



COMMUNIQUE

A Publication of Mississippi Valley State University for Faculty, Staff, Alumni and Friends | April 2018 Vol.15 Edition 4

MVSU CELEBRATES THE INAUGURATION OF ITS EIGHTH PRESIDENT DR. JERRYL BRIGGS, SR.

Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) capped off its 2018 Founder's Week by marking another important milestone in the legacy and advancement of the University—the installation of its eighth president, Dr. Jerryl Briggs, Sr.

Faculty, students, alumni, community members and higher education officials from across the state and nation gathered in MVSU's Walter Roberts Auditorium Friday, April 20, for the historic occasion.

During the investiture ceremony, Briggs was formally invested with the responsibility and authority as president of MVSU by Commissioner of Higher Education Glenn F. Boyce and President of the Board of Trustees of the State Institutions of Higher Learning C.D. Smith, Jr.

"This is a special moment in the history of this outstanding institution," said Boyce. Briggs is a man with a wealth of experience in higher education and truly understands students and the services and support they need to be successful both on campus and in life."

Reflecting on the institution's transformation from a cotton field into a flourishing institution of higher learning, Boyce said Briggs has



the skillset needed to continue moving the University forward.

"His experiences throughout his career have

prepared him perfectly for this moment," he said. We're fortunate to have a leader of his

See "Inauguration" page 7

JOHNSON KEYNOTES MVSU'S 68TH FOUNDER'S CONVOCATION

The year was 1976 when Gloria Johnson received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Mississippi Valley State University.

42 years later, Johnson returned to her alma mater on Thursday, April 19, to serve as the keynote speaker for the institution's 68th Annual Founder's Convocation.

Hosted in the Walter Roberts Auditorium of the H.G. Carpenter Building, the event embraced the week's theme, "Keeping Valley in Motion: Connecting our Founding to our Future."

A native of Delta City, Miss., Johnson said she enrolled in MVSU with her best friend on a



JOHNSON

full academic scholarship, becoming the first in her family to receive a college degree.

"The Valley instilled in me confidence, character, a lifelong quest to learn and the wherewithal to support myself after graduation," Johnson said.

Alluding to the theme, Johnson dissected the keywords of the phrase, highlighting the significance of "motion" and detailing why "connecting" and preparing for the "future" are essential.

She then encouraged the audience to keep moving forward.

"Success is never final. No matter how good you are, you can continue to improve," she said.

"Education is the key to continued success," Johnson said.

"One way as a society that we can stay prepared for our future is to continue educating our citizens. MVSU is widely regarded for its inclusive excellence. HBCUs serve a great purpose and forge a pathway to success for many students," she said.

Johnson is retired and was employed by

See "Convocation" page 4

MVSU ALUM NAMED DIRECTOR OF USDA'S SOUTHEAST AREA

A Mississippi Valley State University alum now heads up a national research agency dedicated to finding solutions to agricultural problems that affect Americans every day.

Archie Tucker ('79) of Greenville, Miss. was recently named director of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Southeast Area.

Tucker has spent a 42-year career with the Stoneville-based USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS), where he started in 1974 as a 16-year-old student under the president's "Stay-in-School" program. He worked part-time while completing high school and during his four years at MVSU, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

Tucker was named to his current position after becoming the agency's acting director in Dec. 2017. Prior to that, he served as associate area director since 2015.

"I am extremely pleased to be named area director. I am grateful to Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young, ARS administrator, for giving me the opportunity to lead the Southeast Area," Tucker said.

"The research and administrative experience I have gained during my 42-year career with ARS has prepared me for this position. I am looking forward to providing effective leadership to the Southeast Area," he added.



TUCKER

Tucker has served in many capacities for the agency, including as acting area director for the Mid-South area; acting research leader for the Biological Control of Pests Research Unit; and acting deputy area director for the Beltsville Area.

With his extensive experience, Tucker is well-respected not only within ARS and USDA, but also among commodity groups, stakeholders, and university cooperators.

"There has been nobody who has played a more pivotal role in the success of agricultural research in the Mid-South over such an extensive period as Archie Tucker," said George King, president of Delta Council, in a recent interview. Delta Council is pleased that we will be continuing our close working relationship with him and the entire USDA-ARS team to impact the challenges and opportunities of our largest industry."

