



# COMMUNIQUE

A Publication of Mississippi Valley State University for Faculty, Staff, Alumni and Friends | January 26, 2016 Vol. 14 Edition 1

## GREENWOOD LEFLORE CHAMBER NAMES MVSU BIG BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) was honored last night by the Greenwood Leflore Chamber of Commerce as Big Business

of the Year during its 99th Annual Meeting. Each year, the Chamber recognizes outstanding businesses, volunteers and citizens for their

success, dedication to excellence and leadership in the community.

“It is an outstanding honor for MVSU to be selected for this award,” said Dr. William B. Bynum Jr., president. “We are truly living out the tenets of One Goal. One Team. One Valley. Without the awesome work of our students, alumni, faculty, and staff, this community award would not have been possible. Our community presence has improved tremendously since my arrival. I want The Valley to continue these great works as we strive to improve the lives of those around us and continue to be community partners.”

MVSU has been an active participant in the local community and beyond. Valley’s students have completed over 52,000 community service hours since October 2014. MVSU has sponsored and/or volunteered at Bikes, Blues, and Bayous, 300 Oaks, Greenville’s Dragon Boat Race and Viking Half Marathon along



*Pictured from left are Kortney Haymore, Student Government Association president; Dr. William Bynum Jr., MVSU president; and Lance Gregory, Cannon Motor Company.*

See “Big Business” page 6

## TOYOTA DONATES \$10,000 TO MVSU IN HONOR OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

In honor of the life and vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Toyota Financial Services (TFS) is continuing its support of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and their communities, by providing \$60,000 to five HBCUs as well as the Tom Joyner Foundation.

“For the third year, we’re so glad to partner with Toyota Financial Services in supporting the vision of HBCUs,” said Thomas Joyner, Jr., President and CEO of the Foundation. “These scholarships are an important investment in these schools, and are critical in helping students pursue their dreams.”

The following universities will each receive \$10,000:

- Paul Quinn College in Dallas, Texas
- Benedict College in Columbia, S.C.
- Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, Miss.
- Winston-Salem State University in Winston Salem, N.C.
- Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, Texas

TFS is donating an additional \$10,000 to support the Tom Joyner Foundation, as well. The foundation provides academic support, scholarships, and programming to over 80 HBCUs in the Southern and Eastern United States. The overall goal of these contributions is to support educational opportunities within many of the communities in which TFS operates.

“Education should be accessible to all – but many talented young minds are unable to complete their college education and realize

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# MVSU HOSTS MDA SPIN UP



*In July 2016, Mississippi Valley State University was selected as one of six Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the Delta region to advance entrepreneurship among their students and grow the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem through the inaugural HBCU Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Initiative. The first phase of the Initiative, the MVSU Entrepreneurship "SpinUP," was held on January 9-11, 2017, on the University's campus. During the SpinUP, sponsored by the Delta Regional Authority, Allen Entrepreneurial Institute, and MVSU, college students, area high school students, and the community's business owners and aspiring business owners will have an opportunity to attend a series of technical assistance workshops conducted by experts from the Allen Entrepreneurial Institute, the Entrepreneur Center at the Mississippi Development Authority, the Small Business Administration, SCORE Mississippi, and MVSU. Maria Hampton, Director of the Entrepreneurial Programs for the Allen Entrepreneurial Institute presented during the conference.*

# EVENT CALENDAR

## January

28 - UB Saturday Classes, 8-12:30 p.m., Lucille Petry Building

MVSU Baseball Camp, 9-1:30 p.m., @ Magnolia Field

Women Basketball @ Jackson State, 3 p.m.  
Men Basketball @ Jackson State, 5 p.m.

29 - Men and Women Track @ KMS Invitational (Birmingham), 9 a.m.

30 - Women Basketball @ Grambling, 5:30 p.m.; Men Basketball @ Grambling, 7:30 p.m.

## February

9 - MLK/Black History Convocation

# MVSU HELPS HOPE AMERICA BRING HOLIDAY CHEER TO FAMILIES

Hope America visited Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) for the holidays and brought smiles to hundreds of area families.

