

the delta devils GAZETTE

An award-winning college newspaper, by students for students

MARCH 2023

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY • ITTA BENA, MISSISSIPPI

Volume 48 / Number 2

Green and White Day at the State Capitol elevates V-State



President Briggs and MVSU Alumni President Redmond are joined by students and members of the House of Representatives for a photo opt.



MVSU Mass Comm Student De'Nautis Liddell interviews Carroll-Montgomery County Alumnae Dorothy Washington



From left, MVSU Engineering Technology Department Chair Dr. Antonio Brownlow and Assistant Professor Daniel Splaingard

By Latavia Williams, Co-Editor

Love was in the air as Mississippi Valley State University representatives displayed their school spirit during Green and White Day at the Mississippi State Capitol on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14.

MVSU alumni, administration, department representatives and students gathered in Jackson, Miss. to showcase their beloved university and all it has to offer.

While in attendance, MVSU Mass Communication broadcasting students interviewed various legislators and alumni regarding house bills proposed to improve Valley and other state HBCUs. Rep. Tracey Rosebud, District 30, were among lawmakers concerned about

improving the quality of campus life and facilities. "Valley state in particularly needs a lot of things done with the

dormitories," he said. (See the news clip developed by students on Delta Devils' Gazette Facebook page.)

Dorothy Washington of the Carroll-Montgomery County MVSU Alumni Chapter said, "Don't judge Valley by the football team, basketball, or our sports, Valley is one in a million for our education!"

MVSU President Dr. Jerryl Briggs was invited to speak before the House and the Senate. He shared that enrollment had

increased this spring compared to last spring.

Representing Valley academically were the Department of Engineering Technology and the Department of Mass Communication.

Dr. Antonio Brownlow, chairperson for the Department of Engineering Technology, said it was an excellent opportunity for his department and the university overall. "It exposed students to the government in action and showcased their tremendous talents to the legislatures, alums, and staff members at the Capitol," said Brownlow.

"Don't judge Valley by the football team, basketball, or our sports, Valley is one in a million for our education!"

— Dorothy Washington,
Carroll-Montgomery County MVSU
Alumni Chapter

Speaking of talent, the MVSU Valley Singers gave a crowd-pleasing performance that echoed throughout the Capitol building.

Dr. Carolyn L. Gordon, acting chairperson for the Department of Mass Communication said, "it was an honor to have been selected by our Office of Academic Affairs to represent our great university."

Talasia Potts, president of Student Alumni Association (SSA), expressed, "Green and White Day was amazing! It was a wonderful event filled with networking, reuniting, and most importantly, coming together to support and represent our great institution 'The Valley.'"

MVSU soccer player speaks out about unfair conditions

By LaTavia Williams, Co-Editor

As the spring semester rolled in and the soccer season came to an end, some of the players on the team voiced their opinions to me on the unfair conditions they faced during the season. Players say they worked hard all semester long to uphold the status of the team under the school's name. Some of them felt they were pushed 'to the back burner' with minimum to no help from campus officials and fans, or the lack there of.



Williams

One player, Raheal Akaety, voiced that the amount of support they received at games were little to nothing compared to other sports here on campus. She explained how at every home game, the bleachers were empty, and there is no one there to cheer them on as they play the game, they love so dearly, for the school who barely showed any support whatsoever.

She also explained how she reached out to campus officials for answers as to why there's no support and other concerns they had as far as adequate

funding for the team. After reaching out several times, she did not get an answer.

I talked to Raheal personally and asked what is it that I could do to help her and the team's concerns to be heard for next soccer season. She said she just wants to feel the soccer team is just as important as any other athletic team on campus.

I told her I would do the best I could to make sure their concerns are shared via my editorial or commentary in our award-winning college newspaper, by students and for students. I empathize with the soccer players concerns. I attended one of their games,

and it was so sad that there were barely any fans in the stands.

My fellow students and as well as faculty and staff, we should support soccer as we do others sports. The soccer athletes should not have to feel that they are wleft behind in sports, and that they should receive the proper funding they need to keep their program afloat. Next season, let's fill the stands, V-State. Remember, our vision is "One Goal. One Team. One Valley. In Motion!"