The ARS is the USDA's chief scientific in-house research agency. With over 90 research locations and overseas laboratories, its vision is to lead America towards a better future through agricultural research and information.

For more information about ARS, visit www.ars.usda.gov.

MVSU ALUM SELECTED FOR NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP TO HELP CULTIVATE LOCAL ECONOMIES

Mississippi Valley State University alum Tim Lampkin ('08) has been named to the 2018 cohort of the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies (BALLE) Local Economy Fellowship.

The Clarksdale, Miss. native joins 25 leaders recognized as representing some of the most innovative local economic and community development solutions in the U.S. and Canada.

The fellows have been noted for pushing the boundaries of economic change and championing locally-based, regenerative rural enterprise. They have been identified as visionaries, innovators, and strategic connectors who are supporting and strengthening thousands of rural communities and businesses across 16 states and three Canadian provinces.

Lampkin joins the group as a nationally recognized social entrepreneur who utilizes his expertise to improve low-income communities through his

Clarksdale-based non-profit, Higher Purpose Co.

"I have been working to improve the Mississippi Delta for over a decade. MVSU gave me a solid foundation and helped me to develop my ability to lead, collaborate, and implement meaningful projects with sometimes limited resources," Lampkin said.

Lampkin said his latest achievement will help him to continue his mission to uplift others, particularly in the Mississippi Delta.

"The BALLE fellowship provides an opportunity for me to expand the impact of my non-profit, Higher Purpose Co., which is focused on building community wealth across our region," he said. I'm ready to connect and

learn from the other amazing fellows from around the USA and Canada."

Lampkin earned a B. S. degree in Business Administration from MVSU, an MBA from Delta State University, and a M.S. in Organizational Performance from Bellevue University. He completed executive education at Harvard Kennedy School of Government and is currently finishing his Doctorate of Education at the University of Arkansas.

Lampkin is the CEO of Higher Purpose Co., a non-profit social impact agency dedicated to building community wealth in the Northwest Region of the Mississippi Delta by focusing on small business development, strategic real estate investing, and social enterprise initiatives.

Based in Oakland, Calif., BALLE was founded in 2001 and represents thousands of communities and conveners, entrepreneurs, investors and funders who are defying business as usual. Its mission is to create local economies that work for all.



LAMPKIN

MVSU TEAMS UP WITH ATMOS ENERGY TO CONSERVE WATER, BUDGET



Just about every parent with a college-age child will tell you that their home water bill dropped significantly after their teen moved to campus. So, what can a college or university do to save hot water with a campus full of young people?

One Mississippi university thinks it has the answer. The Atmos Energy SmartChoice Program recently installed energy-efficient, low-flow devices across the campus of Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU). The goal is to help reduce the natural gas and water consumption of the University.

“We installed over 200 showerheads that are 1.5 gallon per minute (GPM) to replace old showerheads that were running at 2.5-3.0 GPM,” said John Thompson, associate program manager for CLEAResult. We also installed over 750 faucet aerators that are 0.5 GPM to replace aerators that are 2.2 GPM.”

According to Thompson, these energy-saving devices save thousands of gallons of water per year without sacrificing water pressure or performance. The equipment has a pressure compensating mechanism that provides a

constant output of water pressure and helps to filter debris and build-up inside the showerhead or faucet.

What makes the program even better is that these devices were provided and installed at no-cost by Atmos Energy.

“We expect that the energy saving measures that were installed at MVSU will save the university over 28,000 therms of natural gas per year, which is an estimated \$17,000 annually,” said Terrance Hursley, MVSU’s director of facilities. “Also, we expect to save over 3,000,000 gallons of water per year by having this equipment installed. We are appreciative to Atmos for their help in making our campus more efficient.”

MVSU and Atmos Energy are committed to working together to find other ways to reduce energy consumption throughout the campus.

The Atmos Energy SmartChoice Program is dedicated to helping commercial and residential customers throughout the state to be more energy efficient and stop energy waste.

