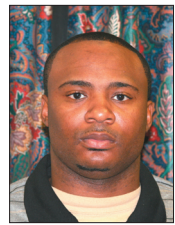


Welcome Aboard



CASSANDRA MURRY

Assistant
Teacher
Child
Development



JAMES GIBSON

Facilities
Management



SHELIA HOLSTON

Facilities
Management

BIG READ PROGRAM RECEPTION IS MONDAY

You don't want to miss the Jan. 28 kick-off for the National Endowment for the Arts Big Read Celebration. J.H. White Library and the College of Education are hosting the film screening and distribution of materials in the Business Education Building auditorium beginning at 6 p.m. A reception is also planned.

Valley is one of 127 libraries, municipalities, and arts, culture, higher education, and science organizations to receive a \$20,000 NEA grant.

MVSU has chosen "A Lesson Before Dying," by Louisiana native Ernest J. Gaines. "We chose this book for two reasons, the first being our locale. The second, the timeliness of the book is so



ERNEST GAINES

prevalent of what we're living and experiencing in the Mississippi Delta, in the counties in which we are partners with, and with the current incarceration rates," Payton said.

PHONE CENTER, *Continued from page 1*

leadership, customer service and the fundamentals of fund-raising. This program will be a collaborative effort between the Office of Development and the Office of Alumni Relations.

"Both programs will serve as a catalyst to move us to the future," Reed said. "Alumni are the foundation and lifeline of success for any university. The Valley realizes that these programs will provide the means to reengage and gain financial support from alumni," she continued.

The grant was a collaborative effort written between the Office of Development and the Office of Sponsored Programs. "We would like to extend a very special thank you to Jannette Adams, Kimberley Allen, Sam Melton, and the entire Sponsored Programs staff for their efforts. I would encourage faculty and staff to partner with Sponsored Programs and utilize the expertise of that office to assist with funding efforts," Reed said.

CommuniQue'

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Mississippi Valley State University CommuniQue'

A Publication of Mississippi Valley State University For Faculty, Staff, Alumni and Friends

January 25, 2008 Vol. 4 Edition 2

MVSU kicks off Student Phone Center & Class Agent Programs



MVSU's new Annual Fund Officer, Archie Tucker II, hangs a poster recruiting students for the new Phone Center and Class Agents programs.

Mississippi Valley State University was recently awarded \$194,000 over three years from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund to establish a University Student Phone Center Program and Class Agent Program.

The programs will allow the University to establish and strengthen strong and vibrant lines of communication with alumni and other potential donors, according to Dallas Reed, assistant vice president for development.

"The Phone Center and Class Agent Program have traditionally served as grass roots fund-raising initiatives for many institutions, and MVSU is extremely excited to be among that class of universities," Reed said.

The center will temporarily be located in Modular Unit 3, which formerly

housed the President's conference room. Renovation is expected in the coming months, and will include a cubicle-style format outfitted with telephones and computers.

The Phone Center will be manned by a part-time manager and paid student callers who will be contacting alumni and friends of the University for contributions. Students will go through rigorous training to prepare them as front line ambassadors for the University.

"An exciting component of the program will be the ability to connect and communicate with alumni and friends," said Dr. Roy C. Hudson, interim MVSU president. "We will be able to update alumni records and solicit gifts. We commend the duPont Foundation for recognizing the needs of our institution and enabling us to create this program," Hudson added.

"The Phone Center will be a critical component of the Office of Development in implementing a comprehensive Annual Fund program. MVSU is very excited to be launching the Student Phone Center," Reed said. In support of the Annual Fund efforts, the Office of Development has hired Archie Tucker II to serve as the Annual Fund Officer (see sidebar).

The Class Agent program will enhance the relationship between alumni and the University as well as increase alumni giving and participation. One or more alumni agents will be selected from each class. The Class Agent will serve as front line fundraisers for their class. An annual leadership conference will be hosted on campus to provide agents with training in the areas of roles and responsibilities,

Continued on page 4

INTERVIEWS PLANNED

The MVSU Office of Development is offering Valley students with an employment opportunity in the new MVSU Call Center. An Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 30, at 5 p.m. in the Business Education Building auditorium.