Raegan's Advice to Excellence (RAE)

So this is love? Orrrr, is it?

By Reagan Young, Columnist and Staff Writer

Not only is February is always known as Black History Month but also the month of love.

Ahhhh. Love. We all crave and desire to love and to be love. FUN FACT: Did you know love stimulates 12 areas of the brain? Or hugging your partner is an instant stress reliever? Or even couples' heartbeats can synchronize? Based off the stats alone, being love is deeper than just "being in your feelings" lol.

It's psychological and biological! But, on a more serious note, we can see how and why it's so hard for many to step away from an unhealthy relationship or even notice the signs of what is or what isn't love. Don't worry, you know I got your back with some tips:

What is love?

You'll know you've found love when it all comes easy. You don't feel forced to be with them, everything just seems right. Natural. You enjoy them instead of viewing the relationship as a chore.

Love is acceptive, supportive, self sacrificing. Understanding your partner is not perfect, and you will experience bad days as individuals and a couple. You support each other, sometimes pushing your own feeling to the side (but not every instance! You're human too), rather than tear down.

Teamwork makes the dream work! When you see your partner as a better half and not your competition, that's love. You're less likely to want an "upper hand" or "one up" each other. You're not waiting to call them back after two hours because

they responded two hours late. Rather, you both are intentionally working together towards a healthy relationship.

What isn't love?

If you find yourself hurting mentally, physically, or emotionally, it's probably not love. LOVE DOESN'T HURT! (PLEASE seek help before it's too late, especially if it's physical) Love is also, not hard. It comes easy. So if you find yourself in more fights than peacefulness, you may want to reconsider the relationship.

Love is not conditional but unconditional. Love isn't overflowing the cup one day and then keeping it away for the next three. That's abuse! You do not have to chase love. You don't prove that you're worthy of it either!

You are no one's property. If the relationship feels possessive, it's not love! Remember: we are at an age where we should feel a intense level of freedom. It's possible to respect a relationship while enjoying your individuality. You don't belong to anyone. You don't have to answer for dressing a certain way, going out with your friends, or needing anybody's permission. We left our parents at home.

I understand love can have some people blindsided to where they would ignore the signs abuse. If you're a friend or a bystander and notice someone is being mistreated or experiencing abuse by someone they love, please seek help from campus authorities.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline is 800-799-7233. However, if you are in danger, call 911. You could be saving your life!

the delta devils **GAZETTE**

American Scholastic Press Association
1989,1990, 1991, 1997,
and 2002 FIRST PLACE winner. 2015 THIRD PLACE
winner. 2016 SECOND PLACE winner.

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF:

LaTavia Williams and Joshua King

SPORTS EDITORS:

T. J. Goodwin and Gabrielle Jones-Hall

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR: Presently Open

STAFF MEMBERS:

**Kiara Love, Reagan Young, Jacob Bell,
Jaiden Brown, and Jalecia Clark**

ADVERTISING: Editors & Staff

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. Gail H. Marshall Brown

PUBLISHER: Dr. Carolyn Gordon

The Delta Devils Gazette welcomes news and editorials from all students. The Delta Devils Gazette is a student publication of Mississippi Valley State University, under the supervision of the Department of Mass Communication.

Editorial offices are located in:

O.P. Lowe Education Building, Room 141

Mail may be sent to:

Publisher, MVSU Delta Devils Gazette
14000 HWY 82 West #7234
Itta Bena, Mississippi 38941

News may be emailed to: gazette@mvsu.edu

WWW.MVSU.EDU

Follow us on Twitter @mvsugazette

A Valley of visionaries on the road

by Nicholas Patrick

Valley on the Road is an opportunity to showcase Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) to high school students who may not have the opportunity to visit an Institute of Higher Learning while contemplating college.

On the road, MVSU showcases the Mean Green Marching Machine (MGMM), Valley Singers and various other campus organizations to spark interest in potential students. With lively energy and a drive to push admission rates higher, the entourage visited Murrah High School, Jim Hill High School and Provine High School in Jackson, Miss.

