



COMMUNIQUE

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GAINES TEACHES MVSU STUDENTS ABOUT NASA'S OUTER SPACE PROGRAM



The Mississippi Valley State University community received a behind the scenes look at the nation's outer space program Thursday during a "NASA Day at The Valley" event.

Darryl C. Gaines, a 1988 MVSU graduate and current assistant to the center director at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Johnson Space

Center (JSC) in Houston, Texas, spoke with university students, faculty, staff and the general public about NASA.

Also, Gaines and his colleague shared information about funding for research, mentorship, internships and career opportunities.

"When I was a student at Valley, one of the things I was so impressed with was seeing former students coming back and speak," said Gaines. That impressed on me how important that is. Coming back to Valley to me is a part of the whole Valley community of giving back and being an advocate and letting the students see that there are opportunities out there and all they need to do is reach out for it," he added.

Gaines is a native of Mobile, Ala. He was awarded a four-year scholarship to play football and majored in Computer Science with a minor in mathematics at MVSU. With this in mind, Gaines shared his story in regards to his time at MVSU and how valuable his experiences were.

"Not being from Mississippi and having a loving campus family was everything to me. Dr. Carolyn Ford and the other instructors here made Valley feel like a family, and she was like a mother to me," Gaines said.

The event was held in the Cliff E. Williams Auditorium, located in the Business Education Building. Informational sessions were held for students, and there was an informational session for faculty and staff research opportunity.

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MVSU REPRESENTS DURING #HBCURISING CAMPUS TOUR

Mississippi Valley State University joined students from across the state in a screening of the documentary, "Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities" Thursday, Jan. 25, as part of the #HBCURising Campus Tour.

Hosted at the Mississippi e-Center at Jackson State University, the event gave attendees the chance to preview the documentary which examines the impact HBCUs have had on American history, culture, and national identity.

During the event, students had the chance to meet the documentary's director, award-winning filmmaker Stanley Nelson. They also

had the opportunity to interact with Nelson during a panel discussion with three HBCU presidents, including MVSU's Dr. Jerryl Briggs.

"Watching the documentary gave me a deeper appreciation not only for HBCUs but the history as African Americans as a whole," said freshmen sociology major Janice Cithcens of Tutwiler, MS. Many HBCUs don't have the best amenities, but what they do offer are instructors and leaders who genuinely care about the well-being of their students, and that's worth its weight in gold."

Deveon Treadway, a sophomore English and Criminal Justice major from Chicago, Ill., said

the film was very enlightening.

"The documentary raised very valid points and helped me to understand HBCUs in a new light," he said. It was surprising for me to learn that there are people questioning the need for HBCUs in today's society. When we look at where we stand as a society, I think they're necessary just as they were in the beginning. HBCUs serve as a safe haven, particularly for African American students, and gives them a place to celebrate their culture and history.

See "Tour" page 7

MVSU'S MICHAEL CLARK EARNS COVETED "AIRMAN OF THE YEAR" AWARD

Michael Clark is a man of service. His desire to work in a capacity that allows him to help people is evident in his everyday life as a residence hall director at Mississippi Valley State University, but perhaps even more so in his service to the United States of America in the Air Force Reserves.

On Jan. 7, Clark, a Staff Sergeant of the 307 Security Forces Squadron stationed in Bossier City, La (Barksdale Air Force Base), received exciting news when U.S. Air Force Col. Robert VanHoy, 307th Bomb Wing commander, presented him with the Wing's "Airman of the Year" award during a commander's call.

The 32-year-old Tchula native will now represent the wing during the "Airman of the Year" competition at 10th Air Force from March 26-29 in St. Augustine, Fla.

Clark received the distinction from a pool of nine other Airman. From the final three contenders, he was selected as the winner.

"Winning this award means a lot to me. It's a great accolade. I am very happy, and my unit is pleased. A lot of people have offered me congratulations," said Clark.

