



COMMUNIQUÉ

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MVSU & FEDEX LOGISTICS CELEBRATE GRAND OPENING OF SATELLITE OFFICE, LAUNCH OF HBCU PROGRAM

The atmosphere was festive Wednesday morning at Mississippi Valley State University as individuals came out to formally celebrate the grand opening of the MVSU FedEx Logistics satellite office and the launch of FedEx Logistics' new Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Program.

The event, hosted at 10 a.m. Sept. 4 at the MVSU Courtyard, was highlighted by a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The newly renovated satellite office was in peripheral view as representatives from MVSU and FedEx joined together to address the audience made up of MVSU employees, students, alumni, community members and special guests from FedEx.

The brief program was presided by MVSU's Chief of Staff & Legislative Liaison Dr. La Shon F. Brooks, who led MVSU's team during the implementation of the project.

Keynote speakers included MVSU President Dr. Jerryl Briggs, Senior Vice President/Chief Human Resources & Diversity Officer for



FedEx Express Shannon Brown, and Vice President of U.S. Brokerage for FedEx Logistics Bethany Rochelau.

Briggs began by acknowledging MVSU students.

"Honestly, they're the reason why we're here. They're the reason why the University is here," he said. "Everything we do here is geared towards making our students successful, and

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BRIGGS ENCOURAGES CONTINUED STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH RETENTION, PERSISTENCE DURING UNIVERSITY ADDRESS



Retention and persistence are the "one goal" for the upcoming academic year, said Mississippi Valley State University President Dr. Jerryl Briggs to the hundreds of MVSU faculty and staff members attending the Fall 2019 Faculty and Staff Orientation.

"All of what we're going to be doing this year will focus on retention and persistence, and it's going to be written into all of our expectations because we all play a part in that," said Briggs to the hundreds of MVSU faculty and staff members attending the Fall 2019 Faculty and Staff Orientation Monday, Aug. 19.

"One of the important things about us as an institution is that we don't dismiss our students, we help them...we're going to do everything to ensure our students' success," he added.

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MVSU KICKS-OFF FALL 2019 GRADUATE READ-IN WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISCUSSION

Mississippi Valley State University Graduate Studies program recently kicked-off its Fall 2019 Graduate Read-In with a discussion on Alzheimer's disease.

The Graduate Read-In is a series of events centered around a common read. The book selected for this semester is "Before I Forget: Love, Hope, Help, and Acceptance in Our Fight Against Alzheimer's" by B. Smith and Dan Gasby. The book explores the complexities of Alzheimer's disease, exploring how it tests both patient and family.

"Any book we choose for our Graduate Read-In is one that includes topics that any graduate discipline can study," said Dr. Abigail S. Newsome, coordinator of MVSU's Bioinformatics program. "Alzheimer's can be dissected from a wide-array of perspectives. It's also a disease that affects the lives of many individuals within our community."

The first in the series of events was an Alzheimer's panel discussion, hosted at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10, in the Mary E. Crump Auditorium.

The panelists were family medicine physician Dr. Reginald Rigsby of Canton, Miss.; activity director of Garden Park Adult Day Center Shirley Garrett of Greenwood, Miss.; Tina



Bancroft of the Alzheimer's Association, Mississippi Chapter; and Attorney Fred Clark of Greenwood, Miss.

During the event, moderated by Dr. Newsome, participants shared their personal experiences with the disease and discussed legal and medical concerns with the audience, which was made up of students, faculty, staff and community members.

Upcoming events include a book club discussion at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15, in the Mary E. Crump Auditorium of MVSU's Science and

Technology Center.

The events will cap off with an Alzheimer's Research Symposium at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12. The event will be highlighted by an appearance from author Dan Gasby, who will serve as the guest speaker.

MVSU graduate students will also present their research on Alzheimer's disease.

The Fall 2019 Graduate Read-In is supported by funds from the New Masters grant made possible by the U.S. Department of Education.

THOMPKINS NAMED SWAC DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Senior football defensive back Tracy Thompkins (Miami, Fla.) was named the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Defensive Player of the Week for Week 2 of the 2019 football season. The acknowledgement was announced by the SWAC on Monday (Sept. 9).

Thompkins also received Honorable Mention from STATS Perform in their National Players of the Week announcement.

He led the Delta Devils in tackles during this past Saturday's (Sept. 7) overtime loss to Lamar. For the second time in his career, Thompkins reached 15 tackles in a game. 13 of those tackles were solo, along with two assists.

The senior stands atop the SWAC in made tackles with 27, including a 12 tackle performance in the team's opener at Tennessee State on August 31st.



Mississippi Valley is off in football this week as they prepare for their home opener September

21st versus Bethune-Cookman. Kickoff will be at 6 p.m..

MVSU NAMES STROMILE GOLDEN PROVOST/ VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

President Dr. Jerryl Briggs recently announced Dr. Kathie Stromile Golden as Mississippi Valley State University's Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA).

Briggs extended the offer to Golden following an extensive national search. She officially began in her new role on Aug. 15.