Valley Singers (under the direction of Dr Brandon Cash) and upbeat rhythm of raw MGMM Drum line (under the direction of Melton Harvey, II) received a warm and enthusiastic welcome from students and faculty.

When asked what he, the students, and faculty thought about the MGMM and Valley Singers, Jim Hill Principal Bobby D. Brown responded, "I have very positive thoughts and feelings regarding the presentation shared with our Jim Hill family. Many of the scholars and instructors were impressed as well. The Valley definitely represented the school and the culture of the school well."

Principal Brown was impressed that the President accompanied the students. "President Briggs is the first college president to take the time out of his busy schedule to address our scholars," said Brown. "We were surprised to see a person of his magnitude in concert with the positive vibes from such a prestigious institution. His presence

displayed his dedication to the scholars at Valley as people and not just students on a journey to success."

The Delta Devils Gazette spoke with Dr. Etosha Johnson of the MVSU Office of Admissions and Recruitment about the effectiveness of the Valley On the Road efforts. She shared that the department has "a couple students who we consider Highlight Students." They are:

Tynia Killingsworth, a senior from Cleveland Central High School with an ACT score of 20.

Dr. Johnson said she has had the privilege of witnessing Killingsworth's growth in education. She is a cheerleader at CCHS with possible eyes on MVSU's cheering squad.

Eli Overstreet from Marietta, GA, is joining the MVSU baseball team. His positive attitude, drive, and determination made him stand out amongst other scholars who have also been recognized during Valley on the Road. With an ACT score of 28, he is receiving a Presidential Scholarship for academics. Eli plans to pursue a degree in Business Administration.

Aside from various other scholarships, each new student who successfully enrolls for the Fall of 2023 semester at MVSU will receive the Valley First Scholarship in the amount of \$1000.

Valley on the Road recently wrapped up its journey in Memphis Feb. 24 at Whitehaven High School, Raleigh Egypt High School, and Mitchell High School.

The campus looks forward to meeting its future scholars who believe in our vision, "One Goal. One Team. One Valley. In Motion!"



Highlights of Valley on the Road in Jackson and in Memphis. PHOTOS by Nicholas Patrick



Highlights of Valley on the Road in Jackson and in Memphis. PHOTOS by Nicholas Patrick



Highlights of Valley on the Road in Jackson and in Memphis. PHOTOS by Nicholas Patrick

MVSU Mass Comm student and faculty members invited to present at MCA



MVSU Mass Communication attendees pause for a photo opt after the conference. They are from left, front, Visiting Assistant Professor Dr. Gail M. Brown, De'Nautis Liddell, Tamia Bradley, Speech Communication Coordinator/Instructor and Director of Theater Barbara Baymon, Mass Communication Coordinator/Associate Professor Dr. Zainul Abedin; Second row: Speech/Mass Communication Instructor Shannon Bowden, Zapouria Wadley; and back row: Bernard Luckett, Jessie Washington, and Acting Chair and Associate Professor of Mass Communication/Director of Convergence Media Dr. Carolyn L. Gordon.

By Bernard Luckett, Student Writer

On Feb. 17, Mississippi College of Clinton, Miss. hosted the annual Mississippi Communication Association (MCA) conference.

Several MVSU Department of Mass Communication faculty MCA members and a student MCA member, Zapouria Wadley, were invited to present papers and great teaching ideas for students (GIFTS) at the conference. The faculty presenters were Dr. Zainul Abedin, Dr. Gail M. Brown, Barbara Baymon, and Shannon Bowden.

"I honestly felt a wave of success," said Wadley. "It felt as if right when I was beginning to feel overwhelmed by my senior research, the opportunity to present my research in progress at the MCA conference and receive valuable feedback was given to me. [It] gave me a lot more confidence in my senior research."

Other MVSU student MCA members attending the conference were Jessie Washington, Tamia Bradley, De'Nautis

Liddell, Michael Coleman and this reporter. Several of whom, along with Wadley, were participants in Bowden's presentation.

MVSU Department of Mass Communication Acting Chair Dr. Carolyn L. Gordon was also in attendance to support her student and faculty participants.