Clark, who is a 2010 and 2012 MVSU graduate with a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's degree in criminal justice respectively,



Michael Clark

said his decision to join the Air Force was rooted in his desire for change.

"Coming from a small town the only thing I knew was basketball. Sometimes you have to

"Playing basketball, you work together to accomplish a goal."

make a turn in life and, after getting a master's degree, I decided to join the military," he said. Once I joined the military it was something I knew I would enjoy and something that gave me the opportunity to see the world. It also offered me a way to take care of my daughter, Jordan."

During his time at Valley, Clark was a member of the Delta Devils basketball team. Being a part of the team and being a part of the military drew a lot of similarities.

"Playing basketball, you work together to accomplish a goal. If you are an athlete, the transition to military life is not that much different. Although I didn't know what I was getting into, I had enough courage to face the challenge that was ahead of me," he said.

With six years in the Air Force already, Clark's goal is to remain until he reaches 20 years of service and to retire.

Clark will graduate from Valley with his second masters in Sports Administration in May 2018.

MVSU'S BOYD SELECTED TO WEIGH-IN ON EDUCATION EXPERT ROUND-UP

MVSU Assistant Professor of Education Dr. Alfred E. Boyd recently participated in an expert round-up organized by The Advocate to discuss the future of education in America.

Launched in 2014, The Advocate is a news website and blog devoted to advocating for education equity, reform, and innovation. It was created by Matthew Lynch, a former K-12 social studies and special education teacher who now researches policy and education reform.

In a recent article, Lynch asked 106 education experts from across the nation, including Boyd, to address the question, "What is the future of K-12 education?"



In his response, Boyd argued that students of the future will advance at a much faster rate.

"The future of education in America is accelerated," Boyd shared. By the time that students in the future have completed ninth grade, they will have completed most of their major high school coursework, which will allow high school students to choose a diploma track, i.e., STEM, vocational, or postsecondary, with a 12th-grade apprenticeship."

Boyd noted that the faster pace will have a big impact on America's workforce.

"The majority of high school curriculum will be based on diploma track that the students have chosen, thereby, giving the USA a pool of workers who are ready, willing, and trained to work," he said.

Prior to joining MVSU, Boyd served as an elementary and high school teacher, literacy coach, and department chair in the Jackson Public School District.

He is the owner of Boyd Education Solution & Technology and creator of the Engaguate Platform®, a learning-embedded, game-based e-learning app.

Boyd is also writer, speaker, trainer and thought leader on educational technology and learning. His current research interests focus on the effects of poverty on young children, and education children in the digital age.

Read Boyd's full response and check out what educators had to say at www.theedadvocate.org/tag/the-future-of-education.

GOLDMAN PRESENTS FACULTY RECITAL

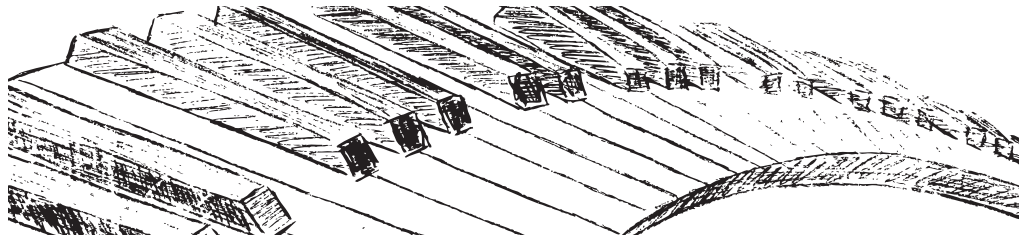


GOLDMAN

The Department of Fine Arts at Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) presented pianist Lawrence Goldman in a faculty recital Thursday, January 25.

The performance was hosted at 7 p.m. in the Walter Roberts Auditorium of the H.G. Carpenter Building. Featured on the program were works by Bach, Dello Joio, Bonds, Schubert, and Moszkowski.

