



The Marsalis brothers at the Music Symposium Workshop

The Marsalis brothers, Delfeayo and Brandford, perform during the Music Symposium Workshop held in the H.G. Carpenter Auditorium. The Marsalis brothers were among a host of guests that participated in the two day Music Symposium.

Theater *Continued from page 2*

Members of the cast include LaShundra Harris, Keyona Smith, Jack Flag, Leroy Lucas, Yolanda Brown and Sharhonda Chandler, all of Greenwood; Ivan Baker of Itta Bena; Eatchett Johnson of Belzoni; Jerome Petty of Rosedale; Yolanda Alexander of Greenville; Delorise Lofton of Shelby and Willie Gregory of Memphis.

Playwright Jerry Rabushka is a co-founder of Ragged Blade Productions, a St. Louis-based theatre company that produces original works.

Rabushka is a writer, composer, actor and director.

Rabushka has won awards for his plays and musical compositions including "The Checkpoint," "Kiss of Death" and "Empty Closets." Rabushka received the Director's Award For Outstanding Service to the community at the 2006 National Gay and Lesbian Theater Festival in Columbus, Ohio. He has had about 80 scripts of various lengths published by Brooklyn Publishers, Odessa, Texas

Two New Members *Continued from page 1*

The Valley's new provost earned a doctorate degree in educational policy and management from the University of Oregon in 1986. He holds a master's degree in curriculum and instruction leadership with emphasis in K-12 education, also from the University of Oregon. Dr. Stevenson holds three degrees from California State University, including a master of arts degree in social science education with an emphasis in government, a master of arts degree in education administration with an emphasis in higher education, and a bachelor of arts degree in government.

"I am equally pleased to introduce to the Valley my colleague from Edward Waters College, Dr. Anna Hammond," Oliver said.

Dr. Hammond served as associate provost and dean of the college. "We also worked together at Bennett College where Dr. Hammond was associate vice president for academic affairs, academic officer and associate professor of education," said Oliver.

Recently, Dr. Hammond served as the Interim Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs at Edward Waters College.

Dr. Hammond brings expertise in the areas of continuing education, faculty and staff training, program and curriculum development, strategic planning, board staffing, student recruitment and retention and strategic tactical planning.

While at Bennett College, Dr. Hammond was responsible for the design and development of a college-wide retention plan and developed, coordinated and implemented the comprehensive student academic assessment system for enrolled students. She led the revitalization of the college's athletic program and directed the development of the new academic advising handbook.

Prior to joining Bennett College, Dr. Hammond was director of the University Centers for Academic Development at National-Louis University in Chicago, Ill. As director, she managed more than 40 professional and support staff who served more than 7,000 students and provided academic support services and course work to students at the University's five Illinois campuses and five out-of-state campuses. Dr. Hammond also served as the first African American president of the National Learning Centers Association (NLCA).

CommuniQue'

The CommuniQue is published for faculty, staff, alumni and supporters of Mississippi Valley State University by the Office of Public Relations. It is published twice a month.

Editorial material should be sent to news@mvsu.edu or mailed to

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Mississippi Valley State University

CommuniQue'

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

March 6, 2009 Vol. 5 Edition 3

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DR. FRANCIS SHOWI SCHEDULED FOR TODAY AT 11 A.M.



Dr. Showi

The Valley will hold a memorial service for former MVSU Faculty Senate President Francis O. Showi on Friday, March 6, at 11 a.m. in the H.G. Carpenter auditorium.

Dr. Showi, an associate professor in the Department of Applied Technology, died March 1 following a lengthy battle with cancer.

The Lagos, Nigeria native joined the MVSU faculty in August, 1990 and

served as an advisor to the MVSU Industrial Technology Student Club and the MVSU National Association of Industrial Technologists Student Club.

In addition, Dr. Showi served as Faculty Senate President from August 2005 to August 2007. He was elected president and director of Region III for the National Association of Industrial Technology. He was an active member of numerous professional organizations in the fields of engineering and technology. He was awarded The Earnest L. Boyer International Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology in 2004.

Dr. Showi received a bachelor of science in civil engineering from the University of Lagos. He practiced as a civil engineer for some years in Nigeria before moving to London, England. He received a bachelor's degree in industrial technology, a master of science degree and a education specialist degree, all from Jackson State University.

He later returned to JSU where he earned a Ph.D. in environmental science from the School of Science and Technology in 1997.

"Dr. Showi was a talented individual with a strong motivation and drive for professional excellence through creative and scholarly activities.

He always considered his students' success and achievements as his top priority. He was actively engaged in integrating technology to classroom and laboratory instructions, mentoring undergraduate research, and writing grant proposals. Because of his continued efforts to improve the quality of instruction and research, Dr. Showi was highly regarded by his students and colleagues in the university," said Dr. Ademola Omishakin.

Dr. Showi is survived by his three children, brothers, a sister, and a host of nieces and nephews.

