



# COMMUNIQUE

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## SANTA VISITS J.H. WHITE LIBRARY



Little ones from the MVSU Child Development Center received a special visit from the North Pole Dec. 12 at the James H. White Library. Santa (Raynaldo Gillus), Mrs. Claus (Jannette Adams) and Santa's Helper (Lafecia Hoover) stopped by to read Christmas stories and pass out presents.

## MVSU UPWARD BOUND PROGRAMS SELECTED TO JOIN T3 ALLIANCE

Mississippi Valley State University's Upward Bound programs have been selected to participate in an initiative designed to increase interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

A \$2.1 million National Science Foundation grant, awarded to The University of Alaska Fairbanks Upward Bound in partnership with the Council for Opportunity in Education last year, is supporting emerging technologies as a way to increase the interest of high school low-income and first-generation-to-college students in science fields.



JONES

students to STEM fields and help them see the connection between the technology and solving a problem in their community.

The effort includes the implementation of the Teaching Through Technology (T3) Alliance, which uses three novel technologies—unmanned aerial systems, 3-D printers and codeable mini-computers—in Upward Bound programs to attract



BAILEY

students from Carroll, Montgomery, and Tallahatchie counties) programs.

See "Alliance" page 5

# BUSINESS AND FINANCE ADOPT FAMILIES THROUGH ANGEL TREE PROGRAM



MVSU's Office of Business and Finance embraced the season for giving by adopting local children from the Angel Tree program. The names were pulled from the Angel Tree located at CB&S Bank in Greenwood, and business and finance employees purchased items from the recipient's wish list. Pictured, front row, from left, are Raven Williams, Akendria Burns, April Hendrix (back row) Yvonne Gearing, Machel Stockstill, Deneen Banks, Carla Williams, Carol Lipsey, Joyce Dixon, Deborah Swinney, Carolyn McGee, and Suzanne Williams.

# JONES SERVES ON COMPLETE COLLEGE AMERICA PANEL



MVSU Assistant Vice President Dr. Johnny D. Jones recently served as a panelist for the Complete College America (CCA) Panel on Best Practices of Minority Serving Institution. During the event, hosted Dec. 3-6 in Chicago, Jones had the opportunity to present MVSU's model on "The Stan Stage." CCA is an alliance whose goals include implementing strategies around the country to close achievement gaps, boost graduation rates and ensuring every student has the opportunity to achieve their dreams.

# WINDFIELD TABBED AS MVSU'S NEW DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

Mississippi Valley State University's Office of University Advancement has brought on a new director of alumni relations who is familiar with the institution and all things Valley.

Jackson native Kylon T. Alford-Windfield, a 2013 graduate of MVSU, has been tabbed as the director of alumni relations. His primary duties include serving as a liaison between University administration, the National Alumni Association, area chapters and alumni of the institution.

He officially began in his new role Nov. 1

Windfield said he's humbled and excited to serve in this capacity at his alma mater.

"I am honored to have been chosen to be the new director. To have the opportunity to work in this capacity with a university that means the world to me is truly a blessing," he said.

Dameon Shaw, MVSU's interim vice-president of advancement, said bringing Windfield aboard should provide a boost of energy to the department.



"We are excited to add Kylon to our team. With his experience in admissions and having to deal with both students and parents, he brings a fresh perspective which should allow us to move the Office of Alumni Relations in a strong direction," said Shaw.

Windfield said he hopes to help improve efficiency in key areas of the office while maintaining the same welcoming culture that was established by the previous director, Willie Young, who retired in June.

"My objective for the Office of Alumni Relations is to develop a comprehensive, strategic plan that increases alumni engagement and participation," he said.

"I plan to work collaboratively with the Office of Communications and Marketing to rebrand alumni publications, fundraising, and soliciting

tactics that will keep 'Valley in motion,'" Windfield added.

Windfield said he also plans to increase contributions from alumni and university stakeholders.

"Currently, I am working to design innovative approaches to encourage millennials to become active alumni," he said.

Before joining the Office of University Advancement, Windfield served in MVSU's Office of Admissions and Recruitment for three years. Prior to that, he worked briefly at Rust College in Holly Springs.

He believes the skill set he gained while working in Admissions will transfer well in his new role.