"I'm looking forward to working with Dr. Golden as she serves in the capacity of provost and senior vice president for academic affairs," said Briggs during the announcement. "Dr. Golden brings with her in this new role a wealth of knowledge and experience, as well as a genuine love for MVSU. She is an asset to MVSU, and I am confident that she will be able to help us ensure the University's continued success."

As Provost/VPAA, Golden serve as the institution's chief academic officer, possessing broad responsibilities for articulating an academic vision, which includes providing high-level leadership to all academic areas, and administering and enhancing educational programs reflective of the University's mission.



GOLDEN

As a member of the institution's Executive and Extended Cabinets, Golden also plays an integral role in the overall management of the institution and advises President Briggs on pertinent issues relating to the University, its governing board and various accrediting agencies.

Golden, who most recently served as the Director of International Programs and Special Assistant to the President's Office at MVSU, said she is looking forward to meeting the opportunities and challenges that accompany the position.

"My experiences working with MVSU colleagues, students, alumni and friends of the University for almost 20 years will inform my approach to performing the duties and responsibilities associated with the position," said Golden. "I am excited about and confident in my ability to make positive contributions to the University, and I am honored for having

been selected for the position."

Golden's professional experience includes servings as MVSU's Associate Vice President for Academic from 2014 to 2017, during which she oversaw the affirmation of three academic programs and helped to secure \$3.35 million in external funding.

As the director of MVSU's International Programs, Golden helped to develop MVSU's International programs and increased the University's international visibility through the solidification of partnerships in Nigeria, Kazakhstan and the Republic of Georgia with governmental agencies and educational institutions.

Golden served as the Iraq Public Health and Sanitation project coordinator for the Mississippi Consortium of International Development (2003-2005) and is the former director of the Delta Research and Cultural Institute (2001-2003).

See "Provost" *next page*

BUZZZZ: MVSU'S HAYES STUDIES BEES DURING SUMMER INTERNSHIP WITH USDA'S ICE



Mississippi Valley State University's Tayia Hayes of Tutwiler spent this summer working and studying with the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Insect Cryobiology and Entomology (ICE) Network at North Dakota State University.

The ICE Network is a group of undergraduates, graduate students, postdocs, North Dakota State University faculty, and USDA-ARS government scientists all working together to study insect physiology.

A collaboration between Biological Sciences and the USDA-Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS), the program is interested in using biological questions to solve agricultural problems, especially when it comes to bees.

Hayes was introduced to the opportunity through MVSU Professor Dr. Rachel Beecham, who then connected her with the program's director, Kendra Greenlee.

See "Internship" *page 5*

HEARTBREAKER IN BEAUMONT AS VALLEY NEARLY UPSETS LAMAR UNIVERSITY

With 3:18 remaining on the clock, Mississippi Valley State was in a prime position for pulling off one of the greatest upsets in college football. When all was said and done, the Delta Devils suffered heartbreak as Lamar rallied to tie, then win in overtime by a 23-20 final Saturday (Sept. 7) at Provo Stadium in Beaumont, Texas.

The defense was stellar for the vast majority of the game, forcing three turnovers and reducing the offensive firepower of the Cardinals. Tracy Thompkins (Miami, Fla.) registered 15 tackles for the second time as a Delta Devil, and Keonte Daniels (Noxapater, Miss.) added 10 tackles and his second fumble recovery of the season. Valley also received a fumble recovery from Eric Powell (Glen Burnie, Md.) and an interception by Rod Sylvestre (Margate, Fla.).

Dejerric Bryant (Mize, Miss.) was in on all three scores for Valley. He rushed for two and added a passing touchdown to Johnny Wilson (Tylertown, Miss.). Bryant ended the day with 218 yards - 127 on the ground and 91 through the air. John Derrick Smith (Greenwood, Miss.) and Dewayne Barnett (Gulfport, Miss.) carried the pigskin in almost equal measure for a combined 76 yards. Wilson and Jarius Clayton (Kemper, Miss.) recorded three receptions each.

Punter Justin Read (Melbourne, Australia) helped Valley in the field position game, pinning the Cardinals inside the 20 once and earning a career best 57 yard punt.

For the Cardinals, quarterback Jordan Hoy led all players with 301 yards, adding two rushing scores. Dallas Martin led the defense with 14 tackles and a fumble recovery.

Both defenses set the tone early with a scoreless first quarter. Valley changed courses from a week



ago as they committed to running the football. Their first drive consisted of six run plays lasting more than five minutes, but ultimately resulted in a punt. Lamar had the only scoring chance which resulted in a missed field goal.

The Delta Devils drew first blood early in the second. Capitalizing on good field position the visitors marched 58 yards for a touchdown, with Bryant punching in from two yards out. The score woke up their counterparts, and the Cardinals followed with a 70 yard scoring drive of their own. Lamar missed a second field goal at the closing seconds, and the squads entered halftime deadlocked, 7-7.

