

MS HUMANITIES TEACHER AWARD

Continued from page 1

Dr. Persaud incorporates a significant degree of humanities content into her teaching and skillfully deploys interpretative methods that grow out of the rich tradition of hermeneutics. Although very proficient in the teaching of statistics, quantitative and qualitative social research methods, she borrows from history, philosophy, anthropology and other humanistic disciplines to incorporate and facilitate qualitative approaches to Sociology. Her fluency in French and Spanish have also contributed significantly to her recent scholarly works.

As part of the award, Persaud will receive a \$500 honorarium and certificate, to be presented at the Mississippi Humanities Council Awards Dinner in February 2010.



Name:
Valley State

Birthday:
February 19, 1950

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

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Mississippi Valley State University CommuniQue'

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

December 7, 2009 Vol. 6 Edition 7



MS HUMANITIES TEACHER AWARD GOES TO DR. CHANDROUTI PERSAUD



DR. PERSAUD

Teacher Award on Wednesday, Nov. 11.

Dr. Chandrouti Persaud delivered a lecture as part of her selection as MVSU's honoree, which is sponsored through the Mississippi Humanities Council.

An assistant professor of sociology, coordinator of the sociology program and coordinator of university academic assessment at MVSU, Dr. Persaud's main areas of scholarship are immigration, acculturation and settlement, teaching and learning, assessment and international development. Moving from a British system of education, to the Canadian system to the midwestern United States, Dr. Persaud's education and life experience have resulted in a multi-disciplinary, pluralist approach to education. In her classroom, she uses film and literature to analyze complex sociological and anthropological constructs in order to deconstruct social conditions.

Continue on page 4



RALLY TO SAVE VALLEY

Students show their support for MVSU during a "Rally to Save Valley" in response to the governor's budget recommendations. 1st row from the left are Nathalia Bracey-Hill, Paul Jackson, Zenda Johnson, James Hudson, SGA President; Henry Hemphill, Gamar Barnes and James Atkinson; 2nd row from the left are Gerald Blake, Crystal Rucker, Marvin Elder, II and David Baldwin. This event was sponsored by the MVSU Student Government Association.



DRIVE A FORD AND VALLEY GETS \$25

MVSU President Donna H. Oliver accepts the keys to a 2009 Lincoln Mercury for a test drive from Greenwood automobile dealer Buddy Jones. Buddy Jones Ford is partnering with Ford and the Tom Joyner Foundation in support of Mississippi Valley State University. Visit the Web site, drive4bbcu.com, and print out a certificate to Buddy Jones for a test drive. For every Ford or Lincoln Mercury driven as part of the challenge, Ford will make a \$25 donation to the Tom Joyner Foundation on behalf of The Valley, up to \$250,000.

MVSU Hosts Youth Motivation Task Force Conference November 8-10

A program designed to assist students in awareness of career choices in the public and private sector was held at Mississippi Valley State University next week.

The MVSU Career Services Center hosted its fifth annual Youth Motivational Task Force Conference on the Itta Bena campus.

A free student forum open to high school students was held and featured Mississippi Department of Corrections Commissioner Christopher Epps. A MVSU alumnus, Commissioner Epps gave a presentation on leadership.

Epps was appointed commissioner of the Mississippi Department of Corrections by former Gov. Ronnie Musgrove August 30, 2002. He was reappointed to the post on January 13, 2004 by Gov. Haley R Barbour. Commissioner Epps has held various leadership positions throughout his career in corrections and in the military. Having served in the armed forces since 1984, Commissioner Epps received an honorable discharge from the Mississippi Army National Guard after attaining the rank Lieutenant Colonel.

“Highly informed, dedicated and successful professionals from every walk of life interact with students at historically black colleges and universities,” said Tiffany Wallace, director of The Valley’s Career Services Center.

“The program offers classroom visits, a student forum, a round table discussion and an award ceremony,” Wallace said. “We are pleased that so many of the state’s professionals will attend our event and participate in classroom visits to make presentations on their careers.” This year’s conference offered consultants from various organizations and companies, including Coca-Cola, PriMerica, RBS Solutions, USDA, Forest County Public Defender’s Office, Mississippi Department of Health, Memphis City Schools, Department of Defense and Delta State University.