"Being that I have experience in Admissions, I completely understand the importance of maintaining a relationship with alumni and creating new relationships with prospective students," he said.

# MVSU MOCK TRIAL TEAM PERFORMS WELL DURING MID-SOUTH TOURNAMENT

The Mississippi Valley State University Mock Trial Team scored well recently during the Mid-South Invitational Mock Trial Tournament at Middle Tennessee State University in November.

During the four-round, two-day tournament, MVSU brought home another individual award. Jasmine Murphy, a senior Pre-Law/Legal Studies and Government and Politics double major from Itta Bena, won an Outstanding Witness Award for the defense for her role as Dr. Miller McCoy, an expert in primatology. Murphy also served as an attorney on the plaintiff's side, scoring well and receiving ranks on ballots in that role as well.

Other members of the team included team captains Kambreca Mitchell of Greenwood and Donovan Brownlee of Columbus, Ohio; Mychal Barnum of Memphis; Jada Brinson of Miami; Nadia Crawford of Atlanta; Alexxus Ervins of Laurel, Miss.; Rodarius Turner of Indianola, MS; Chelsea Washington of Yazoo City; and Jesiah Williams of Batesville.



*Pictured (front row, from left) are MVSU Mock Trial team members Alexxus Ervins of Laurel, Miss.; Jada Brinson of Miami, Fla.; Chelsea Washington of Yazoo City, Miss.; Jasmine Murphy of Itta Bena, Miss.; Co-Captain Donovan Brownlee of Columbus, Ohio; Nadia Crawford of Atlanta, Ga.; Rodarius Turner of Indianola, Miss.; Mychal Barnum of Memphis, Tenn.; (back row) Captain Kambreca Mitchell of Greenwood, Miss.; Attorney Neysha Sanders, coach/instructor; Darius Bailey of Montgomery, Ala.; Jesiah Williams of Batesville, Miss.; and Larry Chappell, voluntary coach.*

See "Mock Trial" page 5

# SOCIAL WORK CLUB SPONSORS TOY DRIVE



The Bachelor Social Work (BSW) Club at MVSU sponsored a toy drive and donated the gifts to the Salvation Army in Greenwood on Wednesday, Dec. 5. Pictured, from left, are Chetara Epps, Nyshieka Lemon, Shakira Birge, Freddricka Moore, Dr. Lucille Durham-Lacy and Lieutenant Tamarique Ellis.

## MVSU PROFESSOR PRESENTS ON FOOD INSECURITY DURING NATIONAL CONFERENCE

A Mississippi Valley State University faculty member was recently extended an invitation to present research during a national conference designed for professionals associated with the agricultural industry

Dr. Cassandra Hawkins, assistant professor of Rural Policy and Planning, presented on the topic “Understanding Food Systems in Mississippi: An Examination of the Prevalence of Food Insecurity” during the 76th Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC), hosted Dec. 2-4 at Tuskegee University.

PAWC is a forum committed to creating a world that values and promotes equitable access to information and technology for sustainable development of communities and natural resources.

Evolving out of Dr. Booker T. Washington’s Farmers Conference that was first hosted in 1892, PAWC now includes representatives from the national land grant community, and from the state, federal, and private sectors.

Hawkins’ presentation explored how food insecurity impacts Mississippi’s food systems



**HAWKINS**

and provided strategies to reduce its prevalence.

Her study concluded that food systems in the state need to be transformed for the disparity among families based on specific sociodemographic factors. In addition, improved policies and programs

designed to address the inadequacy of food consumption in Mississippi should be in place to reduce the prevalence of food insecurity.

“Dr. Hawkins participation in the project continues to build capacity to research food insecurity at the heart of the Mississippi Delta,” said Dr. Richard Mushi, chair of MVSU’s Social Sciences Department.

Hawkins has been fully engaged in efforts to address food systems in Mississippi.

In October, she presented research at a college forum organized by the School of Social Work at Mississippi State University during the World Food Day. Her presentation highlighted food

insecurity and strategies for social workers to assist their food-insecure clients in Mississippi.

She was also appointed to the Mississippi Food Policy Council Executive Board in August 2018.

