



COMMUNIQUE

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MEREDITH ADDRESSES FUTURE LEADERS DURING MVSU'S 2018 HONORS CONVOCATION

James Meredith, garbed in a complementary white suit and hat, stood tall while addressing the Mississippi Valley State University community during its 2018 Honors Convocation Thursday, March 22, in the Walter Roberts Auditorium.

The annual celebration is hosted by the University each spring to celebrate students who have excelled academically.

During his keynote address, Meredith told the honorees, "I am at the most important school primarily because of where it is and why it's here."

Meredith, who became the first African-American to enroll at the University of Mississippi in 1962 and the first to graduate in 1963 with a degree in political science, then shared a wealth of wisdom with students, staff, faculty and community members in attendance.

"I told my wife on the way up here that this is the single most important occasion of my life," he said. That's because I am standing here talking to the most important people in the world—the future leaders of Mississippi, particularly the Mississippi Delta."

Meredith talked about his plight for equal rights in his early years, as well as his current



mission to spread the message of Christian laws and morals.

"We stopped teaching our young people right and wrong at some point, and I promised I was going to start a movement to ensure that people

learn and understand the Bible," he shared.

Meredith said his goal is to share the message in every county in the state, with MVSU and

See "Meredith" page 11

MVSU HOSTS ANNUAL WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

Mississippi Valley State University inspired middle and high school girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) during the 21st annual Women in Science and Technology (WIST) conference Friday, March 23.

The conference, themed "STEM Chasers: Raising the Next Generation of Women in Science and Technology" was hosted in the William Sutton Administration Building.

Dr. Jessica Brownlow Lewis, a native of Itta Bena and an MVSU alumna, served as the

keynote speaker.

With over 300 young ladies from school districts across Mississippi Delta attending, the conference had the opportunity to make a lasting impression by illustrating that STEM careers are exciting, attainable and rewarding.

"We're extremely excited about this event because it exposes young females to successful women in the fields of STEM, such as obstetricians and gynecologists, family nurse practitioners, professors, biologists, entrepreneurs and many more," said Dr. Latonya Garner, chair of the

Mathematics, Computer and Information Sciences (MCIS) Department.

Garner said the conference also increased STEM awareness and expose students to the educational opportunities available at MVSU.

"We hope this conference improved the young females' attitudes about STEM and increased their interest in MVSU," she said.

For pictures, see "Conference" page 8

MVSU SCHOLARS PRESENT DURING “POSTERS IN THE ROTUNDA”

Mississippi Valley State University scholars presented research during “Posters in the Rotunda”, hosted Tuesday, March 20, at the State Capitol in Jackson.



This event was part of Undergraduate Research Day, designated by the State House of Representatives in a resolution passed on March 15, 2018. Dr. Kathryn Green, MVSU associate professor of history, coordinated Valley's representation in the event.

MVSU students presenting during the event included: Jermarius Rushing and Egypt Williams, “That’s Fake News: Using Campus Radio to Emphasize the Importance of Historical Research Skills” (mentored by Dr. Kathryn Green); Stephen Simpson, “Role of Melatonin in Water-Stressed Soybean Plants” (mentored by Dr. Manju Pande), Georgette-Vanelle Wandji, “Integration of Modified and Unmodified Biodegradable Nanoparticles with Bovine Serum Albumin (BSA)” (mentored by Dr. Matthewos Eshete); and Arian Williams, “Bedside Manner Experience Development” (mentored by Dr. Jakita Thomas and Professor Timothy Hudson).

The students will also participate in MVSU's Research Day, slated for April 12 in the R.W. Harrison Complex.



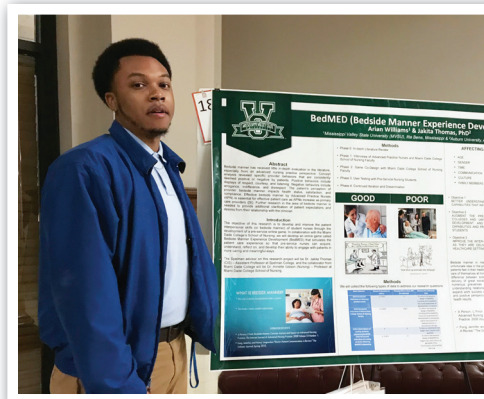
Jermarius Rushing and Egypt Williams



Stephen Simpson



Georgette-Vanelle Wandji



Arian Williams

MVSU CELEBRATES JUDGE IRVING RETIREMENT



The Mississippi Court of Appeals “Court on Road” event, hosted Feb. 22 at MVSU, concluded with a surprise luncheon for The Honorable Judge Tyree Irving of Greenwood, MS. During the luncheon, family, friends, and colleagues bid well wishes to Irving, who will be retiring after 20 years of service with the MS Court of Appeals. Organizers noted that Judge Irving played an instrumental role in bringing “Court on the Road” to MVSU over the past six years.

