



# COMMUNIQUE

A Publication of Mississippi Valley State University for Faculty, Staff, Alumni and Friends | January 2019 Vol.16 Edition 1

## MVSU HONORS KING WITH LEGACY WALK



Following in the footsteps of the Civil Rights leaders before them, hundreds of people lined the streets of Itta Bena to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Monday, Jan. 21.

Mississippi Valley State University students, faculty, staff and community members joined forces and marched together during the 2019 MLK Legacy Walk.

The walk started at the Dorothy Street Park and concluded at Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church where a brief program was held.

MVSU President Dr. Jerryl Briggs Sr. served as the keynote speaker.

Briggs used the opportunity to highlight the importance of honoring Dr. King and continuing his work.

“When we think about where we are today, who do we credit for that? Who made a difference in our lives? Who ultimately sacrificed everything for us to be sitting here today? One of those

See “Walk” page 7

## REDMOND NAMED MVSU’S NEW CHIEF OF POLICE



Some people work their entire lives but never realize the opportunity to work their dream job. Xavier Redmond isn’t one of them.

Last month, Redmond was named the new chief and director of university police for Mississippi Valley State. When he walked into his office for the first time, he immediately understood that his dream had come true.

“I told my staff that if there ever was a dream job, then this is it,” said Redmond. “It is gratifying to come back to a place you are familiar with and where you first started your career journey as a Criminal Justice major. This is a dream come true.”

The Greenville native was a student-athlete at MVSU where he played football while majoring in Criminal Justice. His time as a student-athlete made a huge impact on Redmond—so much so that now, in his new position as police director, Redmond wants to interact with

criminal justice students as a mentor.

“How fitting is it to come back where it all started?” he said. “I’m excited about the chance to speak with criminal justice majors to help give insight on what to expect if they are going into law enforcement.”

Dr. Jacqueline Gibson-Prestly, vice-president for student affairs, said that she’s excited to have Redmond join the team.

“Mr. Redmond brings excellent experience to the department in this role. He is a State of Mississippi certified officer and has served in the field of law enforcement for 22 years,” she said.

“He has worked his way up the ranks as police officer, investigator, police sergeant, and as police lieutenant, gaining an array of administrative, budgetary, and supervisory skills that will prove extremely helpful to MVSU. Ultimately, Mr.

See “Chief” page 9

# BALDWIN NAMED MVSU'S 2018 HUMANITIES TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Professor Dr. Jo A. Baldwin has been selected by Mississippi Valley State University's Office of Academic Affairs as the 2018 Humanities Teacher of the Year.

Each year, the Mississippi Humanities Council recognizes October's designation of Arts and Humanities Month by bestowing Humanities Teacher Awards to outstanding faculty in traditional humanities fields at colleges and universities across the state.

Affectionately known by the campus community as "Dr. Jo", Baldwin is an English professor and director of the writing center at MVSU, where she teaches composition, literature, and creative writing and serves as Associate Editor of Fiction for "Valley Voices: A Literary Review." She is a published writer of mainly short stories and book reviews.

"When I was told that I had received the Humanities Teacher of the Year Award, I smiled and have been smiling ever since," Baldwin said.

As part of the nomination, Baldwin will give a presentation at 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 21, in the Cliff E. Williams Auditorium of MVSU's Business Education Building.

The topic of Baldwin's presentation will be "Student Introductions and My Social Trinity."



**BALDWIN**

Baldwin intends to connect with students on the first day of class with her introduction list. Her lecture, entitled "My Social Trinity", is designed to inspire students to "become persons" rather than just exist as human beings. She believes personhood comes from practicing the "Golden Rule" and in willing service to others.

In addition to her position at Valley, Baldwin is an ordained itinerant elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC) and is the pastor of Baldwin Chapel AMEC (named in her honor), located at 312 Tipton St. in Kosciusko.

Mindful of the separation of church and state, Baldwin said she is aware of the history of HBCUs and the power of the gospel to meet suffering and adversity head on with the determination to manage and eventually overcome all kinds of hardships.

