

GAZETTE

An award-winning college newspaper, by students for students

FEBRUARY 2024

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY • ITTA BENA, MISSISSIPPI

Volume 49/ Number 5

MVSU's Black History Convocation reveals a new financial donor for MVSU

Keynote speaker utilizes 'ant, decimal and pimple' analogy

By Shomari L. Hunt, Staff writer

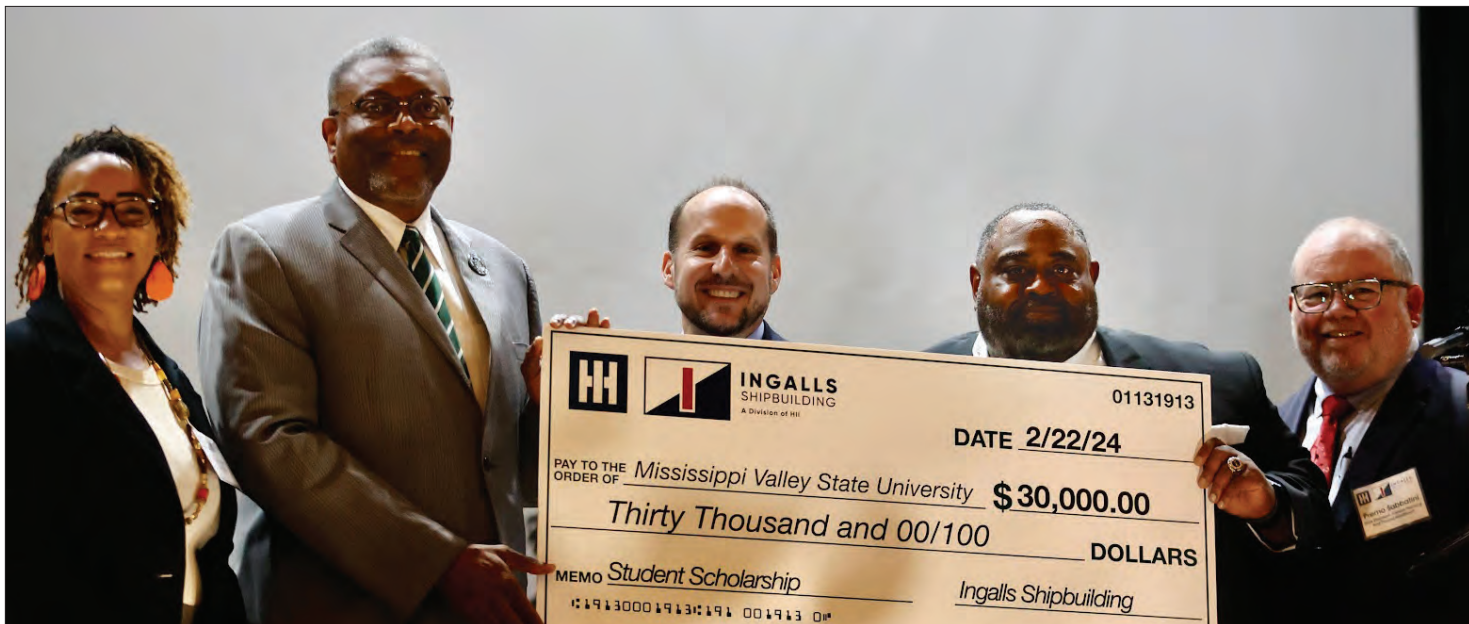
On Feb. 22, 2024, Mississippi Valley State University held its annual Black History Convocation in the Walter Robert's auditorium of the H.G. Carpenter Building.



Rep. Hines

The keynote speaker, John Hines, who is a Mississippi House of Representative of District 50, delivered a poetic and inspiring speech to the faculty, staff, and students of Mississippi Valley. Using an analogy of the ant, decimal, and pimple, he spoke about being the change that they would like to see in the world. He said that although the ant, decimal, and pimple are small they can make great impacts.

During the event, President Jeremy Briggs Sr. announced a generous



donation of \$30,000 from Ingalls Shipbuilding Company representatives to the university. This donation was a shining example of investing in a brighter future for everyone at the Valley.

Ingalls representatives told the Gazette that the donation was a part

of their commitment to HBCUs. They sponsored the Engineering Day on campus the same day. (See highlights on Page. 3.) Making the presentation was a Valley alum, Ingalls EEO/D&I Rep. Carlos Moulds, MVSU class of 1994.

The event also featured performances by the MVSU choir and band, which

greatly impressed the audience. This event showcased the exceptional dedication of Mississippi Valley State University to its reformed identity within its music department.

This year's theme was "African Americans and the Arts."

U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson stresses voting to students

By Ameena Rauf, Contributing Writer

"Your vote is your voice." These words were said by U.S. Rep. Bennie Gordon Thompson, of Mississippi's 2nd congressional district.

Mississippi Valley State University hosted Thompson in a town hall meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024, in the

Sutton Administration Building.

