



CommuniQue'

A Publication of Mississippi Valley State University For Faculty, Staff, Alumni and Friends | February 20, 2012 Vol. 9 Edition 1

GREEN & WHITE DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL, FEB. 21

A host of Mississippi Valley State University faculty, staff, students and alumni will gather in the state Capitol on Tuesday, Feb. 21 for the 3rd annual Green & White Day.

The University will be acknowledged by the leadership on the floor in both the House and Senate and needs as many Valley supporters seated in the chamber galley on that day as possible.

“Students and alumni will have a great opportunity to interact directly with state legislators,” said Dr. A. Zachary Faison,

MVSU Chief of Staff and Legislative Liaison. “Valley supporters from around the state can also visit their local legislative representatives and senators on that day, and solicit support for increased funding to MVSU in the form of state allocations and the state bond allocation for repairs, renovations and capital projects.”

The Green & White Day event is important because it reminds state lawmakers of the significant contributions the University and the system of higher education make to the state of Mississippi, Faison said.



LACKEY TO DELIVER BLACK HISTORY KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Dr. Hilliard L. Lackey III will deliver the keynote address for the annual MVSU Black History Convocation, on Thursday, Feb. 23, at 11 a.m., in the H.G. Carpenter Auditorium.

Lackey, who has taught courses in cultural geography and world history at Mississippi Valley State University since 2009, is also on the faculty at Jackson State University, where he teaches world history, cultural geography and urban higher education.

He was inducted into the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame on September 26, 2008 in Atlanta, Ga. The Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund named him 2003 HBCU Alumnus of

the Year for exemplary support of his alma mater. NAFEO gave him a Distinguished Alumni Award in 1997, and in 2007, the McCormick Freedom Museum of Chicago placed his quote on a monument.

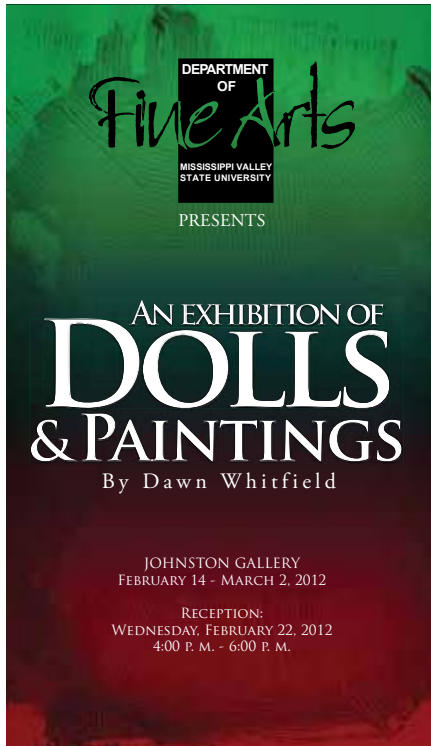
He writes columns for the *Clarion-Ledger*, *Clarksdale Press Register*, *Mississippi Link* and *BlackMississippi.com*. He has written several books including *Marks, Martin and the Mule Train*. His avocation is sports officiating; he serves as a district supervisor of officials for basketball, baseball, football, track and field, and related sports for the Mississippi High School Activities Association, and as a football referee and baseball umpire.



Dr. Lackey has degrees or credentials from Jackson State University, University of Arkansas, Mississippi College School of Law, and the University of Mississippi where he earned his Ph.D.

He is married to his childhood sweetheart, Lillian Troupe Lackey.

AN EXHIBITION OF HANDCRAFTED DOLLS AND PAINTINGS BY DAWN WHITFIELD



and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Delta State.

