



COMMUNIQUÉ

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MVSU AND FEDEX LOGISTICS PARTNER TO LAUNCH NEW HBCU EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) recently teamed up with FedEx Logistics, Inc., a subsidiary of FedEx Corp. (NYSE: FDX), to launch its new Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) program with the opening a satellite office on MVSU's campus that will be staffed with qualified MVSU students.

As part of the program, MVSU students will have part-time employment while they are in school, with the potential for full-time employment upon graduation.

In addition to providing professional opportunities for MVSU students, the program is also designed to build a pipeline of talent to support FedEx's industry-leading customs brokerage operations.

"I am extremely proud of this groundbreaking program and working with MVSU to help

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MVSU'S EDNA HORTON, COLLEGE HALL I RESIDENCE HALLS SET TO OPEN THIS FALL

Mississippi Valley State University is on track to re-open two completely renovated residence halls—just in time for the Fall 2019 semester.

With major construction scheduled to wrap up soon, MVSU's Edna Horton and College Hall I Residence Halls are on track to be completed this fall. Edna Horton is expected to be open by Aug. 2019, while College Hall I will be open for occupancy shortly after.

According to MVSU President Dr. Jerryl Briggs, the opening of the residence halls will help meet the increasing need for on-campus housing and further enhance the overall student experience at MVSU.

"We're excited to bring both completely renovated residence halls back on-line," said Briggs. "We understand that student housing is very important, and these renovated residence

halls will allow us to better serve our students as well as aid in recruitment and retention. This is just another example of how Valley is 'In Motion.'"

The buildings will add a total of 460 beds. Each room will be newly furnished with two full-size beds, dressers, wardrobes as well as two desks and chairs. They will also feature amenities, including cable and Wi-Fi.

Both halls are energy efficient and will meet life safety and ADA requirements of the National Fire Protection.

MVSU will kick-off its Fall 2019 semester on Aug. 26.



MVSU WELCOMES FITZGERALD AS ITS NEW ASSOCIATE BAND DIRECTOR

In middle school, Devanon Fitzgerald saw a future for himself as a football player. That all changed when he attended Trezevant High School in Memphis, where he met teacher and band director Dr. Kerry Simon.

Simon opened his eyes to the world of music and band, and the rest is history.

Today, Fitzgerald has reunited with his mentor and former teacher as the new associate band director of Mississippi Valley State University's Mean Green Marching Machine.

When Simon was hired as the first female band director in the history of MVSU and the Southwestern Athletic Conference, it opened the door for her to fill the position of associate band director that she had previously held for two years.

"I have known Mr. Fitzgerald for over 20 years. I have watched him develop as a musician and rise through the ranks in the band world. I do not doubt that Mr. Fitzgerald will be an asset to our band program and our University," said Simon.

"Mr. Fitzgerald is known throughout the band world as an amazing music educator. He is also



known for building great band programs. In my opinion, he is what we need to help elevate our program," Simon added.

Fitzgerald said that receiving the opportunity to work with Simon on the collegiate level is a dream come true.

"Becoming a collegiate band director has always been a dream, and I am honored to have this position," said Fitzgerald.

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MVSU STUDENT LEADERS ATTEND 2019 NASAP STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



Student leaders from Mississippi Valley State University recently attended the annual National Association of Student Affairs Professional (NASAP) Student Leadership Institute (SLI) May 28 to June 3 at Savannah State University in Savannah, Ga.

The six-day institute is an intensive, interactive and stimulating program for newly elected student leaders at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) who are committed to uplifting their organizations and their university.

The seven members of Valley's student leader's cohort to attend the institute were Arlencia Barnes and John McCall III, the newly-elected Miss and Mr. MVSU 2019-2020; Brandon McCall, Student Government Association

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MVSU SUMMER CAMPS IMMERSE LOCAL STUDENTS IN CYBER, CODING

While many middle and high school students have been spending their summer relaxing, 61 local students opted to keep their minds stimulated during Coding Camps hosted at Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU).

The two camps were a project between MVSU's Mathematics, Computer and Information Science (MCIS) Department and Mississippi State University's Center for Cyber Education, and supported by the National Science Foundation.

The first camp was held June 3-6 for 38 middle school students from Greenwood, Humphreys, Sunflower, Greenville, and Western Line school districts. The second camp, hosted June 17-20, featured 23 high school students from those school districts.

Marcus Golden, MVSU computer science instructor and coding camp coordinator, said that the experience for the students was a unique one filled with a wealth of information that helped to build exposure to computer science and its creative nature.

"Each day, students were exposed to different aspects of computer science, such as coding, cybersecurity, mobile app development, robotics, and virtual reality," Golden explained. "Students



created prototypes of mobile apps, built robots from recycled materials, designed animated stories and programmed characters to dance with code. Students worked on a final project in one of these areas that they then presented to parents and fellow camp participants as part of the closing presentation for the camp."

The camps also increased students' interest in pursuing careers in this high-demand, high-wage profession.

During the camps, industry professionals from C Spire visited and shared information with the students about career opportunities in computer science. They also allowed students time to interact with Pepper—the C Spire robot.

Throughout the four-day camps, students read the fictional book, "The Code Witch", by Sarah Sterman.

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MVSU'S KING ADVANCES EDUCATION THROUGH COMPETITIVE SELI FELLOWSHIP

Philemon King, a rising junior at Mississippi Valley State University, spent this summer changing the narrative about educational opportunities in the South after landing a competitive fellowship with the Southern Education Leadership Initiative (SELI).

SELI is an intensive, eight-week, paid summer fellowship for emerging leaders interested in advancing racial equity and improving education across the pre-k through college continuum.

According to SELI, more than 200 students applied for this year's fellowship, with 20 stellar candidates—including King—rising to the top of the pool.