"At the risk of telling my age," she said, "I attended college 25 years ago and earned a bachelor's, three master's and a Ph.D."

Baldwin holds a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM), a master's degree in Creative Writing from UWM, a master's in Speech/Theatre from Marquette in Milwaukee, a Master of Divinity from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, and a Ph.D. in English from UWM. She was the first black American to earn a Ph.D. in English from UWM.

Baldwin is the author of a homiletics text entitled "Seven Signature Sermons by a Tuning Woman Preacher of the Gospel". Published by the Edwin Mellen Press, the book explores "tuning," as a form of preaching in the black tradition.

She also authored an award-winning theology book entitled "Bible Verses Given to Me: A Memoir", published by the AMEC Sunday School Union in Nashville.

As a preacher of the gospel, Baldwin said she was told by a prophet that her anointing is reflected in her hair and her hands and that every time she moves to a higher level spiritually her gray hair will grow.

For more information about MVSU's Humanities Teacher of the Year Award, contact the Office of Academic Affairs at (662) 254-3875.

## MVSU PROFESSOR PUBLISHES NEW BOOKS, POETRY COLLECTION

A Mississippi Valley State University English and creative writing professor recently published several new works.

Dr. John Zheng, chair of MVSU's Department of English and Foreign Languages, has released a collection of poetry, entitled "Enforced Rustication in the Chinese Cultural Revolution," from Texas Review Press.

The book is a poetic presentation of Zheng's farm life as a "zhiqing" (educated youth) in the 1970s during the Chinese Cultural Revolution when zhiqing or the lost generation were dispatched to the countryside to receive reeducation from peasants, as decreed by Chairman Mao Zedong.

He also published a co-edited the book "Conversations with Gish Jen" from the University Press of Mississippi in November 2018 and Delta Sun, an e-book of haiku and photographs about the Mississippi Delta, from



**ZHENG**

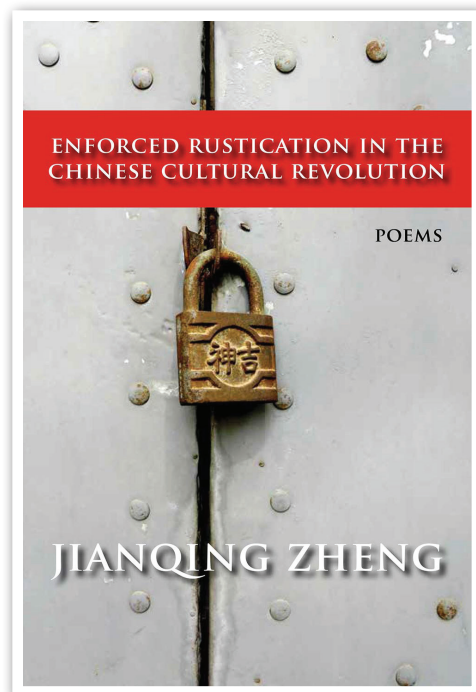
Red Moon Press in the summer of 2018.

Zheng has been teaching at Valley since 1996 and has helped faculty and students publish more than 150 pieces of their critical articles, reviews, interviews, creative work, photographs

and paintings.

Zheng earned a Ph.D. in English from the University of Southern Mississippi and has published nine books including African American Haiku, Sonia Sanchez's Poetic Spirit through Haiku, and The Landscape of Mind.

He is the author of more than 100 articles and more than one thousand poems, stories, photographs, and translations of African American poetry and modernists.



# MVSU RECEIVES \$200K TO CONDUCT STEM RESEARCH



Two Mississippi Valley State University departments were recently awarded an additional \$200,000 from the United States Department of Education in an effort to help strengthen the institution's research capacity.

MVSU's Mathematics, Computer and Information Sciences (MCIS) and Natural Sciences and Environmental Health departments were awarded the funds as part

of the Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program (MSEIP) using Capacity Competitiveness Enhancement Model (CCEM).

According to MVSU MCIS Department Chair Dr. Latonya Garner, the funding will assist professors in fortifying their research capabilities by visiting and partnering with some of the major research laboratories in the country.

