

GOLDEN KEY INTERNATIONAL HONOUR SOCIETY INDUCTS 47 NEW MEMBERS

The first induction of the Golden Key International Honour Society was held in the Sutton Administration Building on April 25.

Students invited to join the organization rank among the top 15 percent of their class.

Mrs. Bessie Hutchins, instructor of criminal justice, and Dr. Sharon Freeman, director of Institutional Effectiveness, will serve as chapter advisors.

Hutchins became a member of the Golden Key Honour Society while she was a student at the University of Southern Mississippi. She remembers the excitement she felt reading her invitation. Hutchins wanted MVSU students to feel that same elation.

Last year, she began the journey to charter MVSU. After hearing, “No, your institution is too small.” She continued to tell the story of the many accomplishments students have achieved at the university. The Valley was finally chartered in 2009.

The new charter members include Jacquelyn Allen, Tinesha Banks, Shakia Bell, Patrice Bland, Sophie Briggs, Eunice Brown, Theresa Cayot, Jenaelle Coleman, Kimberly Cotton, Marrell Dixon, Hazel Dorris, Dorothy Eley, Melva Elrod, Margaret Eskridge, Christopher Ford, Marquita Ford, James Goss, Towanda Hogan, Sharon Hope-King, Frances Jackson, Joseph Jackson, Justin Jenkins, Jamessa Jordan, Roshunda Lipsey, Wanda Love, Earsene McClendon, Edreika

Continue on page 4

Vote for Valley to Receive Money for Campus Improvements

Please go to the following link and cast your vote for The Valley as part of the Home Depot Retool Your School Grant Program. As one of the top 10 schools, we may receive \$10,000 for campus improvements. Ultimately, Valley could be awarded \$50,000. This award process allows the public to vote on the applications so your online support is crucial to the success of this request for funding.

To vote, please visit the following web site: <http://homedepotretoolyourschool.com/project.aspx?id=45>

You are allowed to vote for MVSU once per day, so vote daily until the deadline on May 15, 2010 at 11:59 pm EST.

EARTH DAY AT MVSU



Dr. Donna H. Oliver (center) helps Darrell Williams (left) and Lindsie Winford (right) plant a butterfly in the garden.



Dr. Oliver explains the importance of taking care of the Earth.



Athenna Abanonu leads her classmates to the garden site.



LaFecia Hoover, data resource specialist, congratulates the participants on constructing their first garden.



Dr. Abigail Newsome (center) digs soil as Nora Harris (far left), Jacoby Brownlow (right) and Dillon Nickson (far right) plant seeds.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY



From left: Sandra Brim, Dr. Oliver and Joyce Roundtree-McCoy take a moment for a photograph.



From left, Dr. Chresteen Seals, Regina Burch, Dr. Tazinski Lee and Audrey Stevenson are all smiles after the Administrative Professionals Luncheon.



Dr. Donna Oliver presents Dorice Beamon with a token of appreciation during the luncheon.

ALUMNI OF THE MONTH



Dr. Walter L. Nichols '64

Birthday - August 31

Residence - Clinton, Miss.

High School - Sumner Hill in Clinton

College - MVSU - Bachelor of Science in Physical Education with a minor in Health Education/Driver's Ed

Northern Illinois University - Master of Education in Administration

Independence University - Doctorate of Education in Recreation Administration

Highlights at MVSU - Valley was the Southern Collegiate Athletic Champions with a 6-3 record in 1963.

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletes rated Valley no. 8 in small colleges.

Receiving membership into the Mississippi Vocational College Letter Club

Career - Has served as an athletic director, head coach at Fairmount Middle School, Argo High School, minor league football, Professional Football League (PFL), United Football League (UFL) and Sumner Hill High School, MVSU and Semi-Professional Hall of Fames

Current Employment: Retired

Recognition - awarded High School MVP (1959); College MVP (1963), captain of the football team in 1963; All S.C.A.C. Offensive & Defensive Tackle

Civic/ Social/ Professional Organizations - Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Member of the Illinois School Board for 16 years and president for two years, 1985 Who's Who Among Black Americans, 1985 Masonic Man of the Year; 1985 MVSU Hall of Fame; and created a program to increase long term attention at MVSU by bringing in grade school students in 2009

Spouse-Louise F. Nichols

Children-Anthony L. Nichols and Kala F. Nichols

EVENT CALENDAR

MAY

6 - Self Defense Classes & Demonstration, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m., MVSU Wellness & Fitness Center

8 - Commencement, 10 a.m., R.W. Harrison Complex

10 - Full Faculty Meeting, 11 a.m., Business Education Auditorium

10 - MSDH District III In-Service, 8 a.m., Student Pavilion

10 - Dr. Daphne Matthews Retirement Luncheon, 12 p.m., Dining Hall IV

10 - Self Defense Classes & Demonstration, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m., MVSU Wellness & Fitness Center

13 - Self Defense Classes & Demonstration, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m., MVSU Wellness & Fitness Center

JUNE

1 - Summer Development Program Orientation, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., Social Science Auditorium

5 - Scholastic Aptitude Test, 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Social Science Auditorium

6-11 - Thurgood Marshall College Fund Teacher Quality & Retention Institute, 8 a.m - 4 p.m.