The Cardinals took their first lead with their first drive of the second half. Valley did hold the opposition in a goal line stand, but a chip

shot gave Lamar a 10-7 advantage. Midway through the quarter, Valley regained the lead when Bryant found Wilson in the endzone to go up 13-10. However, in what turned out to be a crucial moment, the extra point attempt was blocked.

Valley's defense worked to provide the momentum with two turnovers in the fourth. Sylvestre picked off Hoy with 11:59 remaining, and Powell recovered a fumble by Hoy after Jerry Garner (Chunchula, Ala.) stripped him. But both offensive opportunities for the Delta Devils ended with three-and-outs. Lamar seized off a good return after their second stop, and a 27 yard drive resulted in a game-tying field goal.

Bryant and company did rise to the occasion after the tie. A 37 yard strike to Wilson opened up the run again, and the Delta Devil quarterback found a hole for a 22 yard rushing score. With 3:18 on the clock, Valley could smell the upset.

Facing that huge upset, Lamar orchestrated a nerve racking drive. Twice the Valley defense forced fourth down plays - and twice the Cardinals converted. Hoy continued to find receivers and running lanes despite the pass rush. He would score his second rushing touchdown with just 31 ticks on the clock, and Lamar forced overtime.



The Cardinals had the ball first and cashed in a field goal, leaving the door open for a potential game winning touchdown for Valley. But a negative rush and a sack left the Delta Devils at 4th and 25, and an incomplete pass sealed their fate.

Provost *continued from previous page*

Prior to that, she was the partnership coordinator and budget manager for the United Negro College Fund Special Programs Corporation from 1998 to 2001.

Golden served as the director of the Faculty Research Fund and as an associate professor of Political Science at Morris Brown College from 1996 to 1998. She was chair/ assistant professor of Political Science and director of

the International Relations graduate program at Morgan State University from 1993 to 1996.

Golden is the executive director of the National Conference of Black Political Scientist and is the director of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists Graduate Assistantship Program (GAP).

She has more than 40 years of academic experience, has published numerous

conference papers and scholarly articles and is the recipient of numerous national, state and international awards.

Golden received Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in Political Science from Southern University (Baton Rouge) in 1974 and 1975, respectively. She earned a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Kentucky in 1987.

CASH BEGINS ON A “HIGH NOTE” AS DIRECTOR OF CHORAL ACTIVITIES AT MVSU

At the age of four, Brandon Cash sang his first song publicly with the choir at Brown Grove Baptist Church in Ashland, VA.

As he belted out his first notes, he knew that he loved to sing.

His love and passion for singing has placed him on a journey that has now directed Cash to Itta Bena as the new director of choral activities at Mississippi Valley State University.

Cash comes to MVSU from Atlanta, where he has made a name for himself as a successful choral director and music administrator. He is the former director of Choral Activities at Maynard Holbrook Jackson High School. Cash also served as director of Choral Activities at Mount Zion High School and Jonesboro Middle School in Jonesboro, Ga.

With all that he has accomplished, Cash is now living what he describes as “a dream come true.”

“I am excited to be here,” said Cash. “Teaching college has always been a dream of mine. I used to see my college professor and director Mr. Royzell Dillard work with choirs and that inspired me.”

Cash said that he always saw a future in emulating what he saw Dillard doing.

“I could see myself doing the same thing, so I set myself up by teaching at middle and high schools to gain experience,” Cash explained.

Cash said his goal as the choir director at MVSU is to enhance the excellency that already exists in the program.



“My goal is to continue the legacy of choral music excellence. I will work to enhance that by taking the choir on tour, getting the choir more active in the community and hopefully, down the road, we can take the choir on an international tour,” Cash said.

Cash, 34, believes a director’s approach to music has to be informed by their experience and culture, while also pushing past what is comfortable.

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Internship *continued from page 3*

The ten-week program concluded on August 3.

“Things have been going great, and I feel research could be a possible career path of mine,” said Hayes, a biology major at MVSU.

“The process in itself is extremely rewarding—especially when the data compliments your hypothesis. All in all this experience has been a great one and I hope to return or continue my research experience in other avenues,” she added.

Hayes has been conducting entomology research with megachile rotundata, commonly known as the Alfalfa Leaf-cutter bees.

“The summer project that I have involves heat stress. My research attempts to see how heat



affects the Alfalfa Leaf-cutter bees considering they are poikilothermic ectotherms—meaning

they can’t control their own body temperatures,” Hayes explained.

The goal of the ICE Network is to understand how bees overcome harsh winter conditions to successfully emerge and reproduce in spring. North American bees spend most of their lives overwintering in a physiological state that protects them from the damage caused by low temperatures and conserves resources necessary for reproduction during the growing season.

Since joining the program, Hayes said she has learned a great deal of information.

“This summer has taught me many things that I was not aware of—one of them being bees are becoming endangered and that they pollinate a large part of our diet through fruits and vegetables,” Hayes said. “Without bees we will lose that essential food group.”

MVSU “STEM-U-LATE” STUDENTS DURING ITS SUMMER INSTITUTE

This summer, 13 students from colleges across the country visited Mississippi Valley State University to stimulate or, in this case, “STEM-U-late” their future career and educational plans.