Also, STEM student researchers will have an opportunity to work closely with the faculty researchers to incorporate their theoretical classroom knowledge into practical hands-on research experience.

"This is an excellent opportunity for our STEM faculty to increase the number of funded

See "STEM" page 6

# MVSU ALUMNA NAMED PRESIDENT OF GREENVILLE KIWANIS CLUB



A Mississippi Valley State University alumna and staff member now leads a local organization dedicated to improving the community.

Shearra Hardwick, a 2017 graduate of MVSU's Master of Business Administration program, was recently appointed as president of the Greenville Kiwanis Club.

Hardwick currently serves as an enrollment specialist and assistant to the executive director of MVSU's Greenville Higher Education Center site.

A Tennessee native, Hardwick is excited about her journey as president of the club and is looking forward to working closely with the Greenville community.

"2019 is going to be a year of growth and prosperity, and I'm looking forward to making a positive impact on the club and the community," Hardwick said.

Since taking on the role in Oct. 2018, Hardwick said one of her main priorities has been stabilizing the club's membership.

"My goals for this year are to increase and retain membership, bring awareness to the club through branding and recruiting students that receive scholarships from the club to attend MVSU," she explained.

The Kiwanis International Club is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to "improving the lives of children one community at a time."

The club raises funds for scholarships by way of their annual pancake breakfast. This year's breakfast is slated for February 3, 2019.

To learn more about the Kiwanis International organization, visit [www.kiwanis.org](http://www.kiwanis.org).

# MVSU ALUM RECEIVES NASA SILVER SNOOPY AWARD

One of National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) most celebrated awards was recently handed out to an alumnus of Mississippi Valley State University.

Nathaniel Bocclair ('79) received the Silver Snoopy Award, which is presented personally by an astronaut to members of their various research and support staffs in recognition of their contributions to the safety of the space program.

Bocclair, 61, was selected as the recipient because of his exemplary commitment to excellence that is instrumental to the continued success and health of the Space Systems Operations Branch which directly impacts the success of the International Space Station (ISS) mission, its crew and the ground teams.

He has served as the cornerstone of the NASA Payload Operations and Integration and has served NASA and the research community tirelessly from the Space Shuttle Spacelab era through current ISS operations.

Bocclair, who received a bachelor's degree in math and computer science from MVSU, said that his career at NASA was made possible because of The Valley.

In 1977, he joined the Marshall Space Flight Center through MVSU's Cooperative Education Program and worked within the Data Systems Laboratory.

"My dream came true when I entered the MVSU Co-Op program, where I did three semesters at NASA Marshall Space Flight Center," said Bocclair. "I am eternally grateful to my father, Dr. Nathaniel Bocclair Jr., because he encouraged me to enter the program to mature and gain experience. I now have 41 years of government service."

Bocclair successfully launched his career as a Data Management Coordinator (DMC) for Spacelabs 1, 2, and 3, and ASTRO-1 and IML-1 Shuttle Payload missions. In 1993, following his work as a Spacelab flight controller, Bocclair served as Chief of the Huntsville Operations Support Center (HOSC) until 2004, where he maintained the technical and operational expertise in the ground network to ensure the operational readiness of the HOSC to support Space Shuttle pre-launch activities, Spacelab missions, and round-the-clock ISS payload operations. He also ensured the HOSC was able to provide communications, data processing, and display facilities required to support testing,



simulations, and real-time Shuttle mission and ISS support activities.

The award means a great deal to Bocclair, who was surprised and honored to receive it.

"I had no idea I was going to receive the award, and it was a total surprise...I walked into the conference room filled with over 100 co-workers and then the astronaut walked in and said he was going to present me with the Silver Snoopy Award. The big surprise was that my family was in attendance," he said.