Dr. Rochelle Cobbs presents Judge Tyree Irving and his wife with a trophy honoring his commitment to 20 years of service with MS Court of Appeals.

MVSU ADVANCES TO NATIONAL HONDA CAMPUS ALL-STAR CHALLENGE CHAMPIONSHIP



Pictured, from left, are Dr. Abigail S. Newsome, MVSU Honda Team coach; senior Computer Science major Kara Carter of Indianapolis; senior Biology major Bria Daniels of Missouri City, Texas; senior Chemistry major Kayla Bailey of University Park, Ill.; and Barbara J.P. Washington, MVSU institutional representative.

The Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) Honda Team has been invited to participate in the 2018 Honda Campus All-Star Challenge (HCASC) National Championship on April 7-11 in Los Angeles, Calif.

The fast-paced buzzer competition highlights students' academic prowess and ability to answer questions about history, science, literature, religion, the arts and pop culture.

Honda Campus All-Star Challenge is a year-round program that includes campus engagement, intramural play, qualifying tournaments and culminates with an invitation to the national championship.

MVSU's invite marks the second consecutive year that the team has earned the opportunity to participate.

Assistant Professor of English Barbara J.P. Washington, who serves as the institutional representative for the Honda Team, shared how beneficial the competition is for The Valley.

"It means absolutely the epitome of everything for our students and for the university to be one of the great 48 teams selected, and we are ecstatic for our students, first of all, and Mississippi Valley State," Washington said.

In 1989, Honda established HCASC as a way

to highlight and recognize the academic talents of HBCU students. More than \$8.5 million in grants from Honda have provided support for scholarships, facility upgrades and other investments to improve the student experience. This year's challenge features more than 10,000 HBCU student competitors.

Honda has supported and celebrated America's HBCUs for more than 25 years. Since its founding, the HCASC, one of Honda's largest and longest running philanthropic initiatives in the United States, has impacted the lives of over 125,000 academic superstars from across the country.

MVSU'S MUSHI AND HOLSTON-OKAE PUBLISH ARTICLE

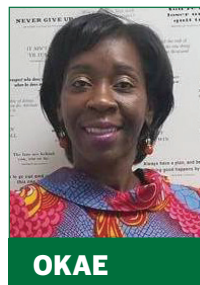
A Mississippi Valley State University professor and alum are the researchers behind an article recently published in an internationally recognized journal.

Dr. Richard Mushi, associate professor and department chair of MVSU's Social Sciences department, and MVSU alumna Dr. Bettye L. Holston-Okae ('99) authored a research article featured in the



MUSHI

International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences.



OKAE

The study, entitled "Employee Turnover in the Hospitality Industry using Herzberg's Two-Factor Motivation-Hygiene Theory", is grounded in the motivation-hygiene theory and assesses the relationship between employee turnover intention and job satisfaction,

employee compensation, employee engagement, employee motivation, and work environment for hospitality employees from Western Georgia, Central Mississippi and North Central Texas.

Holston-Okae said she is grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with her alma mater to provide insightful research.

"As proud alumni of MVSU who has spent some of my career in the corporate world, I believe

See "Article" page 6

MVSU STUDENT RESEARCHERS PRESENT DURING MS ACADEMY OF SCIENCES MEETING

Two Mississippi Valley State University students recently presented research that explores the relationship between cybersecurity and homeland security during the Mississippi Academy of Sciences (MAS) Meeting.

Hosted Feb. 22-23 at the University of Southern Mississippi's Thad Cochran Center, the annual meeting offered participants the opportunity to present addresses, symposia, workshops, scientific papers, and exhibits of interest to members of the state-wide organization dedicated to reshaping and expanding the role of science and technology in the state.

