: WORLD CUISINE  
Student Union
- 3:30 PM: NIGERIAN MOVIE  
Business Classroom #105
- 6:30 PM: WORLD DANCE  
Student Union

**THURSDAY, APRIL 13**

- 12:00 PM: A TASTE OF JAPAN:  
JAPANESE COOKING CLASS  
Student Union
- 5:00 PM: SOCCER  
Soccer Stadium

**FRIDAY, APRIL 14**

COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS\*\*

\*World Poetry Link: <https://bit.ly/2023ValleyInternationalWeek>  
\*\*Country presentations can be requested by faculty.



For more information, contact us at 662-254-3094 or at [international@mvsu.edu](mailto:international@mvsu.edu)



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY  
THE OFFICE OF STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT & THE JOINT FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LIFE COUNCIL  
PRESENTS

**SPRING 2023 GREEK**  
**NEW MEMBER**  
**PRESENTATIONS &**  
**NEOPHYTE**  
*Celebration*

**SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023**

**R.W. HARRISON COMPLEX**  
**DOORS OPEN AT 4PM | SHOW STARTS AT 6PM**

.....  
**PRESALE TICKETS ARE \$15 UNTIL APRIL 1ST.**  
**ADMISSION: \$20 IN ADVANCE - \$30 AT THE DOOR**  
**FREE ADMISSION FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD.**  
.....

**TICKET PURCHASES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE AND ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CASHIER'S OFFICE AND ONLINE VIA IMPACT TICKETS.**

**ADMISSION WILL PROVIDE YOU ACCESS TO THE NEW MEMBER PRESENTATION SHOW AND NEOPHYTE CELEBRATION. WRISTBAND MUST BE WORN TO ENTER THE NEOPHYTE CELEBRATION FREE OF CHARGE.**

**NEOPHYTE CELEBRATION STARTS AT 9PM IN LACKEY (OLD) GYMNASIUM. ADMISSIONS WILL BE \$20 AT THE DOOR W/O WRISTBAND**  
.....



**CLEAR BAG POLICY STRICTLY ENFORCED**  
**BALLOONS ARE PROHIBITED INSIDE THE VENUE - THERE IS NO RE-ENTRY ALLOWED.**  
**PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS ALL PARTICIPATING CHAPTERS.**



# Vibrant student commentators during basketball season obtain opportunities from viral incident

By Gabrielle Jones-Hall, Co-Editor-In-Chief

No man automatically receives the luxury in knowing how their life's trajectory spans out. However, it seems, one may shape its reality by performing particular efforts.

On Feb. 11, when a MVSU cheerleader got ejected for walking on the home court to confront #15 of Alabama A&M's men basketball team, little did Caleb Brunson and Andre Williams Jr. know that they would also catch mass attention being student commentators from the viral incident.

Side by side, as they enthusiastically covered home games, the energy they brought to the table could not go unnoticed by viewers and listeners.

In an interview with the Gazette, they both shared how the coincided practices of impersonating sports broadcasters in their dorms prepared them for their blinded, paired opportunity on Valley Sports Network. That is correct, the two explained how they were just thrown into the fire with no training, expected to perform as professional Delta Devils -- all they knew not to do was "cuss".

Brunson is a Mississippi native that is a senior student-athlete majoring in Biology. He was also a part of the football team.

Although he is experienced in football, "basketball has always been more exciting to me, even... when I was playing football, I always liked watching basketball more," Brunson said.

Upon graduating, he wants to coach



and looks forward to returning from graduate school to pursue sports administration. However, since profound opportunities, he is extremely open to exploring his passion for sports and communication as a sports broadcaster.

In fact, the two recently received external taste with the Birmingham Squadron.

During their hot seconds of fame, Williams was followed by the organization on Instagram and received

an email. However, that was not realized until Williams thought in taking initiative to DM them was debunked with a reply to his DM, "check your email."