Students who are looking for extra cash, work experience and networking opportunities will find all three, said Assistant Vice President for Development Dallas Reed.

Tucker Joins Development Staff



TUCKER

A 2004 Valley graduate has returned "home" this month. Archie Tucker II has been hired as the Annual Fund Officer in the Office of Development.

"Anytime when one of MVSU's own can return to serve in such a critical role in assisting with our fundraising efforts, we are not only excited, but very fortunate," said Dallas Reed, assistant vice president for Development.

Tucker returns to Valley after two years at the Coahoma Community College Career Technical Division where he was Workforce Investment Area coordinator. He improved

Continued on page 3

Newsome Selected for Leadership Mississippi

Dr. Moses Newsome, vice president for Research, Planning, Community and Economic Development, has been selected to participate in the 2008 class of Leadership Mississippi, the second oldest statewide leadership program in the nation.

“The program should be particularly beneficial in that it will afford me the opportunity to broaden my business and political relationships for the purpose of educational advocacy, local economic development promotion, fund raising and legislative advocacy,” Newsome said.

Participants of the 2008 class will meet in five communities across the state, including in Jackson for the opening session of the legislature and discussions on government and public affairs, in Tupelo to explore economic development,

in Biloxi to learn about quality of life in Mississippi, in Hattiesburg to examine Health, and in Oxford to study education. The program will run from February to November. Those successfully completing the program will participate in a graduation ceremony in Jackson in January 2009.

Since its beginning in 1974, Leadership Mississippi has graduated 29 classes and currently has more than 900 alumni active in Mississippi business and politics. The goal of Leadership Mississippi is to develop and maintain a network of Mississippians committed to improving the state’s quality of life.



DR. NEWSOME

Johnson Accepted to Participate in Harvard Institute



DR. JOHNSON

Dr. Tonjanita Johnson, executive assistant to the President/associate vice president for University Relations, has been accepted to participate in the 2008 Harvard Institute for Educational Management (IEM) through the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The program will run from July 20 through Aug. 1.

This program is designed to help se-

nior-level administrators examine critical leadership issues at colleges and universities; learn effective approaches to balancing internal and external leadership roles; lead in a changing context; articulate a powerful vision for the institution; and enrich the professional practice of individuals and institutions worldwide.

In an effort to support leadership development at historically black colleges and university’s, the Harvard Institutes for Higher Education has offered Johnson a scholarship through its IEM Diversity Fund to participate in the

program. Johnson will, in turn, assist the program by promoting future participation of HBCU administrators in Harvard’s summer institutes for higher education leaders.

For more than 25 years, the Harvard Graduate School of Education has offered professional education programs for educational leaders. The School’s summer institutes have been recognized as being among the nation’s premier forums for the development of leaders in higher education.

Call for Submission for MVSU Abstracts of Research Works

Mississippi Valley State University Office of Sponsored Research is planning to publish the premier edition of the “Abstract of Research at MVSU.” In its efforts to maintain and enhance the quality of the publication, only abstracts of research reports that are either already published or accepted for publication, will be considered, said Dr. Ademola M. Omishakin, director.

“The essence is to ensure that only abstracts of quality research are published and disseminated, and that University academics are aware of the research activities of their colleagues in one published volume for the period,” said Omishakin.

MVSU professors are asked to submit abstracts of their research works that are published or accepted for publication, arising from their research works within the last five years.

The information should be provided in the following format:

Discipline; Time of Research; Name of Researcher(s); Department and College of the Researcher(s); Abstracts of not more than 250-300 words maximum for each research work; Publication outlets (or evidence of acceptance for publication).

To be eligible for consideration, the submissions (in both hard and electronic copies) should be received at the Office of Sponsored Research. It could also be forwarded via the following email address: mvsuabstracts2008@yahoo.com. For more information, contact Dr. Omishakin at (662) 254-3392.

Please address all correspondence in this regard to:
Ademola M. Omishakin, MPH, Ph.D; MBA
Director, Office of Sponsored Research
Mississippi Valley State University
14000 Highway 82 W. #7298
Itta Bena, MS 38941-1400

Boys & Girls Club Sponsors Gospel Concert on Jan. 26

The MVSU Boys & Girls Club will be sponsoring its first Gospel Concert featuring the Mississippi Valley State University Choir and area guest choirs on Saturday, Jan. 26 beginning at 5 p.m. in the H.G. Carpenter auditorium. Admission is \$5 and tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door.

