

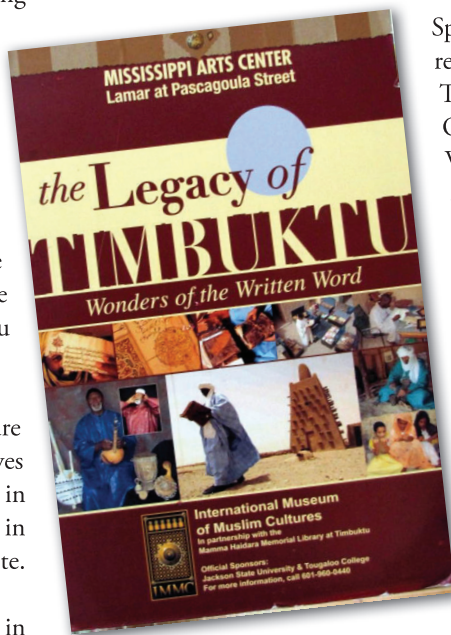


## MVSU HOSTS TRAVELING EXHIBIT: THE LEGACY OF TIMBUKTU WONDERS OF THE WRITTEN WORLD



Mississippi Valley State University will host the traveling exhibit, The Legacy of Timbuktu Wonders of the Written World, during Oct. 25-Nov. 5. The exhibit is from the International Museum of Muslim Cultures located in Jackson, in partnership with the Mamma Haidara Memorial Library in Timbuktu.

It shows the impact of this age and its legacy to America through the tragic events of the slave trade.



The opening reception for the exhibit and opportunity to welcome the 2010-2011 Ayers Distinguished Scholar, Okolo Rashid will be held on Monday, Oct. 25 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The event will feature an overview, grand opening and walkthrough of the special Timbuktu Traveling Exhibition

Rashid serves as director of the International Museum of Muslim Culture and manages the day-to-day operation of the museum. She also serves as the project director for The Legacy of Timbuktu. She is featured in *The Face Behind the Veil: The Extraordinary Lives of Muslim Women in America*, written by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Donna Gehrke-White.

The exhibit showcases that a sophisticated, literate culture flourished in the City of Timbuktu, Mali of West Africa, beginning in the 14th century.

Special dates have been scheduled for regional visits:

Tuesday, Oct. 26 and Thursday, Oct. 28 have been designated Class Visitation Days with tours from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The Community Visitation Day is Wednesday, Oct. 27 from 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

The community is invited to the Oct. 28 DRCI Faculty Roundtable: Infusing the History of Timbuktu into the Curriculum - K-16 & Beyond! The event is from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the DRCI -

Annex II - Noble Frisby building.

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**CHAMBERS MIDDLE SCHOOL CD DISTRIBUTION** Students at Chambers Middle School who participated in the development of their musical selections recorded at MVSU were thrilled to receive the CD on Oct. 13. Darryl Dickerson, right, chief engineer of the MVSU B.B. King Recording Studio, praised the students' efforts and encouraged them to pursue their musical talents.

# WANG REPRESENTS VALLEY IN PARIS FOR 2011 BIOMETRIC TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP



Dr. Lidong Wang, director of MVSU's AIT Program, will serve as a program committee member for the 2011 IEEE Workshop on Computational Intelligence in Biometrics and Identity Management.

The Symposium Series on Computational Intelligence will be held April 11-15 in Paris, France.

Dr. Wang is one of seven professors representing American colleges and universities. Other committee members hail from France, Great Britain, Canada, Singapore, Portugal, Turkey, Italy, China and Taiwan.

In addition to his teaching, research and director responsibilities, Dr. Wang serves as editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Automated Identification Technology (IJAIT).

Biometric technology is the technology of the 21st century which uses measurable physiological or behavioral characteristics

to reliably distinguish one person from another. The technology is fast gaining popularity as means of personal identification and verification for different commercial, government and law enforcement applications. Since biometric information cannot be captured in precisely the same way twice, biometric matching is always a "fuzzy comparison." This feature makes computational intelligence (CI), which is primarily based on artificial intelligence, neural networks, fuzzy logic, evolutionary computing, etc., an ideal solution for addressing biometric problems.

The main objective of the April workshop, according to the Web site, is to bring together the leading researchers to exchange the latest theoretical and experimental CI solutions in biometrics and identity management. This event will provide an interdisciplinary forum for research scientists, system developers and students from around the world to discuss the latest advances in the field of Computational Intelligence and its application to real world problems in biometrics and identity management.

