



6th Annual BEEP Conference

The Office of Career Services at MVSU held its 6th annual Black Executive Exchange Program Conference. Among BEEPers attending this year's conference was Carlos Davis, director of installations and logistics for the Central Intelligence Agency. Davis is serving in his 29th year with the CIA and has held an estimated 20 positions within the agency. Other agencies participating were UPS, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Social Work Conference *Continued from page 1*

"Dr. LaNey has taught social work for more than 26 years at three North Carolina universities," said Dr. Vince Venturini, interim chair of the MVSU Department of Social Work.

"Her research focus has included African American social welfare history and rural aging issues, especially among women. She has written numerous articles and edited or co-edited four books. The legacy of problem-solving and 'making a way out of no way' is reflected in the lives of the people she has chosen to research and write about," he said.

LaNey has received numerous regional, state, and national awards, recognizing her contributions to teaching and advancement of the social work profession. These honors include awards from the North Carolina State Association of Black

Social Workers in 1988 and 1991 and Teacher Appreciation Awards from UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Social Work in 1992, 1993, 1996, 1999 and 2003.

In 2003, the University of Maryland's School of Social Work named LaNey the alumna who is one of America's Most Influential Social Workers. In 2003, the Council on Social Work Education honored her with their Distinguished Recent Contributions in Social Work Education award. This national award recognizes the recipient's scholarship, seminal writings, research, and service to the social work profession over the last 10 years. In addition, she was selected by UNC-Chapel Hill to receive a 2006 Distinguished Teaching Award for Post-Baccalaureate Instruction.



Name:
Valley State

Birthday:
February 19, 1950

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CommuniQue'

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Mississippi Valley State University

CommuniQue'

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

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GALA TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE

The sweet sound of The Manhattans will fill the corridors of the R.W. Harrison HPER Complex on Friday, April 24 during the 10th Annual James Hebert White Preeminence Awards and Scholarship Gala.

The group is best known for hits such as, "Kiss and Say Goodbye" which reached #1 on the Billboard Pop and R & B chart and "Shining Star." The Manhattans were inducted into the Rhythm and Blues Hall of Fame in 1999. In 2003, their first album after a 15-year hiatus was released, "Turn Out the Stars."

Faculty and staff can purchase tickets for the Founder's Breakfast and Gala by payroll deduction. A form is available at the Office of Fiscal Affairs' cashier's window. If you are a staff member, you may complete the section of the form for payroll deduction by April 15 to have the cost of the tickets distributed over a three-month period, which will start with the April 2009 payroll. Faculty desiring to purchase tickets through payroll deduction will have the opportunity to distribute the ticket cost over a two-month period, which also begins with the April 2009 payroll.

This fundraising event has provided immediate support to students in jeopardy of leaving school due to financial hardship. The Gala will



The Manhattans

also honor individuals who are pioneers and leaders in their community in various categories, including Education/Academics, Government/Politics/Advocacy, Philanthropy, Leadership/Community Service/Civic Endeavors/, Arts, Agriculture/Environment and Technology. Nomination forms, available online, can be mailed to Dallas Reed, Interim Vice President of University Relations, MVSU, 14000 Hwy. 82 West Box 7226, Itta Bena, MS 38941-1400

or emailed to giving@mvsu.edu. General tickets for this year's event are \$75.

As always, seating for these events is limited. So, purchase your tickets today! All proceeds from the Gala and Founder's Breakfast will be applied toward the University's Scholarship Fund for deserving students. For more information, contact Ms. Carla Williams in the Office of Fiscal and Administrative Affairs at 254-3016.

MVSU ANNUAL SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION CONFERENCE SET FOR APRIL 2-3



Dr. LaNey

One of America's most influential social workers will be the keynote speaker during Mississippi Valley State University's 29th annual Social Work Education Conference set for April 2-3.

Dr. Iris Carlton LaNey, a professor in the School of Social Work at the University of North Carolina and author of "African-Americans Aging in the Rural South," will speak during the opening 9 a.m. session on April 2.

"The Mississippi Delta: It's Real, It's Rural, It's Here," is the theme of the conference, which will be held in the Business Education Building auditorium on the Itta Bena campus.

The event is organized by the MVSU Department of Social Work.

Registration for the two-day conference is \$70. One day registration is \$50. Students can attend both days for a registration fee is \$20.

Originally from Warsaw, North Carolina, Iris B. Carlton-LaNey received her bachelor of science in social work from the North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University in Greensboro; her master's in social work from the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration; and her doctorate from the University of Maryland at Baltimore School of Social Work.

Continued on page 4

NONTUMBI TUTU FEATURED SPEAKER FOR MVSU INTERNATIONAL WEEK



Tutu

Nontumbi Tutu, daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, highlights the third annual Mississippi Valley State University International Week during April 13-17.

In celebration of the theme, “Promoting Cultural Diversity and Improving International Understanding,” a variety of events are planned, including entertainment by the Beatin’ Path Rhythm Drum Circle. Also scheduled to perform are Joe Caploe & Neck-n-Neck, a group of musicians who are fluent in many styles of music including jazz, African, Indian, Latin, Indonesian and improvisational music.

Activities for the general public begin on Tuesday at 10 a.m. with the Beatin’ Path Rhythm Drum Circle. A drum circle is a highly interactive activity where everyone is provided a drum or rhythm instrument and the group is guided through an “in the moment” musical experience. Because each group is different, each experience is unique, explains Sylvia Gray, coordinator of International Week. “Community spirit, teamwork and diversity are all emphasized and celebrated,” said Gray.

On Wednesday, April 15, Valley students will enjoy a pizza luncheon featuring the college food staple with an international flare. The event begins at 11 a.m. in the MVSU Student Pavilion. At 2 p.m., a diabetes forum will be held in Carpenter Auditorium. Diabetes is one of the leading health risks in the Mississippi Delta.

