



# MVSU PROFESSOR LOOKS FOR ANSWERS TO PREVENT CATFISH GILL DISEASE



One of Valley's faculty members is trying to find ways to assist catfish farmers in preventing a parasite from attacking channel catfish.

Dr. Rachel Beecham, an assistant professor in the Department of Natural Sciences and Environmental Health, is researching the effects of feeding on the blood chemistry of catfish exposed to *Henneguya ictaluri*, the parasite that causes proliferative gill disease or PGD.

PGD is the most important parasitic disease affecting the commercial production of channel catfish. "Currently, there are no effective strategies to alleviate production losses associated with this disease," said Dr. Beecham.

Dr. Beecham's goal is to determine whether restricting feeding during PGD outbreaks is actually beneficial to diseased fish. She is collaborating her research efforts with Dr. Matt Griffin, assistant research professor with the Mississippi State University Delta Research & Extension Center in Stoneville.

"The general treatment recommendation for a pond with an outbreak of PGD is to add salt to reduce stress, provide supplemental aeration, and restrict

feeding until the outbreak subsides. It has been suggested that restricting feeding during an outbreak will decrease oxygen demand in the fish, which in turn will reduce the likelihood of catfish death," Dr. Beecham continued.

She said researchers are baffled why within pond populations, there is often numbers of fish that show no signs of disease and appear perfectly healthy.

"Restricting feeding during these periods also limits food to the unaffected population, which reduces the overall production of the pond. We are trying, through our research, to determine whether feeding during an outbreak has any measurable effect on the physiology of infected host fish and if feeding actually increases mortality rates associated with the disease. If not, there would appear to be no reason to restrict feeding during PGD outbreaks," she said.

Through the research, Beecham is hoping to provide catfish producers with the greatest amount of information possible on which to base management decisions concerning feeding catfish during PGD outbreaks.

The project grant is funded through a National Institute Food and Agriculture previously known as USDA.



Photos courtesy of Jeff Johnson

*The historic downtown of Guadalajara is the oldest section of the city, where it was founded and where the oldest buildings are located.*

## MVSU STUDENT STUDIES ABROAD IN GUADALAJARA

When Mississippi Valley State University junior Jeff Johnson visited Guadalajara, Mexico recently, he chalked up his eight trip beyond the U.S. southern border.

"For several years I have been interested in Latin culture. I have a lot of Spanish friends who speak only Spanish, so I picked up on the language," he said.

Johnson took his first formal Spanish course during his trip.

"In Mexico they told me I speak fluently, but I need to work on my grammar," said Johnson. "I think I need a lot of work."

During his trip, Johnson learned more about the culture, specifically, related to teaching English and things you should not do in the classroom that you may do in the United States.

"For instance, you don't "shh" the students nor do you lean on their desks."

*Continue on page 4*



*Johnson is conducting the teaching portion of the TOEFL certification course.*



**Art History Presenter** Dorothy Vaughn's art history class was given a lesson on Egyptian art by guest lecturer Jack Kyle who serves as chairman of the Mississippi Commission for International Cultural Exchange, Inc. He was on campus recently as a part of MVSU student Michael Rosa's presentation on "Ancient to Greco-Roman Art." Class members include, front row, from left, Zach Penprase, Henry Amadi, Jack Kyle, Dorothy Vaughn and Markesa Eberhart; second row, from left, Douglas Butts, Michael Rosa and Johnny Moton.



**Bioinformatics Assistantships** Bioinformatics students are the recipients of an HBCU New Masters Program Graduate Assistantship. The recipients include, from top, Myron Lott, Crystal McBride, Nafatic Butler, Donarean Ford and Tracy Clark. These awards are given to students at MVSU who are seeking a master's degree in Bioinformatics. Students receive assistance to support the cost of their education, a stipend and additional training and workshop activities that ensure their academic success. This grant is provided by the United States Department of Education.



**NSEH Joint Seminar** Bill Cosgrove, chief of Ecological Assessment, Region 4 of the Environmental Protection Agency in Athens, Ga., was the guest seminar speaker for the Natural Sciences and Environmental Health department. This presentation is a part of the MOU agreement between MVSU and EPA signed in July.

## EVENT CALENDAR

### November

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

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

# MAPP transition to ETS Proficiency Profile and English Proficiency Exams

As MVSU students matriculate through The Valley, they will notice changes in graduation requirements that took place this fall. Seniors are no longer required to take the ETS Proficiency Profile, formerly known as MAPP.

In the Spring semester 2011, students who have completed the core curriculum will be notified to take the Proficiency Profile. Graduating students who have not taken the MAPP will be allowed to graduate in 2011 May without fulfilling this former requirement.

Also, the English Proficiency Exam has been discontinued. Beginning in the Spring 2011, semester students will write an essay as part of EN 102 and a supplemental essay as part of the ETS Proficiency Profile. These two essays will replace the English Proficiency Exam. Graduating students who have not taken the English Proficiency Exam will be allowed to graduate in 2011 May without fulfilling this former requirement.

## PEOPLE TO KNOW

### MARUNDO HUBBARD



*Position/Title:* Administrative Assistant

*Responsible for:* providing administrative support to admissions, general clerical, receptionist and project based work. Project a professional company image through in-person and phone interaction.

*Hometown:* Philipp

*Hobbies:* basketball, sitting by the lake and spending time with family

*Philosophy on Life:* Live life to the fullest and trust God for he is your creator.

*Quote to Remember:* Are you trusting God for whatever comes next on your calendar?

- Unknown



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#### FRIDAY

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Close 10 A.M. - 11 A.M.  
Open 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.  
Close 1 P.M. - 3 P.M.  
Open 3 P.M. - 7 P.M.

#### AEROBIC CLASS

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#### KARATE

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6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

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Clyde Jefferson, 662-254-3123

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# MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION PROGRAM (MP3) ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

MVSU attained a Congressional directed grant to prepare undergraduate students for medical education preparation. Program activities will include academic enhancement, tutoring for prerequisite entrance exams, Dental Admission Test (DAT) and Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), and links to medical professionals through mentoring and on-the-job shadowing. This is not a major or degree program, but a supplemental program to help increase acceptance into dental, medical, and health related professional schools.

Twenty openings are available for the DAT/MCAT exams /field trips and ten scholarships .

All interested students must meet the minimum application requirements and be committed to entering into a health related profession or professional school after graduation.

The application deadline is November 29, 2010. Late or incomplete application will not be considered.

To receive more information on this program or to obtain an application, contact Keiva Shults at [keiva.shults@mvsu.edu](mailto:keiva.shults@mvsu.edu). All applications should be sent electronically.

## Abroad in Guadalajara *continue from page 1*

While in Mexico, he was enrolled in a Test of English as a Foreign Language certificate course and a Spanish course to brush up on the language.

“The difference in culture that I learned was Guadalajara is different than other parts of Mexico,” he said. “The language is slightly different.”

“The TOEFL certificate course consisted of intense English grammar classes and teaching exercises where we had to teach classes based on what we were learning. I learned a lot about the English language that I didn’t know.”

Upon graduation, Johnson would like to return to Mexico and teach.



[www.MVSU.EDU](http://www.MVSU.EDU)

**For more information, call 662.254.3347 | 800.G02.MVSU (in-state)**

## CommuniQue'

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