## WelcOme AboArd



Margaret R. Bell Social Worker / Dispatcher Case Manager University Police Delta Health and Wellness Initiative

Recardo Thomas

### SPRING ELECTION RESULTS

Student Government Association President: Timothy Lampkin of Clarksdale. Student Government Association Vice President: Emmitt Y. Riley of Itta Bena. Junior Class President: Learnall Montgomery of Charleston. Sophomore Class President: Charles Lucas of Cleveland Mr. Mississippi Valley State University: William Woods of Memphis. Miss Mississippi Valley State University: Parkisha Davis of Jackson. Mr. Senior Class: Melvin Freeman of Mount Vernon, New York. Miss Senior Class: Latacha Davis of Charleston. Mr. Junior Class: Christopher Thompson of Chicago, Ill. Miss Junior Class: Jessica Rush of Itta Bena. Mr. Sophomore Class: Leroy Lucas of Greenwood. Miss Sophomore Class: Vera Cotten of Biloxi.

### MOCK TRIAL TEAM COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL YEAR

The Mississippi Valley State University Mock Trial Team competed in two invitational tournaments and in the Great Southern Regional Tournament in Dallas during the 2006-2007 season.

Mock trial requires students to perform as attorneys and witnesses competing against teams from around the country. The tournaments are sponsored by the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA). The team received high marks and was competitive in all three tournaments.

The high point of the season was in the 2006 Eastern Kentucky Mock Trial Invitational Tournament from Oct. 27-28 in Richmond Ky. The team won the Spirit of AMTA Award for the Tournament. The Spirit of AMTA Award is granted to the school that best exhibits the values of civility, fair play and justice. This is the only award given at the tournament based on evaluations from other schools.

One student, senior sociology major Donnie Harris of Belzoni, received an award for "Outstanding Witness."

This award is especially impressive considering that Mr. Harris is a first-year witness, and the team was competing against seasoned veterans from strong, established programs including the Ohio State University, George Washington University, Miami of Ohio and the University of Kansas.

Other members of the team participating in the three tournaments were Erica Garrett, Ivory Johnson and Steven Smith, all of Itta Bena; Derrick Stanley, Solomon Osborne and Betty Johns, all of Greenwood; Ricky Fields of Clarksdale; Charise McSwine of Chicago, Ill.; Índiana Norfleet of Indianola; Jermaine Simmons of Philadelphia; and Narvel Wright of Lexington.

The coaches for the team are Dr. Larry Chappell, Educator Coach; Dr. Chandra Persaud, Assistant Educator Coach; and Dr. Curressia Brown, Attorney Coach. The team is funded by the Honors Program whose director is **Dr. Mark Reger**.

The Communiqué 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 during the fall and spring semesters and monthly during the summer. Editorial material should be sent to Charles M. Brown, Box 7233, or via e-mail to cmbrown@mvsu.edu. For more information, call 662.254.3578.

> Mississippi Valley State University Lester C. Newman, President Tonjanita Johnson, Executive Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff

Office of Public Relations Debbie Montgomery, Director Charles M. Brown, Communications Specialist; D'Artagan Winford, Senior Graphic Designer; Jessica Kyle, Graphic Designer; Jennifer Neal, Administrative Secretary

Mississippi Valley State University complies with all applicable laws regarding affirmative action and equal opportunity in all its activities and programs and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation or group affiliation, age, disability, handicap, or status as a veteran or disabled veteran.



### IT'S 'A GREAT DAY AT THE VALLEY' AS DIGNITARIES BREAK **GROUND FOR NEW SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY BUILDING**



Mississippi Valley State University held a groundbreaking ceremony Wednesday for the \$13.2 million Science & Technology Building. Tossing the ceremonial shovel of dirt are, from left, Harry Sims, Institutions of Higher Learning director of Facility Services; Dr. Tazinski Lee, interim Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Abigail Neusome, director of Bioinformatics; Dr. Joseph Wahome, chair of Natural Sciences and Environmental Health; President Lester C. Newman; State Rep. Willie Perkins; State Sen. David Jordan; John James, retired MVSU faculty member; and Carl Lucas, a senior mathematics major. The former home of the University Police and ROTC, located in the foreground, will be demolished in the immediate future. In the background, the new Business Education Building can be seen.



