



MVSU QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN THE WRITE WAY TO SUCCESS!



The Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is an academic initiative to improve student writing ability. Conceived by community and campus-wide consensus as a component of the institution's reaffirmation of accreditation, the QEP is specifically designed to address an identified student-learning outcome stemming from academic assessment.

"A component of our University's SACSCOC reaffirmation process includes the formation and implementation of the MVSU QEP--Quality Enhancement Plan -- titled *The Write Way to Success*, reflecting our focus on enhancing and improving student writing," said President Donna H. Oliver. "The SACSCOC On-Site Reaffirmation Committee will be visiting our campus from Monday, March 19 to Wednesday, March 21, as part of that process."



MVSU Student Government Association President Marvin Elder II leads the audience through a series of questions at the QEP Rally.

One of the most important college-level competencies is writing, a primary indicator of an effective college education. Beyond college, employers in all professions cite "the ability to write well" as a top skill needed for success in any field.

The goal of QEP is to improve the writing proficiency of MVSU undergraduate students by implementing instructional enhancements throughout the general education curriculum—for example, through specific writing assignments included in general courses. The QEP will be introduced to the students through composition courses taught in the Department of English and Foreign Languages, including Freshman Composition I and II.

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MARVIN ELDER AND LEE REDMOND RECEIVE HEADWAE HONOR



Marvin Elder, II



Lee Redmond

Mississippi Valley State University student Marvin Elder, II and Assistant Professor Lee Redmond were among 70 outstanding students and faculty members from 35 Mississippi public and private universities and colleges who received special recognition from the Mississippi Legislature during the 25th annual Higher Education Appreciation Day — Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE) program.

Elder, a junior, maintains a 3.28 grade point average in mathematics and health, physical

education and recreation. He has earned numerous honors throughout his academic career, including recognition as a National Science Foundation Odyssey II Scholar and Honor Scholar. He is also active in several organizations, serving as president of the MVSU Student Government Association, Inc; president of the MVSU Valley Singers, president; and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Phi Chapter, recording secretary.

An accomplished student, he has participated

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SSS DEBATE TEAM CAPTURES 1ST PLACE

The Mississippi Valley State University Student Support Services Debate Team wins big once again at the TRIO Student Leadership Conference hosted by the Mississippi Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (MAEOPP) at Holmes Community College in Goodman, Miss. on Feb. 18.

Team members Rochell Hawkins, captain; Christopher Lewis, co-captain; Calvin Brown; Alexzondra Hurns; and Carl Lee won first place over the Student Support Services team from Hinds Community College at Utica. Even though fewer SSS/McNair debate teams participated in the debate tournament this year, it did not make the competition any easier. Both Hinds and MVSU did very well, but MVSU, for the second straight year in a row, prevailed as the TRIO state champion for Mississippi.

The MVSU debaters will travel to Atlanta to compete in the regional TRIO competition against teams from seven states on April 14. These great debaters are coached by head coach Joyce Roundtree-McCoy and assistant coaches Carol Cain and Sandra Brim.

Student Support Services is under the Division of Student Affairs, Enrollment Management and Diversity and is funded by the U.S. Department of Education TRIO Programs.

VOTE DAILY FOR VALLEY'S ENTRY IN HOME DEPOT'S RETOOL YOUR SCHOOL



MVSU has applied for a grant from the Home Depot ReTool Your School Grant Program. Through the Office of Sponsored Programs, MVSU has submitted an application for three projects that will physically improve the campus. The first is a \$50,000 major grant to upgrade Rogers Auditorium which is used by the Child Development Center for alternate recreation. The

second, a minor grant in the amount of \$10,000, will add a natural playground at the Child Development Center for safe, timeless, carbon footprint-reducing activities. The last proposal submitted was for the \$25,000 campus pride grant. MVSU proposes to plant flower and vegetable gardens at the Child Development Center with the food service department and other green partners to promote early healthy lifestyles. Only one school will receive a major grant of \$50,000 and the \$25,000 campus pride grant, and 10 schools will receive minor grants of \$10,000 each.

This award process allows the public to vote on the applications, so your online support is crucial to the success of this request for funding. To vote, go to <http://www.retoolyourschool.com/vote-now.aspx>.

You can vote for MVSU once per day per device, so please vote daily until the deadline on April 10, 2012 at 11:59 pm EST.

DELTA DEVILS PARTICIPATE IN READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY



Carlos Sanchez reads to the group during the 15th annual Read Across America Day.

Nine Mississippi Valley State football players took time out of their day on Friday morning to read to children at Claudine Brown Elementary School on the 15th annual Read Across America Day.