For more information on the conference, visit the conference Web site, <http://www.ieee-ssci.org/2011/cibim-2011>.

## Dr. Hill to Present at B.B. King Museum on Oct. 29

Mississippi Valley State University's Dr. Rickey Hill will be the featured guest at the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center's monthly brown bag series, High Noon, on Friday, Oct. 29.

Dr. Hill will lead a discussion on "Human Development in the Mississippi Delta – How to Talk About It and How to Do It."

Hill is the dean of graduate studies and professor of political science at Mississippi Valley State University. He specializes in Black politics and political theory.

Hill's most recent publication is "The Race Problematic, the Narrative of Martin Luther King Jr., and the Election of Barack Obama," in Manning Marable and Kristen Clark, eds. *Barack Obama and African American Empowerment*, (Palgrave, 2009).

Since 1978, Hill has taught on the political science faculties at Fisk University, Tougaloo College, South Carolina State University, the University of South Carolina, DePauw University and Williams College.

High Noon brown bag luncheons are on the last Friday of every month at noon in Lucille's, the B.B. King Museum gift shop.

*Continue on page 3*

## EVENT CALENDAR

### October

16 – "No Child Left Behind" Summer Luncheon, 11:30 p.m. – 2 p.m., Dining Hall IV

20 – Honda Campus Eliminations, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Social Science Auditorium

21 – AIDS Awareness Informational, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Jacob Aron Student Union

27 – "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Debate, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Jacob Aron Student Union

### November

2 – Faculty & Staff Bowling Tournament, 7 p.m., Student Union Game Room

4 – Student Recital, 11 a.m., Fine Arts – Little Theater

9 – Fall 2010 Production, 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m., Student Union Royal Room

9 – Jazz Band Concert, 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., H.G. Carpenter Auditorium

9 – Student Leadership Workshop, 11 p.m., Dining Hall IV

10 – Fall 2010 Production, 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m., Student Union Royal Room

11 – Fall 2010 Production, 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m., Student Union Royal Room

11 – Faculty & Staff Pool Tournament, 7 p.m., Student Union Game Room

13 – Praxis Series Exam, 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Social Science Auditorium

# Valley Faculty, Staff and Students Invited to ADA Awareness Activities

As part of National Americans with Disabilities Act Awareness Month, The Valley is providing a series of activities. Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to attend the events.

On Friday, Oct. 22, faculty and staff will receive ADA training from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Business Education Building auditorium.

Disability Services Awareness Day will be observed on Thursday, October 28, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Jacob Aron Student Union.

For more information, contact ADA Coordinator Kathy Brownlow at 254-3443/3442, or via e-mail: [kbrownlow@mvsu.edu](mailto:kbrownlow@mvsu.edu).

# Service Learning Seminar set for Oct. 29

MVSU Community Service Learning Department invites all faculty and staff to its Fall Service Learning Seminar on Friday, Oct. 29 from 9 a.m. – Noon in Room 108 of the William Sutton Administration Building.

Featured presenter is Teri Henley of the University of Alabama.

Your participation in this seminar will allow us to share the benefits of service learning and gain insight as to how we can develop strong, long-term relationships to meet the needs of the University community, organizations, and students,” said Letonia Shingles, director.



As lunch will be served, confirmations are requested. Register now by e-mailing [ldshingles@mvsu.edu](mailto:ldshingles@mvsu.edu) or phoning the department at 254-3921.

## PEOPLE TO KNOW

### MARY MAYS



*Position/Title:* Administrative Secretary

*Responsible for:* Making sure that the Bioinformatics Program Office is run in a timely and professional manner and that the duties that are designated to me by the Director are carried out with maximum efficiency.

*Hometown:* Jonestown

*Hobbies:* Reading, listening to music and quilting

*Philosophy on Life:* “If I can help some one along the way, then my living is not in vain.”

*Quote to Remember:* “A positive attitude may not solve all your problems, but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort.”

—Herm Albright

## Hill at B.B. King Museum *continued from page 2*

Reservations are not required but attendees must bring their own lunches.

Another Valley professor, Dr. Marvin Haire, presented his research in May at the museum. Dr. Haire, director of the MVSU Delta Research & Cultural Institute, presented an overview of the influence of the Blues on Richard N. Wright.

Dr. Haire’s paper, Richard Wright’s Affinity for the Blues, was originally commissioned by The Negro in Mississippi Historical Society as a featured keynote presentation for the centennial celebration of Wright’s birth.

For more information regarding the museum, see [www.bbkingmuseum.org](http://www.bbkingmuseum.org).