A warm welcome by Mississippi College President Dr. Blake Thompson and MCA officers was extended to all.

The conference was coordinated by the first Vice President of Mississippi Communication Association, Brad Bailey. Bailey is the Dean of Teaching and Learning at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. During the MCA business meeting, he became the new MCA president.

MCA, a not-for-profit organization, "promotes the study, criticism, research, teaching, and appreciation of the artistic, humanistic, and scientific principles of communication. MCA also seeks

National entertainment executive director challenges students with 'Five F's'



COURTESY PHOTO



COURTESY PHOTO

By Ra'Daija Powell, Student Writer

On Wednesday, Jan. 18, National Entertainment Executive Johnnie Walker was the featured presenter of the Mississippi Valley State Department of Mass Communication Speakers Series.

Walker is the founder and CEO of the National Association of Black Female Executives in Music & Entertainment, Inc (NABFEME). This organization is dedicated to supporting and empowering women in recorded music, media and technology, sports, film and television, fashion and related disciplines.

Walker started her career as a receptionist at a country radio station in her hometown of Grenada, Miss. but said she knew that was not her destiny.

After several requests to management to allow her to do on-air, she was finally given an opportunity when someone called in sick. She then became the first black on-air personality for that Grenada radio station.

As time went on Walker made her way into the music industry working with several well known artists.

Philanthropist Russell Simmons gave

her a chance to come to New York City in 1997 where she became Vice President of promotion for Def jam. Walker has worked with Jay Z, LL Cool J, and DMX.

After 15 years at Def Jam, she moved to Los Angeles as the head of black music for DreamWorks Records.

During Walker's visit at MVSU, she met with students, faculty and staff to discuss her unique career path.

One of the most memorable takeaways students gained from Walker's presentation was her One of Walker's most was her "Five F's (Fixed, Focus, Fight, Fa-

matic, Faith)." Walker explained that these five words helped her to stay focused and ultimately succeed in her career.

She even spoke on her father's advice that he gave her: "The only thing people can tell you is NO, but all that need to be is motivation for you flip it and say, it's ON.

Students say Walker's presentation is a inspiration to all that got a chance to listen to her career journey.

She was invited back to Grenada this year to serve as Grand Marshall for its Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade.





CHICKEN

2PC DARK W/ 1 SIDE
3PC DARK W/ 1 SIDE
2 PC MIXED W/ 1 SIDE
3 PC MIXED W/ 1 SIDE
2 PC WHITE W/ 1 SIDE
3 PC WHITE W/ 1 SIDE



\$5.50 MENU

BURGER AND FRIES
3PS WINGS AND FRIES
1PC FISH WITH FRIES
BUFFALP FRIES
PIZZA PUFF



FISH PLATE

1 PC FISH
2 PC FISH
3 PC FISH

HOT WINGS

5 PC SINGLE
5 PC W/ 1 SIDE ...
10 PC SINGLE ...
10 PC W/ 1 SIDE
FLAVORS : LEMON PEPPER
HONEY GOLD, HONEY HOT
BBQ, SWEET ASIAN
NASHVILLE HOT, BUFFALO

SANDWICH

STEAK PHILLY
CHICKEN PHILLY
SHRIMP PHILLY
BEEF PHILLY
CLUB SANDWICH

CHICKEN FRIES

BUFFALO FRIES
HONEY GOLD FRIES
SWEET CHEDDAR FRIES
BBQ FRIES

BURGERS

DONUT BURGERS
DOUBLE CHEESEBURGER
REGULAR CHEESEBURGER
HAMBURGER

NACHO

STEAK
BEEF
SHRIMP
CHICKEN
YOU CAN ADD ALL FOUR

SIDE ORDERS

TATER TOTS
FRIES
OKRA
ONION RINGS
MAC
CHEESE WITH BACON

ALCOHOL BEER AND FROZEN DRINKS



DESSERT

ICE CREAM & DOUGHNUTS
DOUGHNUTS
FRIED OREOS



TENDERS & WAFFLES

2PC TENDER W/ WAFFLE
3PC TENDER W/ WAFFLE
5 PC WHOLE WINGS W/ WAFFLE
5 PC HOT WINGS W/ WAFFLE

DELIVERY ORDER :
309 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DRIVE
ITTA BENA, MISSISSIPPI 38941

(662)704-5051



THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

EMPOWERING TEACHERS IN MISSISSIPPI DELTA SCHOOLS

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2023 | 8:00 AM TO 3:00 PM
O.P. LOWE EDUCATION BUILDING