The nonprofit organization from Ypsilanti, Michigan provides food, clothing, educational workshops and home buying seminars to low-income people. And, this year chose the Mississippi Delta as one of its major donation spots.

The event was held at the Charles Lackey Recreation Center on the MVSU campus.

According to Eleanor Walker, executive director of Hope America, Valley and President William Bynum welcomed the organization, "without hesitation to hold this event on the campus, and his wonderful staff has assisted us for months coordinating the event."

Mississippi Valley State Chief of Staff La Shon Brooks was lead coordinator for the event and assisted volunteers in preparing for the big day.

"We've been working on this for about a year," she said. I asked Dr. Bynum if he wanted Valley



*MVSU faculty and staff members served as volunteers during Hope America's Christmas for Kids event hosted at Mississippi Valley State University. Pictured from left are La Shon F. Brooks, chief of staff and legislative liaison, MVSU; Mary Hargrove, chairwoman of Hope America; Margaret Clark, office manager/administrative assistant, Teacher Education, MVSU; Dr. Abigail Newsome, director of Bioinformatics, MVSU.*

to host and he said do whatever it takes."

Brooks mentioned the effort put into pulling the event together was a community effort.

"We had volunteers from all over the community

helping us. Students, sororities, fraternities, firemen, faculty and staff as well as high school students assisted. Dr. Abigail Newsome was instrumental in helping to get things together and Coach Lee Smith really helped a great

See "Holiday Cheer" page 7



# GRANDERSON TAKES HELM AS POLICE CHIEF



Alex Granderson, a 16 year veteran of the Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) Police Department, began his new duties as the unit's police chief on January 3.

"The support from faculty and staff has been great. I attended school here; and I've worked at MVSU so I'm familiar with the campus," said Granderson.

In addition to his new position, Granderson has held numerous positions which include the North West Regional Response Team (Homeland Security); and he currently serves on the North Central Special Response Team (SRT) Tactical Team. Also, he is deputized in eight counties.

Tackling the new role as chief is a charge Granderson takes serious. He truly believes it is a position he has been groomed to handle during his time in the department.

"We are going to make this department the best it can be. Certainly this is a new challenge for me as a department head with new responsibilities, but we are looking forward to moving in a direction where we turn into a data driven department," he added.

According to the new chief, the move toward an emphasis on a data driven department is aimed

at acquiring a records management system, while also working to get more patrol units on campus.

"The only difference now is that I will not be out in the field as much with the students," said Granderson.

Ultimately, the main focus for Granderson is maintaining a safe campus community for all parties and making sure the students know the department is here for them.

"We want the students to know we are here for them. We don't want them to think they only have to interact with us when something bad has happened or there is an emergency. We want to increase our community policing. We want to be visible," he added.

A native of Tchula, Miss., he received his undergraduate degree from Alcorn State University in industrial technology and a master's degree in criminal justice from MVSU.

He has been honored with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Shelter Initiative Award as well as the North Central Narcotic Task Force - Frank Davis Award.

# GOLI PRESENTS RESEARCH AT BIOCHEM CONFERENCE

Dr. Mudlagiri B. Goli, professor of Chemistry in Natural Sciences and Environmental Health at Mississippi Valley State University recently received a huge honor.

Dr. Goli was a speaker at the 2016 Biochem Conference on Dec. 8-9, 2016 held at the Hilton Hotel in San Antonio, Texas.

His conference speech centered around his research, which investigated the role of metal enzymes in Biosynthesis of protein and fatty acids by application of trace elements.

"The present study is part of our ongoing investigation to study the role of trace elements on the effect on soybean seed composition," said Goli.

The conference is designed to unite world-class professors, scientists and biochemists to discuss strategies in the field of Biochemistry.

Dr. Goli's study was conducted to study



GOLI

the effects of five trace elements. (Mn, Cu, Zn, Mo, B (\*mainly chlorides except Mo as oxide, and B as boric acid) alone and in combination with the chelating agent citric acid (CA) on soybean seed protein, oil and fatty acids Soybean cultivar (Bolivar with maturity group V) was grown in a repeated greenhouse experiment in a randomized complete block design. The compounds were applied in a combination of the chelating agent CA and the trace element (example, Mn + CA) to three-week-old soybean plants at V3 (vegetative) and at R3 (beginning of seed pod initiation) stages.