"As you can see, we are doing big the capacity of hereditary molecules to things with the support of friends, transcend time to form the blueprint family, alumni and the community. of knowledge for all that is pertinent to And with our innovative blueprint in life. A blueprint which can be stored, hand, everything else will fall in place," categorized and analyzed right here said Carl Lucas, a senior mathematics at Mississippi Valley State University major.

Wednesday.

President Lester C. Newman was "The sediments I speak of will form a joined by members of the Department base from which a structure is erected of Natural Sciences and Environmental that illustrates Pythagoras' Theorem Health as well as Mathematics and (mathematics and science); transfer Computer Information Sciences in of energy (chemistry); the design and turning over spades of dirt signifying model of such a structure (applied the groundbreaking.

(biology and bioinformatics)," continued Dr. Newsome. Dr. Abigail Newsome, director of the Early morning thunderstorms failed Bioinformatics Program, said "This site "Let us celebrate an opportunity for to dampen the excitement for the will become embedded with sediments excellence as we break ground here ground breaking for the \$13.2 million which will encapsulate that which will today, for today is a great day at the Science & Technology Building on spring forth from the earth to form the Valley," she said. new Science & Technology Building.

technology and computer science); and



April 5, 2007 Vol. 3 Edition 6

# ArOund The VallEy

### MVSU STUDENTS NAMED TO ALL-STAR SYMPHONIC BAND



Four MVSU students have been named to the HBCU-NBDC All-Star Symphonic Band.

Director Michael Torregano accompanied the students to the HBCU National Band Director's Consortium in Atlanta during March 22-25.

Shown Torregano are, from left, Jessica Harris, clarinet; Jonathan Allen, tenor sax; Devin Hayes, French horn; and Geoffrey Thompson, tuba. Each student auditioned for a spot, achieving the best band presented at the conference.

'MVSU students proved that they are on the same level of musicianship with students from some of the top HBCU's in the country," said Torregano. "The band presented a concert Sunday morning that was on a great level of superior musicianship," added the director.

### **PIANO FESTIVAL IS APRIL 14**

Applications are still being accepted for the 12th Annual MVSU Piano Festival scheduled on Saturday, April 14. The festival will include a morning exhibition performance for younger piano students and an afternoon Young Artist Competition for more advanced students.

The morning event will begin at 9 a.m. and will include piano students ranging in age from kindergarten through eighth grade. Students will receive ratings and written evaluations, and those receiving a superior rating will be given special recognition in an Honors Ceremony to be held following the conclusion of the event.

The Young Artist Competition will be held at 1 p.m. Students who are enrolled in grades 9 through junior college may enter, as well as younger students with appropriate repertoire. Cash prizes ranging from \$200 to \$500 will be awarded, as well as trophies and certificates. In addition, all winning students will be entitled to receive a full music scholarship to MVSU.

For further information and an application, contact Dr. Lawrence Goldman, 254-3681.

### Photographer Ralph Jones Exhibits In Johnston Gallery

The Department of Fine Arts is presenting an exhibition of photography by Ralph D. Jones in the Johnston Gallery through April 20.

The Greenville resident enjoys shooting black and white photography of Delta people.

The gallery is open 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Friday.

#### LUCAS WINS MAYA ANGELOU CONTEST



MVSU Freshman Leroy Lucas, a science major in the Honors College, is one of the grand prize winners in this year's Maya Angelou Words of Wisdom Essay Contest which is sponsored by Alltel Wireless. Lucas's writing netted him a \$5,000 scholarship. He will travel to Little Rock this week to accept the award.

