



COMMUNIQUE

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JUDGE WESTBROOKS TALKS CULTURE DURING MVSU'S BLACK HISTORY CONVOCATION



Judge Latrice A. Westbrook left a charge to the Mississippi Valley State University community to not only learn about history but embrace it.

"When I was thinking about today's theme, 'Heritage and Horizons: Embracing Our Cultural History While Establishing Cultural Change', I thought it was two-fold. Yes, we have to embrace our cultural history, but we also have to establish a cultural change," said Westbrook as she began her keynote address during MVSU's annual Martin Luther King Jr., Black History Convocation Feb. 8.

Westbrook, who currently serves on the Mississippi Court of Appeals, then discussed the importance of history and the insight it can provide about today's cultural challenges.

"In order to really engage in effective cultural change, you must first understand your cultural history and embrace it," she said to students in attendance. It's not enough to know it, you

must embrace it."

Westbrook urged students to realize the greatness that is within them.

"We come from greatness; we are greatness. To embrace our cultural history, I challenge you to go back thousands of years, but I also challenge you to look at the history that is right here in America."

Westbrook contended that many individuals don't understand history's significance, particularly African American history.

"We honor Martin Luther King, Jr. every year; we get a day off for his birthday but do we actually understand that he carried us?" said Westbrook.

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MVSU STUDENTS EXPLORE "HISTORY BEHIND THE NEWS"



Pictured from left to right: Jermarius Rushing, Dr. Kathryn Green and Egypt Williams.

Jermarius Rushing of Cleveland and Egypt Williams of Itta Bena have a lot in common.

The Mississippi Delta natives are both History majors who will cross the stage at Mississippi Valley State University in May to receive their bachelor's degree.

But the commonality between Williams and Rushing has grown even more as hosts of a new MVSU radio program. The pair are the voices of "History Behind the News," a WSVD 91.7 radio show on current news topics and their historical background.

The show launched in January 2018 under the vision of Dr. Kathryn Green, an MVSU History professor.

"I am trying to develop a way where our history students and other students who are interested can analyze the news from a historical perspective," said Green. In other words, they

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LIU RECOGNIZED AS MVSU'S 2018 DIVERSITY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Dr. Jaibo Liu has made a unique contribution to the diversity of Mississippi Valley State University through his involvement in diverse teaching, recruitment, and retention activities.

For his efforts, Liu was recently recognized by the Mississippi Board of Trustees of the State Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) as MVSU's 2018 Diversity Educator of the Year.

Created in observance of Black History Month, the IHL Diversity Awards are presented to campus and community leaders in recognition of their efforts in advancing diversity and encouraging understanding and respect.

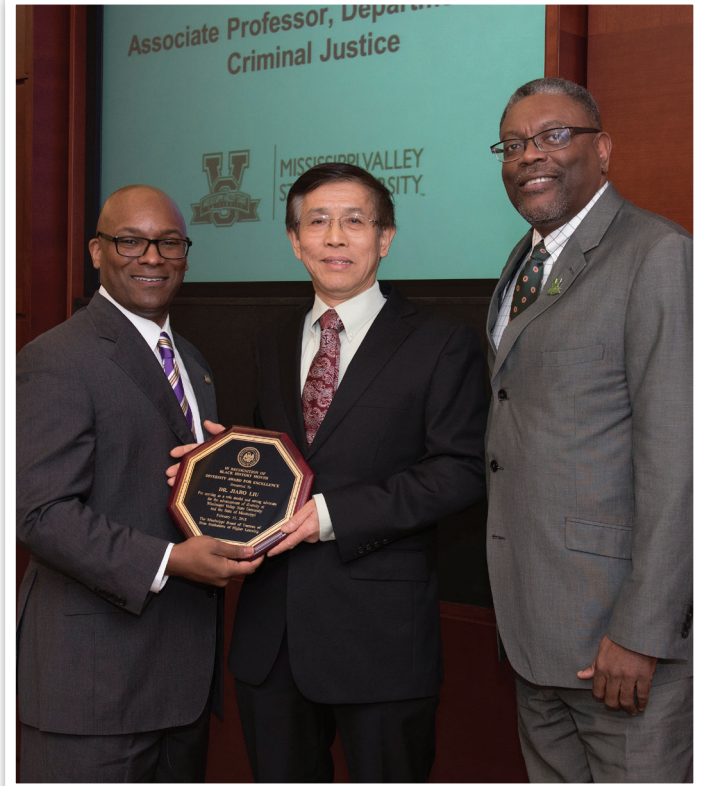
Liu, an associate professor in MVSU's Department of Criminal Justice, received a plaque presented by Trustee Shane Hooper and MVSU President Dr. Jerryl Briggs for his contributions to the diversity of MVSU through his diverse and advanced research activities.