MVSU PRESIDENT DONNA H. OLIVER NAMES TWO NEW MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

Mississippi Valley State University President Donna H. Oliver announced on Friday the appointment of two members of her executive cabinet.

Dr. Joseph M. Stevenson will serve as University provost/senior vice president and chief operating officer. Dr. Anna Hammond has been named chief of staff.

"We welcome Dr. Stevenson from our sister institution, Jackson State University where he is the founder and director of the Executive Ph.D. Program in Urban Higher Education," said Dr. Oliver.

Stevenson's appointment was approved by the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning during its Feb. 19 board meeting.

Dr. Stevenson founded the Jake Ayers Institute for Research in Urban Higher Education in 2004, after serving as JSU's provost and vice president for academic and student affairs from 2001 to 2004.

While on sabbatical in 2008, Stevenson was visiting provost-in-residence for the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO). Among his accomplishments was the crafting of the first national research and policy agenda for NAFEO and HBCUs throughout



Dr. Joseph M. Stevenson



Dr. Anna M. Hammond

the United States. Previously, he served as a Kellogg Leadership Fellow at NAFEO as a part of a minority-serving institutional leadership development program. His presidential mentorship for this fellowship was completed at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Stevenson was campus provost and chief executive officer at Golden Gate University-Sacramento and Central Valley campuses from 1997 to 1999.

He also served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at York College, The City University of New York.

Continued on page 4

FACULTY MEETING

MVSU Provost Joseph Stevenson has scheduled a meeting for all faculty, chairs and deans for Tuesday, March 10, at 11 a.m. in the H.G. Carpenter Auditorium. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss faculty and academic programs issues. (Please note: the meeting was originally scheduled for Thursday, March 12; however, the date was changed to Tuesday, March 10 as to not interfere with seminar classes.)

UNIVERSITY NOTES

BRIEFLY . . .

The Department of Communications hosted its first brown bag luncheon in February. Students and faculty discussed the current media coverage of the Iraq War. Moderator for the discussion, Colleen White, showed various media images of the war. The images were used to help bring a broader understanding of how media images can influence what and how people think. The brown bag luncheon will be held once a month. For more information, contact Colleen White, 254-3630.

MVSU Distinguished Professor **Robert Clark** was the featured Black History speaker at Traveler's Rest Church in Greenwood. Clark is the former District 47 Representative and Speaker Pro Tempore of the Mississippi House of Representatives.

Dr. Aurora Fiengo-Varn received an award of a full CIBER scholarship of \$550 and attended the Language and Culture for International Business Workshop held at the University of Memphis on Feb.19-20.

Professor Barbara J.P. Washington, co-coordinator of Mayor's Youth Advisory Council in Itta Bena, co-sponsored the Black History Program: Youth Celebrating Our African Heritage," on Feb. 16.

Professor Claude Wilkinson's "Joy in the Morning," has been adopted as a textbook for ENG 426 Poetry Writing at Union University in Jackson, Tenn. He also has three poems accepted for publication in the Southern Poetry Anthology, Volume II: Mississippi. He has been invited to serve as the final judge for the 2009 Naomi Long Madgett Poetry Award; he is the first past winner of the award ever asked to serve as judge for the prize.

Dr. John Zheng published an essay on Richard Wright in the winter 2009 issue of The Southern Quarterly and had four poems accepted for the Southern Poetry Anthology, Volume II: Mississippi. He also published a poem dedicated to Eudora Welty in the latest issue of The English Journal.

ITTA BENA HEALTH FAIR PLANNED

The Itta Bena Community Outreach Committee along with the City of Itta Bena will host the annual Itta Bena Community Health Fair, Saturday, April 18, at the L.T. Brazil Community Center located on Martin Luther King Dr. from 9 a.m. to starting 2 p.m. Health screenings, blood donations, health providers will be on hand and information about diabetes, cancer awareness, fitness updates and sports sign-ups will be available. For additional information, contact Mabel Robinson at 254-6311 or Victoria Perkins at 254-9718.

Theater Students to Perform a One Act Play



The MVSU Department of Communication is presenting Jerry Rabushka's play, "A Funny Way of Showing It," during April 14-15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Royal Room. Cast members include, front row, from left, are Keyona Smith and Lashundra Harris, both of Greenwood; Barbara Baymon of Belzoni, director of theatre; Yolanda Alexander of Greenville; second row: Delorice Lofton of Shelby; Jerome Petty of Rosedale; Yolanda Brown and Jack Flagg, both of Greenwood; Willie Gregory of Memphis; Eatchett Johnson of Belzoni and Sharhonda Chandler of Greenwood.

Mississippi Valley State University Department of Communication is presenting "A Funny Way of Showing It," a one-act play by Jerry Rabushka, April 14-15.

Performances begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Student Union Royal Room. The production is under the direction of MVSU Instructor Barbara Baymon.