Accompanying him on the trip was Dr. Abigail Newsome and Lucas' brother, Albert Tate, a Valley computer lab employee. MVSU Lester C. Newman also plans to be in attendance.

"Leroy is a very bright young man with lots of talent and a great sense of humor," said Dr. Mark Reger, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

### Women In Science & Technology **Conference Held**

The annual Women In Science and Technology Conference was held March 30 on the MVSU campus.

Featured luncheon speaker was Dr. Neeka Sanders-Johnson, an obstetrician and gynecologist at Greenwood OB/ GYN Associates.

Among MVSU presenters were Dr. Rachel Beecham, Dr. Hattie Spencer, Candace Carter and Sandra Course.

Among schools attending were Greenwood High, Greenwood Middle, Greenwood Career and Technical Center, Leflore County, Amanda Elzy, Coahoma Agricultural, Gentry High, Indianola Career and Technical Center, Pennington Middle, Ruleville Central, Shaw, Humphreys County, and Simmons high schools.

### NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK APRIL 15-21 AT WHITE LIBRARY

The James H. White Library is celebrating National Library Week with daily activities. Faculty, staff and students are invited to participate.

The official observance of the week will begin with Proclamation Day on Monday, April 16. National Library Workers Day will be held Tuesday, April 17.

Join in a brain-teasing scavenger hunt on Wednesday, April 18, that will award first, second and third place prizes. Also held the same day will be an emphasis on library technology that will give students, faculty and staff an opportunity to learn about all of the technical services and programs offered at the J.H. White Library.

Open House will be held Thursday April 19. It's the perfect time to tour the library in its original state before the remodeling and renovations begin. Come meet Dr. Annie Payton, director, and the library staff. Refreshments will be served and door prizes will be given away.

Friday April 20 will be Children's Reading Day, where the library will host story hour for MVSU Child Development Center preschoolers as well as children in the community.

"Everyday, libraries in big cities and small towns, colleges and universities, in schools and in businesses help transform their communities," said Dr. Payton.

"At our library, people of all backgrounds can come together to do research with the assistance of a trained professional, to have wireless access to the Internet, to

### Names of Deployed Students Or Alumni Sought

The 2007 Honda Campus All-Star Challenge National Championship Tournament to be held in Orlando, Fla., in a few weeks will include representation from MVSU. In recent years, the tournament has incorporated a service project. This year, Honda teams will support our HBCU troops by collecting donations and preparing a care package.

Tournament officials are collecting the names and complete APO or FPO address of any current student or alumni currently deployed.

You can buy a complete HCASC "Friends for Life" Care Package, tailored for the military's requirements, by donating \$50. The package will include hygiene items, snacks and entertainment. The deadline for online donations is Monday, April 9.

To submit a soldier's name, please email tisha@hcasc. com. In the subject line, type: "Support Our Troops."

Have questions? Call 800-388-2272 or locally, contact Quote: "You need to think education 24/7, 365 days a Dr. Louis Hall at 254-3390. year." - Attorney Thomas N. Todd

#### FREE FINE WEEK SCHEDULED

The Circulation Department of the James Herbert White Library extends the opportunity for students, faculty and staff to return books during the week of April 15-21.

In addition, seniors may clear existing fines during the week of April 15-21 by bringing in a 12-oz. or taller canned good for each item that is overdue and fines will be waived.

- Canned goods that are bent and have old expiration dates are not acceptable.
- United States Government food subsidy canned goods or other non-perishable items are not acceptable.
- Lost books, videos or other materials are not acceptable for this promotion.

check out CDs, videos and DVDs for supplemental study, to check out laptops for in library use, or to even read a book electronically," she said.

For more information, call 254-3494 or see the library's Web site at www.mvsu.edu.

Libraries hours are Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. – 10 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 p.m. - 10 p.m.

## PeOple To KnOw

*Philosophy:* "All students have unlimited potential to learn through proper nurturing."