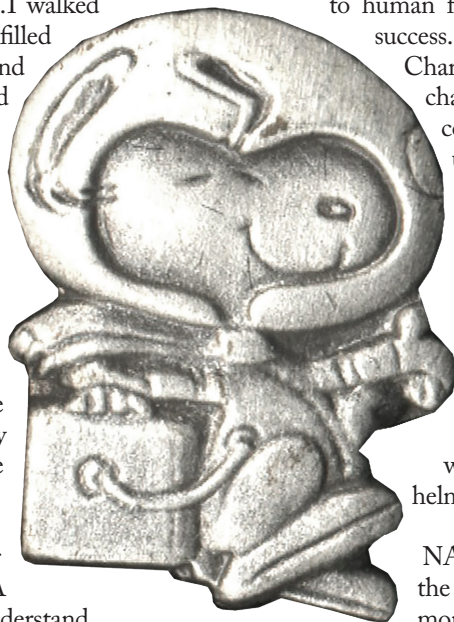
Bocclair is originally from Grenada but his family moved to Itta Bena after his father obtained his doctorate from Rutgers University and took his first job in the Department of Education.

In his current role, Bocclair also mentors young NASA engineers, helping them understand their roles and how to be successful. He has inspired countless individuals through his mentorship, ensuring a brighter future not only for these individuals but also for NASA.

"I have been very blessed to have outstanding mentors in my career. I am always asked why I am still working and not retired and my

response is I am mentoring and developing the next generation of engineers to make that next big step for mankind," said Bocclair.

NASA created the Silver Snoopy Award in 1968 for the space agency's employees and contractors, to recognize outstanding achievements related to human flight safety and mission success. Back in the Apollo era, Charles M. Schulz's Snoopy character from the Peanuts comic strip was an unofficial mascot for the astronauts, and Schulz agreed that NASA could use Snoopy's image at no charge.



The sterling-silver pin, which is less than an inch wide, shows the broadly smiling beagle wearing a spacesuit and helmet.

NASA's rules dictate that the pins should go to no more than 1 percent of the eligible workers and should be awarded only by an astronaut. Over nearly a half-century, just over 15,000 of the pins have been awarded.

To learn more about the NASA Snoopy Silver Award, visit [www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov).

# GHP SUPPORTS MVSU'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM WITH \$5,000 GRANT

A Mississippi Valley State University alumnus recently teamed up with his employer to present the institution with a \$5,000 grant.

Itta Bena native Kortney Haymore, a 2017 graduate of MVSU's Environmental Health program, currently serves as an industrial hygienist with Gobbell Hays Partners (GHP), Inc. in San Antonio.

The company recently awarded its inaugural \$5,000 community grant to MVSU by way of a nomination made by Haymore.

"When GHP first announced the contest, I knew I wanted to nominate MVSU—particularly the Environmental Science program. Valley is the only school in the Mississippi Delta with an Environmental Health program and that makes it unique," said Haymore.

In a post announcing MVSU as the recipient of the award, GHP stated, "Thank you, MVSU, for equipping bright minds like Kortney to improve environmental health in Mississippi and across the world."

Dameon Shaw, MVSU's interim vice president for university advancement, said that the grant will help equip more students with skills to make a difference in a global society.

"We are thankful to GHP for being visionaries in giving back. We are also excited that one of our alums, Mr. Kortney Haymore, has found a place in this amazing company," said Shaw. "Kortney's love for the University motivated



him to nominate MVSU for the company's first-ever community grant, which will enable us to touch the lives of more students and improve our capacity to serve our community."

For Haymore, Valley has been a beacon of light and having the chance to give back means a great deal to him.

"Giving back not only means monetary donations, although it is needed. But giving back to me means reflecting on the opportunities that were made available for me," Haymore said.

See "Grant" page 8

# MVSU NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR ANNUAL PIANO FESTIVAL

The Department of Fine Arts at Mississippi Valley State University will present its 23rd Annual MVSU Piano Festival on Saturday, April 27, on Valley's campus in Itta Bena.

The festival is once again being held for the purpose of bringing an increased awareness to the Mississippi Delta and surrounding areas of the value and importance of piano study throughout childhood and beyond.

In keeping with its stated goal, the



festival will include events for both elementary and advanced piano students.

At 9 a.m., a non-competitive festival event will be held for piano students ranging from kindergarten through junior high school. Older beginners may also participate. Students will perform selections from the classical piano repertoire and will be rated and given written evaluations.