Following the appointment, Dr. Hawkins remained a member of the Mississippi Food Insecurity Project with Mississippi State University, a research project that examines food access and food insecurity in the state of Mississippi.

The project provides current USDA-ERS food insecurity data including socio-economic, food assistance, local food activities, food store availability, and health data for all 82 counties in Mississippi.

To learn more about PAWC, visit [www.pawc.info](http://www.pawc.info).

For more information about MVSU’s Rural Public Policy and Planning graduate program, call (662) 254-3352.

## Alliance *continued from cover*

Derrick T. Jones, executive director of the MVSU Upward Bound I, explained what it means for MVSU to become an adopter of the T3 Alliance.

“Our participation in the T3 Alliance will be a breath of fresh air for both the program participants and the Upward Bound I Program,” he said. “The participants will have the opportunity to focus on STEM-related projects about coding and programming.”

RoShaun Bailey, director of MVSU’s Upward Bound II, expressed similar sentiments when discussing the impact that the program will have.

“Can you imagine Mississippi Valley being a hub or pipeline for Silicon Valley’s needs for new tech employees?” he said. “Our participation in the T3 Alliance will be an invaluable experience for both the program participants and the Upward Bound II program itself.”

Bailey said that another valuable component of the T3 Alliance is its focus on community service within the communities of both Upward Bound programs.

“Each program will be tasked with undertaking a community service project that aligns with the scope of the alliance,” he explained.

Both Jones and Bailey expressed that their ultimate desire is that participation in the T3 Alliance will get students excited and empower them with the knowledge and confidence to pursue STEM careers.

For more information about MVSU’s Upward Bound I and Upward Bound II programs, call (662) 254-3633.

# MVSU PRESIDENT PRESENTED WITH KEY TO LEXINGTON



*MVSU President Dr. Jerryl Briggs, Sr., was presented with a key to the City of Lexington, MS, Nov. 29 after serving as the Grand Marshall for the city’s Annual Christmas Parade. During the parade, residents enjoyed performances by the Mean Green Marching Machine!*

## Mock Trial *continued from page 3*



The team competed against Auburn University, North Alabama University, Middle Tennessee State University, and Belmont University.

The coach for the MVSU Mock Trial Team is Neysha Sanders, Esq., assistant professor of Legal Studies at MVSU. Sanders coordinates the Pre-law Legal Studies Program, serves as University Pre-Law advisor and is a member of Sanders and Sanders Law Firm. Dr. Larry W. Chappell, retired professor of Political Science at MVSU and Attorney Teisha Stoner of Pensacola, Fla. also serve as volunteer coaches.

The Department of Social Sciences, The Office of Academic Affairs, The Office of University

Advancement, The Office of Sponsored Programs, The Office of the President and the Leflore County Board of Supervisors all help sponsor the program.

The team expressed special thanks to John McCall, senior graphic designer for the Office of Communications and Marketing, for preparing the demonstrative aids that students used in their testimony.

The team is now preparing for the 8th Annual Argo Invitational Mock Trial Tournament, slated January 19-20, 2019 at the University of West Florida in Pensacola.

# MVSU 2018-2019 ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM & SCHEDULE

Mississippi Valley State University will officially close for the holiday on the evening of Friday, December 21 at 5 p.m.

**Beginning Friday, December 21, at close of business, all persons entering the University campus must produce MVSU identification** (employees and students; others must show official federal or state ID) at the front gate and sign in. All other entrances, including construction entrances, will be closed.

If you reside on campus, you must contact the University Police if you are entering a building other than your residence or apartment.

If you must come to work during the holiday period, please do so during regular business hours, generally 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For security and safety reasons, it is very important that you turn off all lights and make sure doors are locked behind you when leaving a building. **You must contact the University Police Department, 662-254-3479, upon entering and leaving a building.**

Further, Mississippi Valley State University will implement an energy conservation program during the holiday breaks this year; most buildings' temperatures will be lowered to 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

Residence halls will remain open and will operate within the standard temperature ranges for occupied buildings. Other auxiliary buildings online will be the J.H. White Library and H.M. Ivy Cafeteria.

**NOTE: All other buildings will be officially closed and temperatures in the buildings will be lowered to 50 degrees.**

The program will begin the evening of Friday, December 21, 2018, and will continue until the campus resumes full operation on Wednesday, January 2, 2019. Exterior building lights, however, will remain turned on throughout the holiday.