The 2019 cohort of exceptional young leaders represents 18 schools across the South, including five Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Placed in nonprofits, school districts, or state education agencies in the South, SELI fellows spend the summer developing as leaders, engaging with valuable stakeholders, and acquiring practical job skills through direct learning experiences.

King, a Computer Science major at MVSU, has been placed with Foundation for the Mid-South in Jackson where he is supporting their efforts to increase graduation rates and improve males of color's success throughout Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

"My experience is going great," said King, who is a resident of Greenville, Miss., by way of Orange Park, Ga.



See "Fellowship" page 13

MVSU'S CITCHENS RESEARCHES MIGRATION PATTERNS AS RONALD E. MCNAIR SCHOLAR

Mississippi Valley State University senior Janice Citchens of Tutwiler, Miss. has been utilizing the summer to learn all she can about post-baccalaureate studies through the Ronald E. McNair Program at the University of Mississippi.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, the McNair Scholars Program is designed to prepare undergraduate students for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities.

During the rigorous, six-week program, students conduct and present research under mentors in their desired field of study, giving them a first-hand encounter of the demands and requirements of graduate school.

Citchens, a sociology major, researched migration patterns in Mississippi with guidance from Dr. John Green.

"I was privileged to attend the University of Mississippi's McNair Program, and the experience was outstanding," said Citchens.

"As an African-American woman from the Mississippi Delta, I'm very much aware of the opportunity deficit. The McNair program allowed me space to foster long-term relationships with mentors and peers while also allowing the opportunity to sharpen specific



skills and discover ones I did not know I possessed." Citchens added.

Citchens said while attending the program opened her eyes to the rigor of graduate studies, it also showed her that she's capable of tackling the challenge.

"More than anything being a McNair Scholar has reminded me that our disadvantages do

not dictate our trajectory and as students from the Mississippi Delta we are just as competent and capable," she explained. "However, since opportunities are not as readily available to us, we have to seek them."

During her time at MVSU, Citchens has served as a University Ambassador as well as a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the National Council of Negro Women.

Named for physicist and astronaut Dr. Ronald Erwin McNair who passed away in the 1986 Challenger space shuttle explosion, the McNair Scholars Program is a federal TRIO program funded at 151 institutions across the United States and Puerto Rico by the U.S. Department of Education.

McNair participants are either first-generation college students with financial need or members of a group that is traditionally underrepresented in graduate education who have demonstrated strong academic potential.

The goal of the McNair Scholars Program is to increase the attainment of Ph.D. degrees by students from underrepresented segments of society.

To learn more about the McNair Scholars Program, visit www.mcnairscholars.com.

MVSU GRAD RECRUITED AND HIRED BY MAJOR PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY



When Miracle Johnson made her way to Itta Bena from Chicago to major in biology, she thought for certain that she would one day pursue a career in medicine.

However, while finishing up her studies at MVSU, Johnson realized that she was more comfortable in a white coat than scrubs. That realization, coupled with her love for research, has helped her to launch her career at Kashiv Biosciences as a manufacturing assistant.

With a mission of developing innovative technologies and medicines for improving the health of patients worldwide, Kashiv Biosciences is a pharmaceutical research and drug delivery company developing next-generation technologies, innovative medicines for patients with unmet medical needs and drug life-cycle management products.

"This is an exciting opportunity," said Johnson. "In my new position, I will be responsible for

the manufacturing of biotechnology products for clinical and commercial human use."

While studying at Valley, Johnson worked with Dr. Mark Dugo, assistant professor of environmental health, on a research project that she believes opened the door to her being recruited by Kashiv Biosciences .

Johnson and Dugo researched the algal species *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* to study how two antioxidant enzymes, Thioredoxin Dependent Peroxidase and Superoxide Dismutase, reacted to silver nanoparticles, which cause oxidative stress at high dosages. The pair worked with DNA extractions, amplification and sequencing to validate the genes used for gene expression. They then performed an RNA Purification and quantitative polymerase chain reaction.

See "Recruited" page 10

WILLIAMS BRINGS PASSION FOR HIGHER ED TO MVSU'S OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

"Never touch anything with half your heart" is a mantra that Dr. Danisha Williams has always carried with her, and her new position at Mississippi Valley State University is no exception.

Williams joined MVSU's staff as the director of admissions in April 2019. She brings with her enthusiasm as well as a wealth of knowledge, having previously served as a counselor, recruiter, director, and assistant dean.

She has more than 19 years of experience serving as a counselor, recruiter, director, and assistant dean at institutions in the Midwest and Southeast regions.

"I consider it a great privilege to be named the new Director of Admissions at Mississippi Valley State University, an institution that I have known and respected for many years," said Williams.

"My goal for the admissions department is to execute an aggressive and strategic recruitment plan that emphasizes superior customer service, constant communication, and high visibility to attract the next generation of MVSU students," she added.

Williams said her top priorities include collaborating with key stakeholders of MVSU to maximize recruitment efforts.

"I am excited about formalizing current student and alumni involvement as these populations have proven to be extremely impactful in reaching recruitment goals," she said. "During

my first month, I have been widely welcomed by my colleagues and administration, and I plan to use that energy to initiate collaborative efforts that I believe will yield us the results we so deserve."

MVSU Vice President of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management Dr. Jacqueline Gibson Prestly said she's excited to have Williams join the team.



"Dr. Williams brings to MVSU an array of skills in strategic enrollment planning and recruitment, data analysis, supervision, budget management, scholarship awarding, and building relations with University alumni and other stakeholders," said Prestly. "Ultimately, Dr. Williams' skill set demonstrates her ability to engage the necessary players to implement effective strategies that shape enrollment and meet our established goals."

A native of Champaign, Ill., Williams has spent the past nine years in Nashville where she's served in various roles at Fisk University, her alma mater.

In 2010, she began her career in higher education in Residence Life as the Living Learning Center coordinator.

Williams later served as the freshman academic advisor for the Young Educated Scholar's first-year experience cohort. That position allowed her to work with the Office of Academic Excellence and Student Performance in various retention efforts.