The university faculty, students, alumni of Valley State University, and other audiences attended the seminar. Thompson emphasized that students should vote and raise their voices for their rights and for better policies.

During the question-answer session, he mentioned that he wants to see MVSU



Thompson

students bright and successful in their lives. He also mentioned some internships programs and scholarships for students that he has in his office.

The panelists for the town hall forum included Moderator- Jar'Kevious Edwards, U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson, Kathleen Sims, Henry Espy, Janya People's, SGA, and Cajanique Ollie who all shared some thoughts about the rights and importance of the vote.

Thompson has served in U.S. Congress since 1993.

State Senators sponsor bills that set off an alarm among MVSU family

A DDG Special Report

During the current 2024 Mississippi legislative session, Republican State Senators Nicole Boyd of District 9 and John A. Polk of District 44 submitted Senate bills 2725 and 2726. To the inattentive, the numbers mean very little and the content even less. However, for those in higher education in Mississippi, the Senate Bills are sounding alarms.

According to the Mississippi Legislature.Gov website, the Polk-sponsored bill SB2726 requires the state's Institute of Higher Learning's (IHL) Board of Trustees to close three institutions by 2028. The proposed bill seeks to create a new section to the Mississippi Code of 1972 which

permits the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning to choose three (3) of the state institutions of higher learning from those institutions currently under its management to close by June 30, 2028. Under the proposal, by June 30, 2025, the board will announce which institutions will be closed.

Along with Mississippi Senate Bill 2726, the Boyd-sponsored bill SB 2725 is equally concerning. It proposes



Boyd

establishing the "Mississippi University System Efficiency Task Force." According to university officials, one of the proposed responsibilities of the Task Force is to evaluate the current funding formula and appropriations process for the Mississippi public university system, particularly as it relates to enrollment and graduation rates. If the current formula is changed or modified, it could hurt university operations.



Polk

Similar bills were introduced in past years, but none of them made it out of the committee. Before a bill becomes law, it must make it out of the committee, and the floor of both the Senate and the House of Representatives. Vice President for University Advancement, Dameon Shaw, says because of this process, no official statement has been made by the university. However, "We will remain diligent in our efforts to ensure that this bill does not make it out of the Universities and Colleges Senate Committee, where it currently sits."

Anyone interested in voicing opposition to the bills, may call Senator Boyd and Polk at (601) 359-2886 and inform them that you do not agree with the bills.

Black History Month: a time for commeration and celebration

By Amber E. Stewart, Editor-in-Chief

The month of February holds such great significance! It acknowledges the power of love and spotlights the history of African Americans. With only 29 days (about four weeks), we have the privilege of expressing our love to loved ones and taking pride in our black heritage.

Although many stories can be told of how our ancestors were ripped from their families and how they had to endure great hardships, they still took pride in what they believed in, love. Our ancestors put love in their crafts, love in their families, and love in their religion.

Our culture holds such a great connection to the founding of this country, innovating some of America's greatest products and creating some of the best music. Reflecting on history, as I get a better look at inventions such as the traffic light, folding ironing board, and the refrigerator, I am amazed with the success of African Americans.

We get to better understand just how love played a vital role in our culture because love is an action word, and our ancestors put in work to get us this

far. Seeing just how much time and dedication were put into their crafts, pushes us to put in earnest effort in everything that we do. As a result, leaving their footprints in the sand has allowed us to pick up the torch and carry on the legacy.

Remarkable stories can be heard about women like the beautiful activist Fannie Lou Hamer, and how her puissant voice broke barriers during the civil and voting rights movements, right from the Mississippi Delta. Other historians like James Meredith did what some would have thought impossible by exercising his constitutional rights, in return allowing him to become the first African American to attend the University of Mississippi.

During this month and every other month, let us pay homage to the ones that have paved the way. The record shows that no matter the circumstance, African Americans, as a culture, have been able to withstand, understand, and inner stand the coming and goings of life and the power of love and endurance it takes to get through it.

Culturally competent,
Amber E



Stewart



By Zapouria Wadley, Student Columnist

Hello, MVSU Family!
First and foremost, happy Black History Month! It is an honor for me to wake up every day on the campus of my HBCU (historically black college or university) and be surrounded by so much black excellence. I am and forever will be grateful. In addition, happy love month! I hope that each of you have been taking time to show love to yourself as well as the ones that mean the most to you. This can be a sad month for some, but if you feel as though you are alone, just know that there are so many people who care about your wellbeing (including me)!

As some of you may know, I did get the amazing opportunity to travel as a Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) Yard Ambassador and Influencer for MVSU to the 2024 HBCU Legacy Classic. This event was hosted by Invesco QQQ in Newark, New Jersey and took place on February 3rd.