MVSU’s Bioinformatics Program hosted its STEM-U-late (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics University – Leveraging Analytical Technologies for Education) Institute July 5 through Aug. 2.

The program was designed to allow aspiring students the opportunity to explore the field of bioinformatics through the integration of mathematics, computer science, and molecular biology.

To be considered for the institute, applicants had to be at least a sophomore in good academic standing at their respective university and majoring in a natural science, computer science, mathematics or a STEM discipline.

During the four-week program, students resided on MVSU’s campus and received a \$3,500 stipend. Their coursework and research were conducted in the MVSU Science and Technology Building.

Dr. Abigail Newsome, MVSU’s graduate coordinator of Bioinformatics, explained that the STEM-U-late Institute introduces scholars to the interdisciplinary nature of bioinformatics.

“Attendees can explore the use of scientific and computational components of bioinformatics and data mining techniques as they relate to agri-aquaculture and health,” Newsome said.

“They also received the opportunity to engage in topics ranging from the analysis of medical/ biomedical data, talking with leading scientists, and conducting genomic analyses,” she added.

Tiarra Hamilton, a junior Chemistry/Biology major from Dillard University, said that the institute introduced her to a new world of opportunities.

“I applied for this program to gain insight and to see what my options are. I also wanted to know more about what is in the field of chemistry and how this program could guide me in making those decisions,” Hamilton said.

Jackson State University Senior Biology major Ja’Merica Dixon said that before attending the institute, she was set on attending pharmacy school. However, the STEM-U-Late Institute has opened her eyes to other professional possibilities.



“In a normal setting in school, you may have one hour of lab work,” Dixon explained. “At the Institute, we were in the lab two-to-four hours a day, and that lab experience has been beneficial. The Bioinformatics program this summer has opened my eyes to other possibilities in case I change my mind and decide to do something else.”

Dixon admitted that before coming to MVSU this summer, she had no idea what all bioinformatics entailed.

“I came to get familiar with what it is. As a science major, there is a vast playing field of what you can major in, and bioinformatics is just another door that has been opened to us as far as career options are concerned,” she said.

Hamilton said that Bioinformatics is a unique combination of biology and computer science.

“As biologists, we get to perform all of the lab work, and then we get to transfer that information into the computer and analyze it,” Hamilton said. “This opportunity has opened our eyes to research-based career opportunities as well as teaching careers.”

Brandon Hawkins, who is from Jacksonville, Arkansas and a member of the MVSU baseball team, said he heard about the program from word of mouth and was excited to be extended the opportunity to attend.

“This program was a blessing for me,” said Hawkins, a senior biology major at MVSU. “With the institute I saw a unique opportunity... as I was going through the application process, I had two goals—establish lifetime connections



and friendships and also to learn new procedures and techniques. I was able to do both.”

Hawkins said that everyone seemed to take away a better understanding of educational and career opportunities in bioinformatics.

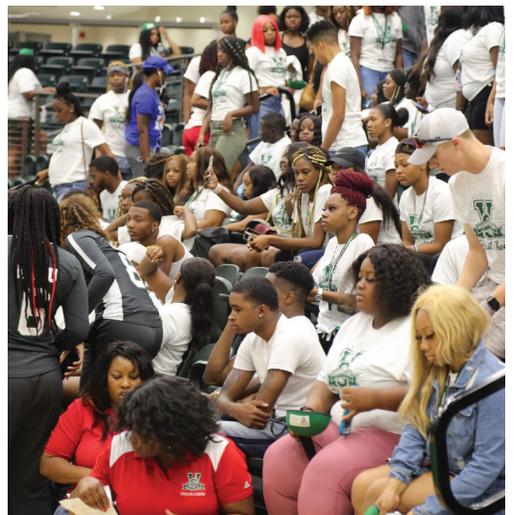
“Coming in we all had plans, and we knew what it was we wanted to do with our careers,” said Hawkins. This program broadened the field to what we can do. It made you think,” he said.

Students attending this year’s institute represented Alcorn State University, Dillard University, Edward Waters College, Jackson State University, Jarvis Christian College, Rust College, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and MVSU.

MVSU offers the only Master of Science in Bioinformatics degree in the state. To learn more about the graduate program, contact Newsome at (662) 254-3395 or e-mail bioinfo@mvsu.edu



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE
UNIVERSITY
**NEW STUDENT
ACADEMY**
WEEK AUGUST 18-AUGUST 25



MVSU'S HAWKINS NAMED WHISENTON PUBLIC SCHOLAR, ATTENDS LEARNING EXCHANGE

A recent distinction has provided one Mississippi Valley State University faculty member with the opportunity to participate in a unique international learning exchange.

MVSU's Dr. Cassandra Hawkins, assistant professor in the Rural Public Policy and Planning, was recently nominated and selected as a member of the 2019-2020 Class of Whisenton Public Scholars.

As a Whisenton Public Scholar, Hawkins was also extended the invitation to attend the 2019 Deliberative Democracy Institute (DDI) in Dayton, Ohio.