Among those presenting were MVSU Criminal Justice major Bianca Watkins of Plainfield, Ill., and Mathematics, Computer, and Information Systems (MCIS) major Mubarak Ibrahim of Nigeria on the topic, "Why Cybersecurity is Essential to Homeland Security".

The students conducted the research with assistance from MVSU Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice Dr. Alaba Oludare and Instructor Christopher Lanclos of MVSU's MCIS Department and Cybersecurity Center.

The research was supported by funds awarded by the Charles Koch Foundation, under the direction of Dr. Emmanuel Amadi, chair of MVSU's Criminal Justice Department.

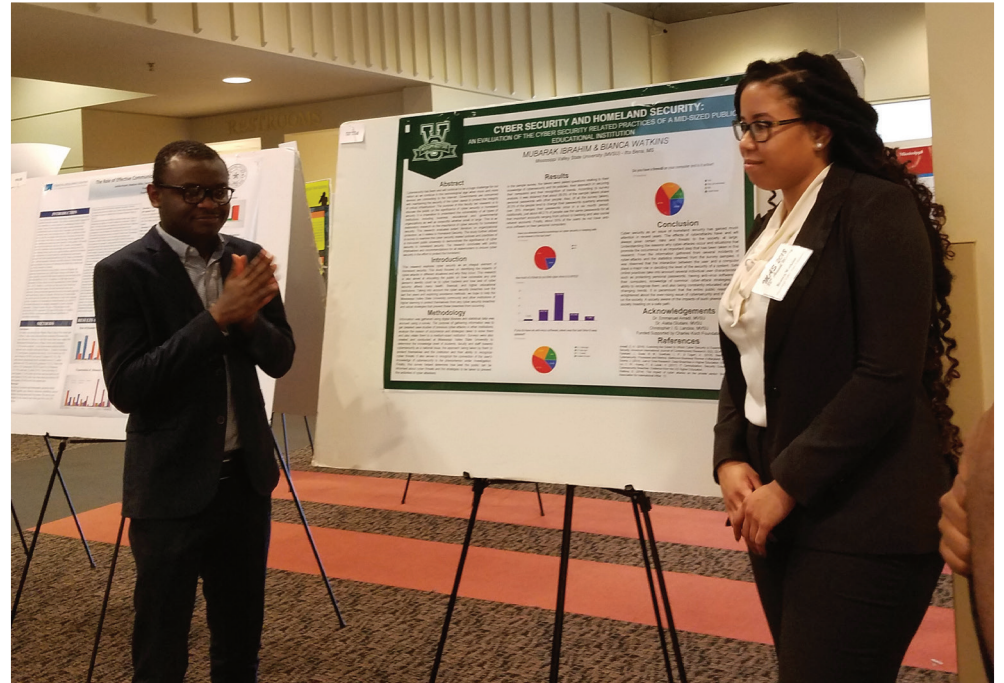
"The students performed well during their presentation," said Amadi. "The audience was very engaged and impressed by their findings."

In an effort to evaluate homeland security, the research team performed a case study on the MVSU community to assess awareness of cyber threats.

The findings of the survey were then compiled into a poster presentation showcased during the meeting. Watkins and Ibrahim were on-hand to provide additional insight of the findings to MAS members.

MAS sponsors include the University of Mississippi Medical Center, School of Health Related Professionals; The University of Southern Mississippi; and Millsaps College. The annual meeting was sponsored by the Mississippi IDEA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE).

To learn more about MAS, visit www.msacad.org



Pictured, from left, MVSU Mathematics, Computer, and Information Systems (MCIS) major Mubarak Ibrahim of Nigeria and Criminal Justice major Bianca Watkins of Plainfield, Ill., recently presented during the Mississippi Academy of Sciences (MAS) annual meeting on the topic, "Why Cybersecurity is Essential to Homeland Security".



Pictured, from left, are Christopher Lanclos of MVSU's MCIS Department and Cybersecurity Center; Criminal Justice major Bianca Watkins of Plainfield, Ill.; and Mathematics, Computer, and Information Systems (MCIS) major Mubarak Ibrahim of Nigeria.

MISS MVSU NAMED AMONG EBONY MAGAZINE'S TOP TEN HBCU CAMPUS QUEENS

When Laderka Coats decided to vie for the title of Miss Mississippi Valley State University 2017-18, she did so out of a desire to serve.