Hobbies: Reading, shopping, traveling and watching



Hometown: Itta Bena

cowboy movies

### Linda Diane Day Davis

Position: Director, Academic Empowerment Resource Center

*Responsibilities:* Teaching basic reading classes and ensuring that all day-to-day activities are carried out in the University College.

# StAff NoTes

### STUDENTS AND FACULTY PARTICIPATE IN **MISSISSIPPI ACADEMY OF SCIENCES CONFERENCE**

Three MVSU students received awards during the Mississippi Academy of Sciences annual meeting held recently at Mississippi State University.

Charles Rucker, supervised by Dr. Rachel Beecham and Dr. Joseph Wahome, earned first place for his research, "Use of Microcosm Studies to Assess the Relationship Between Aquatic Plants and Soil Microorganisms."

Rucker interned with USDA-ARS scientists Dr. Mark Weaver and Dr. Robert Zablotowicz at the Stoneville site.

"In this mini wetland study on the relationship between aquatic plants and soil microorganisms, I tried to show the difference in the soil microbial activity by performing a series of tests on the basic composition of the soil in each plot in the microcosm study," said Rucker of his study.

Rucker's research indicated that due to years of ecology and environmental safety, nature should reduce the levels of deposits from unavoidable forces that must evolve such as erosion. "This is positive feed back from the effort of the scientists at Stoneville who serve as environmental protectors to find more ecosafe ways to carry out agricultural evolutions," Rucker said.

## Awarded third place was Terrica Ragland, mentored by Dr. William Mahone. Ragland presented "Hazard Assessment of Drinking Water in The Delta."

Organic contaminants in drinking water have long been a concern, according to Ragland. These contaminants can include pesticides from agriculture run off and gasoline components from leaking underground storage tanks. The health effects involved include carcinogenic, mutanogenics, and teratogenic. In the current study, drinking water samples were acquired from various sources and were subjected to GCFID and GCMS analysis.

In this study, a GCMS analysis is being performed to determine the identities of these contaminants. These contaminants, once identified are then subjected to MSDS screening using standard database. "Using this information together with our data, we were able to make an assessment as to the hazard potential of these drinking water sources," Ragland said.

## Ervin Coburn earned honorable mention for his study, "Arterial Stiffness in Adolescents with Type II Diabetes at Risk For Cardiovascular Disease."

Coburn, also mentored by Dr. Beecham, interned with Dr. Bruce Alpert, Dr. Tom Collins and Ms. Deborah Northcross at the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center in Memphis.

In western societies, atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in adult populations. One complication

of obesity that is associated with cardiovascular disease (CVD) includes Type II diabetes. Most children with type II diabetes are overweight or obese. In fact, studies prove that 85 percent of type II diabetics are considered overweight or obese.

"This study wanted to prove that type 2 diabetic adolescents' pulse wave velocity (PWV) was faster than that of healthy adolescents," explained Coburn.

The method of the study was to recruit blacks, whites, and Hispanics who were type 2 diabetics. "We gave questionnaires to screen for personal health and family health history, recorded BMI, and measured PWV with Colin Medical Instrument VP-1000 Vascular Profiling System by placing BP cuffs on all four extremities, ECG on both wrist, and a phonocardiographic microphone over the precordium. The results were inconclusive and the goal that was set was not reached by the end of the study," Coburn said.

While information continues to be analyzed, Coburn said he hopes his hypothesis stands true and that the data collected is significant in proving that non-invasive measurements of PWV is an excellent screening tool for both diabetes and CVD and that it will help design investigations on whether reducing BMI in obese patients slows PWV.

### James Haywood Jr. presented "Network Firewalls Security," a project based upon testing the security of the network firewall rule changes. Haywood interned with Caterpillar Inc.

There were three key points that were mandatory in order to investigate the security of the network firewall rule changes which were the collection of data, the network firewall rule change test, and the results. The collection of data consisted of four subunits of research.

The results of the network security firewall test were based upon the finding of actual testing. If any data was missing from the acquired sample, the process owner of the firewall's intrusion detection was notified and had to find the missing data. If the process owner couldn't find the missing data then the firewall rule change was reverted.