The Whisenton Public Scholars Fellowship is a public scholars exchange in collaboration with Joffe T. Whisenton and Associates and the Kettering Foundation. Launched in 1998, the program involves faculty and administrators from schools with a mission to serve minority communities, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The Whisenton Public Scholars fellowship trains individuals within the academy to engage with the public to promote and advance democratic values.

Dr. Hawkins' involvement as a Whisenton Public Scholar will occur over two years. During that time, she will experiment with citizen-centered democracy to promote civic engagement within higher education, including naming and framing community issues and working with the public to make choices in the context of teaching, research, and service.

"With this opportunity, I will learn strategies and techniques to implement deliberative practices to better align the civic engagement strategies of Mississippi Valley State University," said Hawkins.

During the first year of the research exchange, Dr. Hawkins will participate in discussions surrounding democratic self-governance, as well as the role of higher education in democracy.

From July 8-12, Hawkins attended her first research exchange held at the Kettering Foundation—the 2019 DDI—as a Whisenton Public Scholar.

DDI is a learning exchange in which people from diverse nations explore a range of ideas that can



improve public life at the community level and beyond by encouraging citizen participation and advancing knowledge of democratic practices.

This year's event brought together participants from a total of 40 countries, including scholars, journalists, community leaders, civil society practitioners, and others.

"It was exciting to not only represent Mississippi Valley State University but the state of Mississippi," said Hawkins. "I had the opportunity to work with individuals to address a specific fundamental problem of democracy and listened to participants share the numerous challenges citizens face in their communities."

During the different sessions and institutes, Hawkins explored deliberative practices as a tool to address these issues. Her engagement with other participants helped her to start considering how implementing a deliberative forum could help her address issues in Mississippi, especially surrounding food systems and food insecurity.

"I am looking forward to how my participation as a Whisenton Public Scholar will transform my current work in rural public policy and how I engage with communities," she said.

Hawkins said she is excited about the fellowship and how she can incorporate deliberative practices in her classes and train students in the Rural Public Policy and Planning Graduate Program and her research interests.

Currently, Hawkins is conducting a research study, entitled "Prevalence of Food Insecurity in the Mississippi Valley State University Community." This study aims to explore the prevalence of food insecurity among students, faculty, and staff at Mississippi Valley State University.

Hawkins is requesting that all faculty, staff and students share their experience with food insecurity by completing the online survey, which can be found at <http://bit.ly/mvsufoodsecure>.

For individuals, who would like to complete the paper survey, email a request to Hawkins at cassandra.hawkins@mvsu.edu. For this study, there is no compensation.

For more information, please contact Hawkins at (662) 254-3361 or cassandra.hawkins@mvsu.edu.



FedEx *continued from cover*

we understand we couldn't be successful as a University if we didn't have a community of folks like we have here today."

Briggs said the collaboration speaks to the University's eight-word vision—"One Goal. On Team. One Valley...In Motion."

"This is an example of what we're talking about—really building and growing our institution," he said.

"There are approximately 100 HBCUs in the country, so I'm just so overjoyed and so proud that we are the first University to establish this partnership with FedEx Logistics," he added.

Brown noted that MVSU students have been entrusted with the lofty task of connecting 90% of the world's GDP by clearing packages that are flying across the globe.

"Who would've ever thought that you could pull off something this big in Itta Bena, Mississippi?" Brown said as the audience applauded in response.

The satellite office is situated on MVSU's campus across from the Jacob Aron Student in the former Student Annex Building. Renovations to the building were overseen by MVSU Director of Facilities Management

Terrance Hurssey and members of his team.

To date, 36 of the 48 part-time positions available have been filled by MVSU students. In addition to receiving a competitive wage, students are also eligible to receive full benefits (after 90 days) and tuition assistance.

"We are committed to our students being successful," said Briggs. "A partnership like this gives out student further employment opportunities and career pathways."

Students working in the MVSU FedEx Logistics satellite office expressed gratitude for the opportunity.

"This is my first job, and it has granted me the opportunity to build on my resume and continue to finish school," said Rodkell Barber, a sophomore Mass Communications major from Leland, Miss.

"This opportunity will put Valley on the map. Don't get me wrong—we were already on the map, but now we're on the map for being the first to launch this great program. I'm forever grateful," she added.

Senior Health, Physical Education and Recreation major Arnesha Gray of Greenwood, Miss., said the partnership is beneficial to students now as well as in the future.

"This is a great opportunity for us students, especially the ones from the Delta. There's a

lack of jobs here and Valley has provided us with the opportunity to do more and be great," she said. "Also, this opportunity will be great and helpful for post-graduation life."

Crimson Driver, a senior Engineering Technology major, said he's proud of the fact that MVSU will serve as the prototype for universities joining FedEx Logistics' HBCU program in the future.

"I'm honored that my HBCU is the first to start the FedEx Logistics program so that we can be forever known as the University that started it," said Driver, a native of Yazoo City.

Janice M. Citchens, a senior Sociology major from Tutwiler, Miss., agreed.