A native of Santa Rosa, Calif., Goldman serves as a professor of music and keyboard area coordinator and has been a faculty member at MVSU for the past 38 years. During that time, he has become well known for his many



appearances both as a solo recitalist and collaborating artist.

Goldman has participated in over 400 concert performances on MVSU's campus and across the state, in addition to performances throughout the Southeast and in other regions of the United States.

He attended the University of California, Santa Barbara, and pursued graduate studies at the

University of Michigan, where his principal teacher was the noted Hungarian-American pianist György Sándor. Goldman received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Southern California, where his distinctions included winning the concerto competition and the Department Award in Keyboard Studies.

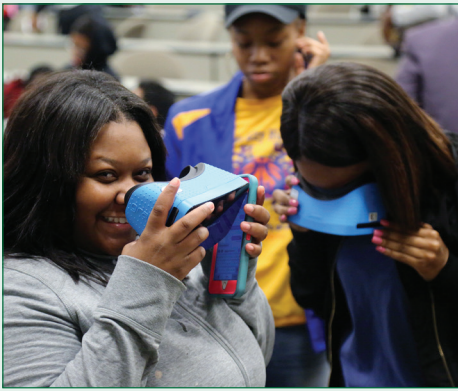
MVSU CONTINUES MINORITY RECRUITMENT EFFORTS



As part of MVSU's diversity recruitment efforts, MVSU Minority Recruiter Joanne Taiheng and Executive Director of Enrollment Management Michael Taylor visited students at Lakeside High School in Lake Village, Arkansas Jan. 26 to inform them of MVSU's Diversity Scholarship opportunities as well as Valley's academic and co-curricular campus activities.

"The students seemed very interested regarding MVSU's diversity and academic merit scholarship offerings," shared Taylor. Students anxiously filled out applications on the spot and we also received official transcripts from the seniors in attendance."

In an effort to increase the current diversity population at MVSU, The Office of Admissions will be conducting additional diversity recruitment visits throughout the Spring semester.



Participants in the event also had the chance to view the NASA Headquarters using Google Goggles technology.

Jourdan Beverly, a senior computer science and electronic engineer major from Chicago, said that the experience was enjoyable.

“I thought it is noble that Mr. Gaines wanted to come back and show where your degree from Valley can take you. I know a lot of people don’t understand how valuable an education from Valley can be, so it was great that he came back to share with his Valley family,” Beverly said.

“Our teachers are very good, and they go beyond to help us. They are not going to give you anything; you have to work for it,” she added.

As a member of the Center Director’s staff, Gaines is responsible for policy development, staff relations, strategic planning, and management integration of technical, mission support, and communications activities for the organization of approximately 3000 civil servants and 8500 contractors.

He has been employed with NASA for 25 years and previously with McDonnell Douglas Aircraft for three years. Before becoming the Assistant to the Center Director, Darryl was the Deputy Manager of the International Space Station (ISS), Program Planning and Control (PP&C) Office where he was responsible for managing an annual budget of \$3.8 billion and led both NASA civil servants and contractors.

Darryl was selected by the National Football League (NFL) Kansas City Chief’s in 1988 and managed a dual career working for McDonnell Douglas aircraft while playing for the Chiefs. He is a current member of the Former NFL Players Association, Houston Chapter where he volunteers in activities to help schools, families, and children.



MVSU students (pictured, from left) Kediedre Holiday of Morgan City and Kenya Davis of Natchez were recently accepted into Life University in Marietta, Ga. to continue their educational studies in Chiropractic. Life University is one of the nation’s leading chiropractic and holistic health universities. The students, both Biology majors, were visiting for a campus tour and informational session when they were offered acceptance. Holiday is planning to continue her education there in June, and Davis will join her in Jan. 2019.