"I express my deepest appreciation and thanks to my university for recognizing me with such a

high honor award," said Liu. "I am greatly humbled to receive it."

Liu joined MVSU's faculty in January 2003. He specializes in research methods and quantitative analysis and their applications in legal analysis and criminal justice research. Liu has written numerous articles and contributed to several books with his findings.

Liu earned a B.A. in Information Management from Beijing University; an LL.M. from Beijing University School of Law; an M.S. in criminal justice from the University of Cincinnati; and a doctorate in law from the London School of Economics.



CARTER-STEVENS, AKAEZE REPRESENT MVSU DURING 2018 HEADWAE HONOREES



STEVENS Assistant Professor of Mathematics Dr. Candance Carter-Stevens and senior Math and Computer Science major Henry Akaeze represented Mississippi Valley State University during the 31st Annual Higher Education Appreciation Day-Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE) program, Tuesday, Feb. 20, in Jackson.

Each year, HEADWAE honors an outstanding faculty member and outstanding student from each participating member institution of the Mississippi Association of Colleges and Universities.

"I am very grateful to have been chosen for such an amazing distinction," said Akaeze, a native of Nigeria. I owe to Valley, especially the Mathematics, Computer and Information Sciences (MCIS) Department, for the scholar I have become over the last four years. I dedicate



AKAEZE the award to my parents who are watching from up above and to everyone who has helped me get to where I am today. I am very grateful."

A native of Cleveland, Miss., Carter-Stevens also expressed gratitude for being named the faculty representative for MVSU. "I am grateful and humbled Mississippi Valley State University has afforded me the opportunity to represent our institution as the 2018 HEADWAE faculty honoree," she said. However, this award is not about me; it's about our amazing students at MVSU. The students motivate and inspire me to continue to learn and refine my teaching to become a more efficient and effective educator."

The honorees began the day with a visit to the State Capitol where they were recognized by the

Senate and House of Representatives and given a tour of the Capitol. The tour was followed by an awards luncheon, during which Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant delivered the keynote address.

"We are so pleased that Governor Bryant delivered the keynote address for the HEADWAE Luncheon this year," said Dr. Glenn Boyce, Commissioner of Higher Education. "He has been a stalwart supporter of this program for many years and his presence meant a great deal to the students and faculty."

HEADWAE was established by a Mississippi Legislative Resolution to annually honor the academically talented students and faculty members of Mississippi's higher education institutions who have made outstanding contributions in promoting academic excellence.

The Appreciation Day, hosted by the Legislature each February in Jackson, is the Legislature's way of saying "thank you" to students and faculty for their commitment to the future of Mississippi.

AUTHOR DEVERY S. ANDERSON SPEAKS ON EMMETT TILL AT MVSU



Devery S. Anderson stood before an attentive crowd in Mississippi Valley State University's W. A. Butts Social Science Auditorium Feb. 14 for a nearly one-hour discussion centered around Emmett Till.

MVSU and the Mississippi Humanities Council sponsored Anderson for a lecture to discuss his award-winning 2015 book, "Emmett Till, The Murder that Shocked the World and Propelled the Civil Rights Movement".