7 - Self Defense Classes & Demonstration, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m., MVSU Wellness & Fitness Center



Faculty and students that participated in the 107th Annual Southern Association of Agricultural Scientist (SAAS) convention are: from left, Dr. M.B. Goli, Dr. Manju Pande, Tiffany Little, Tyneiseca Epps and Dr. M. Wayne Ebelhar, Professor, Mississippi State University and President of the Agronomy Division, SAAS.

STUDENTS RECEIVE SECOND PLACE AWARD AT RESEARCH COMPETITION

MVSU students presented their research at the 107th Annual Southern Association of Agricultural Scientist (SAAS) convention, under the division of American Society of Agronomy (ASA) held in Orlando, FL. Tiffany Little research project was titled, "The Effect of Potassium and Glyphosate Fliar Application on Mineral Uptake in Two Cultivars of Soybean." Tyneiseca Epps gave a presentation on "Soybean Seed Composition as Affected by Foliar and Glyphosate Application and Cultivar Differences."

Both students received second place distinction in the undergraduate competition in the division of Agronomy. Dr. M.B. Goli and Dr. Manju Pande served as advisors for the students. The research project was funded and supported by the United States Department of Agricultural and Faculty Student Research (USDA-FSR) at MVSU.

DIVERSITY CONFERENCE



Jennifer Johnston (left) and Ally Kovachevich (right) listen as Jency Jose (center) offers feedback to the audience during the Student Voices session.



James Hudson, SGA President, reads over notes before his panel session.



Jasmine Taylor responds to panelists during MVSU's first Diversity Conference.



Dr. Johnny Jones, Vice President for Student Affairs, Enrollment Management and Diversity, provides remarks on issues of diversity in higher learning.



Dr. Gwendolyn Catchings, assistant professor of business administration, holds a discussion with students about their perspectives on diversity.

10 - Self Defense Classes & Demonstration, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., MVSU Wellness & Fitness Center

12 – ACT, 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Social Science Auditorium

14 - Self Defense Classes & Demonstration, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., MVSU Wellness & Fitness Center

17 - Self Defense Classes & Demonstration, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., MVSU Wellness & Fitness Center

19 – Project PREPARE Mini Conference, 8 a.m. – 2:15 p.m., Social Science Building, Room 3

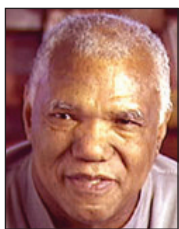
21 - Self Defense Classes & Demonstration, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., MVSU Wellness & Fitness Center

24 – Step Show for Boys & Girls Club, 7 p.m., HPER Complex

26 –27 - UCA Cheer Camp, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., HPER Complex

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

Internationally - Recognized Poet Performs At MVSU



PLUMPP

Sterling Plumpp, a native of Clinton and professor of English and African-American Studies, at the University of Illinois at Chicago, presented his poetry performance with Kenny Blake, saxophonist at MVSU.

Plumpp is an internationally - recognized writer for his blues and jazz poetry. His visit to MVSU will be an enthusiasm for the blues tradition in the Mississippi Delta. He has won numerous awards, including the Carl Sandburg Literary Prize for poetry and the 1999 Richard Wright Literacy Excellence Award for outstanding contributions to literature. He has published 12 volumes of work, including "Velvet Be Bop Kente Cloth" and "Black Rituals."



BLAKE

GOLDEN KEY INTERNATIONAL, *Continued from page 1*

McCoy, Christopher Mills, Sherry Mosely, Cornelius Myles, Lu'Tryca Phillips, Lizar Polk, Maria Purnell, Shambrika Randle, Michael Rosa, Jillian Sanders, CuWanda Simmons, Joshua Stevens, Andrea Tabor, Jasmine Taylor, Heather Turner, Mary White-King, Kim William, Stacy Williams, Tijwana Williams, Latonya Woodard and Patrice Young.

Golden Key International Honour Society, founded on November 29, 1977, is an academic honor society which recognizes and encourages scholastic achievement and excellence among college and university students from all academic disciplines. In an effort to reflect the Society's diversity and international presence, Golden Key uses the globally accepted spelling of "honour" in its name.