"Had I not reached out... I would've probably never knew because I don't check my Gmail... I check my yahoo.... Valley email."

Therefore, something he advises, "whatever emails you got... check them... especially if you... active."

While the Tennessee native perceives

himself as shy, yet funny, he believes the exhibition of their originality in being able to free-style about in-game plays, along with other acts balances each of them. It enables them to bring a unique style of entertainment to being informative about plays and occurrences while in action.

The chemistry obviously flows naturally between the two like they grew up from the sandbox, but they met on campus through a mutual friend and have spent a lot of time together with their personal social groups.

Speaking of mutual friend, "S/O Big Moe... Maurice Collins" is the mastermind behind the idea of bringing these two to the forefront of Valley Sports Network this late basketball season.

It is unknown when and if they are going to get the opportunity to continue as student representatives in the position, but their plans relating to their desires involve applying to another opportunity someone has brought to their attention. The opportunity is an upcoming summer internship to experience more of the lifestyle of a WNBA Atlanta Dream team member. Landing the opportunity is more than one could hoped for.

They would like Gazette readers to know that the support behind and expressed love for them have been outstanding from viewers and listeners. They appreciate it dearly! Also, they want to encourage the continuance to elevate V-State.

# Positive outlook in spite of struggles for Valley's 'gritty' softball team

By T.J. Goodwin, Sports Editor

Head coach James Buckner is leading the in-season Devilette's softball team with two graduate assistants, Jewel Unga and Bri Austin. When interviewed by the Gazette, he expressed that his squad has learned a lot from last year. They are "not large... in numbers and size" but "gritty."

Recently, coming out of what is believed to be a great offseason due to each player gaining strength and quickness, Coach Buckner's philosophy on hitting and speed is "assumed to be revealed throughout the season."

When asked about thoughts on the projection of this season, SR outfielder, Keisha White said, "as a team I think that for us being... pretty small... others would see it as a disadvantage, but I think it is a really good opportunity for us to work on consistency and become

closer." That kind of attitude will enable them to continue pacing their way towards success and at least carrying out diligence throughout the season. Moreover, having Shelby Carson, last year's second team All-SWAC, as leader can be used as a motivational and inspirational source, for her goal is to guide younger players while also putting in effort to improve her own play.

In the words of JR first base/outfielder, Naomi Drake, "big hits and coming up clutch" are the plans. Therefore, MVSU fans may gather that this squad will use its improvements during off-season, team chemistry and current lessons in-season to strategically try and bring adequate success to their program.

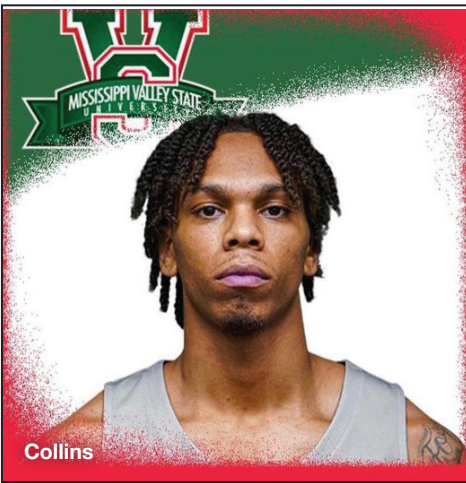
Currently, their record is 0-22, however several chances to obtain wins await. According to their page on Mississippi Valley State's athletic



website, they are scheduled to play: back at home for community weekend, April 7-9 on the softball field at 2, 1 p.m., TBA, respectively.

Gabrielle Jones-Hall, Co-Editor-in-Chief also contributed to this article.

# Terry Collins Selected for HBCU All-Star Game



mvsusports.com

ITTA BENA, Miss. - Senior guard Terry Collins (Kenner, La.) was selected to Willis Reed's team for the HBCU All-Star Game which played Sunday, April 2, in the H&PE Arena on the campus of Texas Southern.

The HBCU All-Star Game aired on the CBS Sports Network and Paramount+ at 3 p.m. CST.