MVSU Natural Science Professor Dr. Rachel Beecham recently accompanied five students on a field trip to Cleveland Chiropractic University in Kansas City. During the visit, students were exposed to careers in chiropractic and health sciences and had the opportunity to get some hands-on experience in the incubation and stimulation labs. They were also given a campus tour and extended interviews with the admission’s office. Pictured, from left, are Kediedre Holiday, Charity Davis, Beecham, Kenya Davis, Katelyn Denton, and DeAlma Cole

FOUR DELTA DEVILS PARTICIPATED IN SPIRIT OF AMERICA BOWL

Mississippi Valley State seniors Adrian Campbell, Alvin Solomon, Mark Pegues and Everett Nicholas had the opportunity to participate in the sixth annual Spirit of America Bowl at Salem Stadium. The Spirit of America Bowl features all-star rosters of student-athletes from the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS), Division II and Division III and will be attended by several professional scouts. Campbell, a defensive back from Miami, Florida, played for the Delta Devils for two seasons. He appeared in 21-contests for MVSU over the past two seasons. Campbell accumulated 41-tackles, 25 solo and 16-assists, three solo tackles for loss and seven pass breakups. Solomon, an offensive lineman from Bessemer, Alabama, has served the Delta Devils offensive from 2015-2018. From underclassman to team captain, Solomon has been a consistent sight on the field for the Delta Devils. Nicholas played in 20 games for the Delta Devils between the 2016 and 2017 seasons. During his time on the field, he tallied 40 solo tackles, 12 assists for a total of 52 tackles. His highlight reel includes six interceptions returned for 20-yards. Nicholas is a defensive back from Atlanta, Georgia. The game took place on January 14, 2018 in Roanoke, Virginia. Each player from MVSU played on the Braves team as they escaped with a 17-4 victory. The weekend also included a Combine, in which each player measured, weighed, and worked out for CFL (Canadian Football League) scouts.



Pictured, from left, are Alvin Solomon of Bessemer, Ala.; Adrian Campbell of Miami, Fla.; Everett Nicholas of Atlanta, Ga.; and Mark Pegues of Oxford, Miss.



The Mississippi Valley State Men's Basketball team has teamed up with the University of Southern Mississippi to bring the Raising Inspirational Sons of Excellence (RISE) education programs to three counties in the Mississippi Delta. The Raising Inspiration Sons of Excellence (RISE) pilot project is funded by a \$231,986 grant from Families First for Mississippi. With oversight by USM faculty, the project also includes participation from Men in Black and Blue Community Health Advisors (CHAs), a group of trained lay volunteers, and members of the MVSU Men's Basketball team. The basketball players are each charged with delivering the program within their assigned county. The players also serve as mentors and provide social support and examples on how to achieve healthy nutrition and social behavior practices to participants in the program.



Tour *continued from cover*

Briggs expressed a similar sentiment during the panel discussion when questioned about the relevance of HBCUs today.

“I’m a product of an HBCU, and hadn’t I had that experience, I wouldn’t be sitting in this chair today,” he shared. Beyond just getting a degree, attending an HBCU really opened me up as a person and helped me to realize my potential.

Briggs also pointed out that HBCUs continue to graduate a disproportionate number of minorities each year.

“We’re making a difference in the whole context of higher education,” he said. Attending an HBCU made a difference for me personally; they made a difference for my family. They’ve also opened opportunities for many of you here, so that shows us that they’re still relevant.”

The #HBCURising Campus Tour was sponsored by Mississippi Public Broadcasting, Jackson State University and Tougaloo College.



“Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities” will premiere during the PBS series Independent Lens at 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 19.

To learn more about the film, visit www.hbcuring.com.



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*Math, Computer And Information Sciences **Natural Sciences And Environmental Health

Two
Minutes
with...

