



COMMUNIQUE

A Publication of Mississippi Valley State University for Faculty, Staff, Alumni and Friends | March 15, 2017 Vol. 14 Edition 3

MVSU QUALIFIES FOR PRESTIGIOUS HCASC TOURNAMENT

Mississippi Valley State University has qualified to compete at the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge (HCASC) National Championship Tournament, a prestigious competition that showcases the academic prowess of the brightest students from America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Forty-eight student teams have qualified for this year's National Championship Tournament, which will run from Saturday, April 8th through Tuesday, April 11th in Torrance, California.

Seventy-six HBCUs vied for a spot at the Nationals. After seven qualifying tournaments held in early February, 48 emerged from the group, earning the opportunity to compete for the title of "National Champion" and a \$75,000 institutional grant from Honda.

"It is indeed an honor for our students to once again compete in the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge," said Dr. William B. Bynum Jr., MVSU president. "Valley has some of the best and brightest students in the nation. The HCASC competition is a great chance for our



Pictured from left are Bria Daniels, Barbara J.P. Washington, advisor; Khadijah Kidd, Taloria Stiffen, Dr. Abigail Newsome, advisor; and Kayla Bailey

students to showcase their intellectual ability." Over the years, MVSU's HCASC team has made it to the Sweet 16, Elite 8, Final 4 and 2nd round of the Championship Tournament. Valley was also recognized as having a member to answer the most questions during

a Tournament.

"Earning a seat at the National Championship Tournament is no easy feat, and we congratulate each and every student for displaying the

See "AllStars" page 6

ELECHI, STEVENSON RECEIVE HEADWAE HONOR

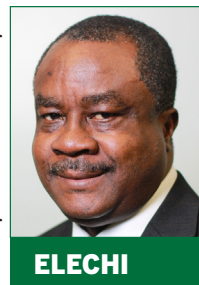
Recently, a Mississippi Valley State University faculty member and student were honored as part of the Higher Education Appreciation Day-Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE) 30th program.

The program was held to recognize outstanding students and faculty members from 34 Mississippi public and private universities and colleges on Tuesday, February 21.

Dr. O. Oko Elechi, a professor in the Criminal Justice Department at MVSU and Jamal Stevenson, a senior mathematics major at MVSU were chosen as honorees.

HEADWAE was established by legislative resolution to honor individual academic achievement and the overall contribution

of the state's public and private institutions of higher learning. This year Mississippi Economic Council president and CEO Blake Wilson chaired the event. Dr. Rod Paige, interim president of Jackson State University, will deliver the keynote address at the luncheon.



Dr. Elechi and Stevenson, along with other honorees visited the State Capitol where they were welcomed by Governor Phil Bryant, recognized by the Senate and House of Representatives and given a tour of the Capitol.

The awards luncheon was held at the Marriott Hotel in Jackson.

Dr. Elechi, received his Ph.D. from Simon Fraser University in Canada. He also holds two degrees from the University of Oslo in Norway. Dr. Elechi was for several years the co-director of the University of Wisconsin-Parkside Restorative Justice Centre. He was also between 2013 and 2015, the chair of the Criminal Justice Department at MVSU.

His writings on Restorative Justice, Community Policing and the African Indigenous Justice Systems have been extensively published in international journals, book chapters and

See "HEADWAE" page 7

ESHETE RECEIVES FUNDING FROM HOMELAND SECURITY

Dr. Matthewos Eshete, an associate professor of chemistry at Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) has received an award from the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which would allow the professor to conduct a research project.

Earlier this month Eshete was informed of the award in the amount of \$35,000. His proposal is titled, "Interaction of Modified and Unmodified Biodegradable Nanoparticles with Innate Immune System Collectin Proteins."

It was submitted to the Department of Homeland Security Summer Research Team Program for Minority Serving Institutions for continued research and collaboration with the Center of Excellence for Zoonotic and Animal Disease.

For Eshete the award is based on a review process conducted by DHS and according to the selection committee it reflects the high quality of the proposal and Eshete's capabilities in the field.

"I am most honored to be awarded the research grant from DHS to investigate the effect of surface modification on biodegradable nanoparticles," said Eshete.

