

WelcOme AboArd



Officer Joe Kent,
Campus Police



Eddie Buggs,
multimedia
computer lab
technician, Fine
Arts-Music

COMMITTEE *Continued from page 1*

“The committee has been formed with nominations from the Faculty,” said Dr. Baham. “We met Thursday and selected a recording secretary and established meeting dates. A report will be forthcoming as requested by the President.”

In addition, Dr. Newman established the President’s Council, a group comprised of the presidents of the Faculty Senate, Staff Council and Student Government Association. These individuals will meet monthly with the executive staff and the President to discuss issues and policies.

Also, a series of roundtable discussions with groups of faculty from across the campus will commence following Spring break, March 12-16. President Newman will listen to the concerns of the faculty during these discussions.

“I am open to discuss whatever concerns the faculty may have and look forward to working together to make MVSU a premiere educational institution,” Newman said.

VALLEY TAKES THE SWAC

Coach James Green raises the nets in victory after the MVSU men’s basketball team clinched the Southwestern Athletic Conference regular season championship after defeating the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff in the R.W. Harrison HPER Complex on March 2. The Delta Devils (16-14, 13-5 SWAC) were the top seed in the tournament; they won Wednesday’s contest and will play tonight against Texas Southern in Birmingham. Green, who was named SWAC Coach of the Year, and the Delta Devils are looking for their first SWAC Tournament title since 1996.



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AARON HENRY LECTURE SERIES FEATURES BENJAMIN CHAVIS

Benjamin Chavis, president and CEO of Hip-Hop Summit Action Network, will be the featured speaker at the 2007 Aaron Henry Scholars Lecture Series on Race, Politics, Gender and Culture, sponsored by Mississippi Valley State University. The event is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, at 6:30 p.m. in the H.G. Carpenter Auditorium.

Dr. Chavis will speak on “Hip-Hop, the Millennial Generation and Global Culture: What is the Future?”

Respondents are Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheftall, director of the Women’s Research and Resource Center at Spelman College in Atlanta; Bishop C. Garnett Henning Sr. of New Orleans, representative of the African Methodist Episcopal Church for Mississippi and Louisiana; and Dr. Mack Staton, assistant professor of English at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, N.C.

Serving as moderator will be Dr. Walter M. Kimbrough, president of Philander Smith College of Little Rock, Ark. Dr. Kimbrough is nationally recognized as an expert on historically Black fraternities and sororities.

When Russell Simmons established the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network (HSAN) to empower the Hip-Hop community to utilize their commanding cultural influence for freedom, justice and equality, he looked to Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, also known as Minister Benjamin Muhammad, who organized the historic New York Hip-Hop Summit in 2001. One month later, the HSAN was born and Dr. Chavis was named president and CEO.

HSAN is the largest and broadest national coalition of hip-hop artists, recording industry executives, youth activists and civil rights leaders. With the support of the major hip-hop labels, the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and others, the HSAN has sponsored successful Hip-Hop Summits in New York, Kansas City, Oakland, Los Angeles, Miami, Seattle, Dallas and Washington, D.C.



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FACULTY ISSUES COMMITTEE NAMED

The Mississippi Valley State University faculty have selected 10 colleagues to serve on a committee to seek solutions to problems outlined in a letter to IHL Commissioner Thomas C. Meredith.

Faculty Senate Committee appointees include: Dr. Orian Cathey, Dr. Michele Crescenzo, Dr. Jerome Greene, Dr. Sam McNair and alternate Dr. Jess Brookhart.

The College of Arts and Sciences has selected Dr. Morgan Ero and Dr. Julius Ikenga.

Dr. Lula Collier and Mrs. Vicki Curry will represent the College of Education.

Representing the College of Professional Studies will be Dr. Francis Powell and Ms. Colleen White.

On March 2, President Lester C. Newman announced three initiatives to open dialogue with faculty and staff.

Scheduled to meet with the committee will be Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs Curtis Baham and Provost Cassie Osborne, Jr.

Newman has requested that the committee give its recommendations within 15 days of its appointment.

Continued on page 4

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OUR STUDENTS MUST BE OUR FOCUS



Having worked in higher education for many years, I have become a firm believer that communication, teamwork and mutual understanding are key components in building a successful institution. Over the past few weeks, however, I've been disappointed that the hard work of many of our faculty and staff members has been interrupted by the distraction of anonymous letters and media attention related to issues that could have been appropriately addressed right here on campus.

I have always tried to present myself as one who is open to discussion and ready to address important issues that impact our students, faculty and staff. I remain ready and willing to address issues of concern with any internal or external constituent group if it ultimately means enhancing our ability to serve students.