All non-essential HVAC equipment in general use classroom, athletic and office facilities will be shut off and set to fixed temperatures by Facilities personnel. Selection of affected buildings is tailored to operating schedules of the facility and the time necessary to return the facility to normal operating temperatures for opening. Laboratories (with laboratory specimens), research areas, data centers, museum and archival space facilities are not included in the setback schedule.

**Exceptions are made only through special request.**

Due to the importance of maintaining stable temperatures and humidity levels, some buildings will not be included in the conservation program. Facilities Management will work with the Residence Halls and Athletics to ensure that comfortable temperatures are maintained in those respective facilities as

needed during the break.

Most of the main campus facilities are attached to the Chill Water Loop. All buildings will be set back by Facilities Management Personnel. For those buildings which are centrally controlled, Facilities Management will implement temperature setbacks appropriate for holiday, night, and evening settings. Exterior building lights, street lighting, and parking lot lighting will remain on for security reasons.

## Faculty & Staff -

Building managers (or their appointed representative) are required to disseminate the message to shut off all unused office equipment any time of the day. Turn off devices/ equipment and unplug these devices and equipment in those out of the way places and places where no one has assigned responsibilities. Check out classrooms, restrooms, storage closets, etc., to ensure that someone turns off the energy-using devices.

Heating/ cooling should be addressed by the appropriate building representative.

All personal and office energy-consuming equipment and devices (**lights, computers, monitors, printers, copiers, fax machines, lamps, radios, etc.**) should be turned off and unplugged by occupants before leaving for the holiday break and/ or business day. All computers should have files saved, hard drives shut down, monitors turned off and all equipment, including surge protectors unplugged from outlets.

Building managers should ensure that all interior lights are turned off.

Individuals having items in the lounge refrigerators should remove those items as these appliances will be unplugged.

If you are using a portable space heater in your office during the break, it must meet the following specifications: 1) 1500 watts or 12.5 amps or less and; 2) has a safety thermal protector and tip over switch. Please do not use an extension cord when running a space heater, and do not place heaters underneath a thermostat. **All other heating devices are prohibited.**

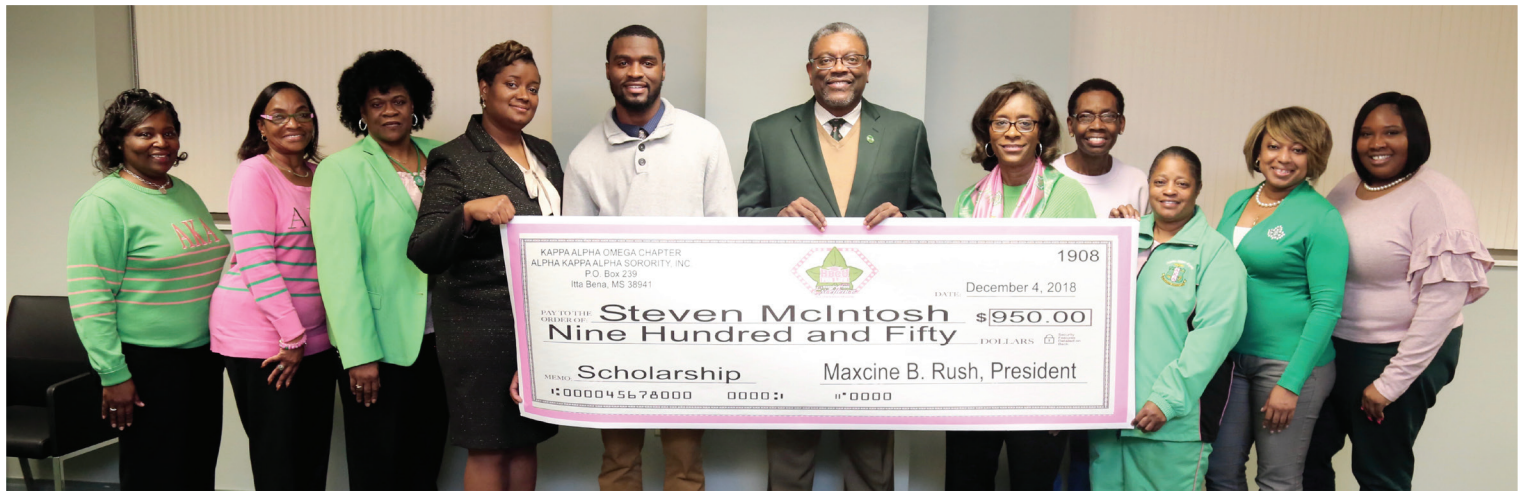
Thank you for your ongoing efforts to help us with our energy saving program at The Valley.