MVSU players who participated in the event are: Kenneth Dabney, Keondrick Daniels, Leployer Franklin, Paul Holliday, DeAndre Ward, Carlos Sanchez, Brandon Stansell, Alex Thornton and Antonio Benson.

The school invited the community and parents to read to children throughout the day. Ice

cream was served and students watched as Amanda Elzy High School's band performed during a parade.

Read Across America Day is celebrated each year on Dr. Seuss' birthday. He would have turned 108 years old this year. The event serves as the culmination for a week-long celebration called Read Across America Week.

The Delta Devils are slated to begin spring practice on Monday. More details regarding spring drills will be released at a later date.

EVENT CALENDAR

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

22 – Honor Convocation, 11 a.m., H.G. Carpenter Auditorium

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

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

APRIL

12 - 13 – 32th Annual Social Work Education Conference, 8 am, Sutton Bldg. Auditorium

JOHNSTON GALLERY HOSTS ART EXHIBIT BY KATHERINE FIELDS

The Department of Fine Arts at Mississippi Valley State University is presenting a print installation exhibition, titled "Quotidian," by Katherine Rhodes Fields, in the Johnston Gallery from March 5 to April 6, 2012. Fields, a Clinton, Miss., native and an instructor of art in printmaking at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, will present a lecture on Wednesday, March 7 at 2:00 p. m. in the Media Center of the Walter Sillers Fine Arts Building. A reception will be held immediately following the lecture.

The Johnston Gallery is located on the Itta Bena campus in the Walter Sillers Fine Arts Building. The public is invited to attend, free of charge. Gallery hours are Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. except during holidays and semester breaks.

Fields explains that, "The body of work, titled 'Quotidian,' is a print installation that utilizes analog processes to construct and deconstruct technological devices in photography. The sculptural objects are light boxes that mimic a smartphone's ability to display a digital image where the images themselves were taken using apps on a smart phone. However, the images are not just snapshots taken with an iPhone. The pictures are carefully composed objects that maintain the idea of assimilation through the experience of actions, yet convey a heightened sense of visual awareness that comes from my individual experience as a working artist over the past twenty years. The 'pictures' themselves are of very banal objects or places I left in my phone, and would have no implicit meaning to anyone except for myself. By changing the digital to an actual print and then placing them within the confines of an art space, such as the gallery, I am sharing my interests as captured in the phone's camera in order to share in the delight, horror, or deep and profound confusion that happens within all of us, artist and audience alike."

This exhibition was made possible and curated partially by Katherine Fields and her friend, Melodie Tiemann, an Assistant Professor of Art in Ceramics at Mississippi Valley State University.

In support of her concept of creative expression, Fields shares the following excerpt:

"...the simple fact that an irreducible part of human existence is our interest, whether that interest attaches itself to particular lines of inquiry, modes of being, expressions of emotions, aesthetically pleasing images, or what have you. We cannot and should not deny the fact that we are beings with projects, with the capacity to really and truly give ourselves

over to things that captivate us and give us delight, or horror, or deep and profound confusion." - Philip Lorish, *The Art of the Mundane*, 2011

At an early age, Fields honed her technical abilities within her art practices, as she studied various techniques and mediums in high school and while earning a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn. While attending the Glasgow School of Art in Scotland, she began to see where concept and meaning became the integral forces behind her art. "The idea behind the work and materials used in the work becomes more important than the object itself," according to Fields.

While studying in Scotland, Fields was introduced to environmental art, "which focuses on the importance of placement and materials." This holistic and sensual practice brought her to printmaking. Fields furthered her exploration in printmaking by earning a Master of Fine Arts degree in Printmaking at the University of Mississippi, where she was a Roy Frank Finger Print Scholar. She then worked as an art educator and exhibited in St. Louis.

In 2008, Fields returned to Mississippi, where she is Instructor of Art in Printmaking at the University of Mississippi. In 2011, she was the first recipient of the Instructor of the Year Award for the College of Liberal Arts at Ole Miss. It is through this experience that she has begun cultivating a community of creative individuals in Mississippi and, hopefully, creating a keen awareness of printmaking as a contemporary art practice. Fields is a member of the Southern Graphics Council International Print Organization, the College Art Association and the Southeastern College Art Conference (SECAC).

Fields has exhibited regionally, nationally, and internationally. Her work can be found in permanent collections throughout the U.S. and around the world, including the Mississippi Museum of Art; Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology, Christchurch, New Zealand; and many others. Fields has juried and curated print exhibitions, the 2010 Oxford Film Festival in the animation and experimental film category, and was lead designer for a multi-award winning independent film featuring Lance Nichols of "Treme" fame. Recently, she created broadside prints for authors Jeffrey Eugenides and Adam Johnson for their visits to Square Books in Oxford, Miss.

