The 10th Annual James Herbert White Preeminence Awards & Scholarship Gala took place the twenty fourth of April, in the Robert W. Harrison HPER Complex. This event is hosted every year in celebration of those who have supported the University through financial contributions. With the help of the companies and organizations, it gives the students at Valley a better chance in education by providing the funds needed.

This event kicked-off with a silent auction that had approximately 30 items up for bid, possibly more. Some items were donated from local businesses and companies, while others were signed sports memorabilia. The host for the evening was Tanya Carter, anchor on WABG-TV, and Reverend Herron Wilson of Delta Missions, Inc. They kept the audience enthused and laughing all night.

Elected SGA President, James Hudson began the night with his greetings, followed by Sheriel Perkins, the Mayor of the City of Greenwood to share a few words. Robert Draper, who is a Mortgage Banker, also stated a few words, and Elected SGA Vice President, Venishia Morgan, followed stating the purpose of the event.

Once all was said and done, Reverend Glenn Seefeld, Pastor of First United Methodist Church, blessed the food before everyone ate. Dinner was provided by Thompson Hospitality and it included, filet mignon with fresh crushed peppercorn, Alaskan crabmeat, steamed vegetables, twice-baked Idaho potato, leafy salad with raspberry vinaigrette, and three-chocolate mousse topped with raspberry drizzle.

By: Crystal C. Foster

6 Times SWAC Champs

College of Arts and Sciences 89
College of Education 91
College of Professional Studies 183
College of Graduate Studies 129
Total 492

These are just the totals before we had to go to press.
ACTION RESEARCH: RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES

By Crystal Foster

“We do a great job of recruiting students to the Valley, but we need to work on how to retain them, matriculate them, and graduate them.” These words were spoken from Provost and Senior Vice President Chief Operating Officer, Dr. Joseph Stevenson. He is responsible for the academic administration and all of the operations throughout the institution. He was a former Provost at Jackson State, and served as a Provost in New York City and California. Stevenson is currently conducting “action research” to improve student persistence towards degree completion.

Colleges and universities nationwide struggle with retention and graduation rates with their current students. Once students are enrolled in school, it is not a known fact that they will continue until commencement. There are some variables that are causing the students to drop-out and not complete their education. HBCU’s have their own special problems regarding lack of retention. What are the motives that affect students to meet their goal of completion? Dr. Stevenson noticed what the main problem at hand may be: “Well, I know that it would relate to recruitment, retention, matriculation, and graduation; and ethnic minority is a nationwide problem. It is further compounded in both historically black and predominantly white institutions when it comes to African Americans. Particularly men, we tend to lose either in the first term of their second year, or the second term of their first year. We are also working harder to retain African American women.”

It is important that institutional intent and student expectations reflect their educational success because that will keep the students attending school. With this in mind, the barrier that is hindering the students from their success ranges from many aspects. In particular, academics, social life, lack of activities on campus, and resident hall life. According to Dr. Stevenson, this is the opportunity for an action research to take place. “This will be an action research project. We’re going to bring all the students in and ask them a series of questions, and I’m going to conduct focus groups to get a hold of what their issues are. Then I am going to take that data, and ask to rate student policy based on it. So if students say, there is lack of activities, there are not enough programs on campus, or we tend to not have a lot to do during the week.” If that is the case, then I am going to talk to student affairs and ask what we can do. Not only improve, but expand the activities that we have. And some of those activities may include some things we do on campus, and some things we do off campus to help again, improve the persistence of their academic performance.” Once the data is revealed, they will make necessary changes that are significant to the students.

The major focus for the student’s achievements is their academics. The main purpose of action research is to go beyond what is normally done to maintain the students and give them the chance to persevere in academic success outside of the classroom. There are many support services that are offered to help them thrive.