Currently, Whitfield teaches art at Carver Elementary School and serves as an artist-in-residence at Merritt Middle School in Indianola, funded by a 21st Century Grant. She has worked in art education as Director for the BB King Museum Summer Camp

The Department of Fine Arts at Mississippi Valley State University is presenting an exhibition of handcrafted dolls and acrylic paintings by Dawn Whitfield in the Johnston Gallery now through March 2. The Johnston Gallery is located on the Itta Bena campus in the Walter Sillers Fine Arts Building. A reception to honor the artist is being held on Wednesday, February 22 from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Dawn Whitfield is a native of Fort Smith, Ark. and a resident of Indianola. She earned an associate degree in art from Mississippi Delta Community College

Program, while creating from fiber, paint and ceramics in her private studio.

“My dolls capture the sensitivity of black women and children,” said Whitfield. The audience is touched by the women’s expressive ceramic faces of strong ethnic character and a little girl’s happy world of naivety, simplicity, and innocence. In today’s society, the world can identify with Whitfield’s ropes of dreadlocks, head wraps, and unique fashions. Many of her works of women are titled with descriptions such as “Strong,” “Beautiful,” and “Suffering.”

“Beyond the nakedness of the women’s delicate bodies, shaped from packed strands of raffia, their simulated flesh is covered and fashioned with mixed colored fibers (accentuated with colorful motifs), freely layered beads, and supportive parallel strands of wire,” said Dorothy Vaughn, co- director of the Johnston Gallery. The smaller dolls’ skeletal structures are supported with glass bottle armatures.

“Some of Whitfield’s paintings, with the exception of those of the little girls, are nonrepresentational and saturated with brilliant colors and rhythmic shapes and designs,” said Vaughn.

The event is open to the public and free of charge. The gallery hours are 10 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. on Monday - Thursday and 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Friday.

For more information, please contact Dorothy Vaughn or Ronald Minks, co-directors of Johnston Gallery at 662-254-3482.

MVSU TO HOST 17TH ANNUAL PIANO FESTIVAL

The Department of Fine Arts at Mississippi Valley State University will present its 17th Annual MVSU Piano Festival on Saturday, April 21, on the Valley campus in Itta Bena. The festival increases awareness of the value and importance of piano study throughout childhood and beyond in the Mississippi Delta and surrounding areas.

The festival will include events for both elementary and advanced piano students. At 9 a.m., a non-competitive festival event will be held for kindergarten through junior high school piano students.

Older beginners may also participate. Students will perform selections from the classical piano repertoire and will be rated and given written evaluations.

Following this event, an honors ceremony will be held, including special recognition of students who received Superior ratings for their performances. Parents, friends, and fellow students will be invited to attend this event at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Continue on page 4

EVENT CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

20 – M & W Basketball – Texas Southern University, 5:30 p.m., R.W. Harrison HPER Complex

21 – Green & White Day, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. State Capitol in Jackson, Miss.

23 – Black History Convocation, 11 a.m., H.G. Carpenter Auditorium

26 – Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter Book Review, 4 p.m., Student Union, Royal Room

27-29 – MID-TERM EXAMINATIONS

MARCH

1-2 – MID-TERM EXAMINATIONS

8 – Fine Arts - Faculty Recital, 7:30 p.m., H. G. Carpenter Auditorium

10 – Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), 7:30 a.m., W. A. Butts Social Science Building

12-16 – Spring Break

26 – Blood Drive, 10 a.m. , Student Union, Vendors Square

26 – Domestic Violence Forum, 6 p.m., Business Education Building Auditorium

27 – Healthy Lifestyle Health Fair, 10 a.m., Student Union, Conference Room

28 – Know Your Status – HIV/AIDS Testing - 10 a.m., Student Union, Vendors Square

JOHNSON SELECTED TO DELIVER AYERS DISTINGUISHED VISITING LECTURER SERIES

The Delta Research & Cultural Institute (DRCI) at Mississippi Valley State University will host the Ayers Distinguished Visiting Lecturer Series featuring Leroy Johnson, Executive Director of Southern Echo, Inc., to explore the theme, "The Political Economy of Public Education in the Mississippi Delta." The series takes place January through April in the presentation hall of DRCI, in the Administrative Annex I on the MVSU campus. All lectures are free and open to the public.