Following this event, an honors ceremony will be held, including special recognition

of students who received Superior ratings for their performances. Parents, friends, and fellow students will be invited to attend this event at approximately 10:30 a.m.

At 11 a.m., members of the MVSU music faculty will hold an open audition for piano students who would like to be considered for music scholarships for the 2019-2020 academic year. Students who are awarded full scholarships will receive tuition, fees, and room and board at MVSU.

The next event to be held will be a Young Artist Competition, beginning at 1p.m., for students

See "Festival" page 7

# MVSU ALUMNA KATIE HALL BEHIND MLK DAY

On Monday, Jan. 21, millions of Americans and citizens in more than 100 countries around the world observed the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday.

But did you know that an alumna of Mississippi Valley State University was behind the bill that would create MLK Day, the first national holiday in honor of an African American?

As a freshmen federal legislator, U.S. Rep. Katie Green Hall, a 1960 graduate of MVSU, authored and introduced House of Representatives Bill. H.R. 3706. commonly known as the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday Law Bill.

After hotly contested debates in both the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate, Ronald Reagan, 40th President of the United States of America, signed into law on Nov. 2, 1983, Hall's version of "The King Bill".

The nation would thenceforth in Jan. 1986 observe the first national holiday in honor of

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday on the third Monday in January, as stated in U.S. Representative Hall's legislation. As a result, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. became the only African-American in the history of the United States Congress to be honored with a national holiday.

A native of Mound Bayou, Miss., Hall graduated from Mississippi Vocational College (now MVSU), with a degree in Political Science. The ambitious Hall had a desire to one day serve in the United States House of Representatives. This dream would become a reality when she was appointed to fulfill the unexpired term of the late U.S. Representative Adam Benjamin, Jr. (D-TN) in Sept. of 1982.

While working on issues affecting Indiana's First Congressional District, Hall had as one of her legislative goals to memorialize the birthday



of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the form of a national holiday.

After lobbying and securing passage of "The King Bill" in the United States House of Representatives with a vote of 338-90, Hall stated, "Men and women of goodwill on both sides of the aisle showed this was a human concern, not a political or racial issue."

She further commented, "Martin Luther King, Jr. gave to this great country a new understanding of equality and justice for all. ...this legislation will act as a national commitment to Dr. King's vision of an ideal America."

In later years, Hall often reflected on King's great legacy of love and service to the world based on his philosophy of non-violence.



**HALL**

On July 9, 2016, Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant proclaimed "Katie Hall Day" throughout the entire State of Mississippi, commemorating the 13th anniversary of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. national holiday observance.

The congresswoman is reportedly the first MVSU alumnus to receive this distinction from Mississippi's Office of the Governor.

Hall passed away on Feb. 20, 2012, in Gary Indiana. She was 73.

In the spirit of service to humanity, the Katie Hall Educational Foundation, Inc. is carrying forth the legacy Hall, with a mission to make America and the world a better place for humanity, regardless of race, national origin, and religion.

To learn more about the Katie Hall Educational Foundation, Inc., visit [www.katiehallfoundation.homestead.com](http://www.katiehallfoundation.homestead.com).

## STEM *continued from page 3*

research proposals and scholarly publications. The additional funding will definitely make a positive impact on our STEM students and Mississippi Valley State University," said Garner.

This initiative was coordinated by Garner and Dr. Earlene Anderson, project director and director of academic support for STEM programs at MVSU.

"I would like to thank Dr. Anderson and the faculty researchers from the university who are eager to help our students and the institution when it comes to research capacity

and competitiveness of STEM programs," said Garner.

According to Anderson, receiving the award is a testament to the research capabilities of MVSU faculty members.

"The MSEIP research grant is a very competitive award and it is an outstanding accomplishment for our STEM faculty members," she said. "This shows that we have faculty who are engaged in cutting edge



**GARNER**



**ANDERSON**

research and partnering with at some of the major research laboratories in the world such as the Brookhaven National Laboratory."

