



# COMMUNIQUÉ

A Publication of Mississippi Valley State University for Faculty, Staff, Alumni and Friends | June 2018 Vol.15 Edition 6

## MVSU HONORS 2018 RETIREES AT LUNCHEON



Mississippi Valley State University recently paused to honor its 2018 retirees and employees earning years of service milestones during a special luncheon. Pictured, front row, from left, are retirees Dorothy Vaughn, Fine Arts; Delores Poindexter, Facilities Management; Billy Scott, Purchasing; Gladys Flagg, Community Service; Gladys Fant, Sponsored Program; Barbara Gosa, Mass Communication; MVSU President Dr. Jerryl Briggs; (back row) Wanda Young, Mass Communications; Willie Young, Alumni Relations; Joseph L. Broadnax, Facilities Management; J.W. Cross, Facilities Management; and Dr. Larry Chappell, Social Science. Not pictured are Bridget Y. Barnes-Hullaby, Facilities Management; David Clay, Facilities Management; Dorothy J. Hart, Advancement; J.B. Kirk, University Police; George E. Lucas, Facilities Management; Anil K. Sharma, Natural Sciences & Environmental Health; Ernest Simpson; University Police; Dr. Solomon Terfa, Social Science; and Percy R. Washington, Facilities Management.

## MVSU STUDENT EARNS TOP SPOT FOR STATE RESEARCH PAPER COMPETITION

Derrick Lane II is proof that it's not where you start that determines where you go, but how you conduct yourself during the journey that can make the most significant difference.

Lane grew up surrounded by crime and poverty in the inner city of Memphis. Despite the odds, he made his way to Mississippi Valley State University, where he graduated magna cum laude in May with a degree in biology.

Lane recently added another feather in his cap—his paper was chosen as the undergraduate winner for the 2018 “Advancing Mississippi” student paper competition.

As a result, he was recently invited to present his work, entitled “Investigating Health Disparities of Prostate Cancer in Mississippi Compared to National Trends,” during the “Advancing Mississippi” conference hosted June 8 in Jackson.

Lane’s paper was an epidemiological analysis of prostate cancer at the national and state levels, with emphasis on racial disparities. As part of the award, he also earned a \$300 book scholarship and the opportunity to have his paper published in The Mississippi Economic Review.



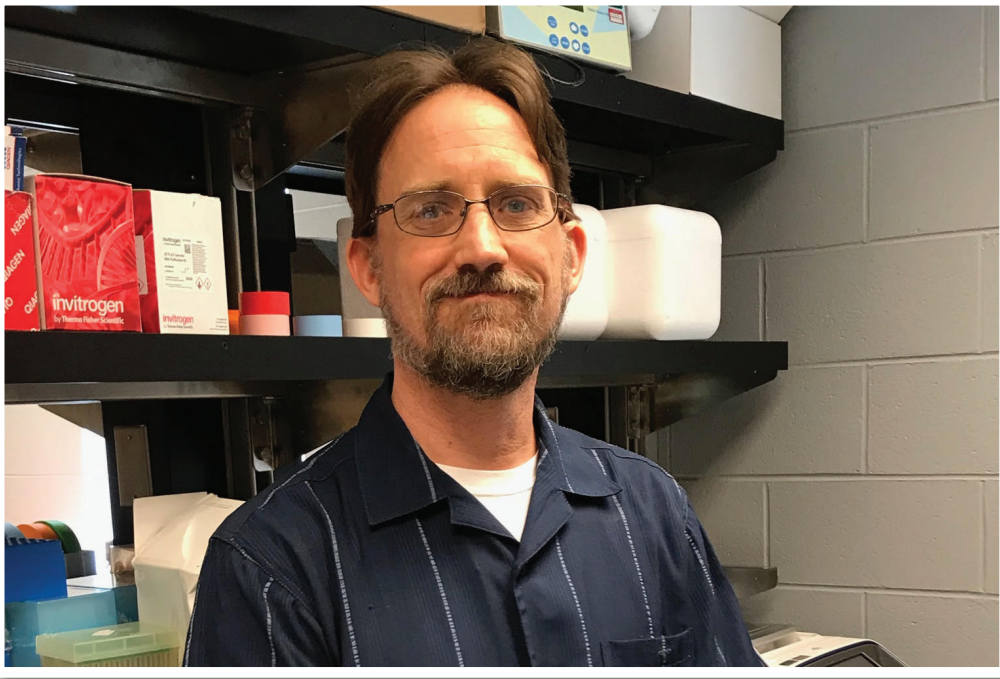
“It was a great experience to present my research information about health disparities in Mississippi. I gave insight on what is affecting men’s health in Mississippi especially the Mississippi Delta,” he said.