"I'm honored and grateful, but I'm not shocked. Why? Because, it says that the last shall be first...We're oftentimes placed last when it comes to opportunities, but this time, we're first."

Rocheleau said she's looking forward to a long-lasting relationship between MVSU and FedEx Logistics.

"It's a unique program where the social benefit is just as important as the economic," she said. "And it's a new relationship that will benefit FedEx, MVSU and its students for many years to come."

Themed, “Keeping Valley in Motion: Retention and Persistence”, the event was presided by MVSU’s newly appointed Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Kathie Stromile Golden.

The event kicked off in high energy with performances, including the University’s fight song “Devils Gun” by a portion of the Mean Green Marching Machine University Band. There were several presentations, including “Five Components of Extraordinary Teams” by motivational speaker Lee Rubin.



Following a complementary lunch, employees were re-energized with light exercise and stretches under the direction of Valley in Motion (a health initiative sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation) Project Coordinator Shayvonne Ford, MVSU Fitness Center Director Martin Davis and members of the Satin Dolls majorette squad.

The full-day event was highlighted by Briggs’ State of the University Address.

“There are a lot of different universities out here and everyone says they’re the best. For me, it’s not always being the best, but are we the best at what we do?” said Briggs. “I’m not chasing a number or a ranking—I’m chasing some graduation numbers and student success. That’s why a university like ours is so important.”

Briggs encouraged faculty and staff members to become more passionate about expressing the great things that they’re doing.

“Let’s show and have documented proof that we’re not just speaking these words. Our students are thriving and being very successful,” he said.

Reflecting on his own experiences, Briggs said that MVSU faculty and staff members have the power to help keep some students on the right track.

“There were people in my life that saw something in me even when I didn’t see it. They said, ‘You know what young man, you are too valuable to lose.’ I want you all to remember that. Our students are too valuable to lose. Everything that we do is geared towards them achieving,” Briggs said.

Briggs said that although MVSU is the youngest and smallest within the University system, it is among the top when you consider financial viability and success.

“Mississippi Valley State University is doing some outstanding work. You see that from



a financial viability standpoint, from the productivity of our graduates and from the solid dedication that you all provide this outstanding University,” he said.

“I’m not going to let anyone challenge our existence, and I’m not going to let anyone say that we’re not because WE ARE.”

Briggs said that although the University has challenges, it’s not uncommon.

“Every organization has challenges. The question is are you going to let those challenges define you, or are you going to rise above those challenges and turn them into successes,” he said.

“I assure you, as I did two years ago, that this University will continue to thrive. This University will continue to be successful. This University will continue to grow. This University will continue to graduate outstanding students. None of this could be done if it wasn’t for our collective hard work. Working through challenges and opportunities is what we do and who we are. But at the end of the day, it’s about our students,” he added.

Noting several of the University’s recent successes, Briggs highlighted MVSU’s new partnership with a subsidiary of one of the largest corporations in the world—FedEx Logistics.

According to Briggs, the University currently has 32 MVSU students working for FedEx Logistics through its HBCU program.

“We’re not just the first but currently the only university to have this partnership in this country right now, and that is outstanding,” he said.

Briggs noted that MVSU is setting the model for other HBCUs who will join the company’s HBCU program.

Briggs also highlighted the University’s successful 5-year accreditation review.

“Our report was so good that SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) has asked



us to let our report be that prototype for the second year in a row,” Briggs said. “These are just examples of the great work and the great people that we have here at the University.”

Briggs told employees that the tagline, “One Goal. One Team. One Valley...In Motion” are not just words but speak to who the University is and where it’s going.

He said that he envisions the University becoming known for exemplifying enrollment success, which includes not only recruiting, but retaining students after their freshmen year.

“We will become the prototype for enrollment success. That means that this year, all you will hear me talk about is retention and persistence. That’s the number one goal for us this year.

Briggs noted that attaining enrollment success can help the university provide more raises and personal development opportunities as well as improve infrastructure.

“This university is so important to our region. This university is so important for the state. This university is so important for us, and I commit to you, as the eighth president of Mississippi Valley State, that we are going to work together and be passionate about our students’ success.”

MVSU FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT HONORED BY MUSEUM OF THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA

The Fine Arts Department at Mississippi Valley State University has a decades-long record of concerts, recitals, and artistic exhibitions, in addition to playing a vital part in maintaining this region's role as an artistic and cultural center and a hub for arts education.

On Sept. 5, the department was recognized for its influences as the recipient of the Contributions to the Arts Award during the Sixth Annual Museum of the Mississippi Delta's Leadership and Philanthropy Gala.

Hosted from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Parish Hall of the Episcopal Church of the Nativity in Greenwood, the gala is the museum's signature fundraiser event. Proceeds support the museum's operations, including exhibition and program development, interpretations of the collections, children programs and facility upkeep.

Cheryl A. Thornhill, executive director of the museum, said this marks the first time that an institution will receive an award during the event.

"In the past, we have honored individuals, but this is the first time we have honored an institution," said Thornhill.