Your support of these conservation measures is much appreciated. Conserving energy is not only the right thing to do but it frees up resources; **SAVING ENERGY SAVES JOBS.**



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# ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC. PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS



The members of the Kappa Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. recently presented Nicholas Berkes, a senior criminal justice major from Miami, Fla., with a \$950 book scholarship based on recommendations from his department's chairman and faculty. On hand for the presentation are Dr. Emmanuel Amadi, chair of the criminal justice department; sorority members Joyce Dixon, and Deborah Swinney; Wanda Young, KAO scholarship chairman; Auguster Wallace, Target 1 chairman; Berkes; Dr. Jerryl Briggs, MVSU president; Maxcine Rush, KAO president; and members Barbara Washington, Linda Irvins, Letitia Clay and Jocelyn Haley.



The members of the Kappa Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. recently presented Steven McIntosh, a senior accounting major from Miami, Fla., with a \$950 book scholarship. McIntosh was selected based on recommendations from his department's chairman and faculty. On hand for the presentation are (from left) sorority members Joyce Dixon; Deborah Swinney; Wanda Young, KAO scholarship chairman; Auguster Wallace, Target 1 chairman; McIntosh; Dr. Jerryl Briggs, MVSU president; Maxcine Rush, KAO president; and KAO members Barbara Washington, Linda Irvins, Letitia Clay and Jocelyn Haley.



## 2019 SPRING SEMESTER ON-SITE REGISTRATION & ACADEMIC ADVISEMENT BEGINS

**THURSDAY/JANUARY 3, 2019**  
**FRIDAY/JANUARY 4, 2019**  
**8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors will be advised at their respective departments. Freshmen and Undecided Majors will be advised at University College. To ensure that you have options of course scheduling, the Registrar's Office encourages you to register "Online, Rather Than In-Line".

**Registration will continue through  
Monday, January 28, 2019.**

**To register, call 662.254.3347 or visit [www.mvsu.edu](http://www.mvsu.edu).**



## WELCOME ABOARD



**Xavier Redmond**  
Director  
University Police

Two  
Minutes  
with...

# Jocelyn Haley

*Serials Electronic Resources Librarian*

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

I am a native of Sunflower, Miss., and the youngest daughter of Paul and Linda Haley. I am a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority Incorporated, which I serve and love dearly! I have one loving and caring sister, JaQuana Haley. I am a 2012 graduate of Mississippi Valley State University, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communications, and in 2015, I received a Master of Arts in Rural Public Policy and Planning from MVSU. In Dec. 2018, I graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with a Master of Library and Information Science. I currently work in the James H. White Library as the Serials Electronic Resources Librarian.

*How do you approach providing service?*

I live by the motto, "Service to all Mankind." I always greet others with a big smile on my face! When providing service, my goal is to meet their needs in the most effective way possible. I love to help people in any way that I can be of assistance for them. I often find myself motivating students to be the best in whatever they

have their minds set to do! I remind students all the time of the true saying, "the sky is the limit", and I encourage them to do whatever it is that they want to do.

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

When I am not at work, you are likely to find me working in my family store, Haley's Floral and Design/Jazzy J's Boutique. On the weekends, if I am not working in the store, you will find me shopping with my mom and sister, traveling with my besties, working in the community with my great sorority sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha, or traveling to Nashville, Tenn. visiting my better half who attends Lipscomb University School of Pharmacy.

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

My nickname is Ja. I am very creative and love the Christmas Holiday. December is my favorite month. You'll find me lounging around the house, watching all of the Home Alone movies or different episodes of the sitcom Family Matters.

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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*



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New Hashtag: #GOMVSU

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# *Christmas at the Valley Highlights*