She also had the opportunity to teach Core 100 and Core 120, to recruit and train staff in the Residence Life department and advise multiple student organizations.

In 2013, Williams was offered a position in Fisk University's Office of Recruitment and Admission, where she feels she was able to

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He credits Simon for igniting his interest in a music career.

"It was in the ninth grade when I decided I would become a band director following a conversation with Dr. Simon," he said. "Dr. Simon asked me if I could 'make a career that is a hobby and be paid for it what would it be?' and I said I could do this (band) all my life."

Another dream for Fitzgerald was to attend Tennessee State University. He accomplished that goal and upon graduating returned to Memphis to work in the school system.

Fitzgerald's passion for band is evident and his desire to help students develop is something that drives him each day.

"I love seeing a student who comes in with no skills grow from not truly understanding an

instrument to becoming almost perfect with their instrument," he shared.

As an instructor, Fitzgerald said he feels that it is vital to get on a personal level with students and meet them where they are so that he can pull the most out of them.

"I believe you have to understand the personality of the student so that you can help them blossom into the best musician they can be," he said.

Before coming to Valley, Fitzgerald served as the band director at Whitehaven High School in Memphis. He has also worked at Craigmont High School and Hamilton High School as a band director.

He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from TSU. He has a

master's degree in Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment from Walden University. He has an Educational Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership, and currently, he is enrolled at the University of Florida for a Master of Music in Music Education. He also plans to obtain his doctorate from the University of Florida.

Fitzgerald is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and Phi Mu Alpha.

He is married to Jessica, and together, they have three children, Jordan (10), Jayden (7) and Joshua (4).

"I am so thankful to my wife for allowing me to live my dream, putting up with me for the past 16 years, and transitioning with me in this new endeavor," he said.

MVSU'S MORRIS-FRANCIS PENS NEW BOOK EXPLORING JAMAICA AND CRIME

A Mississippi Valley State University faculty member is pulling back the cover on issues related to her homeland of Jamaica in a new project.

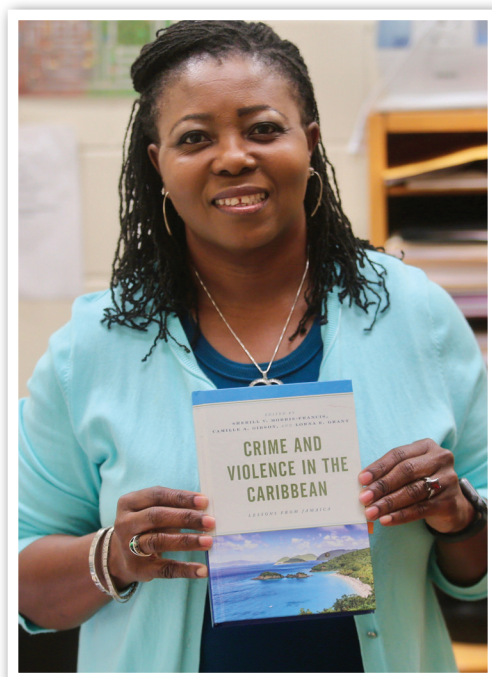
MVSU's Dr. Sherill Morris-Francis is behind a new book series entitled, "Crime and Violence in the Caribbean: Lessons from Jamaica."

Morris-Francis, who serves as an assistant professor and graduate coordinator in the MVSU Department of Criminal Justice, said the project is the first publication in series that will address serious criminal issues affecting the Caribbean.

"The book gives an analysis of specific crime issues facing the region, providing an understanding of the causes, risk factors, and impact," said Morris-Francis. "The book covers recent homicide trends, gangs, drug trafficking, cases of murder-suicide, money laundering as well as the issue of deportation and crime."

Morris-Francis said the concept behind the book series arose from the shared interest in the Caribbean Crime and Justice Association, an off-shoot of the International Section in the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

"I am the co-chair for this group and invited members to collaborate on this project. Members of the Association are mostly former Caribbean nationals who still have roots or families living



in the Caribbean. The book reflects our deep and growing concern about recent trends in the Caribbean that threaten the safety of its citizens and the potential of the region," she explained.

Morris-Francis and her colleagues are in the process of completing the second book on crime in the Caribbean, focusing on violence and crime against women and youth. The proposed

publication date is later this year.

Morris-Francis said the growing concern about the high levels of crime that exist in countries like the Caribbean was an inspiration while composing the book.

"While these islands are known for their idyllic beaches and resorts, popular tourist destinations, and the perfect wedding destination, many of these islands, especially the English-speaking islands, share the common problem of rising crime and violence rates," she said.

"These islands boast a largely young population, high unemployment rates, and in several countries, a high percentage of the population resides in urban areas, which increased their vulnerability to crime victimization," Morris-Francis added.

As a Caribbean national, Morris-Francis feels that enough is not known about the levels and causes of crime in the Caribbean. She also noted that there is little information provided in textbooks to shed light on the full impact of crime in the region.

"Most comparative criminal justice texts cover issues in other parts of the world, not the Caribbean. We intend to fill this gap," she said.

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MVSU'S GOLDEN RECEIVES AAPOR STUDENT-FACULTY DIVERSITY PIPELINE AWARD

The American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) has selected MVSU's Dr. Kathie Stromile-Golden as a recipient of the Student-Faculty Diversity Pipeline Award.

The award, which targets members of historically underrepresented racial-ethnic groups, is intended to recruit faculty-student "pairs" interested in becoming AAPOR colleagues by studying public opinion and survey research methodology.

Golden received the award for her collaboration with student Chandler Alexandra Golden, a senior psychology major at Xavier University. The pair was extended the opportunity to attend the 2019 AAPOR conference, hosted in Toronto, Ontario, May 16-19.