"The plants were allowed to grow until maturity under greenhouse conditions. The harvested seeds were analyzed for mineral, protein and fatty acid contents. The effect of the above treatment on seeds mineral was published in

2015," explained Goli.

"Our goal is to identify the elements that would make desirable changes in the composition of the soybean seeds," he added.

In addition to his work, Goli enlisted the assistance from other professors, including Dr. Manju Pande who also teaches Natural Sciences and Environmental Health at MVSU.

"I am a chemist. Plants are like a bag full of chemicals. Dr. Pande has a background in botany so her approach to the study added a different element," said Goli.

At MVSU, Dr. Goli has charged himself with the goal of enhancing STEM activities for his students.

"I am using technology in classrooms and to carry out research to enhance student's learning process. My passion is for students and for

See "Research" page 5

# MVSU HISTORY PROFESSOR SELECTED AS ADVANCED PLACEMENT READER

Dr. Cassie S. Turnipseed was recently selected to attend the College Board's 2017 Advanced Placement Reading Class in Salt Lake City, Utah from June 3-9th.

Dr. Turnipseed, Assistant Professor of History, will have the opportunity to attend the class and build comradery with other professors as they come together to review papers and exchange ideas with faculty, teachers and AP Development Committee Members.

"This is very important and it's an honor to represent Valley in this way. Being there will give me the chance to come back with skills to use in my classroom and department," said Dr. Turnipseed.

Participants establish lifelong friendships with other professionals in their discipline, while also becoming familiar with AP scoring standards, which provide valuable knowledge for scoring their own student's essays.

"Some may see the History Program as being on the decline, but conferences like this allow you to think outside the box. It exposes you to the best practices, syllabuses and books to bring back to the Valley community so that we can make it better. I will have access to the best tools and resources," Dr. Turnipseed explained.

All in all, Turnipseed is excited about the opportunity to attend the class.



"There are so many other people who deserve this chance. This is not for me it is for the students. Being able to have access to these resources will be great for our students here at Valley," she added.

The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the membership association is made up of over 6,000 of the world's leading educational institutions

and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education.

Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success — including the SAT and the Advanced Placement Program. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators and schools.

# AMADI SELECTED TO SERVE AS SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT



Dr. Emmanuel N. Amadi, chair of the Department of criminal justice at Mississippi Valley State University, has been selected as a subject matter expert to sit in on a special panel.

Amadi will participate in Excelsior College, located in Albany, New York, Introduction to Criminal Justice Administration Examination panel. The standard-setting panel members will evaluate the difficulty of the exam and set passing score for each grade level.

The meeting is scheduled to be held Feb. 10-12 at the college.

"It is a huge honor to be chosen for this panel," said Amadi.

The purpose of the standard setting is to determine the expected performance of students on each item (test question) for the school's introduction to criminal justice administration examination. To do this, Amdai and the remaining panelist will discuss the parameters of what constitutes a score of A, B, C and Fail.

The group will also be asked to review each test and rate the degree of difficulty, based on the standards set by the group.

Dr. Amadi has been an instructor at Mississippi Valley State for 19 years. He has served as acting chair and was named chair of the Department of Criminal Justice in July, 2015.



# LEE RECEIVES MISSISSIPPI ARTS COMMISSION GRANT

Sodam Lee, an assistant professor of art at Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU), has been awarded a mini-grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC). This grant is a portion of the \$1.5 million in grants the Commission awarded in 2016-2017 and will be used to purchase art supplies for MVSU students in S2017 Relief Printmaking class. The grants are made possible by continued funding from the Mississippi State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

“Artists of all kinds are the heart of the Mississippi Creative Economy,” said Malcolm White, Executive Director of MAC. “They significantly contribute to the economic growth of their communities and our state, and the



LEE

Mississippi Arts Commission is honored to support their outstanding work.”