MERIDIAN ALUMNI CHAPTER HOST SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET



A group of MVSU scholarship recipients recently attended the Greater Meridian MVSU Chapter’s Green and White Scholarship Banquet. Dr. Jacqueline Gibson Preastley, MVSU’s vice president of student affairs, served as the keynote speaker during the special event. Pictured, from left, are Jamiereia Hampton, sophomore; Netanya Kegler, junior; Jada Allen, sophomore; MVSU Director of the Student Leadership and Engagement Pamela Hilton; Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Jacqueline Gibson Preastly; Patrice Otero, junior; Jala Allen, sophomore; and India Sharp, freshman.

MVSU'S DELTA MU DELTA HOSTS INDUCTION CEREMONY



Pictured (front row, from left) are Jasmine Parker of Sunflower, Miss.; Derrion Alexander of Winona, Miss.; Morgan Houston of Isola, Miss.; Najee Green of Memphis, Tenn.; Jangela Burden of Tchula, MS; Dr. Curessia Brown, acting chair of MVSU Business Department; (second row) Jessica Barnes, instructor; Shayla King of Holly Springs, Miss.; Lashundra Holston of Itta Bena, Miss.; Sylvia Sutton, Clarksdale, Miss.; Tamika Jefferson, Itta Bena, Miss.; (third row) Dr. Mary L. Shepherd, assistant professor; Cameron Shaw of Greenwood, Miss.; Prestisha Smith of Shaw, Miss.; Jeanette Shavers of Indianola, Miss.; Jamiya Edwards of Itta Bena, Miss.; (fourth row) Jeremy Lockhart of Moorhead, MS; Jearline Bryant, instructor; Caleb Collier of Canton, MS; Lonzia Copeland of Greenwood, MS; Sydney Floyd of Murfreesboro, Tenn.; Kimberly White of Vaiden, Miss.; Naraseeyappa Rajanikanth, OMP coordinator / assistant professor; Charles Sanders, instructor; Darren Parker of Victoria, Miss.; LaDarrius Ross of Itta Bena, Miss.; Charles Miller of Clarksdale, Miss.; Shelia Jackson-Grant of Greenville, Miss.; and Dr. Jongchai Kim, associate professor.

The Iota Kappa Chapter of Delta Mu Delta International Honor Society in Business inducted 21 new members Thursday, April 12. Hosted in MVSU's Business Education building, the induction ceremony was conducted by the current chapter officers.

Chapter officers for the 2017-2018 school-term were Morgan Houston, president; Jasmine Parker, vice president; Jangela Burden, secretary; Virginia Bolden, treasurer; and Dr. Mary L. Shepherd, faculty advisor.

Convocation *continued from cover*

Mississippi from 1987 until May 2016. She began her career with Baxter Travenol Laboratories in Cleveland, Miss., and later joined Uncle Ben's Foods of Greenville where she served as Cost Services Coordinator for nine years.

In her final remarks, Johnson acknowledged the role MVSU had in preparing her to compete in a global society.

"Thank you for helping to write the success story of one Delta girl who had a dream," she said.

A member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Johnson was presented with a plaque commemorating the occasion by President Dr. Jerryl Briggs and a gift bag presented by Erin Peery, president of MVSU's Epsilon Pi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha.

Also during the ceremony, the Greenwood-Itta Bena Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. presented the University with a \$10,000 check to support ten \$1,000 scholarships to MVSU students.

The presentation was made in honor of Delta Sigma Theta member First Lady Augusta C. White, wife of MVSU's founding president, Dr. Herbert White.

MVSU President Dr. Jerryl Briggs also gave special recognition to family and friends of MVSU employees who have passed away.

Among those honored were Dr. W.A. Butts, Dr. Joseph Wahome, Irma Burks Daily and Charles Ruth.

MVSU STUDENT LEADERS ATTEND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

MVSU's Office of Student Leadership and Engagement sponsored four students to attend the 2nd Annual Collegiate Leadership Conference, hosted April 14 at Mississippi State University. The one-day conference was aimed at assisting college students with expanding their leadership skills and to extend them with the opportunity to meet like-minded students and professionals. Students also enhanced their skills in the areas of communication, diversity and inclusion, social responsibility, and personal identity and development. It was the hope of MSU that this conference would inspire students to recognize their potential to be successful leaders and responsible citizens both on and off their campuses.