For more information on the Golden Key Society, contact Bessie Hutchins at 662-254-3641 or Dr. Sharon Freeman at 662-254-3439.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

DARRELL SPROLES



Position/Title: Textbook Manager

Responsible for: making sure that textbook adoptions are received, processed and provide excellent customer service

Hometown: Greenwood

Hobbies: watching football and mentoring youth

Philosophy on Life: We can have no chance, if we don't make a change
- Unknown

WELCOME ABOARD



Brendan Gregory
*Asst. Football Coach/
Instructor
Athletics*

CommuniQue'

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

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

OFFICE OF
PUBLIC RELATIONS
14000 Hwy. 82 W., #7233
Itta Bena, MS 38941-1400

For more information, call
662.254.3578
FAX: 662.254.3023

Debbie Montgomery
Director

D'Artagan Winford
Senior Graphic Designer

Maxine Bowen
Communications Specialist

John McCall
Graphic Designer

Kena Johnson
Secretary

Mississippi Valley State University

Donna H. Oliver, Ph.D.
President

Join us on

facebook

Name: Valley State
Birthday: February 19, 1950

Follow MVSUIttaBena on

twitter

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.



FOUNDER'S WEEK

THE LEGACY OF DR. JAMES H. WHITE

By Maxine Bowen
PR Communication Specialist

MVSU's founding father, Dr. James Herbert White was hired as president before the University was formed. The location was yet to be determined. There was no faculty or students. He was charged with building the institution from the ground. He achieved this task and exceeded it beyond the expectations of the legislated mandate.

He began to raise funds and recruit faculty and students heavily. Dr. White was a well-known and accomplished fundraiser; he coined the phrase, "The College of a Million Friends" from earlier fundraising efforts he initiated at Lane College.

President White attended Tennessee Agricultural & Industrial Normal school to receive his bachelor's degree. He received a master of arts degree from Columbia University and received an honorary Doctor of Laws from Allen University, and an honorary Doctor of Letters from Rust College.

He was married to the late Augusta Charter White and father to Lilly Ruth White Malone and Rudolph Leslie White.

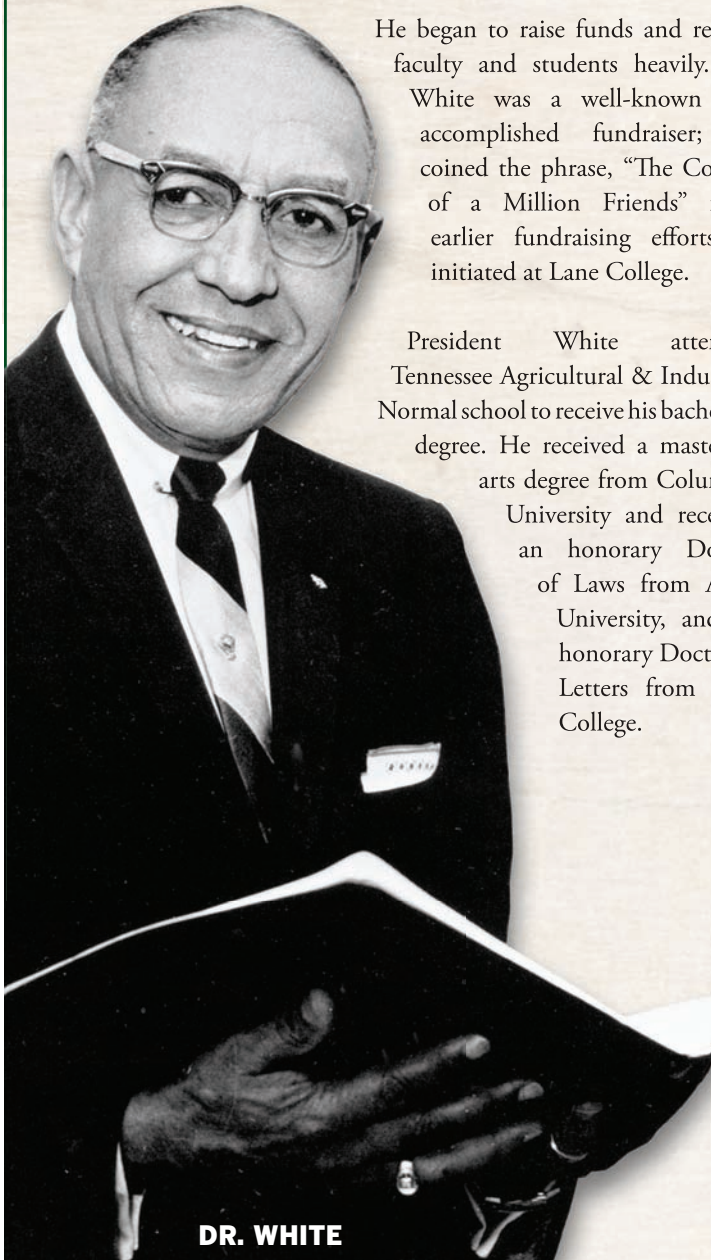
He recruited the first inhabitants of Mississippi Vocational College known as, "The Valley Pioneers."