MVSU faculty researchers who are supported by this project include: Dr. Xiaoqin Wu and Mr. Christopher Lanclos from the MCIS Department; and Drs. Matthewos Eshete and Hattie Spencer from the Department of Natural Sciences and Environmental Health.

individuals was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," Briggs said.

Dr. Briggs challenged the students in attendance to not simply focus on the speeches King made or the letters he wrote, but to also consider what he accomplished, and the sacrifices made by him and his family.

"We must always pay tribute and always give respect. We must always say to those people who have sacrificed for us that if it weren't for them, we would not be where we are today," Briggs added.

MVSU freshman Robenicia Burns said that the experience of participating in the walk was eye-opening.

"It gave me a sense of what it was like back then and the actual measures that went into demonstrations and marches for injustice," she said. "People showed up and they came together and marched despite the weather or how cold it was...they kept going to fight for a better life, and today this is a small glimpse into what it was like," Burns said.

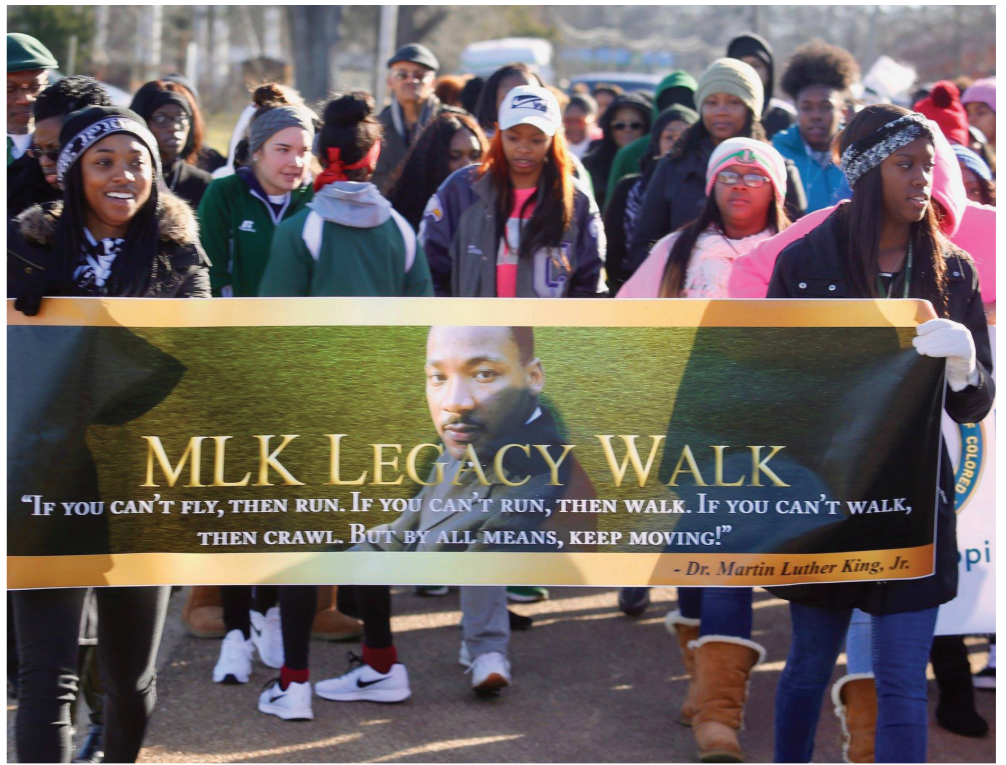
During the program, Miss MVSU Stormy Green shared a poem entitled "Karma" by Dominique Christina.

Green said the spoken word highlighted the celebration of Dr. King's birthday.

"It is vital that we come out and honor Dr. King for what he did and for all that he stood. This poem tells about what this day entails and what Dr. King and so many others sacrificed as a community and as African Americans to achieve the progress that we have today," said Green.

Freshman Jaylin Smith also reminded the audience that to truly benefit from being heirs of the achievements of the civil rights movement we cannot just remain stagnant.

"If we do not stand for our rights we will fall for injustice; if we do not stand for our blackness



we will fall for always being replicated and never appreciated," said Smith.

The crowd was visibly moved as Smith reminded them of their responsibility.