The Department of Education at MVSU invites K-12 administrators, teachers, and MVSU students to participate in workshops and presentations designed to strengthen their performance and upgrade their pedagogical toolbelt. Implementing ideas from these workshops will further prepare educators to commit their expertise to interventions that will work for them and the learners.

WORKSHOPS TOPICS:

- Science of Reading
- Inclusion in Special Education
- Technology in Education
- Classroom Management

0.5 CEUs will be awarded for attending all 5 hours of workshops. No certificates are awarded for individual sessions. Registration closes on March 13, 2023. Scan the QR-code to register.



The registration fee is \$50 for in-service professionals and \$30 for students. We only accept money orders at this time. Make money orders payable and mail to:

Theresa Dumas, PhD
Department of Education
Mississippi Valley State University
MVSU 7243
14000 HWY 82 W
Itta Bena, MS, 38941



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE
UNIVERSITY,

Barney's first season as head coach for the Diamond Devils



PHOTO COURTESY OF COACH BARNEY

By: Gabrielle Jones-Hall, Co-Sports Editor

Officially pronounced as head coach on July 12, 2022 (MVSU bio), Milton Barney, accompanied with his two assistants, Jaylan Bledsoe, and Kenny Hudson, are the leads of the in-season baseball team for their first time as a Diamond Devil.

Coach Bledsoe has coordinated recruitment and hitting while Coach Hudson has dealt strictly with the pitchers. Through multiple in-home scrimmages during the fall semester, the three got an idea of who each of the 35 players on the roster were, such as their strengths and weaknesses as well as work ethic.

In fact, an area they felt were of primary focus during off-season was the pitching coach Barney stated, "we wanted to make those guys be a little bit more consistent." Moreover, infielder/

pitcher, Dreylin Holmes supported their mission by stating specifically, "he has taught us many ways that can help us move mentally and physically as we prepare for our season as a team," in a conducted interview with Gabrielle Jones-Hall, Co-Sports Editor.

As they are in the beginnings of this season, fans should know that Coach Barney believes that his vision and ability to relate to his group of young men can elevate the attitude and mindset of the program.

The Diamond Devils' number one goal is a championship so equally judging from his experience winning a championship at Alcorn, as an assistant coach, end results of his first season will pronounce if he is equipped with those specific guiding tools as the baseball program's seventh head coach at Mississippi Valley State University.

Women's soccer and men's football teams to start season with new head coaches

By Gabrielle Jones-Hall, Co-Sports Editor

The Mississippi Valley State University athletic department has been reconstructing its

leadership over programs to best exemplify the mission in elevating Valley State. By doing so, thus far, in

2023, MVSU has welcomed two new head coaches: one and soccer and one in football.

On Jan. 19, new soccer coach, Kayleigh Lambrechts, was introduced during a press conference in the R.W. Harrison HYPER Complex's President's Suite.

Lambrechts brings championship experience and exudes the attitude of a

champion that will continue to elevate MVSU and its soccer program," said MVSU Director of Athletic Hakim McClellan.

In the past years, women's soccer has faced many challenges. From competing with the bare minimum in players during competition to their playing field.

Lambrechts stated that "11 players are not enough at all!" Therefore, one of her main focuses is depth per squad. She plans to have 22-24 on her squad in the upcoming season and implement cycle training that promotes fast recovery times and injury prevention, especially considering back-to-back games in season. As of now, she is the only one planning to carry the team to

new victories, but she wants to add a graduate assistant.