"A group of committee members selected the Fine Arts department because of the unique contributions Valley has offered not only to our community but the world," Thornhill added.

Dr. Lawrence Goldman, professor of music in the Fine Arts Department, said that members of the department are honored to be recognized



for their contributions to the arts by a respected organization.

"The Museum of the Mississippi Delta is at the crossroads of Delta history and art," Goldman said. "Its extensive collection includes artifacts related to agriculture, Native America, regional military history and one of the Delta's most extensive collections of regional art."

Goldman, along with Dr. Jerryl Briggs, university president, were featured in a video highlighting the activities of the fine arts department during the gala.

Thornhill added that MVSU alums have also been impacting the arts all over the globe.

"So many MVSU alumni have gone on and done wonderful things in the arts," Thornhill said.

During the event, the museum also recognized John Doty Porter for Contributions in Leadership and The Mary E. Wilson Trust for Contributions in Philanthropy.

Director *continued from page 5*

"My approach to choral music is to bring a mixture of music to our performances. My goal is to keep the classical tradition a big part of our musical repertoire, but also I want to bring in rhythm and blues, jazz, as well as gospel and spirituals," said Cash.

"We are an HBCU, and the mantra of the spirituals has always been infused in the culture," he added.

In addition to his new role, Cash is an active music clinician, adjudicator, consultant, and guest choral conductor.

His teaching and research interests are focused on urban/rural music education and music

education access, equity and opportunity for all students.

However, Cash noted that he would not be where he is today without the help of a plethora of people.

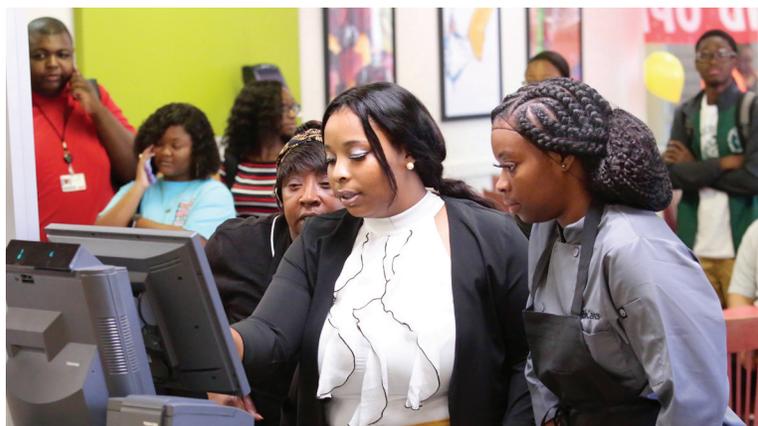
"I have had mentors and music professors that have prepared me for this moment. I had mentors like Dr. Carl Harris, Professor Lorene Bell, Dr. Sheila Maye, Dr. Gregory Broughton, Dr. Kay Pace, Mrs. Shelly Ellithorpe, and Mr. Bob Ellithorpe, Dr. David Morrow, Elizabeth Eccles, D'Walla Simmons-Burke, Cliethenia Arrington-Johnson and Dillard—to name a few."

Cash received his Bachelor of Arts in Music Education in 2007 from Hampton University in Hampton, V.A. He returned to Hampton to receive a Master of Arts in Counseling with a concentration in Student Affairs and College Student Development in 2011.

Cash completed his certification requirements in K-12 Music Education for the State of Georgia at Piedmont College in 2014. He is currently finishing up a doctorate in Choral Music Education at the University of Georgia in Athens, Ga.

NEW DINING OPTIONS NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Members of the MVSU community enjoyed the grand opening of two new retail outlets—Chop'd & Wrap'd and BrB—on Wednesday, Sept. 18 in the Jacob Aron Student Union. Chop'd & Wrap'd offers signature salads and wraps while BrB (Be Right Burger) has a variety of burgers and appetizer options.





MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE
UNIVERSITY

2019 HOMECOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Gospel Extravaganza Concert
6:00 pm Charles R. Lackey Recreation Center
Admission FREE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

TACKY DAY

Musical Motivational Monday (MVSU SGA, Inc.)
9:00 am - 12:00 pm Bennie G. Thompson Plaza
Jacob Aron Student Union

Best Tacky Day-Attire-Prize Give Away (MVSU SGA, Inc.)
12:30 pm H.M. Ivy Cafeteria

Kickball (Intramural Sports)
6:00 pm MVSU Softball Field

Mid-Night Breakfast (MVSU SGA, Inc.)
9:00 pm - 12:00 am H.M. Ivy Cafeteria

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1

SWITCH-A-ROO DAY

Lunch on the Plaza
11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Bennie G. Thompson Plaza-
Jacob Aron Student Union

Honoring Our Royal Princes & Princesses
11:00 am Jacob Aron Student Union
Reception Immediately following Ceremony
Jacob Aron Student Union – Royal Room

Best Switch -A-Roo Attire—Prize Give Away
12:30 pm Bennie G. Thompson Plaza
Jacob Aron Student Union