Little did she know, the opportunity would also land her photo in the pages of Ebony Magazine as one of the featured Top 10 HBCU Campus Queens.

The Belzoni native said she is humbled to be featured in such a prominent national publication and grateful to those who helped make it possible.

"I would like to thank the Mississippi Valley State community for all their support," she said. The faculty and staff and student body helped out tremendously. I would especially like to thank my family, friends and the Belzoni community for their love and support throughout the journey to become Miss MVSU as well as an Ebony Campus Queen."

The announcement from Ebony marks the second consecutive year that an MVSU queen won a spot in Ebony's top ten. Miss MVSU 2016-17 Symone Daniels, who is also a Belzoni native and attended the same high school—Humphreys County—as Coats, earned the prestigious honor last year.

The EBONY HBCU Campus Queens program provides a platform to recognize young Black women who are poised to affect significant change globally. The coveted title identifies collegiate women who have demonstrated the ability to inspire, lead and give back to their communities.

"The top 10 EBONY HBCU Campus Queens represent brilliant Black women who exemplify intelligence, philanthropy, and leadership," said Linda Johnson Rice, CEO of EBONY Media Operations. In today's climate, it's more important than ever to praise exceptional women who demonstrate fortitude in their everyday lives and remain unapologetically black."

Coats, who is a graduating senior, said that serving as Miss MVSU has been a great learning opportunity.

"Fulfilling the position as an HBCU Queen is much more than just serving as the face of the university; serving in this capacity has extended me a platform to use my voice for progressive



change," she said. Having the opportunity to address real issues that many college students encounter has been very rewarding."

She said she is thankful for the college experience she received at MVSU.

"I love our mantra, 'One Goal. One Team. One Valley ... In Motion', because it represents all facets of my university: One Goal—Student Centeredness; One Team—University and Community Working Together; One Valley—School Pride and Spirituality Second to None; and In Motion – Continued Growth. This is why I love my HBCU, and, more importantly, why institutions like MVSU are indispensable," she shared.

The 2018 EBONY HBCU Campus Queens are chosen during a three-month online competition that allows users to vote for their favorite queens from 75 Historically Black Colleges and Universities across the nation.

This year's top 10 majesties are representative of a diverse group of women, all of whom carry their distinct qualities, backgrounds and focuses, but who all celebrate one thing: the beauty of being a Black woman in America.

Be on the look out for Coats in Ebony's April/May 2018 issue.

MVSU ATTENDS GOVERNOR'S LEADERSHIP PRAYER AND LUNCHEON SUMMIT

Mississippi Valley State University joined students, professors, business people, religious leaders and other groups from across the state to pray for the governor as well as state, municipal and county elected officials during the 2018 Governor's Leadership Prayer and Luncheon Summit.

MVSU's Office of Student Leadership and Engagement traveled with 17 MVSU students to Jackson for the unique event, sponsored by Mission Mississippi.

During the event, MVSU students had the opportunity to participate in a roundtable discussion about issues related to race and barriers that may prevent race reconciliation.

MVSU sophomore Crimson Driver served as a program participant, leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Andrea Byrd, a freshmen Sociology major from Chicago, said the experience was an eye-opening opportunity.

"I think the experience was overall enlightening," she said. The event promoted diversity and unity—especially in a time where unity is lacking. I liked that the event had a clear mission and motive."

As an international student, MVSU junior Business Administration major Milovan Topalovic of Serbia said the event was very insightful.

"Being a part of Governor's Leadership and Prayer Luncheon was a huge opportunity to learn and listen to different opinions from various people," he said



Topalovic explained how he believes America can heal racial issues.

"The opinions shared during the luncheon were all related to God, and He is the only true connection among people no matter what color you are. If we want to stop racial issues and separation, we all need to look to God," he added.

Other MVSU students attending the event were: Jerrel Horner, Jerome Rogers, Deveon Treadway, Jameria Hampton, Breimi Caulton, Lyric Nolden, Rachel Lewis, Chastity Black, Eva Zongo, Cortney Bibbs, Chelsea Washington and Janice Citchens. They were joined by Director of Student Leadership and Engagement Pamela Hilton and Interim Vice-President of Advancement Dameon Shaw.

Article *continued from page 3*

alumni-university research collaboration is an effective way to increase MVSU's reputation and propel it into a premier research institution that can harness opportunities brought by the corporate partnership," she said.