On Jan. 9, the MVSU Athletics Department introduced alumni and former football standout

Kendrick Wade as Valley's new head football coach. The press conference was held in the campus Science and Technology's Mary E. Crump Auditorium,

During his speech, Wade emphasized that "the time is now!" He said the time is now to grow athletes into overall great men, on and off the field, to focus on the process instead of the outcome.

During his Q and A with the media, Wade re-emphasize his seriousness about his players performing well academically. He also pointed out that MVSU should apprehend the opportunities and necessary approaches with elevation.

Wade also expressed great gratitude to his mother and thanked other family and friends who have been an important part of his career journey.

According to mvsusports.com, "The Wade Era will kick off in the Chicago Football Classic on Saturday, September 2, against Central State." For a detailed season schedule, visit: 2023 Football Schedule - Mississippi Valley State University Athletics (mvsusports.com)



Wade



Lambrechts

Big hits in the sixth

By Shelby Carson, Student Writer

On Feb. 26, Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) baseball team faced off the Arkansas Pine Bluff (UAPB).

Key players for the Devils, Dreylin Holmes, Davion Hull, Jordany Ofarril-Ortiz, Davon Mims, and Maury Weaver turned their bats on in the bottom of the 6th. Hull's homer hit contributed to the Devils' enormous ten runs scored, making the final score 16-3.

With these hot bats, MVSU is looking to make a steady and steep run for the SWAC Tournament.

"That was one heck of a hit," stated Graduate Assistant Coach Jewel Unga.

As the Devils head on the road to Arkansas Holmes, Weaver, Mims, and Ortiz are itching to keep their hitting streaks. Will the Devils stay hot or lose steam as they face off against the Arkansas State Wolves? Stay tuned to catch all the heat!



PHOTO COURTESY BY JOSEPH JACKSON

Conference

continued from page 3

communication departments in the state of Mississippi" (misscom.org).

Conference attendees were served breakfast and lunch. During the conference, attendees also had opportunities to win valuable door prizes. Members of the Valley group were among the winners.

"The MCA conference was so exciting because we had our students and professors presenting," said Bowden.

The Delta Devils Gazette Faculty Advisor Dr. Gail M. Brown also contributed to this article.

the delta devils
GAZETTE
RESERVE YOUR AD SPACE!
CALL TODAY!
662.254.3630

Martin Luther King Jr. Black History Convocation

By Kiara Love, Staff Writer

“Black Resistance” was the theme for this year’s Mississippi Valley State University Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Black History Convocation. The event took place on Feb. 2 at the Carver A. Randle Auditorium in the W.A Butts Social Science Building.

The keynote speaker was Attorney Ty Pinkins.

Guests and attendees were entertained by the Mississippi Valley State University Symphonic Band as they entered the auditorium. MVSU Student Government President Keyjuan Meeks announced the posting of colors by the MVSU Army ROTC. Then MVSU Choir took to the stage for their first musical selection of “To Sit and Dream” -- words that were taken from Langston Hughes and conducted by Dr. Brandon Cash.

Miss MVSU Essence Baggett and Mr. MVSU Emmanuel Asuquo gave the occasion about the celebration

of Black History. The choir returned for their second musical selection with a lively performance of “We Shall Over Come Medley”, led by tenor Joseph Smith.

Pinkins was introduced by MVSU Student Government Vice President Tyrani Burns. Before he began, he gave thanks to the MVSU family, staff, and faculty for having him there.

He told the audience that he “is a proud son of the Mississippi Delta who grew up in poverty and had to chop cotton throughout his teenage years.” He became the first in his family to graduate high school and enroll in Tougaloo College. While there, he



President Dr. Jerryl Briggs and speaker Attorney Ty Pinkins pause after the award presentation. Photo by Mikayla Etienne

joined the Army to support himself financially.

He served three combat tours in Iraq during his 21 years of service. In the final years of his military career, he was selected to work in the White House Communications Agency, working for both President Obama and President Trump as a communication aide.

“We are here to celebrate the legacies of those who were here before us,” Pinkins said. He spoke about standing in the importance of standing in the gap for others -- To put oneself in the void and to provide to one person what is needed most. He gave examples such as Martin Luther King, Fannie Lou Hammer,

and James Meredith; black leaders who have stood in the gap.