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WILLIAMS HELPS STUDENTS “BREAKTHROUGH” COLLEGE BARRIERS DURING SUMMER INTERNSHIP

Mississippi Valley State University senior JaQuana Williams never realized all that went into being a teacher—that is until she joined the staff at Breakthrough Atlanta, a program devoted to increasing educational opportunities to underserved students, as a summer intern.

Now, the English/Mass Communication major has a new respect for the profession.

“The biggest thing I have learned is that teachers do so much more than students can ever imagine. Lesson planning is a tedious task, but teachers put their best efforts forward so that students gain the most from the activities,” she said.

The mission of Breakthrough Atlanta is to increase the academic opportunity for highly motivated, underserved students and get them into college ready to succeed; and inspire and develop the next generation of teachers and educational leaders.

In addition to receiving hands-on experience that she’ll carry into her future career as a higher education professional, Williams is also receiving the opportunity to pay it forward by encouraging students from low socio-economic backgrounds to attend college.



“The exciting part is I get to do and be the ELA teachers I had in middle school that influenced the trajectory of my life,” said Williams, a native of College Park, Ga. “I get to reach back and

further push students that come from the same communities as me through high school and into post-secondary opportunities. This classroom experience will help me determine the route I will take after I graduate in May.”

Williams said that so far, the experience has been rigorous but worth it.

“I am working twice as hard since I have no official education background, but the content (ELA) is the lesser challenge. Unlike my last internship where I looked at data sets and analyzed decisions being made from outside the classroom, I am now getting that direct contact and insight into the classes, students and the policies that the data sets I was learning last summer affect,” she said.

Despite the challenges, she’s most excited about working with students and helping them to become college ready.

“I’m looking forward to learning from the students and providing my assistance wherever I can,” she said.

To learn more about Breakthrough Atlanta, visit www.breakthroughatlanta.org

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(SGA) president; Jevonte Curtis, SGA treasurer, Maurice Metcalf, senior class president; Ben Brent, sophomore class president; and Jaquana Williams, National Pan-Hellenic Council president.

In sharing his experience at NASAP, John McCall pointed out the benefits of having the opportunity to work with students from around the country.

“NASAP was an awesome event. I found many benefits in terms of what I could bring back to Valley as well as my career as I strive to be a film director and actor,” he said. “Everyone was humble, easy to get along with, and cool. I loved the seminars I attended, and I took plenty of notes. I also took advantage of the opportunity to network with other student leaders across the United States.”

Barnes said she also enjoyed working with other students who faced similar responsibilities and could relate to the work that awaits her in the upcoming year.

“NASAP was a beautiful experience and when leaders with great ideas come together to not only have a good time but to learn it is a marvelous time,” Barnes explained. “There were a variety of different, experienced speakers who all taught us not only to master our strengths and skills to have a great school year but also how to learn to relax and not stress so much because good mental health is essential.”

For McCall and Barnes, one of the biggest takeaways was what they learned in the area of leadership.

“We learned a lot about leadership and working with different kinds of people. We were separated into groups from different schools and were required to work together to solve an administration problem,” McCall shared.

Barnes said she also learned a lot from the opportunity to work in groups to discuss an issue and bring together ideas to create a solution.

Camps *continued from page 3*

Sterman, a post-doctoral student at UC Berkley, spoke with the students over live video on the final day of camp and shared her journey into computer science and what motivated her to write the book.

Lobaki, a company that has its roots in Clarksdale, Mississippi, shared with the high school students opportunities in the state to pursue careers in virtual reality and provided hands-on activities for the students to experience the technology.

Students also enjoyed presentations from MVSU faculty in addition to a cybersecurity presentation from MSU’s Center for Cyber Innovation.

“Overall, the camp provided students with a full schedule of informative, hands-on activities and experiences that exposed them to computer science and the impact it will have on their future career and everyday life,” Golden said.

MVSU'S SHARKEY SELECTED AS WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE'S 2019 HBCU COMPETITIVENESS SCHOLAR

Mississippi Valley State University's Destiney Sharkey has been selected by the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Initiative as a 2019 HBCU Competitiveness Scholar— the Initiative's highest student recognition.

Sharkey, a rising senior English major at MVSU, is among 44 students from 34 HBCUs across the nation selected for the distinction based on their academic achievement, campus, and civic involvement and entrepreneurial ethos. Each scholar is also nominated and endorsed by their institution's president.

Sharkey said being nominated to represent MVSU is an honor within itself.

"I hope my community takes this honor as one for all. The small town of Itta Bena is my hometown, and I've never been on a plane. MVSU chose to send me to represent them in Washington, D.C., and that still sounds foreign. I am blessed and thankful beyond measures," she said.

Competitiveness Scholars will assemble during the 2019 National HBCU Week Conference, September 8-11 in Washington D.C. The theme



of this year's conference is, "Enhancing HBCU Competitiveness: Student Achievement. Quality Partnerships. Institutional Performance."

The Scholars are also recognized throughout the 2019-2020 academic school year and will receive the opportunity to facilitate engagement activities, as well as receive information and resources that they can take advantage of or

disseminate to fellow students.

"We're looking forward to working with and learning from this new cohort of HBCU Competitiveness Scholars," said Elyse Jones, the Initiative's Coordinator for the Scholars Program.

"We have lots of unique, fun and interactive opportunities planned for this year that will provide new opportunities for these representatives, exposing them to critical national conversations and influential thought leaders," she added.

Sharkey said she is grateful for the opportunities MVSU has provided her.

"Humble beginnings in the Mississippi Delta have led me to appreciate blessings," said Sharkey. "I have used my experiences, pain, and pride to guide my footsteps. I use writing to vent and to learn, and it is writing that gave me this tremendous honor. It led me to meet the fantastic mentors in my department, thus granting me valuable opportunities such as being able to present in conferences as well as build an impressive resume."

MVSU'S ADAMS NAMED TO BOARD OF CASE DISTRICT III

A Mississippi Valley State University staff member has been named to the board of a premier organization for Advancement professionals.