Mushi said he hopes the partnership will encourage other students and alum to perform research.

"We appreciate Dr. Holston-Okae's effort to spotlight research potentials that exist here at

MVSU," he added. May this opportunity open many more doors of research collaboration between Valley scholars and alumni."

Mushi holds his master's and doctoral degrees in Public Policy and Administration from Jackson State University.

Holston-Okae received a bachelor's degree in Environmental Health from MVSU and holds master's degrees from Jackson State University and Texas Women University. She

received a doctoral degree in Business from Walden University's College of Management and Technology. The International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences is an interdisciplinary, open-access, blind peer-reviewed refereed journal published by the Human Resource Management Academic Research Society that publishes significant contributory research in different fields of social sciences, business and education management.

MVSU ALUM RECEIVES ANNA JULIA COOPER TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Mississippi Valley State University alumnus Dr. Emmitt Y. Riley III has a passion for teaching. His apparent love for mentorship and education are two of the reasons why the Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at DePauw University (Ind.), was recently awarded the 2018 Anna Julia Cooper Teacher of the Year Award.

The honor was bestowed on the Itta Bena native by the National Conference of Black Political Scientists during its 49th Annual Meeting in Chicago, Ill., March 16, for demonstrating excellence in teaching, advising and mentoring.

Riley was nominated by his students and Dr. Anne Harris, vice-president of Academic Affairs at DePauw University.

With earning the accomplishment, Riley attributes a great deal of his success to Mississippi Valley State University.

“One of the things that has shaped my teaching career has certainly been my experience at Mississippi Valley,” said Riley. (At MVSU) I discovered my passion for wanting to go into academics as a professor.”

Riley, who graduated Magna Cum Laude from MVSU in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English as well as Political Science, shared how impactful MVSU professors were to his journey.



“My whole life, I have been surrounded by excellent teachers and the education I received here at Valley has been instrumental in setting me on the trajectory that I am on now in my career... For that, I am eternally grateful,” he said.

Riley earned a master’s degree in Political Science from Jackson State University in 2010 and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Mississippi with a specialization in American Politics and International Relations in 2014.

Since arriving at DePauw University, he has taught a variety of courses, including: Introduction

to Africana Studies, American Government, Legislative Politics, The American Presidency, Race Politics and Political Inequality. He is an affiliated faculty member with the Political Science Department and the Peace and Conflict Studies program

Before his appointment in the Africana Studies program, Riley was a visiting assistant professor in the Political Science Department at DePauw. He has also served as an Instructor of Political Science at Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale, Miss. and as an Adjunct Professor of Political Science at MVSU.

Riley has published research and numerous articles in the areas of race, political representation, and racial resentment. His research has been presented at several national, regional, and international academic conferences.

Riley is a member of several professional organizations such as the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, Southern Political Science Association, and the American Political Science Association. He is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

In 2015, he was recognized as one of Greenwood’s Top 30 Under 40 by the Greenwood Commonwealth newspaper.

RENOWNED POET GEORGE DREW SHARES IN LECTURE SERIES



The Mississippi Valley State University Department of English and Foreign Languages and J.H. White Library continued the Zelma T. Howard Lecture Series with a poetry reading featuring renowned poet George Drew. With a background in Itta Bena, Drew is a contemporary poet whose writing has been featured in magazines and journals nationwide. The event, hosted March 29 in the library, gave attendees the opportunity to hear the poet read and reflect on his own words.

Renowned poet George Drew visited Mississippi Valley State University as a guest for the Zelma T. Howard Lecture Series. The series is an annual event hosted by the Department of English and Foreign Languages and this year in partnership with the J.H. White Library. Pictured, from left, are Marsha Belton, MVSU cataloging librarian; Tasmine Moore, MVSU reference-collection development librarian; George Drew, poet; Dr. Constance Bland, vice president of academic affairs, and Dr. John Zheng, English department chair.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSTS FAFSA DAY