Lee as an artist has been exhibited nationally and internationally, including at the 34th Bradley International Juried Print and Drawing Exhibition in Illinois, International Juried Exhibition at New Ground Print Workshop and Gallery in New Mexico, Hong Kong Graphic Art Fiesta in Hong Kong, 2016 Incheon International Design Fair in South Korea and the Venice Contemporary Large-Format Printmaking Residency and Project in Italy. She was awarded the “Best of Show” Emerging Artist at the Des Moines Art Festival in 2013 and 2014. Her artworks have been published in the *Hand Magazine*, an international printmaking magazine and

*Studio Visit Magazine*, one of the prestigious magazines in U.S.

The Mississippi Arts Commission is a state agency serving residents of the state by providing grants that support programs to enhance communities; assist artists and arts organizations; promote the arts in education and celebrate Mississippi’s cultural heritage. Established in 1968, the Mississippi Arts Commission is funded by the Mississippi Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Mississippi Endowment for the Arts at the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson and other private sources. The agency serves as an active supporter and promoter of arts in community life and in arts education.

## Donation *continued from page 1*

many talented young minds are unable to complete their college education and realize their full potential because of the lack of financial aid,” said Mike Groff, TFS president and CEO. “In keeping with TFS’ deeply held commitment to diversity and inclusion, we are honored to support the mission of HBCUs and help these students reach their academic and professional aspirations.”

The college graduation rate for African-American students in the U.S. stands at 42%, as opposed to 62% for their white counterparts.<sup>1</sup> Financial support of universities is key in black student retention, thereby producing high graduation rates.

“Dr. King’s dream included the belief that young people should be given an opportunity to receive the best education possible,” said John Ridgeway, TFS Corporate Manager of TFS’ Customer Service Center in Maryland. “As a Toyota executive and an HBCU alumnus, I am proud to see Toyota Financial Services supporting these fine institutions and advocating higher education within our communities.”

“Financial support has become an area of critical need for a growing number of



HBCUs,” added Al Smith, TFS Group Vice President, Service Operations and Corporate Planning. “Providing this support not only keeps students on track, but contributes to the sustainment of these HBCUs and helps them address the issues that impact student retention.”

TFS has been named a DiversityInc Top 50 company for the past nine years in a row, and has been consistently recognized by *Black Enterprise*, *Hispanic Business*, and the

Human Rights Campaign as a *Best Company for Diversity* and one of the *Best Places to Work*. TFS has provided millions of dollars in scholarships to deserving students across the nation, its executives actively support and sponsor the company’s many diversity and inclusion initiatives, and its associates have devoted their time and talents to many meaningful national- and community-based programs.

<sup>1</sup> According to the *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*

## Research *continued from page 3*

research in soybeans. My mission is to mentor, be a professor with compassion to teach the so called neglected and disadvantaged here in the Mississippi Delta,” said Goli.

Goli’s relationship with his students is special.

“When a student enters my classroom they become my child. Our students are second to

none. They need nurturing and guidance and hands on activities. We are producing quality graduates who later on become professors, doctors, leaders, scientists, teachers, productive citizens, well known athletes and the list goes on,” Goli said.

Dr. Goli completed his Ph.D. in Chemistry. His academic interest is in multi-disciplinary

areas: Nuclear power plant and in Plutonium plant (BARC, India), other areas of expertise are organic synthesis/ organo-metallic, analytical, medicinal chemistry, nuclear waste disposal. He had the opportunity to discover a novel method for removing gadolinium from heavy water in Aiken, S.C.

with tutoring students, volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, providing water during the Flint, Mich. Water Crisis, volunteering and hosting Hope America's Christmas for Children Giveaway for Mississippi residents, assisting during the United Way's Day of Caring, among many other efforts.

Most recently, MVSU has been named to U.S. News & World Report Best Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Regional Universities South rankings; College Choices' Most Affordable Business Schools, and ToBecomeaTeacher.org's Best Teaching Colleges in Mississippi Listing. Valley's students have won several honors throughout the nation and state.