The talk focused on the 1955 murder of the black teenager and Anderson's journey to learn about the Till story and its impact on the civil rights movement.

"I was introduced to the Emmett Till case when I watched 'Eyes on The Prize' and wondered why I didn't know anything about this case already," said Anderson. That introduction to Emmett's story started a 24-year journey with me and Emmett Till."

That journey culminated with the release of the book.

The author described how he became consumed by the case and how he moved from simply collecting information to researching and writing for a decade.

"The thing that prompted that for me was in the spring of 2004, the Justice Department reopened the case and started investigating it because documentaries had been done and suggested that there were other people involved," Anderson said. "It's an important piece of our past, but it's also becoming a big piece of our present because the case was reopened."

All in all, Anderson wanted students to take away one thing about life.

"When something grabs you and consumes you, don't ignore it—do something about it," he shared.

MVSU PROFESSORS BEHIND ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLES

Two professors with Mississippi Valley State University connections are behind two articles featured in the new Encyclopedia of Mississippi History.

Dr. Vincent Venturini and the late Dr. Harvey Hudspeth both authored articles featured in the publication.

Venturini, a visiting professor in MVSU's Department of Social Work, composed an article in the encyclopedia that explores public welfare in Mississippi.

Hudspeth taught history at MVSU from 1994 and 2014 and completed an article on MVSU shortly before he passed away in 2007.

Both articles identify the authors and their affiliation with MVSU.

"I think the fact that MVSU is included in the encyclopedia is a testament both to Dr. Hudspeth's scholarship and MVSU's role



in Mississippi history," said Venturini. Dr. Hudspeth encouraged me to provide an article on the history of public welfare in Mississippi. My submission was published, and I am truly honored given that I am a native Mississippian who has always had a passion for Mississippi history and culture."

Venturini said the article will serve as a lasting testament to Hudspeth's love for history.

"Dr. Hudspeth was a brilliant lecturer who could hold classes spellbound with his presentations," he said. He didn't need power-points or other visual aids. He let the narrative teach students."

The Mississippi Encyclopedia—a mammoth collaboration that includes over 1,600 entries, 1,451 pages, and features more than 700 scholars who wrote entries on every county, every governor, and numerous musicians, writers, artists, and activists—is the first encyclopedic treatment of the state since 1907.

The Mississippi Encyclopedia is now available for purchase at www.upress.state.ms.us/books/2069

MVSU STUDENTS WINS TOP AWARD AT MUW MOCK TRIAL TOURNAMENT

The Mississippi Valley State University Mock Trial Team recently competed in the third annual “ODY Owl Classic” at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus and had a strong showing.

Kambreca Mitchell, a third-year Pre-Law/Legal Studies and Government/Politics major from Greenwood won the top attorney award. She gave the opening statement for the prosecution, directed a witness and cross-examined a defense witness.

Other members of the team included: team captain Kenya Jones of Meridian; Darius Bailey of Montgomery, Ala.; Nadia Crawford of Atlanta, Ga.; Donovan Brownlee of Columbus, Ohio; Lasharda Leasy of Greenville; and Jada Brinson of Miami, Fla.

The educator coach for the Mock Trial Team is Dr. Larry W. Chappell, university pre-law advisor and coordinator of the Pre-Law/Legal



Studies program. The attorney coach for the team is Neysha Sanders; Esq. Sanders is a member of Sanders and Sanders Law Firm and

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MVSU NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

Mississippi Valley State University’s National Alumni Association (MVSUNAA) now has new leadership “in motion” following the recent installation of its newly elected officers.

The special ceremony was hosted at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, in the Cliff E. Williams Auditorium.

The new officers received the oath of office by the Rev. Johnnie Collins of Itta Bena.

The officers include: Charlie Tolliver (‘68), president; Jerry Redmond Jr. (‘95), 1st vice president; Margaret Clark (‘13), 2nd vice president; Karolyn Bridges-Jordan (‘79), secretary; and Norma Quinn (‘81), treasurer.