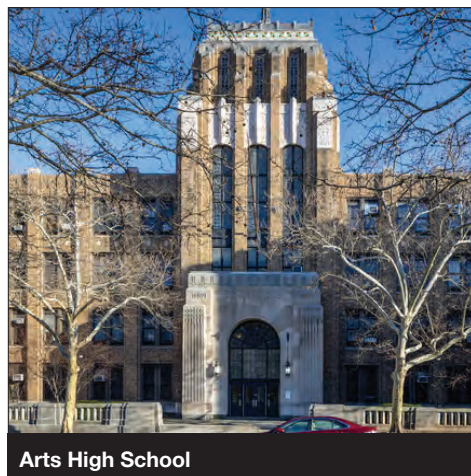
During my time in New Jersey, I was not only representing TMCF, but I was also given the opportunity to recruit students to attend MVSU at the HBCU college fair that took place as a part of the Legacy Classic. This was my absolute favorite part of the trip. I was also able to visit two high schools: Malcolm X Shabazz High School and Arts High School. During my time at the high schools, I was able to connect

with students one-on-one and share my experiences with attending an HBCU.

Even though this was my second year attending the HBCU Legacy Classic, it was a trip that I enjoyed even more than last year. I am always grateful for any opportunity that I am given to represent my beloved HBCU. As I always say, "For Thee Valley, I will."



Malcom X Shabazz High School



Arts High School

Newspaper carried by two additional locations

DDG Staff Report

The Delta Devils' Gazette is grateful to announce that two new businesses have agreed to be a pickup location in their community for our campus newspaper:

Urgent & Primary Care of Clarksdale, 125 Hwy 322, Clarksdale, MS 38614

B B King Museum – Delta Interpretive Center, 400 Second Street Indianola, MS 38751

The Delta Devils' Gazette campus newspaper may also be picked up from the following business locations:

The Greenwood Market Place, 410 W. Park Ave., Greenwood, MS

Save-a-Lot, 719 W. Park Ave., Greenwood, MS

CitiTrends, 2608 US-82, Greenwood, MS

Dollar General Market, Hwy 82 W., Itta Bena, MS

Double Quick, Hwy 82 W., Itta Bena, MS

PEAK's Restaurant, Hwy 49, Tchula, MS

GAZETTE CAMPUS 3

University College kicks off spring semester with an exciting Student Meet N Greet



MVSU Mass Comm kicks off spring speakers' series with a history-maker



Community Students Learning Center, 333 Yazoo St. Lexington, MS

The Mayor's Office, 105 S. State Street, Duck Hill, MS

Sanders Grocery, US-49E, Minter City, Miss.

Greater Macedonia C.O.G.I.C, CR - 247 Sidon, MS, 38954

Holy Temple M.B. Church, 5077 Cabaniss Circle, Jackson, MS (Sunday mornings only)

Young Chapel M.B. Church, 1196 Young Chapel Road, Duck Hill, MS



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2015 THIRD PLACE winner. 2016 SECOND PLACE winner.

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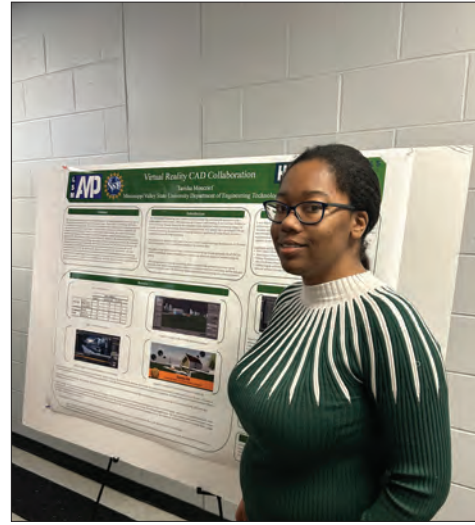
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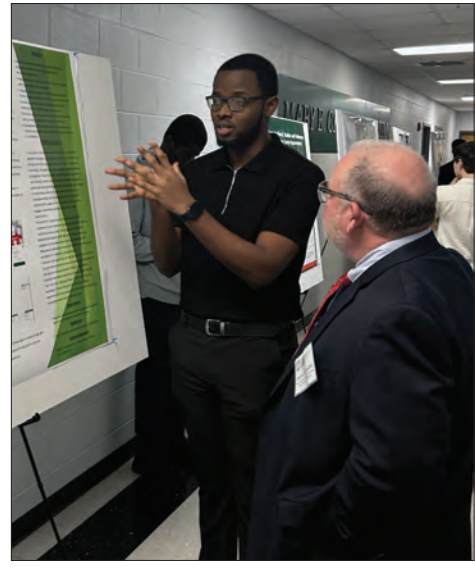
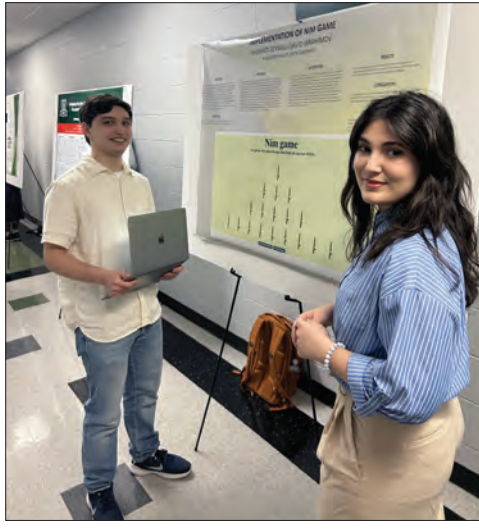
Website: <https://www.mvsu.edu/>