MVSU has an internationally renowned choir

and band. The choir has performed in Chicago, Cincinnati, Jackson, Memphis, New Orleans, Omaha, Seattle, St. Louis, and Vancouver. Overseas destinations have included Brazil and Italy. In March 2014, Valley Singers toured Boston and performed at Boston University, Old South Church, the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, and Acton-Boxborough Regional High School. The Mean Green Marching Machine Band has performed at the Presidential Inauguration of Richard Nixon, Indianapolis 500, Rose Bowl Parades, National Olympic Sports Festival, Official Honor Band for President George H.W. Bush's Visit to Mississippi, to name a few of its noteworthy performances.

Qualifications for the honor include a proven track record of success and positive contributions

to the community in philanthropy or community support for activities and projects; along with being a Chamber member in good standing. Nominations were received from the local community for the award.

The Greenwood-Leflore County Chamber of Commerce was organized in 1917, and is the area's largest and most influential business organization. The Chamber exists to provide support and resources to existing and new businesses through Chamber membership, to promote an enhanced quality of life in our community through events and programs, and to provide volunteerism opportunities and recognition.

# SPRING 2017 CAREER FAIR

Tuesday,  
February 21, 2017  
Jacob Aron Student Union  
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE  
UNIVERSITY



deal,” said Brooks.

Brooks was excited about the turnout from the public and how the university came together to brighten the lives of so many people.

“The impact the university along with Hope America had on so many people was really positive. It was a blessing to those families and the look on the kids’ faces when they walked in and saw all of the items on the floor and lined across the room was amazing,” said Brooks.

Not only did Hope America and Mississippi Valley help hundreds of people in attendance, but they were also able to help neighboring communities as well.

“We had people from all over the Delta here. There were even people from as far as Columbus, Mississippi to attend. There were so many items left over that we were able to offer it to other organizations. We gave to the Salvation Army, Community Kitchen, L.T. Brazil Center and the town of Moorhead,” Brooks said.

“People were so grateful that some sent thank you cards, others sought out the executive director from Hope America on that day to personally thank her,” said Brooks.

The donors and sponsors for the event included Feed the Children, Kids in Distress, Fashion Delivers, Soles 4 Souls, Burlington, Toys R US, Baby R US, Carters, Gymboree, MARS Foods, Pepsi Cola, Mitchell Distribution, Walmart, Double Quick, McDonalds, Wendy’s, Market Place, KFC, Captain D’s, Pizza Hut, Honest Abe’s Donuts, Thompson Hospitality and Mississippi Valley State.

Hope America’s mission is to provide hope and resources to families in need during their toughest and trying times. The organization believes stronger families make stronger societies. America is one of the richest countries in the world and no struggling family should be without the resources and support to help maintain their household.



Patrons line up outside of the Charles Lackey Recreation Center to participate in Hope America’s Christmas for Kids event.

## WELCOME ABOARD



**Melanie Chambers**  
*Teacher*  
Child Development Center



**Donell Maxie**  
*Communication Specialist*  
Communications & Marketing



**Tiffany Meeks**  
*Residence Hall Director*  
Office of Residential Life



**Janice Outlaw**  
*Assistant*  
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**Travion Simpson**  
*Assistant Track Coach*  
Department of Athletics



**Laquireio Spivey**  
*Custodian*  
Facilities Management





Two  
Minutes  
with...

# Donell Maxie

*Communication Specialist*

*Tell us a little about yourself and your background.*

I am from Duncan, Miss. I have four daughters. I am a graduate of Delta State University with a degree in journalism. Also, I am a graduate of Coahoma Community College, and a graduate from Broad Street High School in Shelby. I worked as a staff writer, editor and photographer for The Bolivar Commercial Newspaper in Cleveland for 12 years. I enjoy singing, playing basketball and nature.