Lane, an aspiring doctor, said that ultimately his desire is to promote prevention education.

“I want to promote cancer awareness and prevention across the state, and I plan to do further research and partner with people and

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# MVSU PROFESSOR APPOINTED TO FLHCF BOARD



A Mississippi Valley State University professor was recently appointed to the board of a local organization devoted to eradicating cancer, particularly in the Mississippi Delta.

MVSU Assistant Professor of Environmental Health Dr. Mark Dugo has joined the board of directors for the Fannie Lou Hamer Cancer Foundation (FLHCF).

The Ruleville-based non-profit was founded and is led by MVSU alumna Freddie White-Johnson (82'). Its mission includes preventing

cancer in the Mississippi Delta by increasing awareness and establishing a public agenda for the prevention of cancer.

Dugo brings to the organization a wealth of knowledge in the areas of health disparities and the underlying causes of cancer.

His term will last two years, and he will be eligible to be re-appointed by the Foundation's executive board.

"I am honored to be selected, and I hope that we can get MVSU students engaged—particularly

our Environmental Health students," said Dugo, who joined MVSU's faculty in 2015.

According to Dugo, research, education, and advocacy provided by FLHCF are critical in reducing the number of individuals impacted by cancer.

"We, here at Valley, need to be players in this as well, so we want to continue to get students engaged in community outreach to promote and encourage early screenings."

White-Johnson, who serves as FLHCF's executive director, said Dugo's appointment is an important one for the organization.

"We are extremely fortunate to have Dr. Dugo join our organization," said White-Johnson. He genuinely cares about people and has an authentic passion for mankind. I'm just really impressed by his level of expertise and the sincerity he exhibits in his work."

White-Johnson said Dugo will offer valuable contributions that will help the organization carry out its mission.

"His extensive experience in his particular field and his leadership is something that will be an invaluable asset as the Fannie Lou Hamer Cancer Foundation strives to reduce cancer health disparities and save lives in the state of Mississippi, particularly in the Mississippi Delta," she said.

A native of Virginia, Dugo has a background tied to three Mississippi IHL institutions.

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# MVSU'S BOYD PRESENTS DURING SERA ANNUAL MEETING

A Mississippi Valley State University professor recently made presentations during two education-focused conferences.

Dr. Alfred Boyd, MVSU assistant professor of education, presented during the Southwest Educational Research Association (SERA) annual meeting in New Orleans as well as the Creating Futures Through Technology Conference (CFTTC) in Biloxi.

At SERA, Boyd presented his study, entitled "Barriers to the Academic Achievement: A Commentary on the Variables that Impact the Academic Success of Students of Poverty."



During his commentary, Boyd discussed the effects poverty and low socioeconomic status on academic achievement, prompting conference-goers to consider barriers that may cause students affected by poverty to underachieve.

"As a presenter and discussant at SERA, I was able to help graduate students with their in-progress and share my poverty research," said Boyd. "This research has become my passion."

During the CFTTC, Boyd was a discussant for in-progress research and a presenter for the workshop, "Make Learning Fun and Games", during which he introduced new and innovative

instructional strategies.

"It was an honor to be selected for both conferences," Boyd said. They allowed me to be 'in motion' as I challenged myself, and I have grown and learned so much from the people that I met and from the process as a whole."