The administration plans to focus on numerous goals, including creating stronger partnerships with external and internal entities, cultivating students as future engaged alumni, building engagement among current alumni, increasing alumni marketing and communications efforts and maintaining and communicating the University’s unique traditions and legacies to the MVSU family.

“We are challenged to raise Valley’s profile in the community, not just here in Itta Bena, but in the thousands of communities that are hometowns



of her alum,” said Tolliver.

Keeping this in mind, Tolliver said he often reminds alumni, “Valley is everywhere you are.”

“Every day, you each have the opportunity to represent Valley through participation in chapter events, community volunteerism and current and future student outreach,” he said.

In addition, the administration will focus on a new fundraising campaign entitled, “Motion 7000”, designed to increase MVSUNAA’s

enrollment to 7000 by the institution’s 70th birthday in 2020.

As part of the campaign, alum will be able to join the organization for a special \$70 annual membership fee, with a portion of the proceeds being used towards a \$70,000 endowment.

To learn more about the organization, visit www.mvsunaa.org.

For questions, call (662) 254-3579, (662) 254-3889 or e-mail alumni@mvsu.edu

MVSU ALPHAS RECOGNIZED FOR HIGHEST GPA IN STATE



Pictured, from left, are members of MVSU's Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Kamberlin King of Itta Bena, Antonio Bell of Indianola, Denzel Washington of Greenville, Jordan Freeman of Greenwood, Cornelius Washington of Lucedale, and Trenlon Harris of Moss Point.

The mission of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. is to develop leaders, promote brotherhood and academic excellence while providing service and advocacy for the community.

Mississippi Valley State University's Zeta Phi Chapter recently exemplified all that this mission entails, earning numerous awards during the Mississippi Alpha Network District Conference Jan. 19-21 in Olive Branch.

Most notably, the chapter was recognized for attaining the highest cumulative grade point average—3.24—among the fraternity's 10 collegiate chapters in the state.

"Receiving the Highest GPA award among all the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. chapters in



the state of Mississippi was a huge achievement to all of us," said Zeta Phi member Kamberlin King of Itta Bena, who also serves as president of MVSU's Student Government Association. It was a great representation of not only the fraternity, but also Mississippi Valley State University. Our dedication to education was put on display at the District Convention."

That wasn't the only accolade the chapter received.

Zeta Phi finished second place overall in the District Step-Show competition and member Trenlon Harris of Moss Point was a finalist in the Belford V. Lawson oratorical contest.

In addition, Harris and King joined members Cornelius Washington of Lucedale, Denzel Washington of Greenville, Jordan Freeman of Greenwood, Nekeya Washington of Clarksdale, and Tommy King of Greenwood, Miss. in being recognized as "District Scholars", earning a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Zeta Phi's commitment to excellence and leadership is seen throughout the MVSU student community as they have several individuals who represent the institution as student leaders.

In addition to Kamberlin serving as SGA president, Tommy reigns as Mr. MVSU 2017-18; Freeman is the SGA vice-president; and Harris is the SGA treasurer.

"We are a chapter of brothers who refuse to settle for mediocrity and know that business must be handled in the classroom first before being handled anywhere else. This is an achievement that we plan to continue to receive for years to come," King said.

Founded in 1906, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. was the first African American, intercollegiate, Greek-lettered fraternity.

Advisors for MVSU's Zeta Phi chapter include, Interim Vice President of University Advancement Dameon Shaw, Records Evaluator Kortney B. Haymore and Graduate Advisor Preston Brownlow.

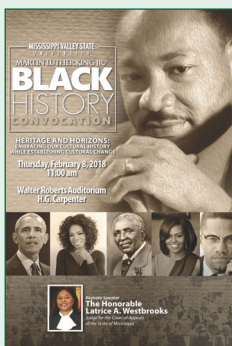
Black History *continued from cover*

"If it had not been for their sacrifices and their willingness to face death, many of us would not be where we are today or have the privileges and rights that we enjoy today," she added.