Collins has been a leading scorer for the Delta Devils, with 486 total points to his season. He finished the season ranked second in the conference in

points and points per game (15.2 ppg).

In addition, Collins is ranked first in the conference in three points made and ranked 70th in the nation, with 80 points from beyond the arc. He is also ranked first in the league and 33rd in the nation in three-point attempts, with a value of 233. Another first ranking in the league tied to a national ranking (93rd) for Collins: three-point percentage. He averaged a total percentage of 34.3 three-pointers per outing.

Against Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Collins tied the MVSU 3-pointers made in a

single game previously set by Devin Gordon on January 5, 2022, against Alabama A&M - both making nine 3-pointers in a single game. Collins made 9-of-12 three-point attempts, finishing the evening with a game-high 30 total points.

In addition, he registered five rebounds, four assists, and three steals.

Collins had an impressive defensive game to add to his outstanding offensive performances. Collins is ranked third in the league and 94th in the nation in steals. He collected 53 total steals.

## The Valley Players to do it again!



Front to back: Coordinator of Speech Communication/Director of Theater Barbara Baymon, Timothy Fisher, Amber E. Stewart, Areyonna S. Clark, Zapouria M. Wadley, and Jarkevious R. Edwards.

*DDG Staff*

Sometimes in life it's "Too Late for Sorry," and sometimes in life one simply needs to "Stop Talking."

To see a true-to-life dramatization of these times, the public is cordially invited to see the talented and outstanding Valley Players do it again with their Spring 2023 performances, Tuesday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, April 27 at 11 a.m. in the Business Education Building Auditorium.

Under the leadership of their dynamic and "sassy" award-winning Director of Theater Barbara Baymon (a former MVSU Queen), the Valley Players will present two short plays as described below:

"Too Late for Sorry" by Laurie Allen: A dramatic duet about a man named John and a woman named Jennifer. John walked out on his family nine years ago. Now he has returned for a visit. This is

not a happy reunion as Jennifer recalls the abuse, he inflicted on her.

John is played by Timothy L. Fisher. Jennifer is played by Amber E. Stewart in one performance. Jennifer is also played by Areyonna S. Clark in another performance.

"Stop Talking" by D.B. Braxton: A very talkative lady named Rachel at a bus stop attempts to engage another person named Mark in conversation. Find out what happens by attending.

Rachel is played by Zapouria M. Wadley, and Mark is played by Jarkevious R. Edwards.

The plays are free with a total combined performance time of 30 minutes. They are open to the MVSU family and the public. They will both entertain you and make you think. You do not want to miss them. Save the dates!

For more information, email Baymon at [bbaymon@mvsu.edu](mailto:bbaymon@mvsu.edu)

## Track and Field Women's performance highlighted

by *Averi Sanders, Student Writer*

Mississippi Valley State University Track and Field Women are doing an amazing job at their track meets. Coming off a terrific indoor season Senior Michaela Brown placed 3rd on her shot-put event for Shot Put SWAC Championship Indoor 2023.

However, some more of her teammates placed 2nd or 4th within the indoor season such as Tayliah Spurlock, Darrione Joseph, Aliyah Whyte and more. As following up to the championship indoor, Darrione Joseph was name athlete of the week. She said in a recent interview, "It feels good to be Athlete of the Week but now I have

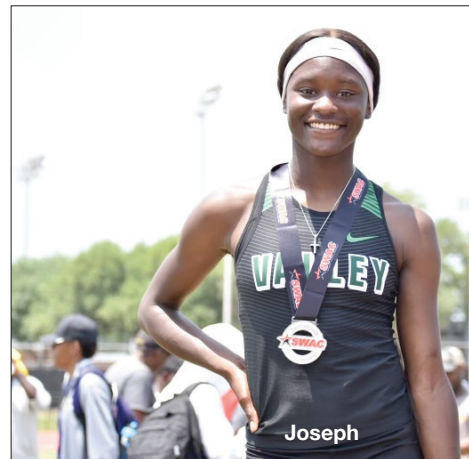
a target on my back so I must keep striving."