#### Zakary Ndegwa and Dr. Matthewos Eshete presented "Identification of Peptides That Bind To Estrogen Response Elements: Using Peptide Phage Display Library."

The study focused on whether short peptides can mimic estrogen receptor proteins and bind to the same site on the DNA as the proteins do.

In this research, the peptide phage display library has been utilized to select peptides which bind to estrogen response elements. The phage display library used to select peptides



Front row from left are Dr. Manju Pande, professor of natural science; lesha Jackson of Itta Bena, sophomore biology major; James Haywood of Sunflower, senior computer science major; Terrica Ragland (3rd place) of Memphis, senior biology major; Ervin Coburn (honorable mention) of Louisville, senior biology major; Dr. Matthewos Eshete, associate professor of natural science and environmental health; Dr. Mudlagiri Goli, associate professor of natural science and environmental health; back row, Dr. Udai Kudikyala, assistant professor of mathematics, computer and information systems; Shelia Lockett of Itta Bena, junior chemistry major; Anil Sharma, assistant professor of mathematics. professor of natural science and environmental health; and Charles Rucker (1st place) of Greenville, senior biology major.

against the target Estrogen response elements were random In order to evaluate the socioeconomic impact of epilepsy 15-mer phage display library and f88-4/Cys6 phage display on the region, we found only 17% of the total patients had library. Human pS2 ERE and Xenopus Vitelloginin A2 ERE insurance while 83% of the patient population was mainly on were used as target DNA molecules. Medicare or Medicaid. It is difficult to say if socioeconomic stress in these patients, was a contributing factor to the already "The progressive selection at the different round would tell us existing epileptic seizures.

the selectivity and specificity of binding to the target molecule," explained Ndegwa.

#### Veronica Scott and Ruby Mason, mentored by Dr. Manju Pande, presented their findings, "Influence of Gender, Ethnic and Socioeconomic Factors On Patients With Epilepsy."

The students worked with Ravi Pande of the Neurology Clinic at Greenwood Leflore Hospital and Parminder J.S. Vig of the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Other students presenting were Gabrielle Meeks, Shelia Lockett and Wanda Payne as well as Linda Ballard and Dharmendra Epilepsy a chronic condition of the nervous system, often leads Singh, both graduate students in the bioinformatics program. to substantial disability and thus has a major socioeconomic Also attending the conference were Iesha Jackson and Ravin impact. The present study was done to evaluate prevalence Byrd. in different ethnic groups and gender susceptibility to the development of epilepsy in patient populations in the Delta. Several MVSU faculty also presented. The information was obtained from Greenwood Neurology Clinic.

This clinic has a large patient population from all surrounding Microwave synthesis has been in use for the last couple of areas. The data was collected for 117 patients visiting over the decades, according to Goli. "I had the opportunity to test last two years. First looking at the gender differences, there drive it. The drive began here at Mississippi Valley State was a slightly higher occurrence in females (56%) than males University and then in Dr. Pittman's laboratory at Mississippi (44%).State University.

However, there was no difference in the two ethnic groups, whites (34) versus blacks (31). In contrast, a marked difference Dr. Julius Ikenga presented "Animal Tissue Preparation for was observed in male ethnic groups (36bl versus 15wh), which Micro- and Ultramicro-Anatomy Studies." resulted in an overall difference in the two ethnic groups (58% Tissue preparation is an important tool in advancing the

in black compared to 42% in whites). microscopic studies of special association between animals. This It will be interesting to find out if hormones or stress have any association may exist at the level of mutualism, commensalisms, relationship with the higher incidence of seizures in females in phoresis, or parasitism. Animal tissue preparation falls broadly the older age group. into seven main steps: tissue acquisition, fixation and washing,

Dana Taylor, mentored by Anil Sharma, presented "Exciting and Incredible Cryptography." The presentation detailed the development of the linguistic and mathematical techniques for securing information. Earlier forms of cryptography involved identifying patterns in language; however, modern forms utilize results in advanced mathematical fields such as number theory and discrete mathematics.