He also spoke about the “righteous no”, a no that has been hard to say but can lead to positive change if used right. Pinkins shared three verbs that all black people have in common: Endurance, Perseverance,

and Love. “Our elders and community leaders showed endurance by never giving up while dealing with hangings, beatings and being criminalized,” he said. “They showed perseverance by still fighting to make a better world not just for black people but for everyone, even those who opposed them. They showed love by fighting for equality

and not for revenge and showing love to those who don’t show it to them.”

Pinkins ended his speech by talking about the importance of voting and that the youth have the power to make changes. The choir gave their third musical selection of “Lift Every Voice and Sing” with the arrangement by Roland Carter. After their performance, MVSU President Dr. Jerryl Briggs, Sr. presented Attorney Pinkins with a plaque and thanked him for coming out to the Valley and speaking at the convocation. The choir along with all those in attendance sang Valley’s Alma Mater and the symphonic band played as the event ended.

Kellogg Foundation’s Williams-Bishop to be featured at Mass Comm Speaker Series, March 15

The MVSU family and the public are cordially invited to join the Department of Mass Communication in welcoming Dr. Rhea Williams-Bishop, director of Mississippi and New Orleans Programming for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Williams-Bishop will be the featured presenter for the attend the Department of Mass Communication Speaker Series, March 15 at 1 p.m. in the Business Education Building Auditorium.

“We are so honored that Dr. Williams-Bishop is taking time out her busy schedule to share with our students her career success,” said Acting Department Chair Dr. Carolyn L. Gordon. “I’ve heard so many great things about her.”

In this role, Williams-Bishop supports the foundation’s efforts to promote thriving children, working families and equitable communities. Williams-Bishop is responsible for leadership and vision in program conceptualization, design, planning, management, coordination,

communication, evaluation, policy and learning of grantmaking in Mississippi and New Orleans.

She has been described by Marshall Ramsey in Mississippi Today as “a lifelong Mississippian raised in Carthage and educated at Jackson State University, Williams-Bishop has always had her foot in the philanthropic and public service worlds.”

Williams-Bishop also supports and facilitates the community change process within the region in alignment with the foundation’s mission and strategic framework, in collaboration and partnership with grantees and other external partners in the region, as well as other WKKF staff.

Prior to joining the foundation, Williams-Bishop served as the director of the Mississippi Center for Education Innovation (MSCEI), a nonprofit education intermediary focused on impacting and transforming education through engagement and innovation.



Williams-Bishop

As a child and family advocate, she has devoted her career to improving the lives of vulnerable children by enhancing and improving their opportunities in the areas of racial equity, healthcare and education.

Based in Battle Creek, Michigan, The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), founded in 1930 as an independent, private foundation by breakfast cereal innovator and entrepreneur Will Keith Kellogg, is among the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States. Guided by the belief that all children should have an equal opportunity to thrive, WKKF works with communities to create conditions for vulnerable children so they can realize their full potential in school, work and life.

The MVSU Department of Mass Communication Speaker Series seeks to expose our students to successful media leaders and professionals.

For more information about the event and the series, contact Dr. Gordon at (662) 254-3593 or email: carolyn.gordon@mvsu.edu

Keyshaun's iPhone Repair LLC
 Facebook: Keyshaun Meeks
 Email: Keyshaunmeeks@gmail.com
 662-303-0337

MVSU: Retool Your School campus improvement project a huge success!



MVSU Mass Left to right: Jade Smith, Kyler Espadron, Kathleen Sims, Breeauna Troup, and Kaylyn Lang

By Dominique Cheeks, Student Writer

On Feb. 23 Home Depot and Mississippi Valley State University presented the annual Retool Your School Campus Improvement Project. This annual event was held at the Lois Aron Chapel.

Students, staff, faculty, and alumni all worked closely together to uphold the appearance of the historical landmark in the center of the campus. Volunteers were responsible for raking leaves, exchanging light bulbs, disinfecting

equipment, amongst an array of other activities.

