

Mississippi Valley State University CommuniQue



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

November 5, 2010 Vol. 7 Edition 11



The men's cross country team won the SWAC championship which took place in Birmingham, Ala. Celebrating are Robert Hernandez, Sheldon Alexander, trainer), Jose Lopez, trainer, Victor Bii, Daniel Kibet, Myron Lott, Hezron Chepkwone, Coach Charles Ruth, David Pullium, Victor Kiplaget and Ladavey Merriweather.



Victor Bii received Most Valuable Player honors during the Southwestern Athletic Conference Cross Country Championship.

MVSU CAPTURES CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP

Head coach Charles Ruth is Named SWAC Cross Country Coach of the Year.

For the first time since 1994 and only the second time in school history, the Delta Devils of Mississippi Valley State have claimed the Southwestern Athletic Championship in Men's Cross Country.

Led by Victor Bii, who won individually, the Delta Devils' demolished the nine-team field scoring 24 points outdistancing second place Grambling State

by 35 points. Alabama State finished third with 77 points. Daniel Kibet and Hezron Chepkwone followed Bii with finishes of fourth and fifth place to claim first team all-conference honors.

Victor Kiplaget and Robert Hernandez received second team all-conference honors; while head coach Charles Ruth was named coach of the year.

In woman's action, the Devilettes finished fourth overall after tying Alabama State with 60 points. Joyce Chuno, the Devilettes only top-ten finisher, came in second overall and was named to the all-conference first team.

AURORA VARN NAMED MVSU HUMANITIES TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Mississippi Valley State University Associate Professor of Spanish Aurora Varn will be honored by the Mississippi Humanities Council as the 2010 MVSU Humanities Teacher of the Year.

As part of the recognition, Dr. Varn will give a presentation, "A Place of Encounters: The Writings of Guamán Poma de Ayala" on Tuesday, Nov. 30 at 10 a.m. in the Business Education Auditorium.

Prior to joining MVSU in 2004, Varn taught in the Modern Languages Department at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S.C. She has a distinguished career as a K-12 teacher in her native country of Panama and as a college professor that spans more than 20 years. She is the 2010 Best of Southern Conference on Language Teaching and the 2008 Best of Mississippi Foreign Language Association.

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MVSU President Donna Oliver, center, was joined by Valley students for the 2010 Thurgood Marshall Leadership Institute, Oct.29-Nov. 1 in New York City. Attending the TMCF 23rd Anniversary Awards Dinner are, from left, Dr. Jerald Adley, MVSU Chief of Staff; Jasmine Taylor, Antia Cain, ShuCorra Walker, Christopher Lanclos, Dr. Oliver, Tiana Parks, Demarcus Thomas, Andy Lo and Archie Tucker, interim Development Executive Director. Not pictured is Damien Dodson. Lanclos and Thomas, recent Valley graduates and current graduate students at Norfolk State University, received a special invitation from TMCF to attend this year's institute.

UNIVERSITY CHOIR PRESENTS 'A NIGHT OF VOICES'

The Mississippi Valley State University Fine Arts Department will present "A Night of Voices" featuring the University Choir on Monday, Nov. 15 beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the H.G. Carpenter auditorium. The concert is free and the public is invited to attend.

The choir is under the direction of Dr. Kimberly Broadwater. Dr. Lawrence Goldman, professor and pianist, will accompany the choir.

This event marks the debut of the MVSU Virtuoso, a collection of students who pride themselves in being able to sing almost any genre of music in acapella form. These Omaha, Neb. students were recruited to attend MVSU. They were among the vocal group, "Solo," who competed on the NBC television show, "Sing Off."

Among the selections Virtuoso will perform are "Why do Fools Fall in Love," "In the Still of the Night," "What cha' Say," and "Hard to Say Goodbye."

Several opera and musical theater duets are featured during the performance. Students Kerri Forrester and Carl Woodson will perform "La ci darem la mano" from Mozart's Don Giovanni. Carischa Foster and Felicia Donaldson will perform "Sull Aria" from Mozart's Le Nozze di Figaro

Forrester and Gerald Blake will perform the duet "Wheels of a Dream" from Stephen Flaherty's Ragtime. The choir will also perform "One Hand, One Heart" from West Side Story by Leonard Bernstein.