"Nanomaterials are products of cutting-age technology with promising and tremendous potential applications including vaccine and

drug delivery. I hope that our effort would shed light on the effective design of biodegradable nanoparticles and thus, contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the field as well as enhance the capability of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security," he added.

Ultimately, the hard work put in by Eshete in his research is a direct reflection of his desire to motivate his students.

"I have always tried to give the best science education to my students, and this opportunity strengthened my desire to motivate students; kindle their interest by engaging them in basic research to make them become a key participant

in science and technology," added Eshete.

The award will be administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE). ORISE is a Department of Energy (DOE) institute specializing in science education and research participation activities for DOE and other federal agencies.

Eshete received his Ph.D. from Tulane University in New Orleans. He has an extensive background in various scientific fields, including biochemistry, organic and bio-analytical chemistry. He teaches biochemistry, general chemistry and helps direct senior research projects.



FREEMAN APPOINTED TO SACSCOC COMMITTEE

Dr. Sharon Freeman, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Research and Effectiveness and MVSU SACSCOC Liaison, is currently serving on the 2017 Annual Meeting Planning Committee for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

As a committee member, she works with developing and recommending the 2017 Annual Meeting conference theme and tracks. She will also be reviewing proposals for presentations and helping identify potential keynote speakers.

The 2017 SACSCOC Annual meeting will be held December 2-5 in Dallas, Texas. The



call for proposals will go out in March and will be shared via MVSU News. MVSU faculty and staff are encouraged to submit proposals for consideration for this year's conference.

"I have had the honor of presenting at the annual meeting in the past," said Dr. Freeman. "It's an amazing experience, in a supportive environment, that allows you to exchange information and share effective techniques and strategies you use in your day-to-day work. It's a great opportunity for higher education professionals to broaden

their knowledge about accreditation, teaching, learning, assessment, student support services, and a host of other current issues in higher education. I strongly encourage MVSU faculty and staff to consider presenting. It's a rewarding experience for both the presenter and the attendees."

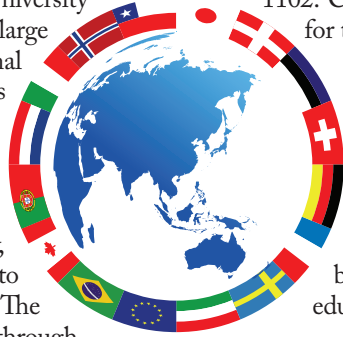
For more information about the SACSCOC Annual Meeting, contact Dr. Sharon Freeman at 662-254-3811 or by email at sharonf@mvsu.edu. You can also visit the SACSCOC website at www.sacsoc.org.

INTERNATIONAL WEEK SET TO KICK OFF ON APRIL 3

The Mississippi Valley State University Campus will be buzzing thanks in large part to the Office of International Programs, which will sponsor its International Week Activities on campus.

The event is scheduled for April 4-7 and all of Valley's faculty, staff and students are invited to participate in the activities. The theme is, "Empowering Youth through International Education Week."

The event will kick off on Tuesday, April 4 at 11a.m. with a Country Presentation in the TED Building, Room 108. Kevin Cespedes is the contact person and he can be reached via email at kevin.cespedes@ncu.edu.jm. The activities will continue with another Country Presentation beginning at 2:25 p.m. in the Science and Technology Building in Room



1102. Cespedes is the contact person for the activity as well.

From 6-7:30 p.m. there will be a roundtable discussion about diversity in the Sutton Building Auditorium Room. Yolanda Jones is the contact person for this event and can be reached at yjones@mvsu.edu.

On Wednesday, April 5, from 6-7:30 p.m. there will be a roundtable discussion centered on the topic, Romance Around the World in the Sutton Building, Auditorium 108. The contact person is Cristina Radulescu at cr_mvsvu@yahoo.com.

The Parade of Flags Assembly and Luncheon will take place on Thursday, April 6 at 9:45 a.m. International Programs has 198 International

flags and invites participants to serve as flag bearers. The parade will begin at 10:30 am at the Sutton Administration Building and end at the Student Pavilion. International music and dance will highlight the parade. The dining hall will move lunch to the Pavilion. Anyone interested in participating in the Parade of Flags should contact Cristina Radulescu at 662-254-3092 or via email at cr_mvsvu@yahoo.com.