Dario J. Carter

Compliance Eligibility Specialist

Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

Hello, my name is Dario J. Carter. I am a native of Greenwood, and I have served in my current position as the Compliance Eligibility Specialist here at Mississippi Valley State University for three years. My job requires me to ensure that all student-athletes are in compliance with their perspective sport. Also, I ensure that each student's certification is updated as needed. As a former student-athlete, I take great pride in my job and complete each task necessary to maintain a professional environment and certified student-athletes. I am a 2003 graduate of Greenwood High School, where I was a member of the varsity baseball and junior varsity basketball teams. I was also a member of the marching and concert bands, where I was a four-year letterman. One of my most significant achievements was earning Eagle Scout, which is the highest rank in the program of the Boy Scouts of America. After graduation, I attended Mississippi Valley State University. I was a member of the Mean Green Marching Machine from 2003-2005 and served as a section leader. In 2007, I was initiated into the Zeta Zeta Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. In 2008, I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Recreation. I am currently pursuing a Master of Science in Sports Administration at the MVSU. I am a member of Providence M.B. Church where I serve as sound operator, on-time secretary, and youth superintendent. I consider myself to be a loyal and dependable person.

How do you approach providing service?

My approach is to make myself available to serve others with friendly customer service. Providing service allows me to show my love and compassion for others. I chose my occupation because it allows me

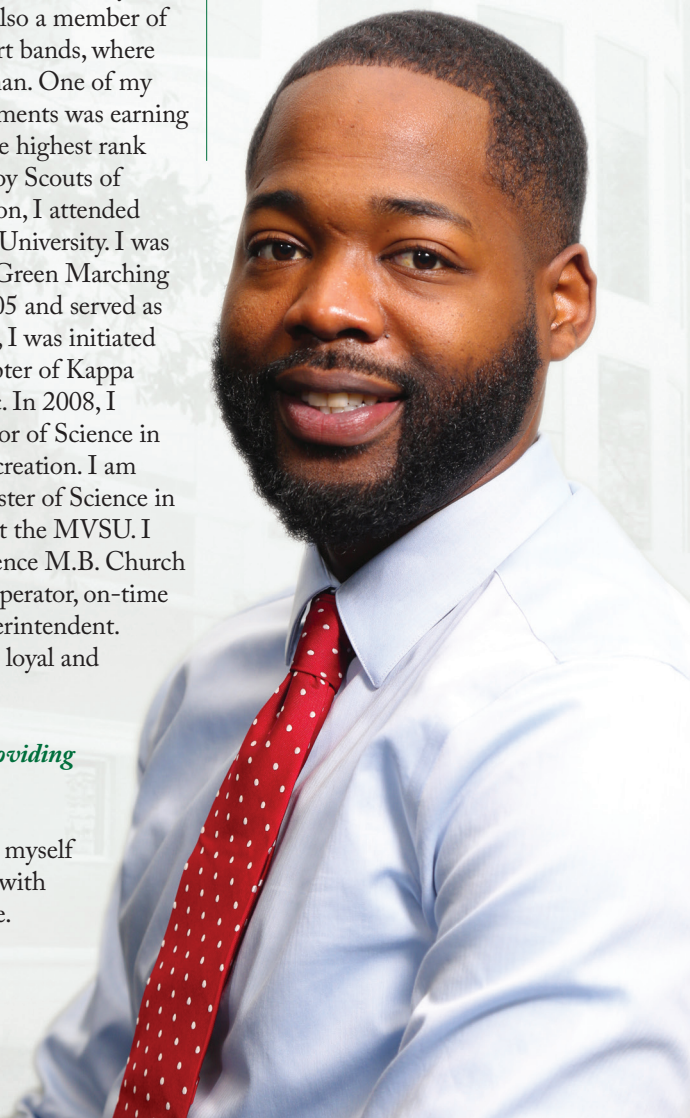
to provide a service to students who are trying to pursue their dreams. I believe that I offer exceptional service daily to students and my university.

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

I spend a lot of time at home with my significant other, working in the yard and working out at the fitness center.

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

I like to work with others and socialize, but I am a shy person.



COMMUNIQUÉ

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New Hashtag: #GOMVSU

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