SERA is a regional educational research association dedicated to furthering the advancement of research in education.

Mississippi's premier educational event, CFTTC brings together talented faculty, administrators and IT professionals to share their insight and strategies for using technology in higher education.



# MVSU STUDENT LEADERS CITCHENS, WASHINGTON ATTEND NEW LEADERSHIP™ MS



Two budding Mississippi Valley State University leaders recently had the opportunity to learn more about leadership and politics during a nationally recognized program designed to address the underrepresentation of women in American politics.

MVSU's Office of Student Leadership and Engagement recently sent rising sophomore Chelsea Washington of Yazoo City, Miss., and rising junior Janice Citchens of Tutwiler, Miss. to represent the University during the NEW Leadership™ Mississippi program.

Hosted May 20-24 on the campus of Mississippi University for Women (MUW), the national bi-partisan program was developed by Rutgers University and designed to expose participants to new ideas and opportunities as they consider their future careers.

The program consisted of a very strategic and rigorous selection process to which both Citchens and Washington were selected.

During the five-day, residential institute, college women from across the political spectrum were given the opportunity to learn about the important role that politics plays in their lives and encouraged to become effective leaders in the political arena.

Citchens, who plans to become an attorney, said the program was very insightful.

"The program was extremely beneficial. Dynamic speakers presented on an array of topics— from tactics on running a campaign to tips on maintaining a positive image," she said. Sharing that experience with some of the brightest minds in the state gives me hope. Mississippi's future is in good hands."

Washington expressed a similar sentiment.

"The NEW Leadership program was an amazing experience during which I met other young ladies with different perspectives and aspirations. This program gave me an incredible outlook into public service and how to be one of the few women in politics," she said.

As part of the program, participants traveled to the state capitol to meet women who lead several of Mississippi's public agencies.

They also had an opportunity to meet Attorney Constance Slaughter-Harvey, the first African American woman to graduate from the University of Mississippi's School of Law.

NEW Leadership™ was hosted by MUW and the Stennis Center for Public Service.

# MVSU STUDENT LEADERS SHARPEN SKILLS DURING STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Mississippi Valley State University Office of Student Leadership and Engagement has been keeping MVSU student leaders "in motion" this summer in preparation for the upcoming school term.

Seven student leaders, along with Director for Student Leadership and Engagement Pamela Hilton and Dean of Student Conduct Raynaldo Gillus, recently traveled to Savannah, Ga. for the 22nd Annual Student Leadership Institute (SLI).

SLI is a six-day intensive, interactive, and stimulating learning program designed for newly elected Historically Black College and Universities (HBCU) student leaders (including



See "Institute" page 6

# MVSU AMONG 79 ORGANIZATIONS NATIONWIDE TO RECEIVE NEA BIG READ GRANT

## *MVSU and local community to read and celebrate Silver Sparrow*

Mississippi Valley State University recently received a \$10,150 grant to host the NEA Big Read in the Mississippi Delta community.

A national initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, the NEA Big Read is designed to broaden the understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book.

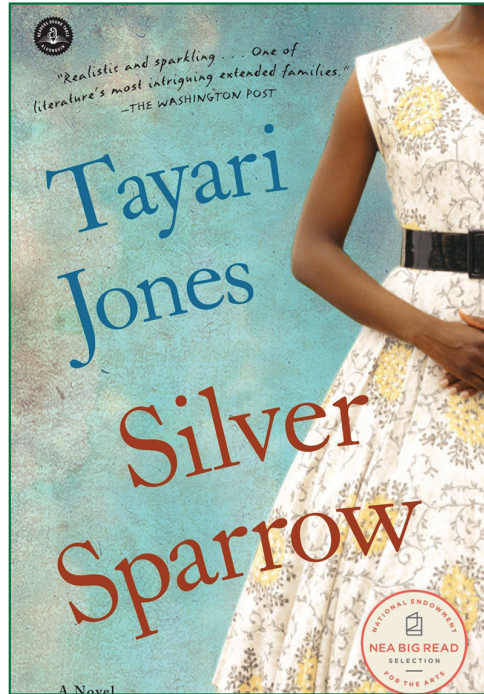
MVSU is one of 79 non-profit organizations nationwide and the only organization in the state to receive an NEA Big Read grant to host a community reading program between September 2018 and June 2019.