Westbrooks asked those in attendance to take a moment to consider the gravity of the sacrifices given by our ancestors.

"Would you have been willing to do it? Would you have been willing to face dogs and get bitten? Would you have been willing to face bullets, get shot or killed and never see your family again?" she asked.

While many fault today's generation for not being knowledgeable about historical events and figures, Westbrooks said you can't blame them alone.



"Somewhere along the way, we stopped teaching Black History to our children," she said.

Westbrooks shared that she recently presented during a school's Career Day event and only one student out of four classes could identify Thurgood Marshall. She noted that while the

students not knowing of such an important historical figure was an issue, the fact that an adult, teacher or parent didn't take the time to teach it to them was an even greater one.

Westbrooks closed by charging students to do their own research and adults to ensure that they are passing on the knowledge.

"How can we expect young people to carry on a legacy that they know nothing about—that they have not been taught about or even challenged to go find out about?" she said.

Tournament *continued from page 4*

also teaches courses in MVSU's Social Sciences department.

The program is sponsored by the Department of Social Sciences, the Office of Academic Affairs, the Office of University Advancement, the Office of Sponsored Programs and the Office of the President. Additional funding was also provided by the Leflore County Board of Supervisors.

Next up for the team is the regional competition in Jackson. The competition will be held from Friday, Feb. 16 to Sunday, Feb. 18. The regional tournament is the qualifying tournament for the opening round of the national championship competition in Memphis.

MVSU CELEBRATES VALLEY IN MOTION DAY

From new exercise equipment and free fitness classes to farmer's markets, healthy food demonstrations and after-school programs—as its name suggests, Mississippi Valley State University's Valley in Motion health initiative has been on the move.

Funded by a \$374,155 grant from the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation, Valley in Motion is a program designed to help increase healthy living outcomes on MVSU's campus, local schools and surrounding communities.

In celebration of the impact Valley in Motion has had, as well as the chance to highlight the many opportunities the program offers to the campus and community, MVSU hosted "Valley in Motion Day" Wednesday, Feb. 7.

"Valley in Motion Day" was designed to highlight all of the great things we have going on MVSU's campus and in the community to promote healthy lifestyles," said Project Coordinator Christine Campbell.

"Most of our activities are open to the community, so we're always hoping to attract more participants by demonstrating some of the small changes one can make to improve their overall health."

The event was highlighted by a "President's Walk", during which the campus and local community members joined MVSU President Dr. Jerryl Briggs for a stroll around the R.W. Harrison Complex.

It also featured a special ribbon cutting that formally signified the campus-wide implementation of the program.

Other activities included an Informational Session and Awards Ceremony; a food demonstration and the chance to test ride the new Zagster bikes available for rental on MVSU's campus.

Since officially kicking off in June 2017, Valley in Motion has teamed up with seven local partners in a variety of ways to meet its goals.

This past summer, the grant enabled MVSU to sponsor two fun fitness camps for local students. Also, Fitness Specialists now visit East Elementary and Leflore Elementary Schools twice monthly to conduct physical activities with students.

On campus, new monitors displaying healthy



menus have been mounted in MVSU's cafeteria, lights have been installed along the University's walking trail, a nurse now regularly visits to provide routine screenings and a bike share program has been implemented.

"One of the caveats of the grant is that it's not designed just for you to lose weight, but rather it's asking individuals to consider how they live on a daily basis—how they eat, how much activity are they performing," said Project Director Jannette Adams. Dr. Gloria Ross serves as the co-project director.

"This particular grant is transformative for Mississippi Valley and the Delta where there's a prevalence of chronic diseases—heart disease, stroke, hypertension and diabetes. What we're trying to do is ask people to take little steps and let us provide them with best practices to maximize results."