To top off the international week activities, there will be a Cultural Display Competition and International Banquet on Friday, April 7th from 6-9 p.m. which will be held at the Harrison Complex Gymnasium. Students from public and private schools in the Mississippi Delta have been invited to participate in the Cultural Display Competition, which will be apart of the International Banquet. Banquet tickets are \$7 and can be purchased by contacting the Office of International Programs at 662-254-3092/3094 or cr_mvsvu@yahoo.com or kstromile@aol.com.

TURNIPSEED NAMED MISSISSIPPI'S DIVERSITY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR



Pictured from left are Trustee Shane Hooper, Dr. C. Sade Turnipseed, honoree; and Dr. William Bynum, MVSU president.

Dr. Cassie Sade Turnipseed has worked diligently to bring, highlight and educate in the realm of diversity during her time at Mississippi Valley State. Turnipseed's hard work was

recently recognized as the Mississippi Board of Trustees State Institutions of Higher Learning's Diversity Committee named her as the Diversity Educator of the Year for the state of Mississippi.

"This is a remarkable honor for Dr. Turnipseed and MVSU," said Dr. William Bynum, MVSU president. "It is a great testament to the valuable contributions she has made at Valley to demystify the myth of a HBCU. We are inclusive to all races and value a diverse population on our campus to promote greater dialogue to improve understanding and thought."

Turnipseed was honored at the Board's Black History Month recognition program in Jackson. She received a plaque and resolution and was allowed a brief moment to make remarks in recognition of receiving the IHL Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion Award.

With the honor, Turnipseed expressed her gratitude and explained why pushing diversity and inclusion is so important to her.

"One of my professional goals is to leverage the professed ambitions of the State of Mississippi, to better understand the diversity of its people. I also understand that diversity, fully engaged, not

See "Educator" page 7

MVSU STUDENTS SELECTED FOR CBDNA HONOR BAND



Three Mississippi Valley State University band students have been selected to represent the University at the 2017 College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) National Conference, in the Small College Intercollegiate Honor Band. Pictured from left are Courtney Greer, Somiaya Carpenter and Gary Lawson. The event will take place March 15-17, 2017 at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, in Kansas City, Mo.

EVENT CALENDAR

March

- 17 - MVSU Softball versus Southern University, 6 p.m., Itta Bena
- 18 - MVSU Softball versus Southern University (double header), 1 p.m. & 3:30 p.m., Itta Bena
- 20 - Love your Roots Day, 11-2 p.m., Jacob Aron Student Union (Vendors Square)
- 22 - Kidney Disease Awareness, 11-4 p.m., Student Union (Vendors Square) Seatbelt Safety, 11:30-2:30 p.m., Student Union (Vendors Square) Blackboard Training for Students, 2-4 p.m., Business Education Building (Rm. 302)
- 23 - Spring Fest, 2-9 p.m., Student Union (Plaza)
- 24 - Spring 2017 High School Day, 8-3 p.m., Harrison Complex Spoken Word Night, 7-9 p.m., Jacob Aron Student Union (Royal Rm) MVSU Baseball versus Alabama State, 3 p.m. Magnolia Field
- 25 - MVSU Baseball versus Alabama State, 1 p.m. Magnolia Field
- 26 - MVSU Baseball versus Alabama State, 1 p.m. Magnolia Field

WROTEN SET TO BEGIN CAREER WITH AMAZON

For Donte' Wroten helping others is a passion. It is a passion that started with his grandfather Melvin Wroten, Jr. who reared the 22-year-old Moss Point native to always look out for others.

That love for helping others has landed the graduating business administration major at Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) a job with Amazon following his commencement in May.

Amazon is the world's largest online retailer. Last year, the company was the fastest to ever reach \$100 billion in sales.

Wroten will be working for the company as a human resources senior assistant, which serves as a pipeline program for HR business partners and HR managers.

"HR has always been my preference," said Wroten. "This is the field for me because I love helping people. Working to get people where they want to be in their professional life



is something that brings me joy. Wanting to help people comes from my granddad. He took me under his wings when I was in elementary school and his positive vibe and teaching rubbed off on me."

Wroten lost his grandfather before his sophomore year at MVSU, but he has worked diligently to always make him and his mother, Arabian Wroten, proud.