The NEA Big Read at MVSU will focus on Tayari Jones' "Silver Sparrow," a touching and moving read threaded with the themes of love, family as well as the difficulties of coming of age.

The novel was chosen as a Best Book of 2011 by *O, The Oprah Magazine*, *Library Journal*, *Slate*, and *Salon*.

Activities centered on the selection will kick-off Oct. 1, 2018.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to promote student achievement, literacy and build



community partnerships through the NEA Big Read grant," said Brittany Davis-Green, MVSU director of Communications and Marketing.

"Reading is an essential skill that allows us to make meaningful contributions to improve ourselves and, in turn, our communities. We are excited about the positive impact this grant will

allow MVSU to generate in the Delta."

The NEA Big Read showcases a diverse range of contemporary titles that reflect many different voices and perspectives, aiming to inspire conversation and discovery. The main feature of the initiative is a grants program, managed by Arts Midwest, which annually supports dynamic community reading programs, each designed around a single NEA Big Read selection.

"The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support opportunities for communities across the nation, both small and large, to take part in the NEA Big Read," said NEA Acting Chairman Mary Anne Carter.

"This program encourages people to not only discuss a book together, but be introduced to new perspectives, discuss the issues at the forefront of our own lives, and connect with one another at events."

MVSU's Department of English will collaborate with Academic Affairs, the J.H. White Library, the Department of Distance and Online Education, the Office of Communications and Marketing, University College, local public libraries, schools, museums, and faculty from

See "Grant" next page

## MVSU STUDENTS DISCUSS CYBERSPACE, CYBERSECURITY & CYBERCRIME

Mississippi Valley State University students recently completed a crash course on avoiding online danger during a special lecture entitled "Cyberspace, Cybersecurity, and Cybercrime."

MVSU students from various majors assembled Wednesday, June 13, for the discussion, led by MVSU Criminal Justice Chair Dr. Emmanuel Amadi. The event was designed to enhance student's knowledge and understanding of cyberspace, cybersecurity and cybercrime.

During the lecture, Amadi detailed each concept by defining and describing the terms and sharing how they each uniquely affect the World Wide Web.

"The internet is a critical part of the cyberspace and was initially setup to provide open and unrestricted access to information and data," Amadi said.



He advised students that it is important to know how to protect their computer systems and networks, including mobile devices.

In addition, Amadi discussed hacking, illustrating how hackers infiltrate computer

systems and networks to infect them with viruses.

The event was supported by funds awarded by the Charles Koch Foundation.