To ensure that we are addressing issues of concern to all faculty, staff and students, we are implementing several strategies to increase communication, teamwork, and mutual understanding. Among these strategies is the development of the President's Council, which will allow the presidents of the Faculty Senate, Staff Council and Student Government Association to bring forth issues on a monthly basis during an Executive Staff meeting. These meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of each month. It is important that you share issues of concern to you and your colleagues with the individuals who represent you so that they can be appropriately brought to the table. You should also hold these individuals responsible for reporting back to you regarding the discussion on these issues and the recommended strategies for addressing them.

In addition, we have established another committee, which was formed with nominations from the faculty, to seek solutions to problems that have been outlined by the Faculty Senate. Members of that committee are named within this issue of the Communiqué. Again, I encourage the entire faculty to work closely with the selected individuals to ensure that we remain focused in our purpose and that those serving on this committee are mindful of our ultimate goal of providing the optimal living, learning and working environment.

Unity and understanding are very important to our continued success. Each of us, however, must make that all-important decision as to whether we will be distracted or if we will keep our focus on serving the needs of our students. After all, our students are our most valuable resource, and they deserve our undivided attention.

*Lester C. Newman
President*

FANNIE LOU HAMER CELEBRATION



Mississippi Valley State University and the Fannie Lou Hamer Legacy Committee sponsored the 30th Anniversary Commemoration of the Life and the Work of Fannie Lou Hamer on March 1-3. The three-day event was attended by many who knew and worked with Hamer, including Charles McLaurin, a founding member of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, and Hollis Watkins. Watkins is pictured leading the audience in the H.G. Carpenter Auditorium on the MVSU campus in a medley of freedom songs sang by civil rights workers during the movement.

WILLIAMS, DAVIDSON HONORED AS HEADWAE RECIPIENTS



An assistant professor of mathematics and a senior communications major have been honored as 2006 Higher Education Appreciation Day.

Working for Academic Excellence honorees at Mississippi Valley State University. MVSU faculty and students selected Professor Raymond Williams of MCIS and Rikeshia Davidson of Weir to receive the HEADWAE award.

They were among many of the academically talented students and faculty members of Mississippi's higher education institutions who have made outstanding contributions in promoting academic excellence honored by the state Legislature Tuesday during the 2006 Annual HEADWAE program at the state capitol.

The honorees began the day with a visit to the State Capitol where they were welcomed by Lieutenant Governor Amy Tuck and recognized by the Senate and House of Representatives and given a tour of the Capitol.

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.

DON'T FORGET

to turn your clock back one hour on Saturday, March 10!

EvEnt CaLenDar

VALLEY FACULTY DISPLAY ART



The Department of Fine Arts at Mississippi Valley State University concludes an exhibition of art works by four art faculty members.

The works of Charles Davis, Frank Hardmon, Ronald

Minks and Dorothy Vaughn will be displayed in the Johnston Gallery through today, from 8:30 to 1:30 p.m.

MICROSOFT OFFICE CLASSES SET

Human Resources is offering Microsoft Office classes. Classes are being held in the J.H. White Library in the computer lab on the 2nd floor. Class dates are tentatively scheduled for March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18, and April 25. Each software package will be covered in 8-week increments. Classes are available from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. or from 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

MARCH

9 Men's Basketball in SWAC Championship Tourney, 2:30 p.m., Birmingham

12-16 Spring Break (Faculty and Students)

16 MVSU Baseball vs. Alcorn State, 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

17 MVSU Baseball vs. Alcorn State, 1 p.m.

20 Aaron Henry Lecture Series featuring Benjamin Chavis, 6:30 p.m.

28 Honors Convocation

StAff NoTes



EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

LaChondia Nelson of Moorhead was recently named Mississippi Valley State University's Employee of the Month of February by the University's Staff Council. Nelson, athletics travel coordinator and administrative assistant to the athletic director, has been employed at the university for nine years. She said receiving the honor was an overwhelming surprise.

PeOple To KnOw

TOMMY VERDELL

Position: Director of Facilities Management

Responsibilities: Management and capital budgeting of campus operational activities affiliated with building maintenance, custodial/environmental services, landscape construction and grounds maintenance, transportation/fleet management, emergency response coordination, work place safety management, campus planning and real property management

Hometown: Columbus

Hobbies: Hunting, fishing, antique autos and athletics

Philosophy on Life: There are no such things as problems, only creative solutions, but it is up to us to solve them beautifully.

Quote: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." *Phillipians 4:13*