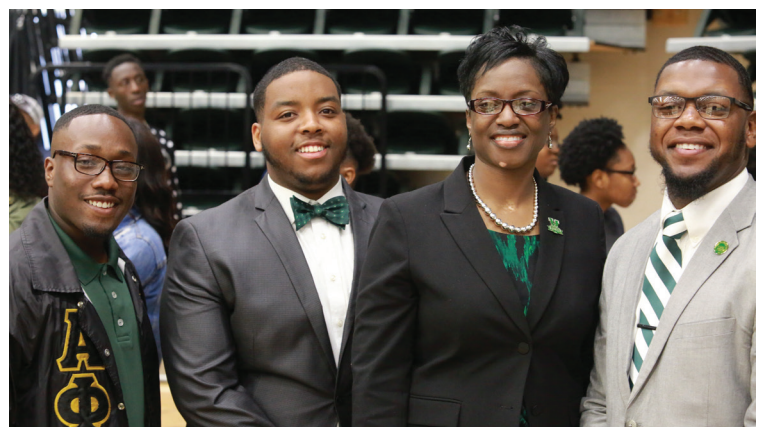
MVSU's University College recently partnered with the Office of Financial Aid to host "FAFSA Day", designed to encourage students to complete their FAFSA and register for classes. During the event, hosted in the Business Administration Building, the names of all students participating were placed into a drawing for a \$100 cash prize. Of the 146 participants, Jeremy Murry, a freshman HPER major from Itta Bena, MS, was declared the winner. Murry said he was surprised to learn that he'd won the prize and plans to use the money to help purchase gas for his car. The award was sponsored by Larry Kinds, MVSU's summer development program coordinator.

Pictured, from left, are MVSU Summer Development Program Coordinator Larry Kinds and freshman Jeremy Murry.



Conference *continued from cover*







MVSU STAFF GO “OLD SCHOOL” AT HYB



MVSU staff thrilled students and colleagues with a dance routine during the spring Handle Your Business event. Heather Y. Tanner (left) and Kendal Tanner performed the famous Kid-n-Play dance much to the delight of onlookers.

Meredith *continued from cover*

Leflore County serving as his first stop.

Following Meredith's address, 707 MVSU students were recognized for their distinction as President's Scholar (4.00 GPA), Distinguished Scholar (3.80-3.99 GPA), Honor Scholar (3.50-3.79 GPA) and Scholar (3.20-3.49 GPA).

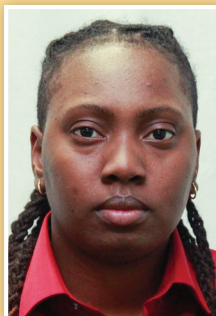
In addition, students were recognized by their respective departments with Outstanding Scholar Awards and other special awards.

MVSU's HONDA All-Star Team and the University Mock Trial Team was also recognized for their accomplishments.

WELCOME ABOARD



Dorsett Davis
Asst. Football Coach
Athletics



Nastacia Rice
Police Officer
University Police



Mack Rimmer
Police Officer
University Police



Dominic Spinks
Asst. Coach-Defense
Athletics

Two Minutes with...

Rachel Granderson

Administrative Assistant, Department of Social Sciences

Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

Hello! My name is Rachel Vivian Granderson. I am the Administrative Assistant for the Department of Social Sciences here at Mississippi Valley State University. I am a native of Tchula, Mississippi. I am a 2012 graduate of S.V. Marshall High School. In high school, I was too shy to be a part of any extracurricular activities, so I was faithful to my academia. I am a proud alumna of Alcorn State University, '16, where I obtained a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. I was a servant of the university in many ways and held leadership positions in clubs/organizations throughout my years at Alcorn. This May, I will obtain a Master of Art in Rural Public Policy and Planning with a concentration in Social Economic Analysis. My primary focus is children that look up to me. I have always had much heart for the children in my community. I plan to initiate a mentoring program to emphasize the importance of having a good

education, and to encourage them to continue their education, per my own experiences. Also, I plan to include social etiquette lessons to provide skills that would be vital to them on a daily basis.

How do you approach providing service?

My approach to providing service is solely parallel to the golden rule: "Treat others how you want to be treated." I'm always kind and thoughtful of others. Very seldom will you catch me without a smile so presenting myself as positive, helpful, and friendly ensures that whoever encounters me feels welcomed.

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

It depends. You can either find me nestled in bed watching documentaries or out traveling. I am always on the road. I also spend a lot of time with my family, especially my niece and nephew. I enjoy the kids!

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

I am the youngest, baby girl of five older brothers. Imagine the luxury!



COMMUNIQUÉ

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New Hashtag: #GOMVSU

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