15 – University Choir Concert, 6 p.m. – 10 p.m., H.G. Carpenter Auditorium

15 – Fall 2010 Production, 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m., Student Union Royal Room

16 – Fall 2010 Production, 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m., Student Union Royal Room

17 – Fall 2010 Production, 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m., Student Union Royal Room

18 – Student Recital, 11 a.m., Fine Arts – Little Theater

20-22 Annual Employee Benefits Fair, Sutton Administration Building first floor.

22 – High School Day, H.G. Carpenter auditorium, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

22 – Americans with Disabilities Act Training Workshop for faculty and staff, 1:30-3 p.m., Business Education Building auditorium. Call 254-3443.

24-Nov. 5 – DRCI hosts The Legacy of Timbuktu Wonders of the Written World. Opening reception with the 2010-2011 Ayers Distinguished Scholar, Okolo Rahid, Oct. 25, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

29 – MVSU Community Service Learning Fall Seminar featuring UA’s Teri Henley, 9 a.m. – noon, Room 108, Sutton Administration Building. Call 254-3921.



2010-2011 Catalog now available online

## MVSU Hosts Traveling Exhibit *continue from page 1*

In addition to the rare African manuscripts, attendees will experience the rich intellectual and cultural blend of African and Islamic heritage shared through videos and audio production, interactive media, models, artifact displays, and hands-on activities.

Visitors will learn about Islam's spread into West Africa; life in a leather tent of Saharan caravan traders; rise and decline of the great empires of West Africa and their leaders; the legendary Sankore Mosque and University; methods and tools of manuscript production; French colonialism in Mali and the slave trade; life in Mali today and the work of generational artisans; and sketches from the lives of African Muslims enslaved in America.

The participatory laboratory will feature Malian musical instruments and demonstrate the link between this indigenous music and American blues.

Books were not only brought into Timbuktu, but local scholars wrote their own works, and artisans scribed, decorated and bound them in a sophisticated local book production industry tied to the global Islamic knowledge industry—activities that culminated in a complex and highly viable socio-economic model.

“Visitors will see examples of manuscripts so beautifully bound in leather with calligraphy and illustrations painted on them,” said Rashid of the traveling exhibit. “About one million manuscripts were hidden in Mali for over 500 years. It's Allah's will that they survived, partly due to the arid environment.”

A master of public policy and administration by education, Okolo Rashid spent more than 20 years in inner-city community development, organizing and historic preservation prior to establishing the museum.

A revert to Islam for 30 years, she has been a vocal and articulate advocate of social justice, multiculturalism, and anti-racism all her life.

Rashid believes the museum's exhibit offers “an amazing opportunity to tell the religious,

political, social, and economic history of Africa to the world.”

“Prior to the re-discovery of manuscripts, people thought Africa had no literacy and that it was a simple oral tradition. As a team of 25 scholars and historians study the newly uncovered global legacy of literacy in Africa, they believe it's enough evidence to re-write the history of Africa,” said Rashid through the museum's Web site.

“This discovery will allow us to look at the Muslim accomplishments in African history. For example, the concept of ‘global peace’. There is a large body of knowledge in the manuscripts developed around conflict resolution and mediation. This study will impact our global discourse on peace and justice. Through the writings of ‘scholars of peace’ five centuries ago, we can learn from and adopt their unique model for local and global peace-keeping.”

These manuscripts, accord to Rashid, dispel the stereotypes against the enslaved Africans and their cultures.

“It illuminates that many Africans brought to America were very established and educated individuals. They were not brought to be ‘civilized’. In fact, Muslim Africans were the first cultural group to bring a revealed religion to America,” said Rashid.

Africans in Timbuktu were at the forefront of global Islamic knowledge industry at the time. They developed generations of local scholars who wrote books about everything. These books were then bound and exported. It was a great socio-economic model for publication industry.

Two of the state's higher education institutions, Tougaloo College and Jackson State University, serve as official sponsors. Locally, Viking Range is a museum sponsor.

For more information, contact DRCI at 662-254-3794, or e-mail Dr. Marvin Haire, director, at [mhaire@mvsu.edu](mailto:mhaire@mvsu.edu).

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## ON THE WEB:

Exhibit: <http://www.muslimmuseum.org/default.aspx>

Exhibit walk-through: <http://www.muslimmuseum.org/LegacyOfTibmuktu.aspx>

Okolo Rashid Interview: <http://www.muslimmuseum.org/OkoloInterview.aspx>