Department of Mass Communication Homepage:
<https://mvsu.edu/academics/academic-programs/mass-communication-homepage>

Highlights from the MVSU Department of Engineering's E-Day observance sponsored by Ingalls Shipbuilding



Valley-Ingalls E-Day (Engineering Day) was held Feb. 22, 2024, in the Science and Technology Building. During the event, Brian Blanchette, Vice President for Quality and Engineering, and Premo Sabbatini, Vice President for Central Planning and Process Excellence, informed the students about Ingalls and employment opportunities with the company. There were also hands-on activities for the students. Photos by Instructor of Speech and Mass Communication Shannon Bowden



B.B. King Museum's Deputy Director shares experience with students



B.B. King Museum's Deputy Director poses for a photo opt with students after his presentation. Photo Credit: TV Studio Asst./Timothy Adams

By Jaylia Reed, Staff Writer

On Feb. 8, 2024, Robert Terrell visited Mississippi Valley State University's Department of Mass Communication to speak about his life story and give advice on different paths in life as part of the department's speaker series. The event was held in the business building auditorium.

Terrell is a Hollandale, Miss. native who has vast professional experience, affiliations, and recording projects. He lived in Chicago for 32 years before returning to Mississippi to be with his parents and is now the deputy director for the BB King Museum in Indianola, Miss. Students learned that the museum is free for Valley students and offers internship opportunities.

During the event, he shared stories about growing up and his relationship with B.B. King. He talked about how



they celebrate BB King's birthday on the first Thursday in September.

He also spoke about opportunities around the world and how technology has changed over time.

In his speech, Terrell emphasized the importance of putting together a plan and making it happen. He said, "When

you are doing something, you do it, connect the dots, and make it work. You are the farmer, planting what you want to grow." He encouraged students to pursue what they enjoy doing or want to do and spend time understanding and comprehending why and what they want to accomplish.

FedEx Ground Spring 2024 Expo was a big hit on MVSU campus

By Myishia Smith, Social Media Editor



ITTA BENA, Miss (Feb. 7, 2024) -- During the Month of February, Mississippi Valley State University was one of the

Etheredge

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) selected to host the Spring 2024 FedEx Ground Career Expo.

The Expo is designed to provide students with the opportunity to speak directly to the executives and learn about different career paths that FedEx Ground has available.

During this expose, a panel FedEx Ground staff members spoke on several topics regarding how to be prepared for the workforce. The topics discussed were personal branding, resumes, writing, how to prepare for an interview, and college to workforce transition.

"The two topics that stood out [for] me the most were the Resume Writing and that College to Workforce Transition," said Stefon Smith, Sr. HYPER Major.

According to a recent release, "FedEx, the world's largest express transportation company, announced the third cohort of the FedEx-HBCU Student Ambassador Program. The program launched in 2022 as part of an expanded five-year, \$5 million commitment to HBCUs.

FACULTY CORNER**MVSU recognizes Evans as its MHCH Teacher of the Year***By Shomari Hunt, Staff writer*

In the annals of Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU), the torch of innovation and change has ignited once again in the field of humanities. The honor of “Mississippi Humanities Council 2023-2024 Humanities Teacher of the Year” falls onto the accomplished shoulders of LaTonzia Dorsey-Evans, an inspirational Instructor of English at MVSU’s Department of English and Foreign Languages.

Dorsey-Evans, with eight woven years in the tapestry of academia, is known by her students for her unmatched dedication and zeal in her pursuit of imparting knowledge. Her insightful lectures draw the attention of the curious, provoke questions and inspire action.

According to former NEH Chairman and MVSU Visiting Writer in Residence Dr. Jon Peede, “each awardee is asked to present a lecture on a humanities-related subject of their choice. They receive a cash award and will be publicly

recognized for their achievements during our Awards Gala in Jackson, Miss. on March 22.”

In Dorsey-Evans’ lecture on Thursday, February 15, 2024, titled “Moving the Crowd: The Intersection of Hip-Hop and Social Justice,” she did exactly that. Held in MVSU’s Cliff E. Williams Auditorium in the School of Business Building, the lecture was a testament to her deep-seated understanding and appreciation of the rich tapestry of Black culture and artistic expression.

“During my research of the Black Arts Movement, I noticed similarities between spoken word and the development of Hip-Hop,” Dorsey-Evans explained. “Along with this, I also noticed that art was frequently used as a tool for social justice.”