Johnson, an alumnus of MVSU, has spent two decades developing and supervising community-based programs dealing with the environment, education, cultural events, and community empowerment. The 1996 recipient of the prestigious Charles Bannerman Fellowship, he worked for the Rural Organizing & Cultural Center (ROCC) in Holmes County for eight years, and as Executive Director for the last two of those years. Prior to that, he was the Special Assistant to the President of Mississippi Action for Community Education (MACE), where he had primary responsibility for the development of their Youth Initiative and Environmental Organizing Programs.

He has conducted a wide variety of training programs in Mississippi, across the United States, and in international forums on youth leadership and community organizing. Johnson is a founder of the Southeast Regional Economic Justice Network, and the Southern Partners Fund, where he chairs the Board of Directors.

His first lecture, on The Political History of Public Education in Mississippi: 1890 – 2011, was held Tuesday, January 17. The upcoming lectures, which we expect to be held in selected communities around the Delta, to reach a public audience that is most impacted by rural public policies relevant to the education of youth across the region. Upcoming lectures are:

Tuesday, Feb. 14: Public Education Budgets as Public Education Policy

Tuesday, Feb. 28: The Dilemma of Critical Teacher Shortages in the Delta: 1980 - 2011

Tuesday, March 21: MS Department of Education (MDE), School Take-overs, & School Rankings in the Delta.

Tuesday, April 10: Where Do Go From Here? Developing a 1st Rate 21st Century Quality Education

For more information, please contact DRCI at 662-254-3794 or e-mail gdbneal@mvsu.edu.

FACULTY NOTES

Dr. Rickey Hill, Professor of Political Science and Rural Public Policy and Planning in the Department of Social Sciences, has published "The Bogalusa Movement: Self-Defense and Black Power in the Civil Rights Struggle," in *The Black Scholar: Journal of Black Studies and Research*, Vol. 41, No. 3 (Fall 2011), and "Meditations on Fanon: A Review Essay on John Edgar Wideman's *Fanon: A Novel*," in the *Journal of Pan African Studies*, Vol. 4, No. 7 (2011).

Dr. Ademola Omishakin, Professor and Coordinator of Environmental Health in the Department of Natural Sciences, has published a new book titled *Essentials of Management for Health Professionals*. He is a fellow of Royal Society of Health in the United Kingdom, a member of Sigma Xi, the American Public Health Association, National Environmental Health Association, Society of Research Administrators International, and the National Council of the University Research Administrators.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS SPRING 2012

Feb 16	Managing Disruptive Students 12 p.m.
Feb 28	Using Lecture Capture 9 a.m.
March 8	Customizing Learning Experiences 12 p.m.
March 31	Blogs, Wikis, and Podcasts 9 a.m.

28 – Career Services – Black Executive Exchange Program, 6 p.m., Business Education Building Auditorium

28 – Basketball Tournament, 5:30 p.m., Lackey Recreation Center

29 - University Choir Spring Concert, 7 p.m., H. G. Carpenter Auditorium

31 – Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter Delta Debutante Cotillion, 8 p.m., H. G. Carpenter Auditorium



HIGH SCHOOL DAY

FRIDAY
MARCH
30
2012

9 a.m. - Noon
R.W. Harrison
HPER Complex

At 11 a.m., members of the MVSU music faculty will hold an open audition for piano students who would like to be considered for music scholarships for the 2012-2013 academic year. Students who are awarded full scholarships will receive tuition, fees, and room and board at Mississippi Valley State University.

A Young Artist Competition will begin at 1 p.m. for students who are enrolled in grades 9 through junior college. Younger students with appropriate repertoire may also enter with the permission of the festival director. Students will perform at least two compositions from differing periods. The first prize winner will receive a cash award of \$500; second prize winner will receive \$400; third prize winner will receive \$300; and the fourth prize winner will receive \$200. Honorable Mention awards of \$100 each will also be given at the discretion of the festival judge.