Pictured, from left, are MVSU students Janice Citchens of Clarksdale, Miss.; JaQuana Williams of Atlanta, Ga; Benjamin Honer of Jackson, Miss.; and Patice Otero of Greenwood, Miss.

YOUNG MUSICIANS ATTEND MVSU'S ANNUAL PIANO FESTIVAL

Over sixty young musicians visited the campus of Mississippi Valley State University Saturday, April 21, for the 23rd Annual MVSU Piano Festival. Organized by the Department of Fine Arts, the festival was designed to bring an increased awareness to the Mississippi Delta and surrounding areas of the value and importance of piano study throughout childhood and beyond. The event catered to both elementary and advanced piano students and included recitals, award presentations, and the chance to earn music scholarships.

This year's festival was co-sponsored by Bank of Commerce, Charles Hall Studio, Cowan Music, Greenwood Matinee Musicale, Greenwood Rotary Club, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Planters Bank, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and Walmart.



Pictured, front row, from left, are Danasia Lewis, Laylah Griffin, Kanisha Gatson, Cayla Hamer, Taichi Harris, Ethan Stuckey, Kadijah Sims Taylor, Fa'lencia Sims Taylor, Shamarye Lee and Realyn Roberts; Back row, Jordan Allen, Destane Lewis, Anna Joi Gooden, MacKenzie Morris, Japhia Howard, Jge'Marriyah Evans, Shondarius Chapple and Gregory Neely.



Pictured, front row, from left, are Alilliana Kuykendall, A'Lerica Carmichael, Ameerah Salha, Arieana Tumer, Audrey Crocker, Noah Thomas Hollins, Amaan Joel Jemsbeer, Pharoah Dukes, Nayriah Westerfield, Akeel Haroon and Kayla Boddan; back row, Anthom Ahanonu, Shania Kenniel, Alexis Smith, Arnav Thakur, Raghav Nallani, Desmond Matthews, Ta'Neria Brooks and Elon Brunus.

MVSU SURVEYS “EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER THE LAW” DURING ACADEMIC FORUM

“Equal Justice Under the Law” is a common phrase in the American legal system, but what exactly does it mean? Mississippi Valley State University explored this societal ideal during its Spring 2018 Academic Forum Thursday, April 5.

Themed “Explaining the Concept of ‘Equal Justice Under the Law,’” the event was keynoted by Attorney Rhonda Cooper.

Cooper, a professor of Political Science at Jackson State University, discussed with MVSU and local high school students, faculty, staff and community members in attendance the implications of the ideal for American citizens.

She also used the opportunity to school those in attendance on the functions of the three branches of state and federal government, as well as the roles and responsibilities of various actors and agencies.

“An alleged criminal offender is innocent until proven guilty. That is a societal idea based on principles,” explained Cooper.

“Every alleged offender is a citizen with rights guaranteed under the United State’s constitution,” she added.

Using past and recent court cases as an example, Cooper said that sometimes the law



Attorney Rhonda C. Cooper, pictured left, was presented with an award by MVSU’s Criminal Justice Department Chair Dr. Emmanuel Amadi, for serving as the guest speaker during the Spring 2018 Academic Forum.

can fall short.

“We have to understand and accept that, in some instances, not every citizen is afforded equal justice under the law,” she said.

The event concluded with a question and answer session and an award presentation to Cooper

from MVSU’s Criminal Justice Department Chair Dr. Emmanuel Amadi, organizer of the event.

MVSU’s Spring 2018 Academic Forum is supported by funds awarded by the Charles Koch Foundation, under the direction of Amadi.

NEWLY-ELECTED SGA OFFICIALS ATTEND IHL’S BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



Pictured (from left), MVSU Chief of Staff-elect Jordan Freeman and SGA President-elect Brandon McCall recently attended the IHL’s Board of Trustees meeting April 19 along with SGA officials from other IHL institutions. Both incoming and outgoing Student Body Presidents attended the board meeting followed by a transition meeting of the Student Body Presidents’ Council. The agenda for the Student Body Presidents’ Council meeting included introductions of the newly elected student body presidents from each university, election of council officers for 2018-2019, advice from the outgoing student body presidents, and plans for the upcoming year.