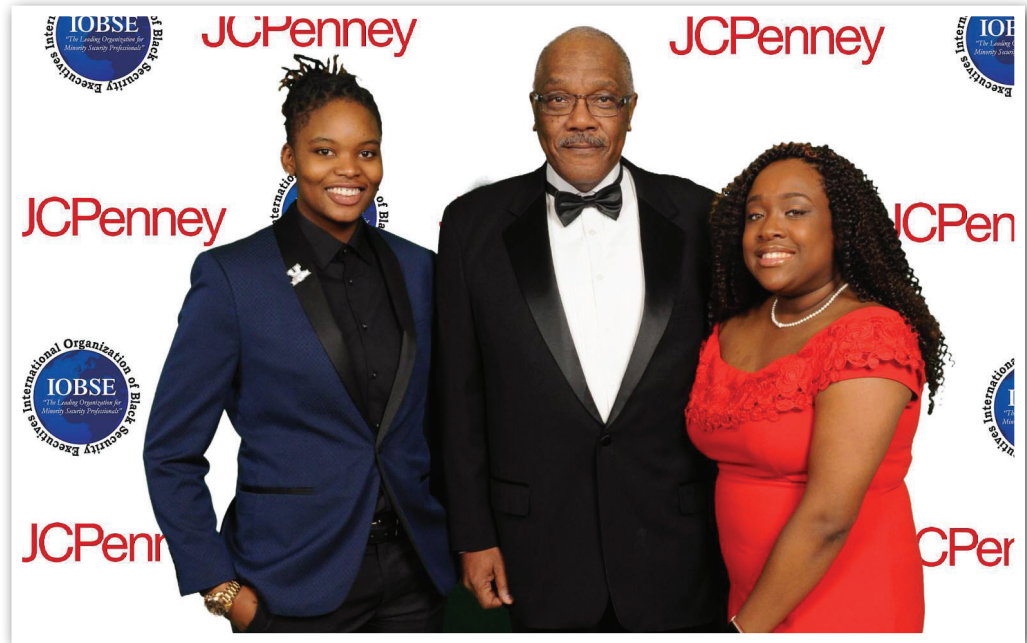
# MVSU STUDENTS ATTEND IOBSE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The continued partnership with Mississippi Valley State University's (MVSU) Career Services Center and the International Organization of Black Security Executives (IOBSE) recently provided MVSU students with a unique opportunity to gain real-world leadership and career experience.

MVSU junior Business Administration major Jamya Edwards, senior Business Administration major Theron Chatman, Jr. and junior Computer Science major Shaniqwa Barber were extended the opportunity to attend IOBSE's Annual Spring Conference after participating in a Career Leadership Seminar and interview hosted by the non-profit security organization on MVSU's campus earlier during the spring semester.

The conference, hosted April 24-26 by the JC Penney Corporation in Plano, Texas, was an exciting and informative program designed to assist in developing future industry leaders for tomorrow's domestic and global security challenges.

"We truly appreciate the partnership and exposure provided to our students for professional development and networking at this capacity in preparing our students for post-graduation careers," said Essie Bryant, MVSU's



director of career services.

Before arriving to the conference, each participant received a \$200 JC Penney gift card and a 40 percent off coupon to assist students as they "dressed for success" in business attire for the conference and evening attire for the gala.

In addition, the students received a free copy of the bestselling book "StrengthsFinder 2.0

from Gallup" in preparation for a workshop on understanding and leveraging your strengths.

Students were also given the opportunity to compete for an educational scholarship by writing a 500-word essay about their interest in security, leadership and campus community involvement. Edwards received the Loss Prevention Certification scholarship.

## Board *continued from page 2*

In 2003, Dugo earned his M.S. in Biological Sciences from the University of Southern Mississippi, studying population genetics of the endangered Gulf sturgeon.

In 2015, he received his Ph.D. in Environmental Science from Jackson State University, where he studied gene expression in native fishes following exposure to the carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon, 3-Methylcholanthrene.

"Now that I work and reside in the Mississippi Delta, I am interested in stakeholder engagement and education as vital components of public health intervention," he said.

At MVSU, Dugo has advised several undergraduate and graduate students on independent projects about health disparities and environmental health, including delineating incidence and mortality rates of female reproductive cancers and prostate cancer and characterizing carcinogenic releases from facilities that report to the EPA toxic release inventory.

He recently initiated a genomics-based laboratory workflow with capabilities in population diagnostics for training and research at MVSU.

The Fannie Lou Hamer Cancer Foundation was founded and established under the umbrella of The University of Southern Mississippi by White-Johnson, who is also the Director of the USM's Office of Mississippi Network for Cancer Control & Prevention.

Last year, FLHCF identified and assisted 837 women with a screening appointment for a mammogram and Pap test; 360 men with a prostate screening; provided financial assistance for transportation to 23 women and 3 men; and provided cancer education material to more than 10,000 men and women throughout the state of Mississippi, mostly in the Mississippi Delta.

To learn more about the Fannie Lou Hamer Cancer Foundation, visit [www.flhcf.com](http://www.flhcf.com).