Indeed, Dorsey-Evans is more than an Instructor of English – she is a symbol of inspiration and a source of wisdom to her students. She is an excellent teacher,” said Ashanta Quinn, a sophomore. “She helps during class and after class. If there



is anything she can do to help you [learn], she will do it.”

Students are not the only ones singing her praises. Family members are proud of her as well. “She is an inspiration to me,” said her sister MVSU Communication Specialist LaTunya Evans. “I really appreciate her guidance as my big sister.”

Dorsey-Evans told the Gazette that the

news of the award surprised her. “I was shocked when I learned I was the teacher of the year,” she said. “I definitely was not expecting it. I sat in my chair grading the last of my essays for the semester (Fall 2023) when Dr. Golden contacted me. Her words graced my ears and my heart. It was a confirmation that teaching is one of my purposes.”

Dr. Ro’Shaun Bailey: a champion for higher education diversity and inclusion*By Shomari Hunt, Staff writer*

During this month, Mississippi Valley State’s very own Dr. Ro’Shaun Bailey was recently honored by The Mississippi Board of Trustees of the State Institutions of Higher Learning for his contributions to diversity and equity on Mississippi Valley State’s Campus.

Hailing from Itta Bena, Miss., Dr. Bailey personifies tenacity and perseverance. Being a native of such a modest town, he is often the metaphorical beacon of aspiring academics, educating and inspiring the next generation of students and innovators.

He embarked on his educational journey with an athletic scholarship at the Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU). In 2007, he soared to the zenith of his academic prowess, attaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry. This achievement, however, was merely the starting line of a long marathon of academic success.

Subsequently, he secured a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in Higher Education Administration from Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland,



and he also spent over 16 years shaping the sphere of higher education via his progressive leadership.

Bailey is also a history-maker. In 2019, he was elected as the youngest black male to serve on the school board of Greenwood-Leflore Consolidated School District where he was elected as the first African American male and youngest elected to the board of trustees of the Greenwood Consolidated school

district, where he currently serves as president.

He passionately dedicates his time and expertise assisting students from diverse backgrounds, first-generation college goers, and those hailing from disadvantaged environments, fostering inclusivity and promoting equal opportunities.

Currently undertaking the important role of the Assistant Vice President for

Student Affairs and Campus Life at MVSU, he advocates for the student body. Dr. Bailey values each individual as a vital part of the academic fabric, contributing diligently to driving the university philosophy and fostering a supportive learning ecosystem.

Outside of the university confines, Dr. Bailey is a husband to his wife, Shanell, who both are proud parents to their 3 wonderful children Anseli, Austin, and Aubrey.

He actively engages in public service as a member of the National Associations of Student Affairs Professionals (NASAP) and Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA). He is a member of New Bethel M.B. Church, where he serves as the church clerk.

He is also a part of the alumni chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated.

“I am thankful and humbled to be recognized by our university’s administration for this award,” said Dr. Bailey. “Here at Valley, we intentionally create an open and encouraging culture, for all students, faculty and staff.”

Valley’s green and white garners interest at MCA Conference*By Jaheim Wilder, Student Writer*

Fourteen students and faculty members from the Department of Mass Communication at Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) attended the Mississippi Communication Association (MCA) Conference on Feb. 9, 2024, at Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss.

Dressed in the institution’s colors of green and white, the MVSU delegation showcased the department’s academic excellence and research capabilities. Three faculty members participated in the conference’s discussions on the evolving relationship between technology, communication education, and culture.



Embracing belonging and diversity at MVSU

By Dr. Vivek Singh, a Fulbright Scholar

As a Fulbright scholar at Mississippi Valley State University, the transformative journey I have experienced over the past six months has left an indelible mark on my perspective and approach to life and learning. Immersed in the welcoming embrace of this vibrant community, I have found not only invaluable support but also a profound sense of belonging.

The warmth and collegiality of the people I have encountered here have been instrumental in helping me navigate the challenges inherent in acclimating to a new environment. Whether seeking solace amidst the pages of the JHW Library's rich collection on politics, culture, and education or finding camaraderie amidst the fervor of football games, I have discovered a sense of kinship that has eased any feelings of loneliness or homesickness.



Engaging with alumni during convocations and embracing the cultural diversity showcased during Homecoming festivities have expanded my worldview and enriched my cultural understanding.

Through conversations, shared meals, and leisurely strolls across campus, I have come to appreciate the vibrant tapestry of experiences that define life at MVSU.

Interactions with international students have further enriched my experience, fostering cross-cultural exchanges that have broadened my horizons and deepened my appreciation for diversity. Whether collaborating on projects or facilitating language tables, I have relished the opportunity to engage with students from diverse backgrounds, each offering unique insights and perspectives.

As my time at MVSU draws to a close, I am filled with gratitude for the lessons learned and friendships forged. Though my physical presence may soon depart, the memories and experiences gained here will continue to shape my journey and influence my interactions with others. Long live MVSU, a place that will forever hold a cherished space in my heart.