Other music features include "Song of Triumph" by Dale Gortenhuis, "Wings of the Dawn" by Linda A. Spencer and conducted by MVSU student Ricco Vance; "Be Exalted, Almighty God D" by Dana Mengel; "Be Not Afraid" by Craig Courtney; and "You Are the New Day" by John David.

The choir will perform choral selections from "Ragtime."

Choir members include sopranos Malysa Billings Nash, Talesha Caldwell, Felicia Donaldson, Kerri Forrester, Carischa Foster, Essie Hawkins, Madeline Huddleston, Grace Ikenga, Brittany Long, Trinity McClain, Victoria Powell and Carlissa Simpson;

Altos Reshonda Dantzer, Cylentae fair, Shamillia Foster, Portrie Gaddis, Ashley James, Maritza Johnson, Vonkeysha Pittman, Andreka Walker, Nathalia Bracey-Hills and Britney James;

Bass vocalists James Adams, Billy Benson, Gerald Blake, Courtney Boyd, Lorenzo Flowers, Darron Hale, Bruce Hardison, Terrell Jones, Temitope Okuneye, Fortune Ojeah, Donte Plunkett, Rickey Raine, Patrick Walker, Carl Woodson and Timothy Wilkes; and

Tenors Reginald Carter, Gerald Chaney, Nathaniel Cusic, Harvey Jackson, Darrius Jones, Travis Key, Travis Leland, Toyin Okuneye, Keithston Page, Rodney Rice, Marquez Sanders and Ernest Wagner.



YMTF Conference Essie Bryant, job developer, presents Jimmy Warren, a biological science laboratory manager, USDA with a plaque of appreciation for serving as the closing luncheon speaker during the Youth Motivation Task Force conference.



SSS Awards Dr. Jo Baldwin receives the Student Support Services Faculty Hero of the Quarter Award for going above and beyond the call of duty to help the SSS program and students become successful. Pictured from left are Dr. Samuel Shingles, acting provost; Dr. Jo Baldwin, Dr. Jerald Adley, Chief of Staff; and Anthony McClung, tutorial coordinator.



Sandra Brim, right, administrative assistant, presents the Student Support Services Staff Hero of the Quarter Award to Walter Parker, left, during the monthly staff council meeting. The new award will be presented quarterly to advocates of the SSS program. SSS is funded by the U.S. Department of Education TRIO Programs.

EVENT CALENDAR

November

12 – Fall Teacher Recruitment Day, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., OPL Lobby

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

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

16 – Men's College Fireside Chat – 6:30 p.m., DRCI Annex II

16 – Book Club Meeting, 6 p.m. – 7:30 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

18 – Research Development Open Forum, 2 p.m., Sutton Administration, Rm 103

18 – Professional Image Seminar, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., Sutton Administration, Rm 108

30 – Humanities Teacher of the Year Presentation, Dr. Aurora Varn, 10 a.m., Business Auditorium



Golf Invitational During Homecoming week, the Office of University Advancement sponsored a golf invitational at the Greenville Country Club. The first place team include, from left, Ronnie Stevenson, Robert Willis, Robert Collins and Mike Carver; second place team, from left, Claude Courtney, Tony Parham, Jesse Jackson and Cassie Pennington; third place team, from left, James Woods, Dexter Toney, Carol Pringle and Chico Potts.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

WILLIAM BRIGHT JR.



Position/Title: Director of Athletic Communication

Responsible for: handling sports communication and media relations for the 18 athletic programs at MVSU, photography and graphic design, as well as, coordinating game operations and major event planning

Hometown: Fort Sill, Oklahoma

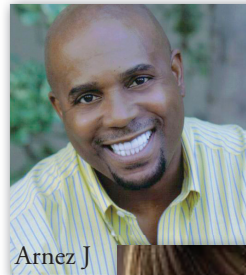
Hobbies: swimming, movies, poetry and church

Philosophy on Life: At the end of the day you must be happy with the person in the mirror.

Quote to Remember: “Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan “press on” has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race.