The play is about a young lady who is in a physically abusive relationship. She is dating the the star athlete of the school, but the problem is he frequently hits her. The teen will not admit she is a victim of teen dating violence. She believes he loves her; he's just got a funny way of showing it. This play opens doors to discussing a common, yet difficult topic, teen dating violence.

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Valley Hosts Alumni Directors

MVSU served as host institution on March 4 for the semi-annual meeting of alumni directors from the state's eight public institutions. Among those attending were, from left, Bob Pierce, University of Southern Mississippi; Yvette Totten, MVSU; Mary Margaret Roberts, Mississippi University for Women; Gwen Caples, Jackson State University; Charles Davis, Alcorn State University; and Jeffrey Ferris, Delta State University.



Civil Rights Museum Visit

MVSU students recently toured the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis as part of the Black History Month observance. Among those attending were, kneeling, from left, Tina Ybarra, Jackie Hogan, Kirri Bolton, Linda Bourgeois, Vera Cotton and Brandy Brown; second row, Venisha Morgan, Vonkeysha Pittman, Tanetia Smith, LaKendrick Felton, Marcus Hill, Cassandra Russo, Juanits Fajardo, Apolonia Kukla, Kate Johnson, Pella Hand, James Hudson; Third Row: Charity White, Chris Lynn, Roberto Hernandez, Cristaball Adame, Mandi Quirk, Jenn Johnson, Dana Eddy, Joel Gafford, Carlos Sanchez, Sherry White, Anthony Edwards, Chris Box.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

EMMETT H. MCCLARY



Position/Title: Instructor of Mass Communications and Faculty Advisor for the Delta Devils Gazette

Responsible for: Teaching Intro to Mass Communication, Face to Face and Online! Basic and Advanced News Reporting, Writing for Media, Photojournalism, Page and News Web Design and advise Gazette staff.

Home-town: Jackson

Hobbies: singing, playing guitar and piano and writing short stories and songs

Philosophy on Life: The chief end of man; to know God and enjoy him forever!

Quote to Remember: "If you don't want to be forgotten just a few minutes after you are dead; you should either write things that are worth reading or accomplish things worth writing about!"

-- Benjamin Franklin

EVENT CALENDAR

MARCH

- 8 – Move your clock forward one hour in observance of Daylight Savings Time
- 10 – Walgreens Information Session, Business Education Building 4 – 6 p.m.
- 10 – Faculty Meeting, H.G. Carpenter Auditorium, 11 a.m.
- 10 – Graduating Seniors Meeting, Social Science Building Auditorium, 11 a.m.
- 11 – Walgreens Interviews, Business Education Building
- 16-20 – Spring Break
- 15-18 – TMCF Member Universities

- Institute & Exhibition (MUIPE)—New Orleans, La.
- 17 – "Conversations about Research," Faculty Development Center Conference Room, Social Science Building, 4-5:15 p.m.
- 18 – MVSU softball at University of Central Arkansas, 5 p.m.
- 24 – MVSU softball hosts University of Louisiana at Monroe, 5 p.m.
- 25-27 – Black Executive Exchange Program (BEEP) Conference, Business Education Building
- 25 – Honors Convocation, H.G.

- Carpenter Auditorium, 10 a.m.
- 27 – MVSU Women In Science and Technology Conference (WIST), Social Science Auditorium
- APRIL**
- 9-10 – MVSU 28th Social Work Conference
- 9 – MVSU Child Development Center Spring Fashion Show, 7 p.m., H.G. Carpenter Auditorium.
- 10-13 – Easter Break Holiday, No Classes
- 12 – Fifteenth Annual MVSU Piano Festival, 8 a.m., Walter Sillers Fine Arts Center

- 13 – MVSU International Week Film Night
- 14 – MVSU International Week Outdoor Luncheon
- 15 – MVSU International Week Convocation and Parade of 192 Flags
- 16 – MVSU International Week Banquet/Talent Revue, call 662-254-3092.
- 20 – Founder's Breakfast, 7:30 a.m. H.M. Ivy Cafeteria, Dining Hall IV, \$10
- 21 – Alumni Forum, 10 a.m. Business Education Building Auditorium

- 21 – MVSU Research Roundtable, 4 p.m. – 5:15 p.m., Faculty Development Center conference room, Social Science Building.
- 22 – MVSU Symphonic-Wind Band Spring Concert, 7:30 Carpenter
- 22 – Administrative Professional Day, 11 a.m., Rec Center; \$10
- 23 – Founder's Day Convocation, 10 a.m., Carpenter
- 24 – Ninth Annual J.H. White Preeminence Awards and Scholarship Gala; Silent Auction, 5:30 p.m., Gala, 7 p.m., \$75, Harrison HPER

- 25 – Valley Fest, Noon – 4 p.m.
- MAY**
- 9 – MVSU Commencement

DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCK FORWARD ONE HOUR ON SUNDAY, MARCH 8 IN OBSERVANCE OF DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME.