

MVSU ALUM SERVES IN AFGHANISTAN

During his 23 years in the Armed Forces, Sergeant Major James Allen Sr. has served tours in Haiti, Iraq, Afghanistan and Panama. His current mission is to build the Afghan Army through training, mentorship and partnerships.

As the Sergeant Major for Regional Support Command-North (RSC-N), Allen is the senior enlisted Soldier within the command and is responsible for mentoring and ensuring the welfare of each service member in his command. Allen is also charged with advising and counseling the Afghan National Army's (ANA) leadership, and overseeing the training and equipping of the ANA's Soldiers.



Allen embraces the challenge of the language barrier when working with the Afghan National Army and is accompanied with translators who make his job easier.

"This position gives me the grand opportunity to help manage a command of over 300 soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and contractors serving all over the northern sector of Afghanistan. It's like being a father, counselor, mentor, coach and even a supervisor to so many different personalities. I enjoy being around the troops and finding out what is on their minds and what I can do to make their stay in Afghanistan better," Allen explained of his work.

Allen's education at the University provided him with the basic foundation he needed to be successful in his career.

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MVSU WELCOMES FINANCIAL AID DIRECTOR



McKnight

Mississippi Valley State University President Donna Oliver has announced the appointment of Dr. Torrence McKnight as the director of the Office of Financial Aid.

"Dr. McKnight brings to MVSU several years of dedicated service and accomplishments in serving students, parents, faculty, staff, administration, and communities in the area of financial aid," said Dr. Oliver.

"He brings valuable insight and knowledge regarding the leadership and management of a financial aid office and its day to day operations," she said.

"I am pleased to welcome Dr. McKnight to the MVSU Family and I know his contributions to ensure our students' educational success through his office will only enhance the Valley experience," she added.

"I believe all students should be equipped with the necessary tools and resources needed to be successful at understanding the financial aid process, repaying their students loans," said McKnight.

McKnight received both bachelor and master degrees from Delta State University, a specialist in Education Administration and Supervision from Jackson State University, and doctoral degree in Leadership and Policy Studies from The University of Memphis. He has served on a number of corporate, state, regional, and national association and university/college committees.

Beginning his career at Delta State University as a graduate assistant, McKnight worked to assist underprivileged and rural communities seek grants and financial assistance to rebuild their communities. This extended to working with young adults to find financial means to obtain an education without having to use loans.

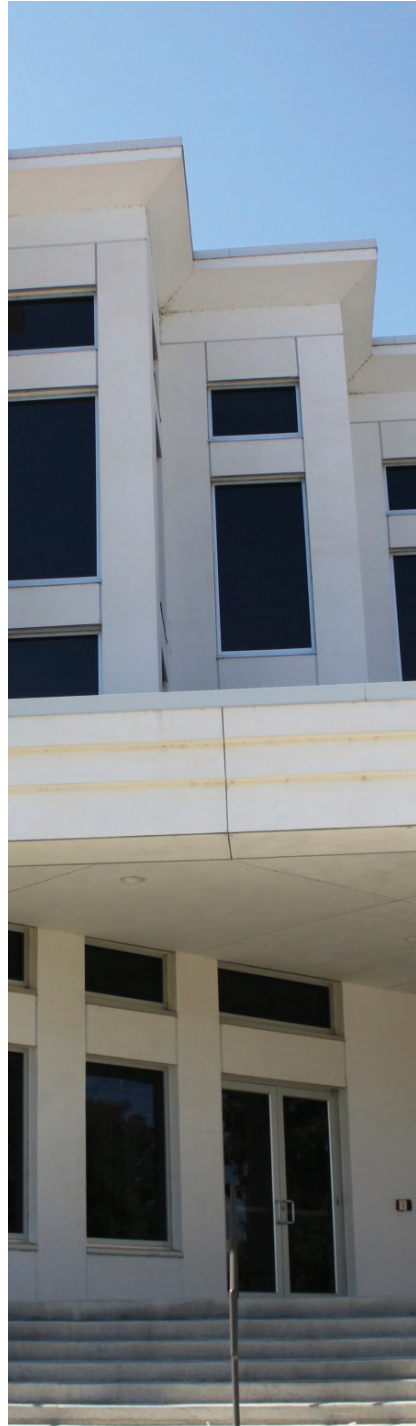
He continued his journey at the University of Memphis as the associate director of financial aid where he worked with his colleagues to improve several areas of the financial aid office with customer services, student and parent satisfaction, verifications, satisfactory academic progress, assisted in administering state and federal grant programs and loan processing.

He has worked for lender side of financial aid at Citibank—The Student Loan Corporation. During his employment at Citibank, he was able to also improve and restore customers' faith in the company within the states he covered, response time to customers' questions and concerns, and provide them with the quality products and services needed to provide their students and parents with adequate financial resources to attend college.

In recent years, he has worked for Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College as director of financial aid and most recently as the associate executive director of financial services with Daymar College. He also served as an adjunct instructor for Southwest Tennessee Community College in the areas of education and sociology.

Dr. McKnight and his wife Melanie have a son, Torrence Jr.

MVSU HOLIDAY ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM & SCHEDULE



Mississippi Valley State University will officially close for the holidays on Wednesday, Dec. 22 at 5 p.m. The University officially reopens on Monday, Jan. 3 2011 at 8 a.m.

Beginning Thursday, Dec. 23, **all persons entering the University campus must produce MVSU identification** (employees and students; others must show official federal or state ID) at the front gate and sign in. All other entrances, including construction entrances, will be closed.

If you reside on campus, you must contact the University Police if you are entering a building other than your residence or apartment.

If you must come to work during the holiday period, please do so during regular business hours, generally 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For security and safety reasons, it is very important that you turn off all the lights and make sure doors are locked behind you when leaving a building.

YOU MUST CONTACT THE UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT, 662-254-3479, UPON ENTERING AND LEAVING A BUILDING. THEY WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH AN ESCORT TO AND FROM YOUR OFFICE.

Further, Mississippi Valley State University will implement an energy conservation program during the winter holiday break this year; most buildings' temperatures will be lowered to 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

NOTE: All other buildings will be officially closed and temperatures in the buildings will be 50 degrees.

BUILDINGS FOR WINTER TERM WHERE THE TEMPERATURE WILL NOT CHANGE INCLUDE:

Business Education Building, O.P. Lowe Education Building, Charles Lackey Recreation Center and Fielding Wright Science and Math.

Residence Halls that will remain open are Ratcliff and Magnolia Halls

Other auxiliary buildings open will be the J.H. White Library and H.M. Ivey Cafeteria.

The program will begin the evening of December 22, 2010, and will continue until the campus heating changes resort to full operation on Monday, January 3, 2011. Exterior building lights, however, will remain turned on throughout the holiday.

All non-essential HVAC equipment in general use classroom, athletic and office facilities will be shut off and set to fixed temperatures by Facilities personnel. Selection of affected buildings is tailored to operating schedules of the facility and the time necessary to return the facility to normal operating temperatures for opening. Laboratories (with laboratory specimens), research areas, data centers, museum and archival space facilities are not included in the setback schedule. **Exceptions are made only through special request.**

HOLIDAY CLOSING: DEC. 23- DEC. 31

Due to the importance of maintaining stable temperatures and humidity levels, some buildings will not be included in the conservation program. Facilities HVAC Technicians will check pumps and boilers once a week during this period. Facilities Management will work with the Residence Halls and Athletics to ensure that comfortable temperatures are maintained in those respective facilities as needed during the break. The Energy Management Systems are installed in 19 buildings campus wide, but not all are centrally integrated. All buildings are scheduled to be integrated by Fall 2011.

Most of the main campus facilities are attached to the Chill Water Loop. All buildings will be set back by Facilities Management Personnel. For those buildings which are centrally controlled, Facilities Management will implement temperature set backs appropriate for holiday, night, and evening settings.

Exterior building lights, street lighting, and parking lot lighting will remain on for security reasons.

All UPS, Fed Ex, DHL and Truck Line deliveries will be suspended during the break.

FACULTY & STAFF -

Building managers (or their appointed representative) are required to disseminate the message to shut off all unused office equipment any time of the day. Turn off devices/ equipment and unplug these devices and equipment in those out of the way places and places where no one has assigned responsibilities. Check out

classrooms, restrooms, storage closets, etc., to ensure that someone turns off the energy-using devices.

Heating/ cooling should be addressed by the appropriate building representative.

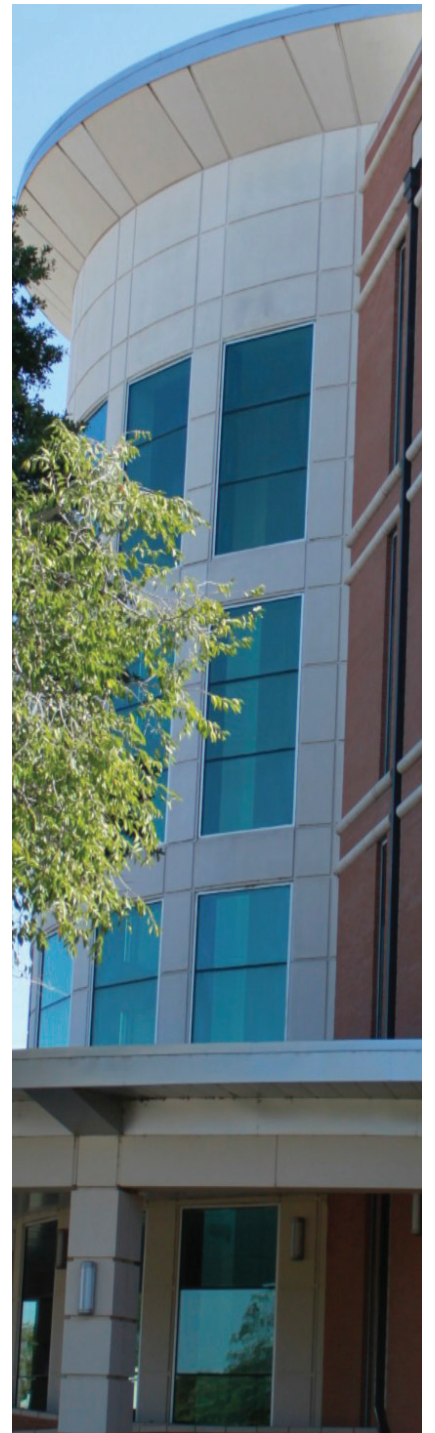
All personal and office energy-consuming equipment and devices (**lights, computers, monitors, printers, copiers, fax machines, lamps, radios, etc.**) should be turned off and unplugged by occupants before leaving for the holiday break and/ or business day. All computers should have files saved, hard drives shut down, monitors turned off and all equipment, including surge protectors unplugged from outlets.

Building managers should ensure that all interior lights are turned off.

Individuals having items in the lounge refrigerators should remove those items as these appliances will be unplugged.

If you are using a portable space heater in your office during the break, it must meet the following specifications: 1) 1500 watts or 12.5 amps or less and; 2) has a safety thermal protector and tip over switch. Please do not use an extension cord when running a space heater, and do not place heaters underneath a thermostat. **All other heating devices are prohibited.**

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to help us with our energy saving program at The Valley. Your support of these conservation measures is much appreciated. Conserving energy is not only the right thing to do but it frees up resources; **SAVING ENERGY SAVES JOBS.**



EVENT CALENDAR

January

11 - Strategic Planning Committee Meeting, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., Business Ed. Conference

20 - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation 11 a.m., H.G. Carpenter Auditorium

22 - Scholastic Aptitude Test, 7:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m., Social Science Auditorium

27 - NSEH Joint Monthly Seminar, 11 a.m., Science & Technology Auditorium

28 - Writing Proficiency Test, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m., Social Science Auditorium

February

5 - No Child Left Behind Luncheon, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m., Dining Hall IV

7 - National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Jacob Aron Student Union

8 - Spring Career Fair, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Jacob Aron Student Union

8 - Strategic Planning Committee Meeting, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., Business Ed. Conference

12 - ACT Test, 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Social Science Auditorium

23 - MVSU Blood Drive, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Jacob Aron Student Union

24 - NSEH Joint Monthly Seminar, 11 a.m., Science & Technology Auditorium

24 - Black History Month Convocation 11 a.m., H.G. Carpenter Auditorium

25 - Honors Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., Dining Hall IV

26 - Transfer Day (Valley View Day), 8 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Social Science Auditorium

March

8 - Strategic Planning Committee Meeting, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., Business Ed. Conference

10 - Counselors' Workshop, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Business Education Bldg. *Lunch in Dining Hall IV immediately following workshop

25 - Women in Science and Technology Conference, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., Sutton Administration Bldg.

25 - High School Day, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., R.W. Harrison Complex

April

7 - Sexual Assault Awareness Month, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Jacob Aron Student Union

9 - MVSU Hall of Fame Induction, 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Lackey Rec. Center

12 - Strategic Planning Committee Meeting, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., Business Ed. Conference

12 - Spring Theater Production, 6:30 p.m., Jacob Aron Student Union - Royal Room

13 - Spring Theater Production, 6:30 p.m., Jacob Aron Student Union - Royal Room

14 - Alcohol Awareness Month, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Jacob Aron Student Union

14 - Spring Theater Production, 6:30 p.m., Jacob Aron Student Union - Royal Room

21 - National Stress Awareness Month, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Jacob Aron Student Union

21 - NSEH Joint Monthly Seminar, 11 a.m., Science & Technology Auditorium

Alum in Afghanistan

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"MVSU was one of the choices I had after leaving the community college I attended," said Allen. "When I came to Valley it was a very warm atmosphere. It put me in atmosphere where I was relaxed and learned a bit easier than I would have in another place." Allen and his wife, Lena met at MVSU. They have three children.

MVSU mentors taught him how to work with people from different cultures. "During my time at MVSU, I learned how to respect other cultures," said Allen.

While at Valley, he was inspired by two individuals. "There was a head coach by the name of Archie Cooley," said Allen. "What inspired me about him was his determination to win and to go on without quitting. I admired him from afar. I played football with Jerry Rice and I've watched him throughout his professional career. To see him do some of the things on the field he did at Valley; it was one of the things that kept me going and gave me the inspiration to not quit what I was doing," he said.

"The biggest challenge for soldiers here in Afghanistan is communication. Another challenge is connectivity and we are working to improve that and it should be done in the near future, Allen stated.

"Being an enlisted leader gives me a chance to work with soldiers personally. You will need to know what it takes to coerce that soldier to complete the mission," he added.

Allen admits that serving away from home is a challenge, especially during the holidays. The Command has prepared special activities for the soldiers while they're away from home.

"Like everything we do at the RSC-N, we will spend the holidays together. There will be religious services, special meals in the dining facilities, and I'm sure that there will be special activities as well. It won't be like back at home, but we'll make the best of it. Holidays are the times when many people start to really miss their families and friends; we will be there as a friend and try to fill the void," said Allen.

The command received some phone cards from the American Red Cross, Allen will help to ensure that everyone is able to use them to call their loved ones and talk to them for a while. Also, he plans to work with the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command to come up with some group activities to keep everyone occupied.

WELCOME ABOARD



Dr. Torrence A. McKnight, Sr
Director, Financial Aid



Chaid Thomas
*Admission Counselor/Recruiter
Office of Admission*

PEOPLE TO KNOW

DR. GLORIA J. ROSS



Position/Title:
Assistant Professor -
HPER

Responsible for:
teaching and advising
students

Hometown: Clarksdale

Hobbies: reading and
listening to music

Philosophy on Life: Everyone is on this planet is here for a reason, and everyone can learn. The rate of attainment can be enhanced by understanding, patience and the right assessments. I firmly believe people have the ability to acquire and develop skills necessary to be successful. I enjoy helping people learn, grow and become productive citizens.

Quote to Remember: I believe that books are the windows to the world and by reading, one opens new windows and becomes more knowledgeable.

CommuniQue

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Mississippi Valley State University

Donna H. Oliver, Ph.D.
President

Join us on

facebook

Name: Valley State
Birthday: February 10, 1950

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