WELCOME ABOARD



Precious Bailey
Academic Advisor
Athletics



caliber to guide us and take us to a new point in history.”

During his inaugural address, Briggs accepted the charge and said he considers it a privilege to serve the University.

“It is indeed a blessing for me and my family to be here standing before you as the eighth president of Mississippi Valley State University,” he said.

“I’d like to thank Commissioner Boyce, Board President C.D. Smith and other board members here today for entrusting in me this opportunity and having the confidence in me to serve. I also want to thank the Valley family for sharing that confidence as well ... You all have embraced me from day one, and it has truly been a blessing.”

Noting the University’s humble beginnings in 1950, Briggs said he plans to continue building upon the University’s commitment and dedication to academic excellence.

“This is our Founder’s Week, and to have this ceremony now just shows, for me, that I’m standing on some very tall shoulders,” he said. There are some individuals who toiled and really worked to make sure that this institution was successful, and I owe a lot to them. They paved the way so that I can stand here today, and I’m just really blessed to be a part of this great institution.”

Briggs then shared his vision for the University, explaining the meaning behind his addition of “...IN MOTION” to the University’s

mantra, “ONE GOAL. ONE TEAM. ONE VALLEY.”

Using an acronym, Briggs said “MOTION” stands for: Motivation, Optimistic, Time, Inspiration, Outspoken, and “No” is not the answer.

“I have a love for higher education, and I really have a true love for HBCUs,” he said. We’re doing some great things. We’re going to continue to support each other, and we’re going to continue to give... someone gave back to me, and it’s my responsibility to assure that others have those same chances.”

During the ceremony, family and friends shared reflections of Briggs and the special moments they’ve shared with him.

Among them were Briggs’ older sister, Gizele Briggs Leon, who fought back tears as she shared what the moment meant to their family.

“He’s a great inspiration to us, and we’re very proud of him,” she said. I am so proud to call my brother President Dr. Jerryl Briggs, but the proudest person who would be here today is my mother.”

Briggs, a self-proclaimed “mama’s boy”, also gave a special tribute to his mother, Varna Briggs, who passed away in 2005.

“I have to give all my credit to my mother. I know that although she’s not here physically, she’s looking down on her son with tears in eyes,” he said. Her love for us was just unwavering, and

she sacrificed everything to make sure that we had what we needed in order to be successful. I will always give my mother all the glory.”

Others giving salutations during the ceremony included Carolyn McAdams, mayor of Greenwood, Miss.

“We’re very excited that Dr. Jerryl Briggs was chosen to take the lead at Mississippi Valley State University,” she said. The Valley has a tremendous impact on the economy of Greenwood, roughly \$13 million. Not only does it contribute to the tax base, but it provides us with an educated workforce that impacts the entire Mississippi Delta.”

Briggs’ mentees, Brandon Bigelow and Brittany Stephens, said that he played an instrumental role in their growth and development both personally and professionally.

Stephens, who met the then Dean Briggs on the campus of Lincoln University, said that Briggs is the reason why she pursued her education and is currently working in higher education administration.

Bigelow said he’s also currently pursuing a Ph.D. because of the support he received from Briggs, who stepped in like a father-figure to him.

“I like to say that I went from a juvenile facility to receiving a Master of Divinity and it’s because of (Briggs),” Bigelow remarked. He instilled hope and confidence in a young black male from the hood of Philadelphia and told him that he could.”

Those in attendance also had the opportunity to learn more about Briggs’ personal side with reflections from long-time friends, mentors and fraternity brothers (Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.).

“I know him to be solid, fair, courageous—he’ll step out on a limb, he’ll ask for input, and when he makes a decision, he’ll stand by it and make it happen,” said Rod Batiste of Atlanta, Briggs’ friend of 37 years.

“Valley faculty and staff, you all are in great hands,” he added.

The ceremony concluded with Briggs assuring he would continue moving the institution forward on an upward trajectory.

“I promise you that this University will remain ‘in MOTION,’” he said. We will remain committed to our history, our past. But we’re also going to continue to grow, and we’re going to be successful.”