Other representatives were from the University of Southern Mississippi, Mississippi Department of Human Services, Michelin North America, B.B. King Museum and Greenwood Utilities. The consultants represent a wide variety of backgrounds through their education, positions, ages, ethnicities, and geographic locations.

YMTF provides an introduction to the public and private sector job markets, access to positive role models and mentors, possible solutions to problems that may occur in the workplace and positive attitudes for students toward the world of work and the University.

Employee of the Month



Vivian Anderson
Staff Accountant, Business and Finance

Department of the Month



MVSU Police



MVSU Hosts Visiting Professors

Mississippi Valley State University hosted professors, Dr. Benard Bray, left, professor of politics at Talladega College, and Dr. Anna Blumenthal, associate professor of English at Morehouse College, for a lecture on Claire Harris, a prize-winning poet of Caribbean descent from Canada. Welcoming the duo to MVSU is Dr. Lawrence Chappell, right, professor of political science at The Valley. Chappell and colleague, Dr. Chandrouti Persaud, were awarded a grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council and selected Dr. Bray and Dr. Blumenthal for their lecture, “Borderlands of Society, Politics and Literature: Claire Harris and Hybridization as a Way of Knowing.” Harris’ work is ideal for exploring the intersections among English, political science and sociology as they relate to issues of marginalization, immigration and race.

Community Input Sought for Disaster Response Plan

Greenwood, Itta Bena and other Leflore County citizens are urged to participate in a public hearing on a Mississippi Valley State University disaster preparedness plan.

The meeting on Thursday, Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. in the L.T. Brazil Center in Itta Bena offers area residents, including faculty, staff and students, an opportunity to review the tentative plan, voice concerns and offer advice and/or historical information.

The forum is a continuation of work by MVSU staff with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency on the Disaster Resistant University project.

DRU’s goal is to develop a preparedness plan that meets the approval of all entities and can be relied on in the event of a natural disaster, including earthquakes, floods, lightning, hail, severe winter weather, tornadoes, wildfires, windstorms and extreme heat and drought.

“The official purpose is to present what we have learned thus far to the public,” said Dr. Catherine Singleton-Walker, assistant professor in the MVSU Social Work Department and committee chair. A major part of the project, as mandated by FEMA and MEMA, involves evaluating the effects and frequency of past natural hazards as part of planning for future events.

The completed plan is to be sent to MEMA and FEMA for approval, then copies of the plan will be made available to the public.

This Disaster Resistant University Project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency with the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency providing project administration and oversight. The project is dedicated to reducing the cost of natural and man-made hazards at Mississippi Valley State University and enhancing the health, safety and welfare of those who work and study there.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

NARASEEYAPPA RAJANIKANTH



Position/Title: MBA Coordinator

Responsible for: teaching, graduate student recruitment and advisement, and assisting the dean of the college of professional studies.

Home-town: Bangalore

Hobbies: reading, swimming, exercising, politics and spending time with family and friends

Philosophy on Life: Learn to live by example and will to be intelligent enough to enjoy life.

Quote to Remember: I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God’s hands that I still possess.

--Martin Luther

EVENT CALENDAR

DECEMBER

7 – Banner Training, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Business Building

8 – Full Faculty Monthly Meeting, 11 a.m., H.G. Carpenter Auditorium

14 – Winter Term begins

22 – Women’s Basketball (Tougaloo), 5:30 p.m., Greenville Convention Center

22 – Men’s Basketball (Arkansas State), 7:30 p.m., Greenville Convention Center

JANUARY

20 – GSPD Interviewing Skills, 6 p.m., Science & Technology Center

21 – Disaster Resistant University Public Meeting, 6-8 p.m., Science & Technology Center

22 – English Proficiency Examination, 1 p.m., Social Science Auditorium

FEBRUARY

17 – GSPD Getting Hired!, 6 p.m., Science & Technology Center

MARCH

24 – GSPD Technology in Education, 6 p.m., Science & Technology Center

APRIL

15 – Graduate Research Night, 6 p.m., Science & Technology Center

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