Continue on page 10
Antigenic Shift most likely occurs when the virus forms common antigen between host and virus in the same host. As possible when people live in close proximity to pigs and chickens. A human host then acquires influenza virus H3N2, the virulent form is a normal form (either human or swine). As the two different forms of the virus RNA are replicating independently, they gain on their own characteristic and can become that different form of virus form (H5N1). As there are no antibodies against it in the host, in fact there are very likely antibodies to it in any previous exposure to the H3N2 strain. This creates a chance that it will come out as a form that can be transmitted from human to human. So far all the people that have died or become sick with the avian flu contracted the virus from a swine strain. The H5N1 virus is not the major "Shift," to include swine and human it will come this outbreak in Mexico. Even if this is not the "Big Shift" it is a question of whether the pandemic will come, but when it will come. When it does come very likely someone you know will die. It might only kill the very young or very old. It could have deadly effect on those that have weak constitution, and or immune systems. The majority of deaths caused by the 1918 Spanish flu were between 20 and 40 years of age. Once anyone’s body begins to break down, that effect humans all it will be like fire and free individuals from where ever it starts to fly into a couple of major US airports. All they have to do is once they get here on earth and catch on a few hundred people and then for them off to destinations nation wide then "It’s over!"

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention says to protect yourself from the virus. Be sure to wash your hands regularly with mild soap and water and wear a mask such as a N99 mask, such as the InVisiMask may also be helpful if you must be near someone who has the flu. The Providon we present itself has to do with the students at Valley. "Please spread the word that the Providon wants to have a conversation with the students about what specifically do they believe contributes to their failure or inability to persist through the academic programs that we provide." Each student should consider converting their degree with Dr. Stevenson in the near future; there will be a higher number of graduation rates.

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The thumps and bumps will remain as is, unless they decide to repave the whole street. We hope that what will come to pass in the near future. Even though everyone complained about the bumps being there, it’s an advantage for the campus, because it slows down traffic and makes the environment safer.

Some services like, tutorial services, food services, and the library, which are all part of the institution to assist a higher education for the sake of the students.

On the other hand, Dr. Stevenson feels that is not enough is being done in the classroom. “We don’t do enough about things that can be done within the classroom. The classroom experience is where most of the magic occurs, between the student and the professor, that’s where we want to focus our attention.” He said, “by getting faculty involved in research on the way they teach, the methods they use, the way students learn, the difference between discipline, helps the professor become a better professor because he or she is collecting data about the student and modifying the classroom instruction based on what those data revelations provide to the professor.”

Fifty faculty members have been recruited to participate in a three session fundamental training. The first session is an overview of how it works; second, will be a specific to their discipline or area of research; third, will be about making the maximum of the two cur.

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**THE DELTA DEVILS GAZETTE**

**MVSU SSU DEBATE TEAM WINS BIG IN 2009**

By Charles Winstead

April 21, 2009 online videos show the coming high off of Salvia Divinorum, a plant being examined for a research project from the Department of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) at the Mississippi State University. The students are representing Mississippi at the Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunity Programs (SAEOPP) Student Initiation Competition on April 18-20, 2009.

The Mississippi, University, Missouri, Tennessee and Delaware debate teams do warn parents not to put their children to childhood obesity. According to the Health Daily News, this study has looked at how much weight when they become adults. This has truly been a great year for the Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU). The Morehouse College McNair Team placed first, and the Western Kentucky University and Edward Waters College SSS Team placed second. Each team did a great job in this competition. The Mississippi Association of Educational Opportunity Programs (SAEOPP) Student Initiation Competition on April 18, 2009.

Dr. Janowitz and other researchers to improve brain functions in humans but the pharmaceutical companies are not interested in investigating these plants that will lead to potential relief of neurological disorders. Professor Emmett McClary said, “Studying the way Salvia and other plants via the Internet. According to McClary these hallucinogenic plants may help improve brain functions in humans. Salvia should be illegal. There may be a time in the near future when understanding hallucinogenic plants helps us treat neurological disorders. (Professor Emmett McClary, professor of Chemistry, and one half of the brunch (a weekly entertainment convention.)”


department team get to represent MAEOPP (the second place team) to join them in representing Mississippi at the SSS Debate Tournament. Each year the winning Mississippi Association of Educational Opportunity Programs (SAEOPP) Student Initiation Competition on April 18, 2009.