Thursday, April 16 features the colorful Parade of Flags at 9 a.m. which displays 193 flags representing all the world’s independent countries.

The annual convocation featuring human rights activist Nontumbi “Naomi” Tutu begins at 10 a.m. in Carpenter Auditorium.

The challenges of growing black and female in apartheid South Africa has led Tutu, third child of Archbishop Desmond and Nomalizo Leah Tutu, to speak about her passion for human dignity.

“These experiences taught how much we all lose when any of us is judged purely on physical attributes,” said Naomi Tutu. A native of South Africa, Tutu has lived in Lesotho, the United Kingdom and the United States. She was educated in Swaziland, the U.S. and England, and has divided her adult life between South Africa and the U.S.

Tutu’s professional experience include serving as a development consultant in West Africa, to being program coordinator for programs on Race and Gender and Gender-based Violence in Education at the African Gender Institute at the University of Cape Town. In addition Ms Tutu has taught at the Universities of Hartford and Connecticut and Brevard College in North Carolina.

On Friday, April 17, the Cultural Exhibits open at 9 a.m. in the Lackey Recreation Center. The World Music Clinic will be held at 11 a.m. in the Fine Arts Building. The event culminates at 6 p.m. with the International Banquet in the Lackey Recreation Center. The banquet includes a fashion revue, silent auction and Language Institute performance. Also featured will be Joe Caploe & Neck-n-Neck of Platteville, Wisc., a group of musicians that feature all original music with high energy rhythms and solos.

For more information, contact the Office of International Programs, 254-3092.

SCHEDULE OF INTERNATIONAL WEEK ACTIVITIES

Tuesday, April 14

10 a.m. Beatin’ Path Rhythm Drum Circle, Charles R. Lackey Recreation Center

Wednesday, April 15

11 a.m. Student Luncheon “Pizza Around the World,” MVSU Student Pavilion
2 p.m. Diabetes Forum, H.G. Carpenter Auditorium

Thursday, April 16, 2009

9 a.m. Parade of Flags (begins at Charles R. Lackey Recreation Center and continues to the H.G. Carpenter Auditorium)
10 a.m. Convocation featuring Nontumbi Tutu, H.G. Carpenter Auditorium

Friday, April 17, 2009

9 a.m. Cultural Exhibits, Charles R. Lackey Recreation Center
11 a.m. World Music Clinic, Fine Arts Building
6 p.m. International Banquet/Fashion Revue/Silent Auction/Language Institute featuring Joe Caploe & Neck-n-Neck of Platteville, Wisc., Charles R. Lackey Recreation Center

Thurgood Marshall College Fund Honored Two Mississippi Valley State University Employees



Bland

Provost Joseph Stevenson and Professor Constance Bland have been honored for outstanding accomplishments by the Thurgood Marshall College Fund.

The Thurgood Marshall College Fund is a non-profit organization that provides resources, opportunities, scholarships and advocacy to public Historically Black Colleges and Universities, students and alumni.

Stevenson, who also serves as senior vice president and chief operating officer, received an award for Outstanding Leadership in Higher Education. Bland was presented with an award for Outstanding Leadership in Faculty Research. The awards were presented during the 10th Annual Member Universities Professional Institute and Exhibition held in New Orleans, La. on March 17. The awards are presented to faculty and staff members from TMCF member schools who have exhibited outstanding performance in their field.

Dr. Stevenson 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. 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.

Dr. Bland holds a bachelor of arts in mathematics, bachelor of science in computer science, master of science in computer science and doctorate of philosophy in computer engineering, all from the University of Mississippi.

Nwankwo Authors Two Textbooks



Nwankwo

Dr. Peter Nwankwo, assistant professor of criminology, law and justice, has authored two textbooks: “Criminal Justice in the Pre-Colonial and Post-Colonial Eras” and “Criminal Justice Systems of the World: A Comparative Perspective.”

Nwankwo created a criminology program, during his tenure at Florida Memorial University, where he received teacher of the year for two consecutive years. While attending the University of Illinois, he

observed Nigerian prisons and his findings were published in the magazine, “The Arrow” and “Time Magazine” in London.

He received his bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and psychology from the University of Illinois in Chicago, a master’s degree in corrections and criminal justice from Chicago State University, a Ph.D. from Florida State University in criminology and a master of laws degree from St. Thomas University. Nwankwo is an associate member of the American Correctional Association and American Society of Criminology.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

VERONICA TUCKER



Position/Title: Office Manager

Responsible for: Organizing and coordinating office operations and procedures in order to ensure organizational effectiveness and efficiency.

Home-town: Memphis, TN

Hobbies: Dancing, singing and enjoying my family.

Philosophy on Life: “I was born to win.”

Quote to Remember: “If you do what you always did, then you will always get what you always got.”

-- Unknown

EVENT CALENDAR

APRIL

2-3 – 29th annual Social Work Education Conference, Business Education Auditorium, 9 a.m.
3 – Home Softball Game: Lindenwood University 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.
6 – Leflore County High School Fast Pitch Softball Tournament 4 p.m.
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
14 – MVSU International Week Outdoor Luncheon
14 – Department of Mass Communication Spring Production 6:30p.m.
15 – MVSU International Week Convocation and Parade of 192 Flags
16 – MVSU International Week Banquet/Talent Revue, call 662-254-3092.

18 – Admissions & Recruitment SPRING OPEN HOUSE 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
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 – Tenth 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

1 – MVSU 2nd annual Black Males Conference, Social Science Building Auditorium, 8:30 p.m. , all high school black males, 9-12th grade invited.
9 – MVSU Commencement

For more calendar events, check out This Week @ The Valley on www.mvsu.edu.