"My mom always told me that I was not going with my friends until the house was clean. I understand her reasons—I have to take care of my home before I can tackle the rest of the world. So, I will not leave my Mississippi in shambles. I will not wait for someone to sweep up this mess when I have a broom and dust pan in my hand," Smith exclaimed.

The event was sponsored by MVSU's National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), Student Government Association (SGA), Student Ambassadors and the Student Union Board.



## Festival *continued from page 5*

who are enrolled in grades 9 through junior college. Younger students with appropriate repertoire may also enter with the permission of the festival director. Students will perform at least two compositions from differing periods.

The first prize winner will receive a cash award of five hundred dollars, second prize winner will receive four hundred dollars, third prize winner will receive three hundred dollars, and the fourth prize winner will receive two hundred dollars.

Honorable Mention awards of one hundred dollars each will also be given at the discretion of the festival judge.

An awards ceremony will be held immediately following the judging. Awards, certificates, and the cash prizes will be given out during that time. In addition to the cash awards, all winners of the Young Artist Competition will be eligible to receive full music scholarships to MVSU.

This year's festival is being co-sponsored by Bank of Commerce, Charles Hall Studio,

Cowan Music, Greenwood Matinee Musicale, Greenwood Rotary Club, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Planters Bank, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, and Walmart.

For further information and an application, contact organizer Dr. Lawrence Goldman at (662) 254-3681 or by mail to MVSU Piano Festival, 14000 Hwy. 82W #7255, Itta Bena, MS, 38941.

The application postmark deadline for participants is April 15.

# MVSU MOCK TRIAL TEAM LAYS DOWN THE LAW DURING EXHIBITION



Practice makes perfect, and the Mississippi Valley State University Mock Trial Team recently put that theory into practice during an intra-squad scrimmage.

During the event, hosted in the Carver A. Randle Auditorium of the W.A. Butts Social Science Building, the team split to oppose one another in a full trial as they prepare for upcoming competitions.

Leflore County Justice Court Judge Carlos Palmer, an MVSU alumnus, presided over the fictitious trial.

A large audience, comprised of Greenwood Middle school students as well as Leflore County community members, came out to witness the event.

“Two of the middle school students were so impressed with the exhibition that they vowed to attend Valley and pursue a legal career,” said

Kambreca Mitchell of Greenwood, captain of the Mock Trial team.

At the event’s conclusion, Palmer, an MVSU alumnus, indicated that the team has a bright future.

“I am very impressed with Valley’s Mock Trial Team and predict they will do very well in future competitions,” he said.

Students performing included Mitchell, Mychal Barnum of Memphis, Jada Brinson of Miami, Nadia Crawford of Atlanta, Alexxus Ervins of Laurel, Jasmine Murphy of Itta Bena, Rodarius Turner of Indianola, Chelsea Washington of Yazoo City and Jesiah Williams of Batesville.

Also, mock trial team alumnus, Kenya Jones, stepped in to perform in the absence of co-captain, Donovan Brownlee of Columbus, Ohio. Delores Davis served as timekeeper.

The coach for the Mock Trial Team is Neysha Sanders, Esq. assistant professor of Legal Studies. She is the coordinator of the Pre-law Legal Studies Program, serves as University Pre-Law advisor, and is also a member of Sanders and Sanders Law Firm.

The volunteer coach for the team is Dr. Larry W. Chappell, a retired professor of Political Science at MVSU.

The program is sponsored by the MVSU 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; and the Leflore County Board of Supervisors.

The team will be back in action during the 8th Annual Argo Invitational Mock Trial Tournament, slated for Jan. 19-20 at the University of West Florida in Pensacola.

## Grant *continued from page 5*

“The professors poured so much knowledge into me and countless others assisted me throughout my matriculation at MVSU, so now to be able to reach out and help another student means everything to me,” he added.

GHP specializes in the fields of Architecture, Forensic Architecture, Environmental Health

and Safety (EHS), LEED/Sustainability and Project Management in Healthcare, Hospitality, Historic Renovation, Multi-Family, Government, Laboratories, Commercial and Education. This firm is one of the first to successfully integrate architectural design with environmental and industrial

hygiene consultation.