By Anthony "DJ Bom" D. Holmes

Nolan sat down with the Gazette and told us about how he felt about receiving the award, what sparked his interest in broadcasting, what led him to radio and what he plans for the future.

Never take small beginnings for granted. That’s one of the lessons we learned that you have to know how to every thing and use it.” The trip to Atlanta was exciting to me. It was a test to see if we could write for radio, everything from stories, spots, and show prep. Everyone who has an interest in radio should learn as many skills as possible. The only regret I have is that any radio-station that is on the air.

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**FIRST US SWINE FLU DEATH AND PRECAUTIONS FOR STUDENTS**

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May 2009

THE DELTA DEVILS GAZETTE

“The Valley Renaissance”

By Dorice Beamon & Kemarius Lee

On Wednesday, April 8, 2009 the rekindling of a movement happened on the campus of Mississippi Valley State University and the renaissance man and women had many faces. One West Productions, which was founded in the fall of 2008, produced a stellar stage play, the first of its kind that was written and produced by award-winning student and newly appointed Assistant-in-Chief of the Delta Devils Gazette, Crystal Foster. The script, entitled “The Right Choice,” took well over two months to complete, and focuses on a group of college students, who are determined to make all types of decisions except the right ones.

The script also deals with one relationship tied to God and the importance of HIV and STD awareness. Foster, who birthed the critically acclaimed campus organization, which, since its inception has already garnered much success, said she did it to help those students who don’t normally participate in campus activities to find an outlet. The production was put on in the H.G. Carpenter Auditorium on campus, and some major actors contributed to the work. Majority of them were students from the department of communications and they were: Candace Young (Tierra), Alcides Jones (Nina), Cadib Cox (Michael), Corey, Victoria Cosefield (Precious), Fantasia Marie (Mother), Marquida Morgan (Keaysia), Gladys Mitchell (Emily), Rodney Rice (Johnny), Napoleon Johnson (Ace), Ricky D. Main (Pastor Williams), Christopher “Lil Chris” Thompson (Matthew and Peanut), Carlisa Simpson (Toni Ray), Wilshonda Johnson (Mercedes), Toncequa Hill (Casey “Jucy” Thornton), and Kemarius Lee (Curtin Slim Windfield).

Each individual character to life was portrayed. Look for more great things coming from The Valley Players.

A FUNNY WAY OF SHOWING IT

By Christopher Thompson

The MVSU Department of Communications presented, “A Funny Way of Showing It.” This was a one-act dramatic play by Jerry Rabushka, which took place on April 14 and 15, in the MVSU student union Royal Room. Barbara Baymon, Theater Arts instructor, directed and advised this spring production. The play represented a serious issue that is common among many young adults today, domestic violence.

It illustrated a young, naïve girl attending high school being abused verbally and physically by her football boyfriend. With the support of her friends and teachers, she was able to seek help and get out of the situation. Domestic violence is severe and important for people to seek help who are in similar situations. Yolanda Jones, Director of Student Counseling and Support Center, was present at the event. Jones spoke a few words after the show, mentioning the assistance and counseling she provides here on Valley campus.

The acting was spectacular and the message was great. I commend Baymon on a great message being portrayed. Look for more great things coming from The Valley Players.

Great Future, Great Opportunities, for Communication Graduates!

The Communication Department at Mississippi Valley State University can put you on the path to a great career.

One of eight departments in the College of Professional Studies, Communication at Mississippi Valley State University offers a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication and Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communication. Mass Communication program prepares students for rewarding careers in the fields of Broadcasting, Journalism, or Public Relations —

You may choose to be in front of the cameras, perhaps— “On-Air” TV and radio reporting, hosting programs, or producing commercials and acting in them. If you choose to be behind the camera, then camera operator or video editor, DJ, or sound technician positions are for you.

On the other hand, in public relations, publicist, account executive, media buyer, or corporate advertising are opportunities that await you. Speech Communication program at MVSU, with its up-to-date curriculum will prepare you for positions such as speech writer, sales person, marketing, educator, researcher, or scholar. All of these occupations can lead to executive marketing and management positions, where the BIG MONEY is.