MVSU Senior Advancement Officer/Grants Administrator Jannette S. Adams has been selected to serve as a member-at-large of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District III Board of Directors.

In addition, Adams has also been named the chair of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) committee.

The organization boasts 87,000 members and serves 3,700 institutions. District III serves states in the south eastern region of the United States. The board has a total of 12 members-at-large.

Adams was notified of the appointment last fall and was formally voted-in during the CASE District III Annual Conference. Her term will run through 2021.

"I'm excited, and I think it's an honor for me as well as for MVSU," said Adams. "It feels wonderful to be able to, as the HBCU chair, bring more HBCUs into the fold and have



them take part in the professional development services that CASE offers."

With only 18 HBCUs represented during the most recent annual conference, Adams said she aspires to encourage more HBCUs to take advantage of the wealth of resources and knowledge CASE offers.

"My responsibility is to ensure that HBCUs, many which are small shops and lack adequate

staff, are at the table to address our needs for professional development," she said. "I plan to help develop curriculum that will address the unique needs of HBCUs."

CASE is an international association of education advancement officers, including those who work in alumni relations, development, fundraising, communications and marketing for independent schools, colleges and universities.

CASE is a valuable source for practical, in-depth information and training in all areas of institutional advancement for different career and management levels. The organization also affords its members many networking, mentoring and leadership opportunities.

To learn more about CASE District III, visit www.casethree.org.

MVSU COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING TEAM BRINGS HOME 13 CPRAM AWARDS

The Mississippi Valley State University Office of Communications and Marketing team brought home 13 awards recently during the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi's (CPRAM's) annual conference.

Hosted May 20-21, this year's conference, themed "Innovate" was held at the McGowan Workforce Training Center, located at Holmes Community College's Ridgeland campus.

A sub-unit of the department of University Advancement, MVSU's Communications and Marketing team includes: Brittany Davis-Green, director; John McCall, senior graphic designer; Donell Maxie, communications specialist; Joseph Cotton, associate graphic designer, and Shanae Curry, project coordinator.

Dameon Shaw, MVSU's interim vice-president of advancement, said he is proud of the group for representing The Valley well.

"I am extremely proud of the communications and marketing team. They always perform well and do amazing work," said Shaw. "The support they provide to the institution is essential to the vision of the University, and I can't thank them enough for all they do for departments and offices of MVSU."

Davis-Green, Curry, Cotton, and Maxie won a first-place honor for the Communique' in the Newsletter-Senior Division category. The office also claimed a first-place win for their "Athletes in Motion" promo in the Television Spots Category.

McCall, Davis-Green, and Maxie took home a first-place win in the Creative Partners category for their collaboration with the Yanky 72



Memorial Committee for the Inaugural Yanky 72 Ceremony and Dedication. They also earned a second-place win in the Public Relations Campaign category for the MVSU Presidential Inauguration.

Davis-Green and McCall won a second-place award in the Advertisement category for their Infographic piece. The pair also won a second-place honor in the New Media/Social Media category for the "Mean Green Marching Machine" promo video as well as a second-place award for the "Valley Pride Day" video. Both projects were produced, shot and edited by Broadcast Media Group of Starkville.

Maxie notched a first-place win for his photo in the sports photography category. He also earned a second-place award in the same category for another submission. He received a third-place award for his photo entitled "Live for Service" in the Feature Photo category.

McCall secured a second-place award for his MVSU Sports Stadium Banner in the Single Piece of Artwork- Sports category.

Davis-Green and McCall won third place in the Web Advertisement category for the MVSU

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MVSU HEP PROGRAM HOSTS 2019 COMMENCEMENT



MVSU's High School Equivalency Program recently celebrated 14 graduates Tuesday, July 2, during its 2019 Commencement Exercise. Family and friends of the graduates gathered in Dining Hall IV of the H.M. Ivy Cafeteria for the special occasion themed, "Reach for the Star." Mrs. Melissa Ivory-Brown (pictured, far right) served as this year's commencement speaker.

Pictured, from left, are HEP graduate Carl Beverly, Jr.; Nereyda Zuniga, HEP recruiter; Dr. Tara Self, HEP director; graduates Ke'Yonce' Sanders, Tafari Hawkins, Joseph St. Louis Carrington; Nohemi Esmeralda Esparza; Antonio Binder, HEP recruiter; LeMarrick Green, HEP counselor; Ivory-Brown, speaker; and (kneeling) graduate Shannon Reed.

2019 MVSU GRAD IDEHEN TO JOIN FED EX AS SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

An internship turned out to be the perfect segue into the corporate world for Emmanuel Idehen, a 2019 graduate of Mississippi Valley State University.



Idehen, who received a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science on May 4th, has been extended the opportunity to join the FedEx team in Memphis as a software developer.

He officially began his new position on June 16. "Receiving this offer and working for a Fortune 500 company like FedEx is a dream come true," said Idehen.

"When I think about how and where I started and finally getting a full-time job offer before leaving college is nothing but the hand of the Almighty," he added.

During his time at MVSU Idehen experienced a great deal of academic success. However, he said

the opportunity he received to intern at different companies was one of the highlights.

"MVSU allows you to excel in whichever career path you decide to pursue," he said. "This school and the organizations that I had the chance to participate in have been very beneficial to me in realizing my career goals."

Nigeria and Edo State native, Idehen said his time at MVSU has played a pivotal role in shaping who he has become and has also helped to make his career goals more attainable.

"My journey at Mississippi Valley State University was fascinating. From my freshman year to the day I graduated—it was a great experience," he said.

Idehen said he's also appreciative for the work the faculty at MVSU put in to help him on his educational journey.

"I am so thankful to my professors," he said. "They were accommodating and provided me with a plethora of resources to excel."

Recruited *continued from page 4*

"I think the research we did prepared me for this position because it gave me the experience that I needed to even be considered by recruiters, and it was thorough enough for me to understand and regurgitate during the interview process with the company," Johnson explained.