*How do you approach providing service?*

I believe we are all put here on earth to be a servant. We are designed with different skill sets and characteristics so

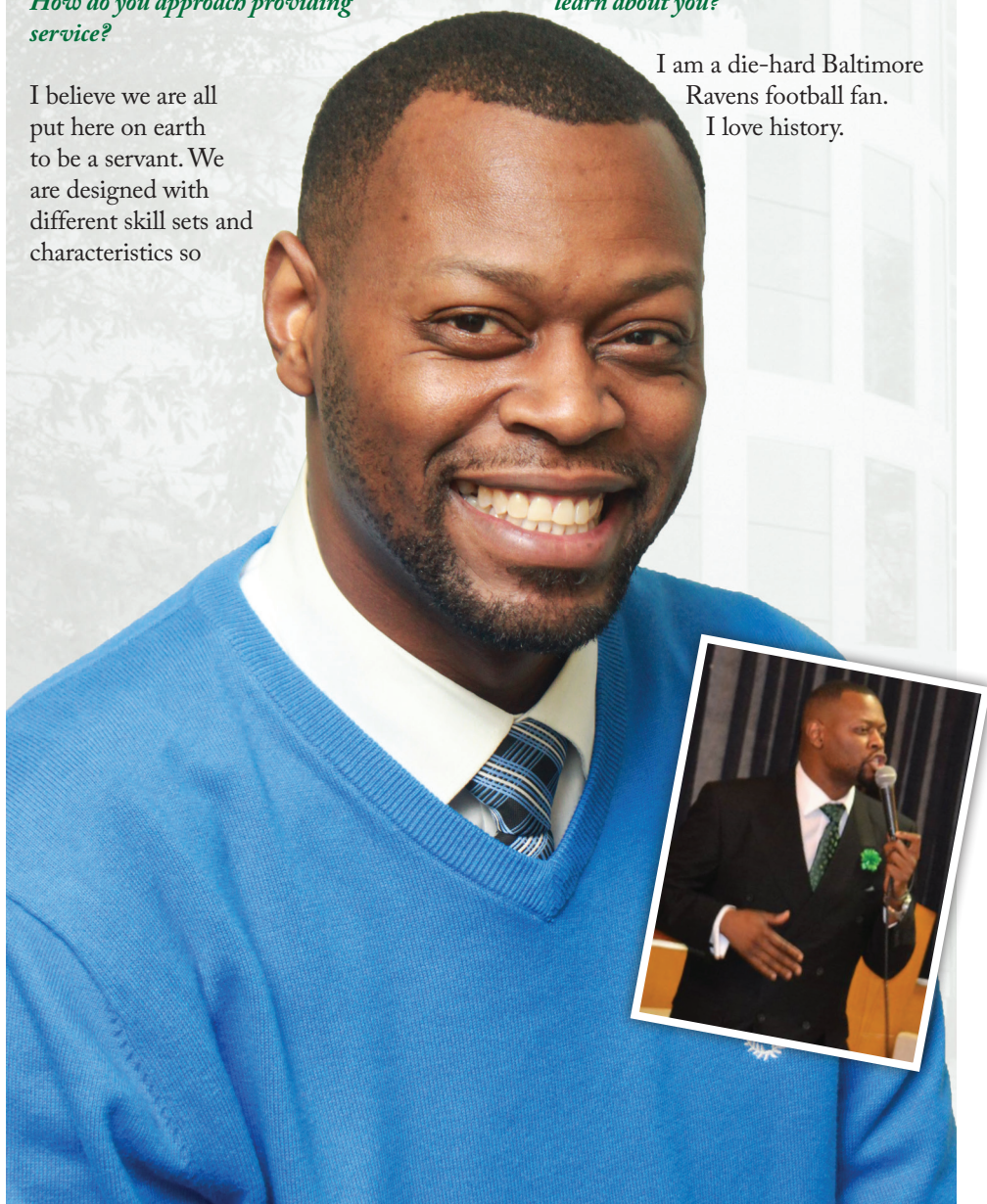
that we can help others. My approach to providing service is to always offer it with a smile. No matter the project, no matter the circumstances, I will always do my job to the best of my ability and do it with a smile.

*Where are we most likely to find you when you are not at work?*

When I'm not at work, you will most likely find me on a basketball court or in church.

*What is something we would be surprised to learn about you?*

I am a die-hard Baltimore Ravens football fan.  
I love history.



# COMMUNIQUÉ

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**New Hashtag: #GOMVSU**

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