For more information, contact Benjamin Nance, area director and chairperson, 299-5905 or Tamara Verdell, co-chairperson, 392-7861.

EvEnt CaLenDar

FEBRUARY

- 2 – Women’s/Men’s basketball hosts Jackson State, 5:30/7:30 p.m., Harrison HPER.
- 4 – Women’s/Men’s basketball hosts Grambling State, 5:30/7:30 p.m., Harrison HPER.
- 5 – Grant Writing Workshop, Noon – 1:30 p.m., Social Science Building, Contact Dr. James Varn @ 254-3080 for more information.
- 7 – Softball hosts University of Alabama-Birmingham, 2 p.m., Itta Bena.
– National Black Aids Awareness Day, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Jacob Aaron Student Union
- 9 – Women’s/Men’s basketball hosts Alabama State, 5:30/7:30 p.m., Harrison HPER.
– Softball vs. Norfolk State, Historical Black College Tourney, 2 p.m., Marietta, Ga.
– Softball vs. Hampton, Historical Black College Tourney, 4 p.m., Marietta, Ga.
- 10 – Softball vs. NC A&T, Historical Black College Tourney, 1 p.m., Marietta, Ga.
– Softball vs. S.C. State, Historical Black College Tourney, 5 p.m., Marietta, Ga.
- 11 – Women’s/Men’s basketball hosts Alabama A&M, 5:30/7:30 p.m., Harrison HPER.
- 13 – Softball vs. MSU, 3 p.m., Starkville.
- 14 – MVSU Child Development Center Relocation and Grand Opening Ceremony, 10 a.m., L.S. Rogers Building
- 15 – Softball vs. Alcorn, Southeastern La. Tourney, 3 p.m., Hammond, La.
– Softball vs. Southeastern La., Southeastern La. Tourney, 5:30 p.m., Hammond, La.
- 16 – Women’s/Men’s basketball at Alcorn State, 7:30 p.m., Lorman.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Founder’s Week: April 20-26. Founder’s Breakfast, April 21; Founder’s Convocation, April 24; Gala and Preeminence Awards, April 25.

TUCKER, *Continued from page 1*

GED attainment rates by 400 percent and established partnerships with local businesses and organizations to provide student-oriented services.

Tucker’s immediate goal in his new position is to increase the percentage of annual funds on a yearly basis through the MVSU Phone Center and the Class Agent Programs recently established.

“I think I bring a youthful approach as well as one of experience from other state institutions and I have had a chance to see how they do things and how they operate,” Tucker said. “I think I can take some of the good points from those institutions and bring them here to propel MVSU forward.”

Prior to his CCC affiliation, Tucker was employed at Delta State University as an admissions recruiter for southeast Mississippi and the Alabama Gulf Coast. He later was named assistant director of DSU Career Services and Placement where he recruited businesses and organizations to participate in on-campus employment events and assisted students in gaining employment and internships.

While at MVSU, Tucker majored in business administration. He earned his MBA degree from DSU in 2006.

A recipient of the HEADWAE award, Tucker is president of the St. James AME Church Board of Directors, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and Delta Mu Delta business

PeOple To KnOw

Lurese Johnson Terrell



Position/Title: Alumni Relations Secretary

Responsible for: Assisting the director and alumni of the University in all areas of communication and alumni events. Coordinate all administrative and secretarial duties for the office of Alumni Relations.

Hometown: Yazoo City, Mississippi

Hobbies: Spending quality time with my family and close friends, shopping, traveling, reading and watching old western movies on spare time.

Philosophy on Life: Each of us has the right and the responsibility to assess the road which lies ahead and those over which we have traveled, and if the future road looms ominous or unpromising, and the road back uninviting-inviting, then we need to gather our resolve and carry only the necessary baggage, step off that road into another direction. If the new choice is also unpalatable, without embarrassment, we must be ready to change that one as well. – *Maya Angelou*

Quote to Remember: Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it. – *Martin Luther King Jr.*