To learn more about GHP visit, [www.ghp1.com](http://www.ghp1.com)

To learn more about MVSU’s Environmental Health program, call (662) 254-3377 or visit [www.mvsu.edu](http://www.mvsu.edu).



Redmond is a natural fit for this position, and his repertoire of skills make him an asset to the role and to MVSU,” Prestly added.

After graduating from MVSU in 1996, Redmond started his career in law enforcement with the Greenville Police Department (GPD). He worked for the GPD for 22 years, eventually working his way up to lieutenant in 2006—a position he held until accepting the job at MVSU.

“Initially, I was unsure about what my life was supposed to be but law enforcement chose me as oppose to me choosing it,” said Redmond.

“I didn’t have a clue about what law enforcement was when I came out of school. I always share with students that you learn important things in class, but when you get into the law enforcement side, it is different. I want to be able to give students a sense of expectations, so they don’t walk into it blindly,” he added.

Being back at his alma mater also gives Redmond the chance to create a culture that everyone who is associated with the University can be proud of.

“We want to create a community-oriented culture where we have dialog and build relationships, so one of the things we hope to do is connect with students to engage with them and help them to understand that we are not here to hinder them but help them have a safe, fun college experience,” Redmond said.

Moving forward, Redmond has a lot of plans for the University’s police force that involves student safety initiatives, increased police presence and patrols.

“It has been exciting embracing a new challenge and the people on campus have been helpful,” said Redmond. “The atmosphere around here has been great, and I’m excited about the future.”



# WELCOME ABOARD



**Yolanda Gatewood**  
*Hall Monitor*  
Residential Life



**Keyundra Haymer**  
*Counselor/Recruiter*  
Admissions



**Cora S. Jackson**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Social Work



**Tolunda Jones**  
*Administrative Assistant*  
Admissions



**Dr. Ntombeklaya Laifa**  
*Assistant Professor*  
NSEH\*



**Brandon McCall**  
*Academic Coach*  
University College



**Lannette Moore**  
*Cashier*  
Business and Finance



**LaShundia Smith**  
*Information Specialist*  
Human Resources



**Marsha Stewart**  
*Records Evaluator*  
Student Records



**Josta Totten**  
*IRF Coordinator\*\**  
Student Leadership and Engagement

\*Natural Sciences and Environmental Health  
\*\*Intramural, Recreation and Fitness Coordinator

Two  
Minutes  
with...

## Jenaelle Coleman

Mathematics Redesign Lab Technician

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

I am a native of Silver City and a graduate of Humphreys County High School. After completing high school, I attended Mississippi Valley State University to continue a family legacy. I received both my bachelor's degree in Computer Science in 2012 and a master's in Bioinformatics in 2014. Currently, I serve as the Mathematics Redesign Lab Technician and an Adjunct Professor for Mathematics. I am an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, which I serve sincerely. Five years after being initiated into the best sorority, I became a charter member of the Omega Beta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, located in Yazoo City. I am also the proud mother of a very active 11-month-old son, Jarvis Jr.

### *How do you approach providing service?*

Providing service is almost second nature. I live by Mahatma Gandhi quote, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." I truly believe

that service comes from love. I try to make every effort to impact somebody's life. I not only assist students in my job but also in my everyday walk. Providing service is the most rewarding experience in life. I do not do it for accolades, but to know that I have showed love and help make someone's load just a little lighter is enough for me.

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

In the comfort of my own home (being the best mom ever) shopping, traveling, at church, at AKA chapter meetings or participating in community service.

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

Something most people will be surprised to learn about me is that I find peace from the simple things in life. Family, health, and happiness are the greatest riches in life; I would not trade any of it for any dollar amount. Another exciting thing is I enjoy Do It Yourself projects. Youtube and Google have become my best friends.



# 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  
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Mississippi Valley State University  
MVSU 7233 • 14000 Hwy. 82 W.  
Itta Bena, MS 38941-1400

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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, Sr.  
*President*



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**New Hashtag: #GOMVSU**

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