TWENTYEIGHTEEN
FUNDER'S WEEK
APRIL 16-20
HIGHLIGHTS
"KEEP MISSISSIPPI VALLEY IN MOTION: CONNECTING OUR FOUNDING TO OUR FUTURE"







Presidential Inauguration

DR. JERRYL BRIGGS, SR.

THE EIGHTH PRESIDENT OF
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

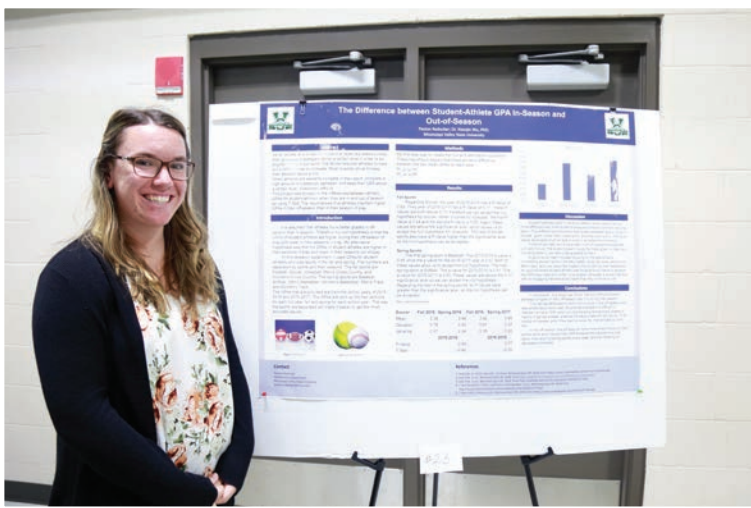




STUDENTS PUT “RESEARCH IN MOTION AT THE VALLEY”

During Research Day, hosted April 12 in the R.W. Harrison Sports Complex, Mississippi Valley State University celebrated the scholarship and creative work of undergraduate and graduate students. Themed, “Research in Motion at the Valley,” the event showcased MVSU’s commitment to inquiry-based, student-centered, integrated learning. This year, 56 undergraduate and 44 graduate students delivered oral and poster presentations during the event. These presentations represented various academic disciplines, including: Humanities, STEM, Social Sciences and Social Work. All participants received a certificate of participation.

For a complete list of winners, see next page.



MVSU HOSTS ITS INAUGURAL CLERGY DAY

Over a dozen clergy members from area churches attended Mississippi Valley State University's inaugural Clergy Day event April 25. The celebration was an opportunity for MVSU faculty and staff to show their appreciation to the clergy members for all they do, while also engaging in a robust conversation about how MVSU can better assist them and how they can help share the great things about MVSU to their congregations and the community at-large.



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE
UNIVERSITY
**RESEARCH
DAY**

"RESEARCH IN MOTION AT THE VALLEY"

WINNERS

UNDERGRADUATE PAPER PRESENTATIONS

SOCIAL SCIENCE:

1st - Deveon Treadway

HUMANITIES:

1st - Emily Denton
2nd - JaCheri Brown
3rd - Shynar Gubaidullina

UNDERGRADUATE POSTERS

HUMANITIES:

1st - Egypt Williams & Jermarius Rushing (Poster 2)
2nd - Latrice Carothers (Poster 46)
2nd - Jordan Anderson (Poster 45)
3rd - Tahari Brags (Poster 44)

SOCIAL SCIENCE:

1st - Christopher George & Careda Dukes (Poster 4)
1st - Bianca Watkins & Mubarak Ibrahim (Poster 6)
2nd - Kambreca Mitchell (Poster 8)
2nd - Khadijah Kidd (Poster 9)
3rd - Kentrell Randolph (Poster 10)

SOCIAL SCIENCES:

1st - Yasmine McClain, Courtney Seller & Lisa Ramsey
2nd - Alexis Williams, Alesia Hunter & ShiNiese Good
3rd - Elizabeth Dixon, Markita Smith & Sharon Wilson

STEM:

1st - Aidane Tynyshkali
2nd - Vinoth Porkodi
3rd - Melvin Johnson

PAPER PRESENTATION

HUMANITIES:

Shannon Bowden

STEM:

Grace A. Adegoye

STEM:

1st - Keiandria McClee & Caitlin Daisie Garrison (Poster 20)
1st - La'Andrea Gates & Kyanie Waters (Presenter 29)
2nd - Bria Daniels (Poster 17)
2nd - Derrick Lane II (Poster 18)
3rd - Deja Pool (Poster 27)
3rd - Takejah Harris

GRADUATE POSTERS

HUMANITIES:

1st - Clell Ward
2nd - Jockquelene D. Ward
3rd - Malcolm Moore



Spread the pride, experience the

culture!