Many of the pioneers live in a subdivision close to the University. Upon their arrival, the land that they populate was a cotton patch. The subdivision was created by President White. He bought land across the street from Valley to build a subdivision for the faculty and staff that planned to stay at the University. Today, twenty families of pioneers remain in the subdivision.

"Be careful and don't drink the water because you will never leave, and I am about to become a believer because I never left," jokes Douglass F. Lyles on a piece of advice he received upon entering the campus.

In the early days, no one had a specific job on the fresh campus. "My husband was over the snack bar, worked in financial aid, a track coach, and athletic director. We helped out wherever we could; we worked together as a family," said Katie Lackey. Lackey, former practical nursing clinical instructor and head nurse, came to Valley during the summer of 1950. "We all worked in several capacities...everybody did everything," said Lyles.

Continue on page 2



DR. WHITE



Winthrop Malone (l) and Dr. Oliver (r) stand next to the gravesite of MVSU Founder, Dr. James Herbert White.

Dr. White Legacy, *Continued*

Over the years, the group has formed a special bond. They have influenced generations of students and produced faithful Valley alumni across the nation. “During those times, we felt like the students were our children and whatever they wanted or needed; we would supply that for them.”

“In February of 1956, I converted all of those records from quarter system to semester hours. You know, I can’t remember how many records I closed,” concedes Annie H. Brown, former records clerk in the registrar’s office.

“When I first came to the campus, I wondered because everybody on the campus looked like students, and President and Momma White were the oldest people on campus,” says Lackey. “So, President White told me, you know what I hired all young people I want them to grow up with the campus.” Most of us stayed here and we did grow with the campus and it’s meant a lot and we learned a lot.

One member of the group left the University on several occasions to explore other opportunities but never hesitated to return. David H. Wicks served in numerous capacities within the University. He is most proud of his positions as Dean of Men and Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs. “I must say, I have never heard or been disrespected by a student,” said Wicks.

“I remember when we heard of Dr. Martin Luther King’s assassination. The next morning we organized an assembly for memorial,” says Wicks.

There are many profound events that remain sketched in the minds of the pioneers during the primeval years of the University. “I was fortunate enough in my second year, to meet my wife. She was a teacher in the elementary school, L.S. Rogers Laboratory School. We got married and she blessed me with two sons which added to my pleasure here at Mississippi Valley. After my retirement, I continue to make contributions to the University. I hope that I am always in a position to lend a helping hand to my fellow men.”

When asked, “What the University means to them,” one of the pioneers sounded off with great zealously, “it means everything to me...it means more than any individual.”

“Those of us who taught, prayed, consecrated, and rededicated our lives to the cause during this period of the great beginning truly feel a special prize of accomplishment as we reflect on what we see now,” said Lyles.



Members of Zeta Phi Beta pose at the Founder's Pep Rally.



From left: Bettye Lloyd Farmer, Atty. Carver Randle Sr. and Clara Reed give remarks during the forum.



From left, Clara T. Reed, Kimberly Palmer and Marcus Hampton serve as panelists at the The Valley Family Forum.



Mr. Malone and his wife, Brenda Malone look ahead during the gravesite ceremony honoring the legacy of Dr. White and Mrs. Augusta White.



Mr. Winthrop Malone (far left), Dr. Donna Oliver (left), Mrs. Brenda Malone (right) and Mr. James Oliver (far right) stand by after the sprays were placed next to the graves of Dr. and Mrs. White.



Dr. Oliver provides remarks at the Founder's Convocation commemorating the 60th anniversary of the University.



Dr. Oliver presents Dr. Gary McGaha, MVSU Alumnus and President of Atlanta Metropolitan University, with a plaque of appreciation for serving as the convocation speaker.



Mrs. Clara T. Reed presents a check to MVSU for \$100,000. From left, Archie Tucker, Interim Executive Director for University Advancement, Reed, Dr. Oliver and Roosevelt Yarborough, MVSU Alumni President.



The MVSU Honda Campus All-Star Challenge Team were honored at the Founder's Convocation for winning second place in the national championship. Ivory Johnson achieved the highest score of an individual player in the history of the competition. Edwin Young II, Cedric Crump, team captain, and Adrian Stephney received plaques from President Oliver.



President Oliver (center) made a presentation to the daughter (left) and wife, Beverly Malveaux Boykins (right) for the contributions of the late Dr. Ernest Boykins provided to The Valley.



Dr. Oliver poses for a picture with Tanya Carter (l), WABG news anchor and Sherry Nelson (r), WABG general manager.



Joyce Roundtree – McCoy and Dr. Anna Hammond smile during the community reception.



www.MVSVU.EDU