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

90'S ATTIRE DAY

What's Up Wednesday- 90's edition
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Jacob Aron Student Union

"It's a 90's Kind of Rave"- Rave Party
(MVSU SGA, Inc.)
9:00 pm - 12:00 am – MVSU Water Tower

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

REP YO SET DAY

Augusta C. White Scholarship Luncheon
11:00 am Historic Elks Lodge
102 W Washington Street, Greenwood, MS
Ticket Price: \$75.00
Contact: Mr. Dameon Shaw (662) 254-3790

MVSU Career Services Clothing Drive
1:00 pm Jacob Aron Student Union – Vendors Square

President's Alumni Scholarship Reception
5:00 pm J.H. White Library - Foyer
Ticket Price: \$10.00
Contact: Mr. Kylon Alford-Windfield (662) 254-3790

Coronation of
Miss Arlencia Barnes, Miss MVSU 2019- 2020 and
Mr. John McCall III, Mr. MVSU 2019-2020
(Semi-Formal Attire Required)
7:30 pm R.W. Harrison Complex
Reception Immediately Following Coronation

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4
VALLEY PRIDE SPIRIT DAY

Golf Tournament
(MVSU Leflore Co. Alumni Chapter)
8:00 am Greenwood Country Club
951 MS-430, Greenwood, MS
For more information contact: Mr. Fred Clark (662)299-9847 or
fbclaw2004@yahoo.com

MVSU NAA Green & White Luncheon
11:30 am Charles R. Lackey Recreation Center
For more information visit: www.mvsunaa.org

MVSU NAA Day Party
2:00 pm the Alluvian Hotel
318 Howard Street, Greenwood, MS
For more information visit: www.mvsunaa.org

Campus Parade
3:00 pm H.G. Carpenter Building -Parking Lot, Ends at the
Technical Education Building
Parade Marshal: MVSU Football Team

Douglas T. Porter Athletic Scholarship Banquet
7:00 pm H. M. Ivy Cafeteria – Dining Hall IV
Ticket Price: \$50.00
Contact: Mr. Dameon Shaw (662) 254-3790

Bon Fire and Pep Rally
8:00 pm Technical Education Building—Parking Lot

Homecoming Concert feat. Boosie
10:00 pm R.W. Harrison Complex
Ticket Prices:
Presale \$15-students w/ID (one ticket purchase limit)
\$20- general admission
At door- \$20 students w/ID, \$30 general admission
Contact: Mr. Kotrese Saulsberry (662) 254-3526

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

GAME DAY

Homecoming Parade
9:00 am Downtown, Itta Bena, MS
Parade Marshal:
Dr. Kathie Stromile-Golden
Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs

Football Game
3:00 pm Rice –Totten Stadium
Charles "Chuck" Prophet Field
Mississippi Valley State University
Delta Devils vs.
Virginia University of Lynchburg

Homecoming Step Show
(MVSU National Pan Hellenic Council)
7:00 pm R. W. Harrison Complex
Ticket Price: \$10
Contact: Mr. Kylon Alford-Windfield (662) 254-3576

WELCOME ABOARD



Franklyn Davies
Academic Counselor
Athletics



LaTunya Evans
Computer Lab Tech
J.H. White Library



Henry Fant III
Instructor
HPER*



Shelly Garlotte
Visiting Asst. Professor
Fine Arts



Lamondra Hamilton
Visiting Professor of Music
Fine Arts



Latrece Wilder-Harrison
Human Resource Specialist
Human Resources



LaToya Jefferson-James
Assistant Professor
English and Foreign
Languages



Johnny D. Jones, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Education, HPER



Vondra Litt
Office Manager
Distance Education



Shonta McGee
Residence Hall Monitor
Office of Residential Life



Kimberly Meeks
Enrollment Specialist
Admissions & Recruitment



Clinton Metcalf
Spanish Instructor
English and Foreign
Languages



Edonimas Perry, Sr.
Satellite Manager
Mass Transit



Debbie States
Custodian
Facilities Management



Lorenzo Taylor
Game Room Attendant
Student Union



Willie Vance
*Assistant Men's
Basketball Coach*
Athletics



Alfonzo White
Director, TV Studio
Mass Communication

Two Minutes with...

Shakina Nelson

Administrative Assistant, Office of University Advancement

Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

My name is Shakina T. Nelson. I am the mother to three beautiful children Madisyn, 10; Lyric, 6; and Larry III, 2. I am a native of Itta Bena. I serve as the administrative assistant in the Office of University Advancement.

How do you approach providing service?

When it comes to providing service, I always display a great attitude with a friendly personality. I believe it is important to treat everyone with the same respect because at the end of the day the impact you have on others is what is remembered the most about your character.

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

When I am not at work, I am busy spending time with my family, reading, shopping or home watching Lifetime Movie Network.

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

A surprising thing about me is that I am an urban novel reader. I love to read books and play Super Mario Brothers on my Nintendo DS.



COMMUNIQUÉ

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Dr. Jerryl Briggs
President



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@mvsu1950

New Hashtag: #ValleyinMotion

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