Many expressed that the project was a step in the right direction of Elevating V-State! Kathleen Sims, a junior at MVSU, said that she believes that “this project was a start to making the school better little by little.”

The Retool Your School Grant Competition is a yearly contest that is made available to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and awards the winning school with assets to

assist with remodeling a piece of their campus of their choice. The competition is in progress now through Mar. 26. Everyone is urged to vote everyday for MVSU.

Voting is unlimited and open until Sunday, March 26, 2023. Cast your votes at www.retoolyourschool.com/vote. MVSU is in Cluster 2.

In 2019, Mississippi Valley State University was awarded \$50k to improve the pavilion to promote the appearance of the MVSU ‘Yard’.

MVSU’s baseball team scores a win in the Houston Astros’ Stadium

by James Snipes, Student Writer

On Feb. 17, the Mississippi Valley State University baseball team came away victorious against Texas Southern University with a 7-5 final score.

MVSU Game Pitcher Hunter Stallings excelled through five innings, holding Texas Southern to four runs.

Jose Salazar-Ortega came in relief in the 6th inning, pitched the rest of the game, and secured the victory for the Delta Devils.

When asked about the game, player Maury Weaver said, “the pitching was immaculate, we had timely hitting, and it was a great victory as a team.”

After the game, Cactus Jack HBCU Classic All MBP Team member Dreylin Holmes said, “it was a great environment to be in, (the) energy was amazing from the team and fans alike, and we came out and got the win against Texas Southern. More to come!”

Another team member share that starting the season off in the home stadium of the Houston Astros in Minute Maid Park was “rejuvenating for the Delta Devils team to win against what felt like the home team in Texas Southern.”

Civil Rights activist speaks out

by Colasia Thomas, Intern

The Department of Mass Communication Speaker Series hosted former Civil Rights activist Lewis Johnson on Feb. 15.

Johnson’s presentation was held in the MVSU School of Business Auditorium at 1 p.m.

During his presentation, he spoke about his 34 years in the public sector and politics, social activism, and political communication. The Grenada, Miss. native is currently serving his eighth consecutive term as the city’s Ward 3 councilman. He has also retired from the Mississippi Office of the State Auditor and the Mississippi Gaming Commission in 2003.

During the Speaker Series, Johnson took patience in telling the students and faculty the great stories he experienced throughout his travels. Since his time as an activist Johnson has served on a number of boards and committees including service as president of Mississippi’s Black Caucus of elected officials. Johnson would also go on to talk about his early teen years describing how his adolescent years were more difficult than everyday teens. The former activist would break down a timeline of events of regarding his hometown’s involvement in the civil rights movement.

Johnson was happily a part of this movement and discussed many likings



Johnson

and non-likings of the people around it. He received so many awards and did many great things during his school years.

As he spoke to students about his time in the movement, Johnson would go on to describe the injustices that the citizens of Grenada and surrounding areas faced during that time. He told the captivated audience how he witnessed firsthand segregation at a young age and how racism was so prevalent even towards children.

The former civil rights activist would also go on to speak with very high praise of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., suggesting in his presentation that King was a “noble man.” With Johnson being a former activist himself, he would compare similar experiences between himself and King. He also shared with the students video clips from activities of the movement in Grenada.

Toward the end of his speech Speech/Mass Communication Instructor Shannon Bowden asked him, “how did the African Americans acted who were against the movement during this time?” He briefly spoke about how negative their attitudes were towards them and how they did things to help stop the movement.

RETOOL YOUR SCHOOL

HELP VALLEY WIN A CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT GRANT

RetoolYourSchool.com/VOTE
#RYSMVSU

Swipe To See How →

The Retool Your School Competition is back! Help our HBCU win a Home Depot Campus Improvement Grant worth \$40K-\$150K. MVSU currently ranks #4 in Cluster 2. Vote today and vote as many times as you can a day. Voting is unlimited and open until Sunday, March 26th, 2023.

HOW TO VOTE:

1. Scan QR code to cast your vote
2. Repost the picture below and hash tag #RYSMVSU on Instagram & Twitter ONLY up to 2,400 times a day per account.
3. Cast your votes at www.retoolyourschool.com/vote