At Kashiv Biosciences, Johnson said she will employ aseptic techniques while working in controlled and classified environments—some of which require complete aseptic gowning.

"I will be responsible for complying with policies, SOP procedures, FDA current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP), and any other government requirements," she explained.

However, Johnson said none of this would be possible if not for her experiences at MVSU.

"Dr. Dugo and I went through a lot during the process, but I'm extremely grateful that we got to work together as he helped open this door which I know will open many more," she said.

MVSU HOSTS 2019 STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT AWARDS LUNCHEON

MVSU's Office of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management held its 2019 Awards Luncheon May 22 in the H.M. Ivy Dining Hall IV.

Award recipients included: Otha Montgomery, Student-Centered Award; Carrie Ollie-Hicks, Customer Service Award; Kenneth Milton, Exceptional Performance Award; and Teamwork Awards to the Office of Financial Aid and the Office of Admissions and Recruitment.

During the luncheon, special recognition was also extended to graduates Lonzia Copeland, Master of Business Administration; Angela Fant, M.S. in Sport Administration; Dr. Ro'Shaun Bailey, Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration; and Dr. Danisha Williams, Ed.D. in Professional Practice/Leadership.



HAMPTON LANDS PUBLISHING INTERNSHIP AT UNIVERSITY PRESS OF MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Valley State University's Jamireia Hampton spent this summer at the University Press of Mississippi (UPM) as a McRae Publishing Intern.

Through the McRae Publishing Internship, the UPM offers a singular educational opportunity to young men and women interested in book publishing to start their careers as interns and gain valuable practical knowledge about the publishing industry.

Hampton, who was recently recognized as an Outstanding Scholar by the MVSU English and Foreign Languages Department, received the internship with UPM after a successful interview with the editors. As an intern, Hampton will learn about publishing while providing assistance to and working under the supervision of the UPM's full-time staff in a variety of tasks.

MVSU English and Foreign Languages Chair Dr. John Zheng said his department is thrilled that Hampton was awarded the McRae Publishing Internship.

"This is the second time for an English major from Valley to receive the McRae Publishing Internship, and the department of English and Foreign Languages congratulates Ms. Jamireia Hampton as a role model for Valley in Motion," Zheng said.



Hampton, a Kemper, Miss. native, said she is excited about the opportunity to work with UPM.

"I am honored to be an intern at the University Press of Mississippi," said Hampton.

"I hope to gain insight into the roles within the press. We know that authors get praised, but the press is vital to gathering information so that books can be published," she added.

Hampton recently served as a White House HBCU Competitiveness Scholar in the Fall of

2018. The senior is the president of the Epsilon Pi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., a member of the Alpha Kappa Lambda National Honor Society, and a career ambassador with the Career Services Center.

Hampton also serves as a student ambassador with the MVSU Office of Student Leadership and Engagement, the chaplain for the MVSU collegiate chapter of the National Council of Negro Women and a member of the Gateway Leadership Ambassador Program.

As the only university press in Mississippi and the largest publisher in the state, UPM represents the state to the rest of the nation and the world via its distinguished list of titles on scholarly, regional, and national topics.

The McRae Publishing Internship, generously supported by the Richard and Selby McRae Foundation, provides valuable, hands-on experience for students interested in publishing.

Previous interns have gone on to jobs in publishing or related fields or continued their education by attending university-affiliated publishing programs.

To learn more about UPM, visit www.upress.state.ms.u

MVSU'S PREASTLY FEATURED AS #PHENOMENALWOMXN

A Mississippi Valley State University executive cabinet member was recently spotlighted by a leading national higher education association.

Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Dr. Jacqueline Gibson Preastly was nominated and featured as a #PhenomenalWomxn by the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals (NASAP) Women in Student Affairs (WISA).

As part of the NASPA WISA Knowledge Community's social media initiatives, Phenomenal Womxn Fridays are designed to



spotlight women in Student Affairs who are going above and beyond.

On July 5, Preastly was recognized on the organization's Facebook, Instagram and Twitter profiles for her contributions to NASPA.

NASPA is the leading association for the advancement, health, and sustainability of the student affairs profession. We serve a full

range of professionals who provide programs, experiences, and services that cultivate student learning and success in concert with the mission of our colleges and universities.

The NASPA WISA Knowledge Community gives voice to the intersectional needs of people who identify as "womxn" in student affairs, addresses issues of gender equity and provides opportunities for professional development and relationship-building among members.

To learn more about NASAP, visit www.naspa.org.

for communications and marketing at Jackson State University.

Valley State was also represented by alumnus D'Artagnan Winford who gave a presentation on creativity during the second day of the conference. Winford, who is a native of Itta Bena, previously served as MVSU's graphic designer for 10 years. Currently, he is the senior art director at Ramey Marketing Agency.

CPRAM promotes excellence in public relations at public and private four and two-year educational institutions in the state. Mississippi's four-year institutions compete in the senior division and community colleges in the junior division.

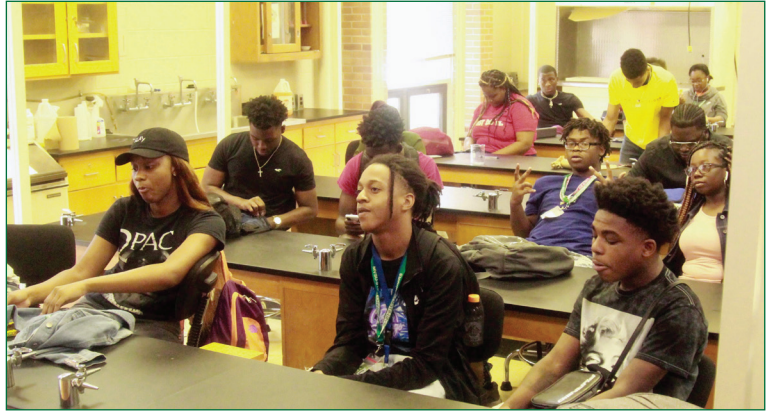
This year, 17 colleges and universities from across the state attended the annual conference.