## Grant *continued from page 4*

other academic units in sponsoring the Big Read program, which will include the Big Read Kick-off, a keynote session, 10 days of discussion centered on the novel and a final presentations session. The event dates have not yet been finalized and will be announced later.

Since 2006, the National Endowment for the Arts has funded more than 1,400 NEA Big Read programs, providing more than \$19 million to organizations nationwide. In addition, Big Read activities have reached every Congressional district in the country. Over the past eleven years, grantees have leveraged more than \$44 million in local funding to support their NEA Big Read programs. More than 4.9 million Americans have attended an NEA Big Read event, approximately 82,000 volunteers have participated at the local level, and 39,000 community organizations have partnered to make NEA Big Read activities possible.

For more information about the NEA Big Read, please visit [arts.gov/neabigread](http://arts.gov/neabigread).

# VAUGHN WINS “BEST IN SHOW”



MVSU Assistant Professor of Art Dr. Dorothy Vaughn recently earned an award during the annual Mississippi Homemaker Volunteers (MHV) Conference, hosted May 21-24 at Mississippi State University in Starkville.

Vaughn's mixed media drawing of B. B. King won “Best in Show” in the Cultural Arts Exhibit under the category of Painting and Drawing.

Vaughn, who retired June 30 after several decades in MVSU's Department of Fine Arts, stated that she had fun playing around with magic and fiber markers, felt tip pens, and ink pens to produce the piece.

“Art can be created from almost anything if you have the vision and inspiration to explore

creativity,” she said.

According to Vaughn, she found most of the liquid media at her mother's house and was inspired to begin on the drawing while visiting her.

Vaughn has been a member of the Mississippi Homemaker Volunteers, Inc. since 1993.

The mission of the MHV is to strengthen families through education and community involvement.

This year's Mississippi Homemaker Volunteers Conference was special as it marked the centennial anniversary of the organization.

## Institute *continued from page 3*

Student Government, Class Officers, Greek Councils, Student Ambassadors, Programming Boards, Kings and Queens) who are committed to uplifting their organizations and their university.

During the event, MVSU student leaders had an opportunity to meet workshop presenter Terrance Terrell, a 2004 graduate of MVSU. Terrell is an actor and author who has written two children's books—“Blacky” and “SHE”. He is well known for his acting role in hit TV series, “Criminal Minds.”

MVSU student leaders attending the conference included: Miss MVSU 2018-2019 Stormy Green of Southaven, Miss.; Mr. MVSU 2018-2019 Tony Holland of Oxford, Miss.; SGA Vice-President Niasia Harrington of Indianola, Miss.; SGA Chaplain Arlencia Barnes of Indianola, Miss.; Pan Hellenic Vice-President Erryon Clark of Belzoni, Miss. and Junior Class President Janice Citchens of Tutwiler, MS.

SLI is sponsored by the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals (NASAP)—a professional organization on the leading edge regarding issues, solutions, and professional development opportunities for student affairs professionals serving at HBCUs and for those professionals who serve minority populations in diverse settings around the country.

To learn more about NASAP, visit [www.naspa.org](http://www.naspa.org).

# MVSU STUDENT-ATHLETE RECEIVES NCAA'S 2018 AASP CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Recent MVSU graduate Laadi Issaka of Ghana was one of two recipients recently selected to receive the NCAA's Accelerating Academic Success Program (AASP) Career Development Award.



The prestigious award is designated for student-athletes who attend AASP-eligible schools and who plan to pursue careers in athletics.

A standout in MVSU's women's soccer program, Issaka led Division I in points per game and goals per game in 2016 and in assists per game

in 2015. She graduated summa cum laude from MVSU in May, receiving a bachelor's degree in Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER).

The second honoree, Douglas Nover, played tennis for Saint Peter's University in Jersey City, N.J.

AASP assists select Division I schools in developing programs and systems designed to increase graduation rates and ensure academic success. Issaka and Nover were chosen by an AASP committee composed of NCAA staff and membership.