And the Communication program with its state-of-the-art radio and television facilities, and print media technology can help you become a sought-after candidate for one of these positions.

In addition to our facilities, we have the most dedicated faculty with excellent qualifications ready to guide and nurture you.

The choices for 21st Century are in COMMUNICATION! Come and join the TIDE!

For further information, please contact Dr. Samuel Osunde, Chair, at (662) 254-3630.

Mississippi Valley State University
After dinner, Dr. Donna Oliver and Dallas Real came to the podium to present the awards to the five outstanding contributors to Valley of the night. This was Dr. Oliver’s first Gala attendance at MVSU and the warm visitation to be able to share this evening with everyone.

Dr. Lawrence Goldman was the first to be called and awarded the Award. He is a native of Santa Rosa, California, and a faculty member at Mississippi Valley State University for the past 25 years. He has participated in more than 300 concert performances on the campus.

Goldman was unaware of winning the award and was slightly surprised, “I am afraid I have the wrong speech prepared. There are some very devious people on this campus,” he said playfully. Goldman was prepared to make a speech, just not a speech for receiving an award.

Second award winner was Dr. Ernest A. Boykin Jr. He was the second president of Mississippi Valley State University. He was awarded in his field of Education/Academics.

“Boykin’s Jr. He was the second president of Mississippi Valley State University. He was the second president of MVSU, which included a variety of academic programs, such as Aerospace Studies, Family and Consumer Science, Environmental Health, etc. The students have performed at Mississippi Valley State University for the past 25 years. He has participated in more than 300 concert performances on the MVSU campus.

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Second award winner was Dr. Ernest A. Boykin Jr. He was the second president of Mississippi Valley State University. He was awarded in his field of Education/Academics. Boykin expanded the curriculum at MVSU which included a variety of academic programs, such as Aerospace Studies, Family and Consumer Science, Environmental Health, etc. Boykin was also surprised of receiving the award and agreed with Goldman about having another speech prepared. “I think it is my job to be surprised because there had another speech prepared,” he said.

The next individual who was awarded was Willie Gregory in the field of Philanthropy. He is an alumnus of Valley and supports his alma mater in any way possible. He joined NBKS and has been a deal maker for communities.

Mrs. Pernell has volunteered her time and her own funds in the holistic development of MVSU student athletes.

The entertainment for the evening was the popular R&B vocal group, The Manhattan. They opened the night performing their smash hit singles, “Kiss and Say Goodbye,” and “Shining Star.” According to Gerald Ahmad, the lead singer of the group mentioned, they have performed at Mississippi Valley State University before. “Music lost to us a few times we have performed here,” he said. “They did an outstanding performance and had the whole audience singing along and dancing to their music. The Manhattan are currently on tour. We are currently on tour with The Stylistics, The Magic’s and The Whispers and in our new CD to Detroit’ Album release.”

A delegation from Mississippi Valley State University attended a one week conference at the United Nations in New York.

The five days conference “offered a diverse group of informed participants a forum for discussing global issues in a context that closely parallels the ‘real world’ said Chair Dr. Morgan Ero, faculty advisor to the program and Social Sciences Department Interim Chair. “Students as delegates propose resolutions addressing regional conflicts such as peacekeeping, human rights violations, economic and social development and the environment.” The conference gives our students a better understanding of the inner workings of the United Nations as they build skills in diplomacy and compromise. This is our future, leaders, as delegates discuss contemporary global issues and pass resolutions”, Dr. Ero said.

“Our students have had the rare opportunity to build lasting and valuable relationships with delegates from all over the world, enhance their writing and oratory skills, meet with member of the diplomatic corps and ambassadors of the member countries of the United Nations,” added Dr. Ero.

Delegates for 2009 from Valley are comprised of Iyias Zeynolov, Jermaine Simmons, Travis Ledland, Kourtney Anderson, Kiri Bolton, Apollonia Kukla, Precious Alldridge, Portia Weeks, Emily Johnson, Kortney Rue, Ashley Jones, and Sherelle Cohen. The students are accompanied by Professors Morgan Ero and Mrs. Anbinette Livingston, Assistant professor of Sociology.