Athlete of the week is an athlete who has been outstanding for the entire week. As stated, before finishing with third overall in the championship Shot Put, the outdoor season was right around the corner.

There recent track meet was March 24-25 at Ole Miss Classic. Mississippi Valley women competed in Women 100m and more.

In each event, they did a fantastic job! Mississippi Valley Track and Field Women recently competed Saturday April 1 at Southern Miss Invitational in Hattiesburg, Miss.

The MVSU campus supported them.



S C H E D U L E

**APRIL 10-14, 2023**

**MONDAY, APRIL 10**

**FOUNDER'S WEEK WALK**  
9:00A.M. | Outdoor walking tracks/MVSU Fitness Trail  
(Rain Plan: R.W. Harrison Complex)

**FOUNDER'S WEEK PANEL DISCUSSION**

11:00A.M. | Carver A. Randle Auditorium  
W.A. Butts Social Science Building

**PICTURE PERFECT! PAINT AND SIP**

3:00P.M. | Pavilion

**TUESDAY, APRIL 11**

**COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY**

Various times of the day | Various locations in the community

**CAREER SERVICES DAY**

10:00A.M. - 1:00P.M. | R.W. Harrison Complex  
(Upper Concourse Level)

**INCREDIBLE INDIA**

2:00P.M. | Auditorium, Technical Education Building  
Speaker: Dr. Vandana Saxena, MVSU Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12**

**MID-WEEK BAR-B-QUE**

11:00A.M. - 2:00P.M. | Pavilion  
(Rain plan: H.M. Ivy Cafeteria, Dining Hall IV)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 13**

**GRAVESITE SERVICE**

9:00A.M. | Lois Aron Chapel Grounds

**FOUNDER'S DAY CONVOCATION**

11:00A.M. | Walter Roberts Auditorium  
H.G. Carpenter Building

**PIONEER LUNCHEON**

Immediately following the Founder's Day Convocation  
Invitation Only | H.M. Ivy Cafeteria, Dining Hall IV

**FRIDAY, APRIL 14**

**VALLEY FEST**

12:00P.M. - 4:00P.M. | MVSU Campus grounds

**THE JAMES HERBERT WHITE FOUNDATION AWARDS GALA**

7:00P.M. | R.W. Harrison Complex

## Students' Voices Question:

*How do you feel about student morale here on campus?*

"It's very low. The lowest it can possibly get. Something needs to be done or there will be less students enrolled."

— **Jedzyah Thompson** – Biology and Chemistry

"In my opinion, I feel like it can be a little better. Just because the newer students that we have here now it's like they don't want to do anything, so we have to go up to their dorms and drag them out. If we can find a way to do something to get them more excited to come out their dorms, then I just feel that we'll be in a [much] better position."

— **De'Nautis Liddell**, Mass Communication – Broadcasting

"It's been exhausting. Sometimes I feel like I want to be two people at once. Social life has been difficult. I feel I can't be myself around others. If there were more activities, it would bring me out of my comfort zone."

— **Kaliyah Craig**, Biology

"I think it is at an all-time low. It was very low during COVID time when we really couldn't get out and do any activities, but I think it kind of spiked after COVID when everybody was excited to get back and do those activities. Most students aren't coming to the events for whatever reasons. Maybe they think they aren't going to enjoy them, or they're not interested enough. I'm not sure why the student morale is low, but we need to do something about it, maybe change the culture or something."

— **Jessie Washington, Jr.**, Mass Communication – Broadcasting

"Well, I stay in College Hall, so it's a lot of people, in the hall, and the doors are supposed to have peepholes- a lot of the doors do not have peepholes and I feel like that's just a safety hazard in the building, you feel me?"

— **Xzavieon Sidney aka Zae**, – HYPER