- Calvin Coolidge

MVSU Hosts ‘Make Me Laugh Comedy Explosion’



Arnez J

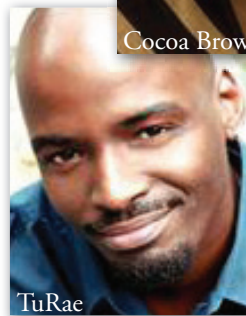
Attendees enjoyed an evening mixed with unlimited laughter and never ending punch lines, at MVSU during the 2010 Make Me Laugh Comedy Explosion.

The comedians on this star studded line up include, the unstoppable Arnez J, Cocoa Brown and TuRae.



Cocoa Brown

Arnez began working the comedy circuit in Georgia and quickly became one of “HOTLANTA’s” funniest newcomers. A finalist in the 1992 “Bay Area Black Comedy Competition,” Arnez was immediately noticed by the entertainment industry and was asked to make his first television appearance on “Showtime’s Comedy Club Network.”



TuRae

Numerous television appearances were soon to follow including “An Evening at The Improv,” “It’s Showtime at The Apollo” and three memorable performances on “Russell Simmons’ Def Comedy Jam.” With a little more than two years of comedy under his belt, Arnez J was chosen out of thousands of comics across the country to be one of the five comics in

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30 – Gateway Leadership Ambassadors Workshop, 11 a.m., Social Science Auditorium

December

1 – World AIDS Day, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Student Union – Vendor’s Square

7 – Gateway Leadership Ambassadors Workshop, 11 a.m., Social Science Auditorium



2010-2011 Catalogs now available online

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Humanities Teacher of the Year *continue from page 1*

Dr. Varn began her college studies at the University of Panama where she completed her undergraduate degree in Spanish and education. After teaching for two years at a Catholic Mission School, she was selected in a national search as a recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship granted by the U.S. Embassy in Panama. She earned a master's degree and a doctorate degree in comparative literature with a concentration in Latin American literature from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C. She has also attended summer seminars at the University of Salamanca, Spain. Dr. Varn has published numerous articles and presented at international, national, regional, and state conferences on issues that range from foreign language pedagogy to topics in Latin American literature.

She volunteers as an English as a second language instructor every week for the Hispanic community of Leflore County. Varn has organized free childcare for ESL students. She volunteers as a translator and interpreter for clergy and people in the community. She has taken students to study abroad programs and motivated others to participate in international programs. She has volunteered in Witness for Peace activities taking Spanish major students to participate in workshops on issues of peace and justice related to US and Latin American countries.

Dr. Varn and her husband, Dr. James Varn Jr., have two children, James and Estella. James is a junior at the University of Mississippi and Estella is a sixth grade student.

Comedy Explosion *continue from page 3*

the 1992 "Showtime Comedy Club All Stars." Most recently Arnez was chosen to star in his own half hour special on Black Entertainment Television's "The Comic View."

Brown has performed in front of a variety of audiences including Kennedy Center Honors Richard Pryor, Def Comedy Jam Tour and she has toured with Bill Bellamy's "Who's Got Jokes" competition. She has appeared on nine consecutive seasons on BET's Comic View, twice being voted "Funniest Female" on the popular show and was reigning champion in the Comedy TKO on Showtime at the Apollo, and she has appeared on the Starz in Black comedy series "The 1st Amendment", produced by Martin Lawrence.

Last fall, TuRae made his debut on Comedy Central's Live at Gotham. With more than 10 stand up appearances on the BET network programs such as Comic View, The Sumner Report, One Mic Stand, and Partners in Crime, TuRae has become a recognizable face on the network and a favorite in the marketplace. The urban comedy magazine Humor Mill voted TuRae one of the Top Comedians of 2009 and also described TuRae's performance on the 2008 season of HBO's Def Comedy Jam as one of the funniest of the season. In 2009 TuRae delighted viewers on the nationally televised formats: the Starz Networks Martin Lawrence Presents; 1st Amendment Standup & Byron Allens Comics Unleashed.

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

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President

Join us on

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Name: Valley State
Birthday: February 10, 1950

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