The highlight of my Fulbright-MVSU experience

By Vera Stetsenko, a Fulbright Scholar

At Mississippi Valley State University, my tenure as a Russian instructor has been an enriching and fulfilling journey. With a classroom bustling with 15-22 eager students each semester, it's heartening to see the popularity of the Russian language among the student body. These young minds, with their diverse backgrounds and interests, bring a vibrant energy to the classroom, making each session a dynamic exchange of knowledge and culture. Their enthusiasm for learning Russian is palpable, often motivated by a desire to explore a language that is both challenging and rewarding. This keen interest not only makes teaching a joy but also fosters a lively academic environment where both the students and I learn from each other.



The highlight of my experience was attending the NAFSA conference, an event that brought together educators and professionals from across the globe to share insights and developments in

the field of international education. Accompanied by my supervisor, Dr. Lokesh, and my colleague, the Hindi instructor Dr. Vivek Singh, we traveled to Alabama for this conference. This experience was invaluable, providing us with the opportunity to engage with a community passionate about fostering global connections through education. It was a platform for learning, networking, and sharing our experiences teaching foreign languages, which in turn enriched our teaching methodologies and perspectives.

Moreover, the classes I am taking have been nothing short of fantastic, contributing significantly to my personal and professional growth. Among these, the courses taught by Professor Jon Peede stand out the most. His expertise and innovative teaching methods have not only deepened my understanding

of various subjects but also inspired me to incorporate similar strategies into my Russian classes. Professor Peede's approach to education, characterized by a blend of rigor and accessibility, has had a profound impact on how I view teaching and learning, encouraging me to strive for excellence in every lecture I deliver.

My journey at Mississippi Valley State University has been a blend of teaching, learning, and growing alongside my students and colleagues. The popularity of the Russian language among students, the enriching experience at the NAFSA conference, and the invaluable lessons learned from Professor Peede and other courses have all contributed to a fulfilling tenure. This journey has not only enhanced my teaching repertoire but also reaffirmed my passion for language education and cultural exchange.

My experience at MVSU

By Sarah Khafagy, a Fulbright Scholar

As an FLTA at Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU), I have had the opportunity to better understand the fabric of campus life in an American university. From the classroom to international events, and the spirited atmosphere of sports games, my journey here has been a blend of academic teaching, cultural sharing, and engaging with people from the different walks of life.



Egyptian Koshary dish and talking about its history at the international potluck. se of global community inside campus.

Teaching Arabic at Mississippi Valley State University has been a unique experience. In the classroom, I've had the privilege of guiding students through the complexities of the Arabic language, from its intricate script to the rich nuances of its dialects. Each class is a chance to explore Arab culture, including literature, art like Arabic Calligraphy, and traditions. It's a reminder of the power of language education to bridge divides and foster a deeper understanding for the diversity of human culture.

One aspect my experience in an American university has highlighted is the significant role sports play in academic culture. It was my first time attending football and basketball games in a university setting, which has shown me a vibrant part of American university life. Watching the band perform quickly became a personal highlight, encapsulating the spirit and energy of these events. It's interesting to observe how sports act as a universal language, bridging diverse backgrounds and interests. Attending these games has not only been a way to enjoy university athletics but also an opportunity to engage with the broader university community outside of the academic setting.

MVSU's international events like the International Parade Day, International Country Tables, and the International Potluck have been great opportunities for cultural sharing. I've enjoyed introducing

Scholar fulfills a dream

By Kaori Fukuyama, a Fulbright Scholar

Konnichiwa from Japan! My name is Kaori Fukuyama, a Japanese language instructor teaching here in the Valley. I am originally a senior high school teacher in my hometown called Fukuoka city, which is in the south of Japan. With over 10 years of teaching experience, I have taught English to over hundreds of high school students in Japan. To further my career, I decided to take on a new challenge and come all the way from Japan to here.



that they send students abroad each year as student exchange.

Being in the United States and studying English in the United States is a dream that I had in mind ever since I started my career. I devoted my junior years as a teacher to develop my skillset, which I believe has made a basis of who I am today. Then there were several years I couldn't go to any other countries during Covid. When Covid was settled, I was pretty much in the midst of my career, thinking about settling down in Japan. I didn't know whether I still wanted to come over to the United States. Then, I was transferred to a senior high school which I currently belong to. My current high school is very international-focused

Prior to my arrival in the United States, two students of mine had been sent to the United States through exchange program. I was so closely interacting with each of them that had chance to listen to them how much they were enjoying the life here, which has inspired me and motivated me again to take on the challenge to pursue my ambition. Although I still have some struggling feelings, I have chosen to stay here to make my ambition in the early 20s happen.

My wish here in the Valley is to help realize a connection between young Americans and Japanese. Ideally, I will pass on all of my experience in Japan to a young, passionate generation.