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



NEW 'READ & REVIEW' PROGRAM EXPLORES THE NEW JIM CROW

"Read & Review with Arts & Sciences at the Valley," is a new program started by Dean Tazinski P. Lee to encourage reading and discussing books in a public forum on campus. Attorney Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, an eye-opening read that links Jim Crow and legal segregation to the mass incarceration of Black men, will be discussed in a Thursday, April 19, panel discussion at 11:00 a.m. in Sutton 108. The panel members—Drs. Ricky Hill, Rasheedah Jenkins, Rodrick Jenkins, and Prof. Amber Hendricks—will share their reviews of Alexander's book and entertain questions afterwards. Join us for our first program and make it a success.

in the following research: The Effects of a Math Sprint Tutorial Model on Mathematics Achievement of Sixth Graders at Elizabeth City Middle School in Elizabeth City, N.C.; Undergraduate Research Experience in Ocean, Marine, and Polar Science, 2011; The Results of Data Collected from Surveys to Predict the Effectiveness of Undergraduate Research Experience in Ocean, Marine, and Polar Science Program. He is the son of Barnett and Mavin Elder, Sr.

Assistant Professor Lee Redmond has completed 25 years of service in higher education at MVSU. He earned his undergraduate and master's degrees in mathematics from MVSU and Arkansas State University, respectively. He has received numerous honors and awards for his research and teaching, including the

National Science Foundation Grantwriting – Team of the Year Award, Best Math Teacher Award and Who's Who Among MCIS Faculty at MVSU.

Redmond is a member of the Mathematical Association of America, Mississippi Academy of Sciences, Mississippi Collegiate Mathematical Association, Alpha Kappa Mu Honors Society and the Alliance for Graduate Education in Mississippi. Redmond is married to Doshia Redmond and they have one daughter, Jasmine.

HEADWAE was established in 1988 by a legislative resolution to honor individual academic achievement and the overall contribution of the state's public and private institutions of higher learning.

QEP The Write Way to Success *continued from page 1*

The QEP is faculty-driven and implemented through the general education curriculum, starting with English Composition courses and moving horizontally throughout the humanities, natural science and social science courses of the core. This QEP will influence student learning outcomes associated with general education college level competencies, and strengthen the General Education Core Curriculum.

Students will develop writing portfolios to be reviewed by a QEP Assessment Committee of English Department faculty.

After piloting during the 2012-13 academic term, full implementation will begin in the fall of 2013 and continue for five years.

A campus-wide QEP Pep Rally was held Tuesday, March 6, featuring the QEP Cheer, a special QEP jingle, lunch, and giveaways of QEP tee-shirts and pens.

For regular QEP updates, text "MVSUQEP" to 91608, and for more information, visit mvsu.edu/qep.

CommuniQue'

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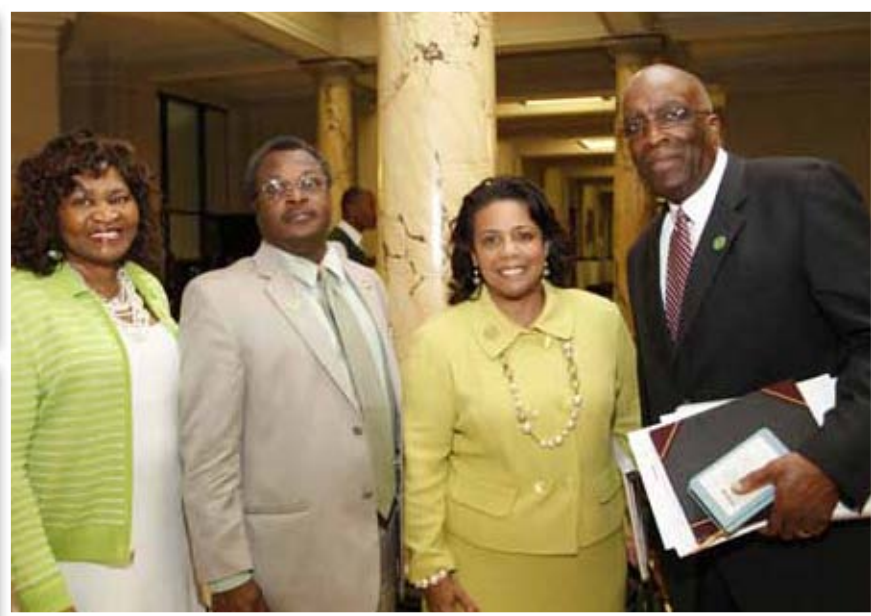


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