A total of four Fitness Specialists are also on-hand at MVSU's Fitness Center, open each day from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. to help sign-up interested

individuals, provide assistance and individualized instruction, and reinforce exercise safety.

"That, to me, is the biggest benefit because you don't have to make those choices by yourself. You have people who are dedicated to making sure you succeed," said Adams. What we're trying to do is ask people to take little steps and we follow you while you take those baby steps and provide you with best practices to maximize results."

The program has already signed-up over 100 participants during its first year, and Campbell said that's only the beginning.

"Our goal is to see a decrease in some area that could impact your health on a long-term basis," she said. "If our participants benefit in any way from what we're doing, we consider that a success."

For questions or more information about MVSU "Valley in Motion" program, contact Campbell at (662) 299-3810.

MVSU SPRING 2018 CAREER FAIR DRAWS MORE THAN 100

More than 100 students, alumni and community members attended Mississippi Valley State University's Spring 2018 Career Fair.

Hosted from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, the career fair connected job seekers with over 45 employers from various industries.

In addition to meeting potential employers, attendees were given the opportunity to polish up their skills with mock interviews conducted by human resource professionals during the event.

The career fair was organized by MVSU's Career Services Center.

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can see what's behind these new things that we're seeing."

The first show aired Jan. 12 and Jan. 14 and served as an introduction to the preparation involved in researching the Cleveland (Miss.) School District desegregation case.

The second show, which aired Feb. 9 and Feb. 11, included an interview with the Rev. Edward Duvall, an active member of the Cleveland community, who discussed the parallels between public education and the desegregation case.

A graduate of one of the schools involved in the desegregation case, East Side High School, Rushing said he felt compelled to do the research.

"It was an experience just doing the research alone on the topic," said Rushing. Growing up in Cleveland and knowing what I thought I knew, I never wanted the consolidation. When we did the research and saw how long this had been drawn out and all the damage it caused, it changed my perspective."

Williams has also found the research aspect to be insightful.

"It's great to know about history. It's not boring or repetitious; it helps us to understand what could happen in the future if we're not mindful of what happened in the past," she said. With this program, we are trying to get more people to look at the news see what's going on around them."

Before starting the radio show, Dr. Green charged Rushing and Williams with surveying the students at MVSU and the results were surprisingly positive.

"The survey showed that the majority of the students don't find history boring and that they would be extremely interested in a history-based news show," Rushing said.

When examining the survey, Rushing developed an interesting theory concerning students' perceived lack of interest in History.

"I think it's not a lack of interest, but a drive away from history. When we are in high school, we weren't taught history; we learned how to take a test," he said.

"There is also so much emphasis on STEM disciplines and other programs that it's swaying students away from history," he added

However, Rushing now has a better appreciation for history.

"History is not what we think it is. It's not just remembering dates or studying Columbus. History is connecting events and understanding how we got to or what led us to where we are," he said.

Williams expressed similar sentiments.

"I was initially apprehensive about taking on (the desegregation case), but now I understand the why behind what happened and that is exciting," she said. My sister is nearly 20 years older than me, and she thinks she knows more and probably does. But while she knows who may have done what, I now understand why they did what they did."

Tune in to "History Behind the News" Fridays at 10 a.m. and Sundays at 5:30 p.m. In addition, a recording to the program is accessible by visiting www.mvsu.edu and clicking the MEDIA tab (located on the menu at the top of the homepage).

For questions or comments, contact Green at klgreen@mvsu.edu; Rushing at jrush2013@gmail.com; or Williams at egyptwilliams96@yahoo.com.

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Two
Minutes
with...