## Dr. Mudlagiri Goli presented "Pros and Cons of Microwave Oven Use In Organic Synthesis.

# StAff NoTes continued

extraction and infiltration, embedding, curing, sectioning, and staining. Carefully obtained and diced animal tissue is fixed in a solution of commercially available fixatives.

They later range from formaldehyde, glutaraldehyde, to osmium tetroxide solutions, depending on the type of tissue and purpose. Extraction is normally accomplished using graded alcohol solutions, preferably, ethanol. Infiltration and embeddiing are achieved using a variety of commercially available epoxides. Samples are subsequently cured in an oven and then sectioned on a microtome. Samples collected on grids and glass slides are respectively examined on an Electron microscope and a light compound microscope.

### Dr. Xiaoqin Wu presented "Existence Theorem Of Elliptic Systems With Singularities Involving Sobolev or Sobolev-Hardy Critical Exponents."

"In this research, we study the existence of positive solutions of the system of nonlinear elliptic equations with sigularities involving Sobolev or Sobolev-Hardy critical exponents," explained Dr. Wu.

"This problem is interesting since the Sobolev and Sobolev-Hardy embeddings are not compact for critical exponents. The main tool to prove the existence theorem is Mountain Pass Theorem."

#### Mathematics and Computer Information Sciences faculty members, Dr. Constance Bland, Dr. Udar Kumar Kudikyala and Timothy Holston, presented, "Using Alice To Decrease Attrition In CS1."

The professors said a disturbing trend has resulted over the last decade as it relates to the number of students pursuing undergraduate computer science degrees. Specifically, the entering student population at Mississippi Valley State University has begun to mirror the national trend of showing a decline in the number of students declaring computer science as a major. The decline in the number of incoming students declaring computer science as a major, coupled with the large attrition rate, are the two factors most responsible for this alarming trend.

In their report, the professors discussed their strategy to affect the growing attrition rate of computer science majors. During the CS0 course, students are provided with an introduction to programming using Alice, a 3-D animation programming environment developed at Carnegie Mellon University. This introduction to Alice serves the dual purpose of molding students' work habits into ones which facilitate their success in the major as well as providing a mechanism for demonstrating abstract programming concepts in a concrete manner.

Preliminary data indicates that students exposed to programming using Alice seamlessly develop traits and characteristics which are necessary to succeed in the discipline of computer science and subsequently are retained in the major at a higher rate than their counterparts.

Dr. Prince Showi and Dr. Goli teamed with Dr. James Ejiwale of Jackson State University to present

#### "Technology and Science Education Issues in the New Millenium.'

The professors presented different aspects of technology issues and the way to incorporate it in to the university curriculum.

Other faculty attending were Dr. Abigail Newsome and Dr. Stacy White. Dr. Goli serves as chair of the MAS Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Division. Dr. Ikenga is chair of the MAS Zoology and Entomology Division.

### **OTHER NATURAL SCIENCES & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NEWS**

Dr. Rachel Beecham, Associate Professor of Natural Sciences ad Environmental Health, recently attended the Mississippi Chapter of the American Fisheries Society's annual conference in Vicksburg. She presented her research on catfish physiology during the conference, which was held at the Tara Wildlife Center. In March, Dr. Beecham attended the World Aquaculture Society meeting held in San Antonio. She presented her research on catfish physiology and demonstrated her Liquid Oxygen Calculator (LOX).

Teneshia McCallister recently attended the National Research Symposium at Jackson State University. She won first place overall in Best Poster Presentation.

McCallister was mentored by Dr. Beecham.

### **Chowdhury and Rajanikanth Present** Research Papers in Jacksonville, Florida

Two MVSU professors with the Department of Business Administration attended the 34th annual meeting of the Academics of Economics and Finance.