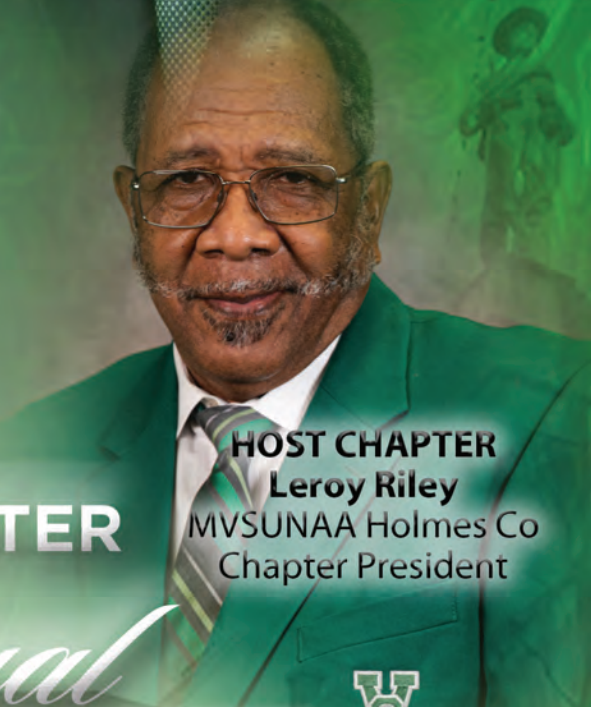
GUEST SPEAKER
Honorable Latrice Westbrooks
MS Court of Appeals-District 2 Judge



MASTER OF CEREMONY
Honorable Bryant W. Clark
MS State Representative, District 47



SPECIAL GUEST
Dr. Jerryl Briggs, Sr.
8th President, MVSU



HOST CHAPTER
Leroy Riley
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20th Annual
GREEN & WHITE
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Modora Rand
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ENTERTAINMENT
THE REVOLUTION BAND

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FORMAL ATTIRE • LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

featuring
The Revolution Band
Tupelo, MS.

PPS of Greenwood and Leflore County Presents: Voices of the Students (VOS)



Parents, students, and supporters tune in to enjoy the powerful voices of the students.

By Amber Stewart, Editor-in-Chief

GREENWOOD, Miss. -- On Feb. 10, 2024, at the Leflore County Civic Center, the Parents for Public Schools of Greenwood and Leflore County, Inc., held their annual Black History event, "Voices of the Students". This year's theme was "I, Too Have a Dream."

The Mistress of Ceremony, Lula Moore (NCBT/ Program Coordinator), spearheaded the event with such a vibrant spirit. The program was organized into five different segments.

Approximately 60 students came forth to showcase their knowledge and inspiration about the African American culture. Black activists, artists, and

athletes, from near and far were all celebrated for this historical month of February.

The crowd laughed, sang, and were extremely attentive while the children performed. After all of the astounding speeches and songs had been showcased, the show was closed with warm words from the President of PPSGLC, Lora Evans and gifts from Lula Moore.

More than 125 attended the event and it was a dynamic turnout!

(The mission: PPSGLC advances the role of families and communities in promoting a high-quality public education for all children. Volunteers are welcome, email info@ppsglc.org for more information.)

Community News Briefs & Service Announcements

MVSU SPEECH COORDINATOR TO KEYNOTE LOCAL CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

History Program.

ITTA BENA, Miss. -- On Sunday, March 3, 2024, Barbara Baymon, who is the Coordinator and Instructor of Speech Communication, as well as the Director of Theater at Mississippi Valley State University, will be the keynote speaker for the anniversary celebration of New Bethel M.B. Church. The church is at 500 Freedom Street in Itta Bena, MS 38941. The anniversary program will begin at 11 a.m. Baymon has recently participated as a program participant for the Concerned Citizens of Isola, Mississippi for Martin L. King, Jr. Program "Young Lives Matter Movement" on Feb. 17, 2024. She also did a Dramatic Presentation on Feb. 24, 2024, at Upper Room in Belzoni, Miss. [which is pastored by MVSU Alumni Clara T. Reed] for the NAACP Black

MARKS, MISS. -- A WOMEN'S RETREAT.

As the nation ends Black History Month and begins Women's History Month, The Village at 200 East Main, Marks, Miss., will hold a women's retreat on Saturday, March 2, 2024, themed "Girls Loving Themselves and Growing Up Fearless." The "free" event will take place from 9:00 a.m. until Noon. The featured guest speaker will be Urgent and Primary Care of Clarksdale, Miss. owner, Dr. Mary A. Williams. Dr. Williams is also the author of Write Your Own Story. According to Program Director Patricia Jackson as well as information released, the retreat will include free health screening, manicures, hair care, table etiquette, brunch and more. For more information, call (662) 388-1191.

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Devilettes pick up road-win over Alabama State, 67-59



Photo Credit: Aliyah Hill

By Joshua Maboney, Sports Editor

The Mississippi Valley State University women's basketball team pulled off an impressive victory against Alabama State recently, clinching a 67-59 win.