Christine Campbell

Project Coordinator, Valley In Motion

Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

Hi, my name is Christine Campbell, and I am from Clarksdale, Miss. I am currently the project coordinator for "Valley In Motion", the Mississippi Valley State University health initiative sponsored by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation. Although I'm from Clarksdale, I attended and graduated from Rosa Fort High School in Tunica where I played basketball and was on the track team as well as the cross-country team. I received my associate's degree from Coahoma Community College in 2010 in Athletic Training. I graduated from MVSU with a degree in Health, Physical

Education, and Recreation in 2012. I will be graduating on May 5, 2018, from MVSU with a Master's Degree in Sport Administration. With my degrees and my passion for health and love for people, I pray to one day open a recreational center. My goal is to provide a holistic approach to healthy living where we target the inside and the outside by ensuring that people are eating correctly and doing the things necessary to live active and engaged lives. I have been married for four years to Zacchaeus Campbell, Sr. We have two children, Zacchaeus Jr. (8) and Carter (5). My biggest supporters are my parents, Elizabeth Johnson (mother) and Levon Wright (father).

How do you approach providing service?

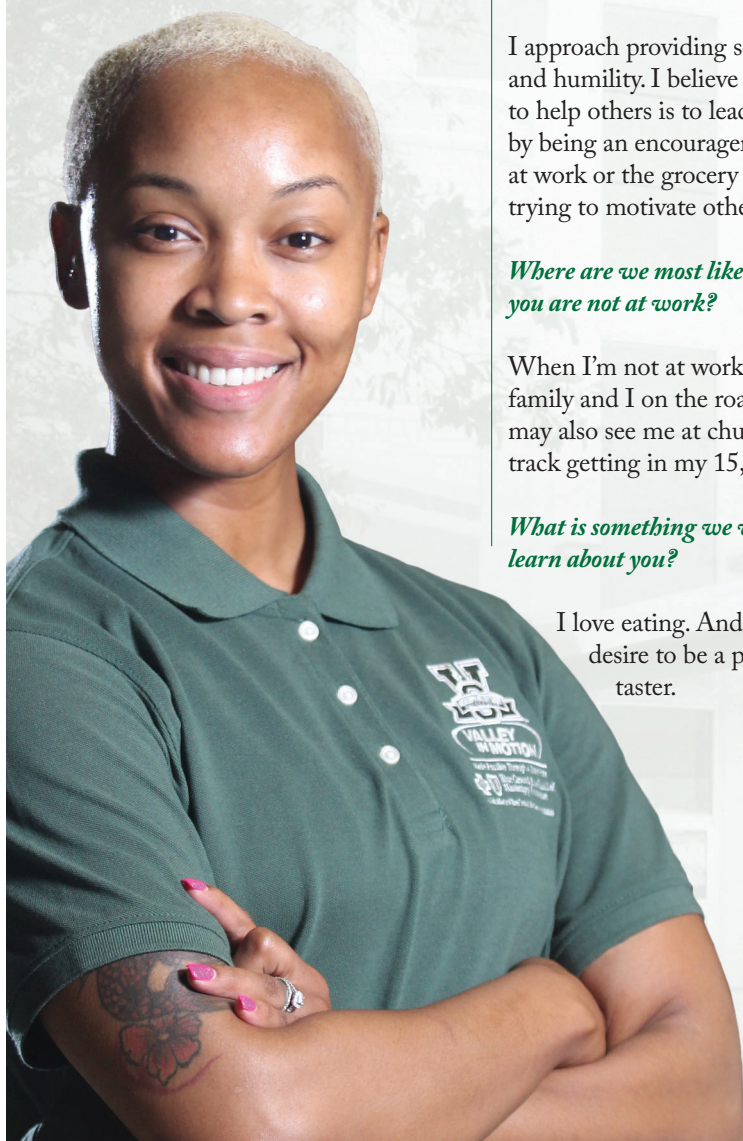
I approach providing service with kindness and humility. I believe that the best way to help others is to lead by example and by being an encourager. Whether I am at work or the grocery store, I am always trying to motivate others.

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

When I'm not at work, you can find my family and I on the road traveling. You may also see me at church or walking on a track getting in my 15,000 steps.

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

I love eating. And I secretly have a desire to be a professional food taster.



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New Hashtag: #GOMVSU

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