CPRAM *continued from page 9*

Mobile App promo while the entire staff claimed a third-place win in the Public Relations Campaign category for MVSU's 2018 Homecoming imagery, "Valley Then. Valley Now. Valley Forever."

The CPRAM 2019 president and conference chair is MVSU alumna Maxine Greenleaf, who currently serves as the executive director

MVSU MCIS DEPT. HOSTS STEM SUMMER PROGRAMS



MVSU has been reinforcing the importance of STEM education this summer during two academic enrichment programs—Girls Excelling in Mathematics and Science (GEMS) and the Summer Bridge programs. As part of the GEMS program, 20 local middle school girls were exposed to STEM careers and professionals through trips and hands-on projects. The Summer Bridge program targeted 23 recent high school graduates and focused on strengthening their skills in STEM education as they transition from high school to college. Both 3-week programs were funded by the U.S. Department of STEM CHANGERS (Customized High-Quality Approaches Necessary to Graduate, Excite and Retain STEM Students) grant.

MASS TRANSIT OBSERVES MCT AWARENESS DAY



The Mississippi Valley State University Mass Transit Department observed the inaugural Mississippi Community Transportation Awareness Day in June. Pictured, from left, are Mass Transit staff members Richard Williams, Lawrence Jones, Sharon Bales, Quaneisha Gwin, Sonji Foster (Director), Mildred Michael (back row) John Johnson, Preston Kee Jr., Patricia Ware, Willie Dodd, Ramirez Lee and Sam Gwin.

MVSU RECOGNIZES RETIREES, YEARS OF SERVICE MILESTONES

Mississippi Valley State University honored its 2019 retirees and years of service milestones during a special luncheon Thursday, May 2.

Hosted in Dining Hall IV of the H.M. Ivy Cafeteria, the honorees were recognized by MVSU President Dr. Jerryl Briggs.

Following a catered lunch, entertainment was provided Dr. Alphonso Sanders.

MVSU 2019 retirees include: Dan Binion, Facilities Management; Sandra Brim, Student Support Services; Barbara Lawrence, Business & Finance; Kenneth Milton, Fine Arts; Ronald Minks, Fine Arts; Lamar Moore, Facilities Management; David Rule, Mass Transit; John Weiss, Fine Arts; Cynthia Willis, Business & Finance; Debora Jackson, Distance Education; Eric Strothers, Athletics; and Barbara JP Washington, English Department.

Those honored for 10 years of service included: Marshall L. Boyd, Facilities Management; Essie L. Bryant, Career Services; Jearline A. Bryant, Business; Mikhail Collins, Business & Finance; Tavariss K. Cross, Business & Finance; Alice Hilliard, Upward Bound; George D. Huntley, Jr., Information Technology; Monique S. Johnson, Career Services; Linda Morris, J. H. White Library; Matthew T. Nichols, Facilities Management; Hubert Patterson, Facilities Management.

Those honored for 15 years of service included: Sharon B. Bales, Mass Transit; Deneen Banks, Human Resources; Contessa Burns, Facilities Management; Shelia L. Cobbs, Business &



Finance; Elizabeth D. Evans, Academic Affairs; Lafecia M. Hoover, Recycling Center; Yolanda R. Hughes, Upward Bound; Dr. Alphonso Sanders, Fine Arts; Dr. Paul G. Schreiber, Fine Arts; Dr. James C. Varn, English & Foreign Languages; Dr. Ying Wang, Education; Carla M. Williams, Business & Finance; and Suzanne Williams, Business & Finance,

Those honored for 20 years of service included: Eva Clark, Facilities Management; Catrena L. Hawkins, Upward Bound; Loran Meeks, Facilities Management; and Marikay G. Wilson, Education.

Those honored for 25 years of service included: Dr. Farhad A. Chowdhury, Business; Dr. Mudlagiri B. Goli, Natural Sciences Environmental Health; L. D. Hall, Business & Finance; and Glenda Ransom, Residential Life.

Those honored for 30 years of service included: Dr. Julius Ikenga, Natural Sciences & Environmental Health; and Ronald Minks, Fine Arts.

Those honored for 35 years of service included: Debora A. Jackson, Distance Education.

Those honored for 40 years of service included: Charles W. Raines, Business & Finance.

Fellowship *continued from page 3*

“I have been identifying barriers and opportunities in improving the success of African American males. The Foundation for the Mid-South goal is to increase graduation rates, while also determining if there is a need to develop a training curriculum for administrators and teachers,” he added.

As an SELI fellow, King is learning about the South’s most pressing education issues and growing as change agents for social justice.

“This fellowship means a lot to me because I get to witness for myself the educational disparities in the Mississippi Delta by researching school districts and studying their profiles,” said King.

To resolve the educational inequity that exists in this nation, SELI leverages research to identify and highlight issues that impact student learning outcomes occurring along racial and socioeconomic lines.

King said that the research has been eye-opening.

“My parents are educators who own a Christian academy in the Delta. They worked hard to make sure I had the necessary educational tools to succeed. With the research I have gathered, I have come to realize that many of my peers did not have the same resources,” he said.

“I would like to see the school districts in Mississippi, which are overwhelmingly African American, become more balanced

to ensure the success of African American males,” he added.

Designed to educate the public to act, SELI’s evidence is used to provide capacity building support to school system leaders and advocates

“A part of my responsibility is to complete an analysis to determine what school districts are disproportionately affected in the Mid-South’s region and could benefit from having highly-qualified teachers in the classroom,” King explained. “This information will assist the program team in identifying strategies for improving education in the region, addressing community needs, and putting theory into practice.”