Dr. A. A. Farhad Chowdhury presented a research paper on International Trade titled "Impact of North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on U.S. Cotton Trade with Mexico and Canada." He also served as a moderator and discussant for other papers in various sessions of the meeting.

Dr. N. Rajanikanth presented a research paper on finance titled "A New Model For Product Mix Analysis," co-authored with Dr. Ina Freeman.

### SANDERS ATTENDS HOUSING AFFORDABILITY CONFERENCE

Roosevelt Sanders, executive director of Valley Community Development Corporation, recently attended a Affordable Housing Conference sponsored by the Local Initiative Support Corporation and the Housing and Urban Development held in Biloxi.

The two-day conference stressed how to strengthen the community through housing and housing resources.

#### PRESIDENT NEWMAN REAPPOINTED TO HBCU CAPITAL FINANCING ADVISORY BOARD



U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings has reappointed MVSU President Lester Newman to the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Capital Financing Advisory Board.

The Board provides advice and counsel to the Secretary of Education and the designated bonding authority as to the most effective and efficient means of implementing construction financing on the HBCU campuses. In addition,

Newman will serve on the board until his term expires Sept. 30, 2009.

#### free of charge. the board advises Congress regarding the progress made in implementing the program. EvEnt CaLenDar Curry Appointed to Financial Aid Task Force April 14 Vice President for Fiscal Affairs André Curry has been named Annual MVSU Piano Festival, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.0 April 16 International Week: Double Feature Film Night 6-8 p.m., W.A. Butts Social Science Building Auditorium. April 17 International Week: Outdoor Luncheon w/music,

11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Student Pavilion Double Feature Film Night, 6-8 p.m., W.A. Butts Social Science Building Auditorium. April 19 International Week: Convocation/Roundtable featuring Victoria Levinskaya & Parade of (192) Flags, 10 a.m. – noon; H. G. Carpenter Auditorium. MVSU Social Work Conference, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Social Science Building April 20 International Banquet/Talent Revue, 7-9 p.m., Charles R. Lackey Recreation Center MVSU Social Work Conference, 9a.m.-4p.m. Social Science Building April 21 Spring Open House & Transfer Day 9 a.m., Social Science Building April 23-28 Founder's Week (see enclosed feature) April 30 All Sports Banquet 7 p.m., Recreation Center May 12 10 a.m., MVSU Commencement, Harrison Complex May 28 Memorial Day Holiday (University closed)

## Nomination Deadline Extended for

to a financial aid task force established by Commissioner of Higher Education Dr. Thomas C. Meredith. The task force will assess current state and institutional financial aid policies and programs to determine ways to increase university access and student success. The task force is expected to submit their recommendations by late April for consideration by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning in May. The IHL Board of Trustees aims to increase the number of Mississippians with a university degree, because a welleducated population is crucial to the future well-being of the state. Nevertheless, only 16.9 percent of Mississippians currently have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 24.4 percent of the nation's population. President's Awards for Excellence and Service Nomination forms for the President's Faculty and Staff Awards for Excellence and Service are available in the Office of Human Resources. The deadline for submission has been extended to April 16, 5 p.m. Winners will be announced at the Spring Commencement May 12. Last year, Dr. Larry Chappell, a political science professor, received the President's Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching and Service. Mrs. Jessie B. Tramiel was awarded the President's Staff Award for Excellence in Service. Each received a plaque and a check for \$2,500. "These awards were created to recognize members of our faculty and staff who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to do their jobs with the kind of excellence that stands above the crowd," said Dr. Lester C. Newman, president. "I encourage each MVSU employee to consider nominating deserving individuals," he added.

For more information, contact the Office of the President, 254-3425.

#### The MVSU Department of Fine Arts will present pianist Lawrence Goldman in a faculty recital on Tuesday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the H.G. Carpenter Auditorium. Featured on the program will be works by Mozart, Brahms, Poulenc, Coleridge-Taylor and Chopin. The public is invited

**GOLDMAN TO HOLD FACULTY** 

**RECITAL ON APRIL 10**