Fans were elated!

Right out of the gate, the Devilettes seized control, thanks to Jaylia Reed's three-pointer in the opening quarter, setting the tone for the game. Their early momentum proved pivotal throughout the match.

Amberly Brown stood out as the pivotal player, leading the team in both

scoring and rebounding with 18 points and 9 rebounds.

Lizzie Walker also made her presence felt, chipping in 14 points and 8 rebounds, contributing to the team's success. The two combined for 32 of the team's 67 points.

It was the Devilettes' first road win over the Hornets since the 2013-14 season, marking a significant achievement for MVSU. The victory not only showcases their progress but also underscores their determination to win in tough environments.

Do not count out MVSU Track and Field Team, they are coming

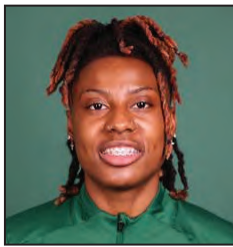


Mississippi Valley State University Track and Field Team. Photo by -NortonSLC

By Averi Sanders, Staff Writer

During the Feb. 10 weekend, Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) Track and Field Team headed out to a two-day meet at the Birmingham Complex.

That Friday (Feb. 9) almost the entire team PR ((Personal Record) for their events. Saturday the MVSU Track and Field Team headed back to the complex and did it again. Almost the entire team beat their PR again however MVSU had one outstanding scholar who set a new school record, Kaylan Clayton. Kaylan ran the 60mm the first time that day and did a 7.72.



Clayton

However, she made it to the finals that same day and ran the same race again and did a 7.65. She PR twice in one day. She set a new PR in the 200mm as well with a

time of 25.68. In addition, MVSU Track and Field team has grown tremendously by the help of Head Coach Michael Snapp, Assistant Coach Ryan Hall, and Graduate Coach Destiny Banks.

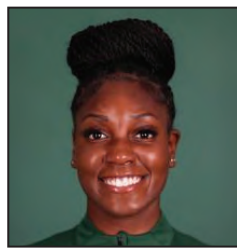
The Track and Field team headed back to the Birmingham Complex for Indoor SWAC Championship Feb. 17-18.

An outstanding performance comes to an end.

Back in Birmingham, mostly everyone on MVSU team

PR. MVSU did have an outstanding scholar who did shot put and received 5th place, Aaliyah Whyte.

Aaliyah did not only receive 5th place she but also helped her team receive points in the championship. With an outstanding performance from everyone on MVSU Track and Field Team they will continue working to get better for outdoor season.



Whyte

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Valley student accompanies NFL Hall of Famer in delivering the Lombardi Trophy



Jerry Rice, a Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) alumnus and NFL Hall of Famer, recently teamed up with Chanelle Houston, a graduating senior from the first cohort of the university's FedEx program. The duo delivered the Vince Lombardi Trophy during Super Bowl LVIII in Las Vegas. During the event, Rice and Houston highlighted the benefits of attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and shared their positive college experiences. They also discussed what the new cohort of students should expect and emphasized the long-standing relationship between FedEx and HBCUs. AP PHOTO: Courtesy of FedEx

Devilettes' softball season begins with big victory



Photo Credit: Cambree Catalano

By Hillary Victor, Staff Writer

The time is finally here! Our Mississippi Valley State Delta Devilettes softball team began their 2024 season this month. The "strong team of 24" is scheduled to play over 40 games this season.

The Devilettes traveled to Tarleton State in Stephenville, Texas for the season opener on Feb. 16. They left with their first of many anticipated wins of the season. They won big against Lafayette College with a final score was 12-6 with our Devilettes coming on top.

They also played Idaho State University, University at Buffalo, and Tarleton State University. The team will travel next to Jackson State to compete.

The team's first home game series was held Feb. 21 at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. The attendance and support were great throughout the series. Although they did not come out victorious, the team had a better turnout in the second game and had made some adjustments.

The Devilettes expect to have a winning season and to show their hard work in practice out on the field.

The fan base is also expected to

increase. "By playing better games with a closer score, we will attract more fans than last year," said Head Coach Jimmy Buckner. "We will have more promos including high school day, kid day, police, and fire department day where these groups can come and support us. High schoolers, young kids, police officers and fire fighters can come watch our games to support the community."

Coach Buckner believes the team will continue to improve and put the pieces together. "The tradition here for softball is like no other, players like that about Valley and want to come to Valley because of it," Buckner said.

Senior player, Catcher and Infielder Kaitlyn Harper, stated, "I am excited about the season. We are not the same team as last year. We have a lot of new talent to add onto what we had last season. We still have a lot of work to do but do not count us out yet."

"This year feels different," said Junior Jade Smith. "From barely having nine healthy players to 24 is a huge difference. I have faith in my team this year that we will go far. Valley softball has something to prove. Go Valley!"