Morris-Francis received her Ph.D. in Juvenile Justice from Prairie View A&M University in 2009. Before joining MVSU's faculty, she was the assistant dean in the College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology at Prairie View.

Her master's degree in Social Work-Agency Administration and Bachelor of Science in General Social Work are from the University of the West Indies, Jamaica.

She has extensive experience working with teen mothers and young men "at risk" in Jamaica and girls in detention facilities in Canada. She is the

co-chair of the Caribbean Crime and Justice Association, a registered group in the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences and the vice chair for the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Section for 2018-2020.

In 2010, Morris-Francis, along with two colleagues, completed an assessment of children in conflict with the law in Jamaica, an evaluation study commissioned by the Jamaican Office of the Children's Advocate. She was one of the 2015-2017 Health Disparities Research Training Program (HDRTP) Scholars, Junior

Faculty Scholar for two years, in the HDRTP through Jackson State University. Her research interests include Program Implementation and Evaluation; Minorities and the Juvenile Justice System; School Factors and Delinquency, Juvenile Mental Health Issues, Female Juveniles, Domestic Violence; and Restorative and Community Justice.

In addition to her position as the assistant professor and graduate coordinator, Morris-Francis serves as the director of academic assessment at MVSU.

Award *continued from page 6*

Golden stated that she and Chandler were honored by their selection for the award, which afforded them an opportunity to interact with other students and faculty who are involved in cutting-edge public opinion research.

"It was exciting to attend sessions led by internationally acclaimed public opinion researchers, who provided information that will allow each of us to hone our public opinion and survey research skills," she said.

Golden said that she and Chandler look forward to incorporating some of the shared approaches and strategies into their current and

future research activities.

AAPOR believes that the scholarly and practical understanding of a discipline is enhanced by the presence and involvement of different perspectives and creative thought. Such diversity and inclusion leads to consequential research, improved interdisciplinary collaboration, and a greater ability to address, understand, and solve problems related to public opinion and survey research methodology.

This AAPOR award is designed for students and faculty who identify as: American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; Black or African

American; Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; and Hispanic or Latino.

There is no requirement that the faculty member and student come from the same institution, however, both the student and faculty should have an interest in, teach or use, survey and/or public opinion research methods.

To learn more about the AAPOR, visit www.aapor.org.



WELCOME ABOARD



Terrence Barron
Wide Receivers Coach
Athletics



Brandie Branch
Director of Internal Audit
Office of the President



Tamira Brown
Accounts Payable Clerk
Accounts Payable



Brandon Cash
Director of
Choral Activities
Fine Arts



Tamarkius Coleman
Administrative Assistant
English & Foreign Languages



Robert Earvin, Jr.
General Service Person
Facilities Management



Devanon Fitzgerald
Associate Band Director
Department of Fine Arts



Dwyan Lockey
Running Backs Coach
Athletics



Marco Marcos
MBB Assistant Coach
Athletics



Alan L. Perry
Assistant Men's
Basketball Coach
Athletics



Breanna Scott
Teacher
Child Development
Center



Jocelyn Shaw
Office Clerk
Student Records



Bobby Thomas
Security Officer
University Police



Kayla Washington
Hall Director
Office of Residential Life



Tymeed Winslow-Martin
Administrative Assistant
Child Development
Center



Justin Wraggs
Hall Monitor
Office of
Residential Life

Fed Ex *continued from cover*

deliver a better future for its students and FedEx Logistics,” said Thanh Anderson, vice president of Global Support Services at FedEx Logistics. “MVSU and FedEx Logistics share similar values and a people-first philosophy, which makes this collaboration ideal. Connecting people and possibilities and developing diverse talent in the communities where we live and work are priorities for FedEx Logistics, and I look forward to growth and success for all involved.”

MVSU President Dr. Jerryl Briggs said that the partnership is a unique opportunity for MVSU students.

“We are thrilled FedEx Logistics has chosen MVSU as the first institution for its HBCU campus satellite office program,” said Briggs. “Our students’ response to joining the FedEx Logistics team during their matriculation at MVSU has been tremendous. We envision a long-lasting relationship with FedEx Logistics that will be beneficial to both organizations, and we are excited about the opportunities this collaboration will provide for our students.”

The FedEx Logistics satellite office at MVSU will officially open with a ribbon-cutting slated for this fall.

Admissions *continued from page 5*

flourish personally and professionally by cultivating meaningful relationships with students, parents, and counselors.

“Having the opportunity to start as a regional recruiter and work my way up to director is a constant reminder that I am operating in my true calling,” she said.

Williams earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Fisk University in 2007, a Master of Public Administration degree from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in 2010, and a Doctor of Education degree in Leadership and Professional Practice from Trevecca Nazarene University in 2018.



Two Minutes with...

Larry D. Kinds Sr.

Director for Developmental Studies and Academic Success

Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

My name is Larry D. Kinds Sr. I was born in Greenwood, MS. I attended Greenwood High School. I received an Associate of Arts degree in General Education from Mississippi Delta Community College and both a bachelor's degree in Education and a Master of Business Administration from Mississippi Valley State University. I am married to Davita Kinds. We have three children, Antanecia, Larry Jr., and Emily Kinds. I am a member of New Green Grove in Greenwood, MS.

How do you approach providing service?

When it comes to providing service, I try to live up to my last name, which is "Kinds." Great intention begins with

knowing the individual you are giving service too. Customers/clients/students love personalization. By remembering their name and previous conversation, this increases the chances of them coming back for you to service them. I believe in treating all customers/client/students with respect at all time.

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

When I am not at work, I am spending time with my family.

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

I love to play bingo at one of the local bingo halls in the area.



COMMUNIQUÉ

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New Hashtag: #ValleyinMotion

Mississippi Valley State University complies with all applicable laws regarding affirmative action and equal opportunity in all its activities and programs and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation or group affiliation, age, disability, handicap, or status as a veteran or disabled veteran.