An awards ceremony will be held immediately following the judging. Awards, certificates, and the cash prizes will be given out at that time. In addition to the cash awards, all winners of the Young Artist Competition will be eligible to receive full music scholarships to MVSU, again to include complete tuition, fees, and room and board.

This year's festival is being co-sponsored by Bank of Commerce, Charles Hall Studio, Cown Music, Greenwood Junior Auxiliary, Greenwood Matinee Musicale, Greenwood Rotary Club, Hays Piano Tuning, Mrs. Henri E. Lowe, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and Wal-Mart.

For further information and an application, contact Dr. Lawrence Goldman, Director, MVSU Piano Festival, 14000 Hwy. 82W, MVSU 7255, Itta Bena, MS 38941, telephone (662) 254-3681. **Deadline: applications must be postmarked by Thursday, April 12.**

CommuniQue'

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OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND
MARKETING
Mississippi Valley State University
MVSU 7233
14000 Hwy. 82 W.
Itta Bena, MS 38941-1400

For more information, call
662.254.3578
news@mvsu.edu

Angela Y. Getter
Vice President for University Advancement
Executive Director, MVSU Foundation

TaRessa Stovall
Director of Communications and
Marketing

Maxine Greenleaf
Communications Specialist

D'Artagan Winford
Senior Graphic Designer

John McCall
Graphic Designer



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Name: Valley State
Birthday: February 10, 1950

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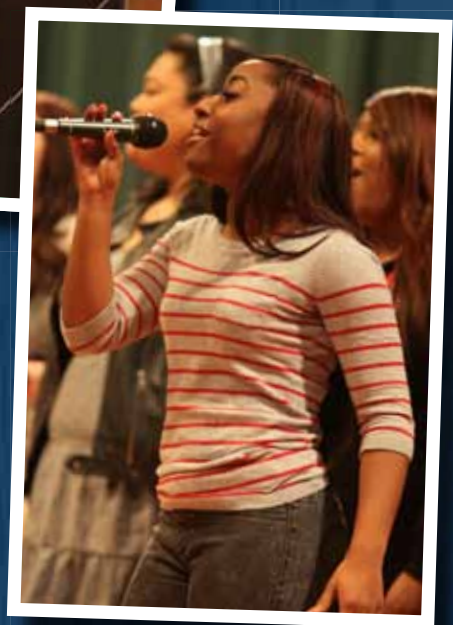
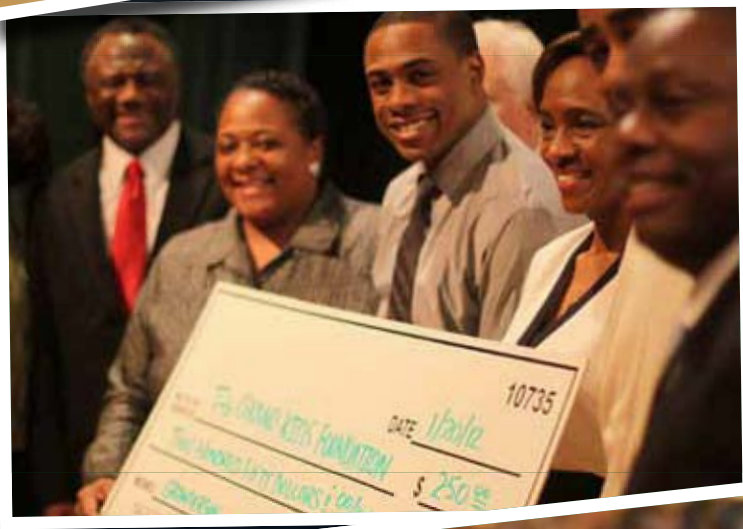
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