“At the very core of the NCAA mission is the student-athlete,” said Tiese Roxbury, NCAA assistant director of research, assessment and academic success. “The AASP team is more than happy to highlight the academic excellence of our student-athletes, while also assisting with their career development.”

As part of the honor, Issaka had travel costs paid to attend two NCAA developmental events — the Career in Sports Forum set for May 31-June 3 in Indianapolis and the AASP Conference set for July 24-25 in Orlando, Florida.





organizations to bring about the change I would like to see," he said.

Because Lane has aspirations of being a medical doctor, he believes it is vital he focuses on issues that affect him directly.

"As a minority, I wanted to focus on things that could directly affect myself and the men in my family. I want to do whatever I can to help people. Oncology is a field I am interested in and something that sparks my interest right now," he shared.

MVSU Assistant Professor of Environmental Health Dr. Mark Dugo, who served as Lane's advisor, said he was proud of Lane and the hard work he has put in to earn this achievement and excited to continue

working with him this fall as an Environmental Health graduate student before he heads off to medical school.

"For Derrick's Master of Science degree, we are planning to have him engage in laboratory activities that will hopefully lay initial groundwork for our future capacity to perform genetic-based screening, using techniques that I am hoping to start working on in the lab this summer on non-human samples," he said.

The annual "Advancing Mississippi" conference is organized by the University Research Center (URC), a division of Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) and is a unique opportunity for researchers from across the state to present papers addressing long-term economic challenges facing the state.

To learn more, visit [www.mississippi.edu/urc](http://www.mississippi.edu/urc).

# WELCOME ABOARD



**Sheteria Elmore**  
*Teacher*  
Department of Education



**Tyrainne Norton**  
*Instructor*  
Mass Communication



**Cheryl Williams**  
*Payroll Clerk*  
Facilities Management



**Raven Williams**  
*Grant Accountant*  
Business & Finance

HOME COMING  
2018  
VALLEY  
THEN  
VALLEY  
NOW  
VALLEY  
FOREVER

OCT. 20



Two  
Minutes  
with...

# Joanne Taiheng

Minority Recruiter / Counselor, Office of Admissions and Recruitment



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

My name is Joanne Taiheng. I'm a proud New York native from Queens. I'm very passionate about pursuing my dreams, building self success, and exploring the world. After earning my Bachelors of Arts degree in General Studies and Language, I relocated from New York City to the Mississippi Delta. It's been a huge adjustment, but I have truly enjoyed the experience. Initially, I became involved with Mississippi Valley State University through our Summer Development program as a summer development program assistant. I am now the minority recruiter and counselor for the Office of Admissions and Recruitment.

*How do you approach providing service?*

As the minority recruiter and counselor, I approach providing service with knowledge, determination, and kindness. Complete knowledge of my role in our community and the resources we have available is one of the greatest tools in providing our students, faculty, staff and Valley family the best service possible. Regardless of each student's situation, I am determined to ensure they're on the right path to success.

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

You'll most likely find me traveling and going on new adventures when I'm not at work. I enjoy exploring the rest of Mississippi during my spare time. I aspire to travel fabulously and eat well, at all times. I love eating food. But I love the food Mississippi has to offer even more! As someone who isn't a native of Mississippi, there's plenty to experience and see. Mississippi is a beautiful state, and I'm learning something new about it everyday.

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

I'm a storyteller and photographer during my spare time as well. I manage the Humans of the Delta Project. It's an ongoing photography project focused on the communities and individuals in the Delta of Mississippi. The stories of these individuals are told through interviews and photos. As someone once told me, "When you're in Mississippi, you don't know what's going on in the world. When you're in the world, you don't know what's in Mississippi." My focus is to create a bridge of insight between Mississippi and the world. To become involved or view the project, visit [www.facebook.com/humansofthedelta](http://www.facebook.com/humansofthedelta).

# COMMUNIQUÉ

The Communiqué is published for faculty, staff, alumni and supporters of Mississippi Valley State University by the Office of Communications and Marketing

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