CultureSnap



Download the **culture**snap app today
for access to custom MVSU filters.

MVSU EXPLORES CYBERSECURITY DURING FACULTY RESEARCH PRESENTATION

MVSU Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice Dr. Alaba Oludare and Instructor Christopher Lanclos of MVSU's Mathematics, Computer, and Information Science (MCIS) Department and Cybersecurity Center educated the public regarding the correlation of cybersecurity and homeland security during a Faculty Research Presentation April 11.

The presentation, hosted in the Social Science Auditorium, was entitled "Why Cybersecurity is Essential to Homeland Security." The exploratory research utilized findings from a case study to present policy implications and recommendations to those in attendance.

The research was supported by funds awarded by the Charles Koch Foundation, under the direction of Dr. Emmanuel Amadi, chair of MVSU's Criminal Justice Department.



SANDERS AND HOOVER GRAB TOP SPOT IN CHOPPED COMPETITION



Jasmyne Sanders and LaFecia Hoover won the Valley in Motion inaugural Chopped competition. Pictured from left, are Christine Campbell, VIM project coordinator; Dr. Jerryl Briggs Sr., MVSU President; Sanders, Hoover and Chef Micheal Carroll.

Two
Minutes
with...

Evonna N. Lucas

Office Manager, MVSU Alumni Relations

Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

I'm a native of Greenwood, MS. I am a 2009 graduate of Greenwood High School and a 2013 graduate of Mississippi Valley State University, where I received a degree in Speech Communications. As a product of the Mississippi Delta, I've spent my professional career marketing the region and its assets to the world, serving as the Sales and Marketing Manager for the Greenwood Convention & Visitors Bureau and as the Marketing and Communications Manager for the B.B. King Museum in Indianola, Miss. Most recently, I transitioned onto a new path by working in higher education. I am currently the Manager of Alumni Relations here at my own alma mater, and I am committed to the continued advancement of the University. I enjoy sharing its accomplishments with alums and friends worldwide! Passionate about youth and children, I serve as the youth director for Wesley United Methodist Church, where I also direct the Youth and Children's Choir.

How do you approach providing service?

My grandmother always taught me that kindness and respect go a long way, so I remember those words of wisdom when servicing others. I also always try to treat others the way I want to be treated. So, being kind, respectful and following "The Golden Rule" is always the way to go!

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

While I enjoy traveling, cooking for my loved ones, and enjoying a concert or two; I'm typically home enjoying a good book, catching up on my favorite shows, or enjoying the outdoors with my feisty Pomeranian puppy, Chaz!

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

I am a Disney Movie fanatic and have been since I was a little girl. Beauty and the Beast is my favorite! I literally know ALL the songs from the movie!



COMMUNIQUÉ

The Communiqué is published for faculty, staff, alumni and supporters of Mississippi Valley State University by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Editorial material should be sent to news@mvsu.edu or mailed to:

**OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND MARKETING**
Mississippi Valley State University
MVSU 7233 • 14000 Hwy. 82 W.
Itta Bena, MS 38941-1400

For more information, call 662.254.3578
or email news@mvsu.edu

Dameon A. Shaw
*Interim Vice President for
University Advancement*

Brittany Davis-Green
Director

John McCall
Senior Graphic Designer

Joseph Cotton
Associate Graphic Designer

Donell Maxie
Communications Specialist

Shanae Curry
Project Coordinator



Dr. Jerryl Briggs
President



@MississippiValley



@MVSUDEVILS

New Hashtag: #GOMVSU

Mississippi Valley State University complies with all applicable laws regarding affirmative action and equal opportunity in all its activities and programs and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation or group affiliation, age, disability, handicap, or status as a veteran or disabled veteran.