"He helped me and it made me want to help others. It was hard coming back to school after losing him in 2014, but I didn't get discouraged because I made promises to him so I had to buckle down and focus harder after all of that," Wroten added.

Wroten came in contact with the company while attending the Thurgood Marshall Leadership Institute in Washington D.C. in Nov. 2016.

While in attendance at the conference on the third day, Wroten participated in the career fair and met with a recruiter from Amazon.

"She told me about the position and within five minutes I went to the lab, applied for the position and formatted my resume to their liking and around Christmas break they contacted me and set up an interview in San Antonio," said Wroten.

Wroten interviewed with Amazon on Feb. 1 and was contacted via email on Monday, Feb. 6 that he was hired. Wroten plans to graduate from MVSU on May 6 and start with the company on May 8.

While at Valley Wroten has served as the president of Delta Mu Delta (International Honor Society in Business).



MVSU

GREEN & WHITE DAY 2017

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CAPITOL



FACULTY MEMBER AND STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN IMA CONFERENCE

Tomisha L. Brock, associate director of bands at Mississippi Valley State University, will be moving on from her position as President of the Intercollegiate Music Association (IMA), a spot she held from 2015-2017. Brock will now serve as the association's public relations coordinator.



BROCK

Ensemble, as well as participate in several professional development workshops and networking opportunities.

Freshman Courtney Greer represented MVSU in the IMA Jazz Ensemble on tenor saxophone, earning himself a solo spot in one of the songs performed at the grand finale concert. Freshman Somiaya Carpenter; juniors, Nyteezshia Black, Ashley Stanley, and Terrance Estelle; and seniors, Danielle Henderson and Marcus Edwards represented the university in the IMA Symphonic Band. Estelle and Edwards earned the first chair position in their respective sections.

This news and much more was announced during the 57th annual IMA Conference held in February in Bowie, Maryland, Brock along with seven MVSU students participated in the event hosted by Bowie State University.

The students included Ashely Stanley, Nyteezshia Black, Somiya Carpenter, Danielle Henderson, Marcus Edwards, Terrance Estelle and Courtney Greer, all took part in the three day event.

Seven MVSU students were chosen to represent the university and band program. Students from 14 of the 16 member institutions gathered to participate in the IMA Honors Concert Band, Concert Choir, Strings Ensemble, and Jazz

The Annual Conference also included the Royzell Dillard Memorial Scholarship Recital. The recital featured solo performances from student representatives of the participating institutions. Henderson won third place, for her flute performance of *Pan! Pastorale for Flute, by Johannes Donjon*. The 3rd Place prize included an honorarium of \$100.

AllStars *continued from page 1*



drive and determination necessary to do so," said Steve Morikawa, Vice President, Corporate Relations and Social Responsibility, American Honda. "Over its 28-year history, Honda Campus All-Star Challenge has become a multi-generational community event, and we look forward to hosting the students and providing their families with an opportunity to watch them compete in California."

The final round of the 2017 National Championship Tournament will be live-streamed on Monday, April 10th starting at 12:00 ET on HCASC.com.

For more information on the 2017 HCASC, including a full list of the 48 qualifying teams, visit www.hcasc.com.

MVSU SEEKS PARTICIPANTS FOR 22ND ANNUAL PIANO FESTIVAL

The Department of Fine Arts at Mississippi Valley State University will present its 22nd Annual MVSU Piano Festival on Saturday, April 22, on the Valley campus in Itta Bena. The festival is once again being held for the purpose of bringing an increased awareness to the Mississippi Delta and surrounding areas of the value and importance of piano study throughout childhood and beyond.

The festival will include events for both elementary and advanced piano students. At 9:00 a.m., a non-competitive festival event will be held for piano students ranging from kindergarten through junior high school. Older beginners may also participate. Students will perform selections from the classical piano repertoire and will be rated and given written evaluations.

Following this event, an honors ceremony will be held, including special recognition of students who received Superior ratings for their performances. Parents, friends, and fellow students will be invited to attend this event at approximately 10:30 a.m.

At 11:00 a.m., members of the MVSU music faculty will hold an open audition for piano students who would like to be considered for

music scholarships for the 2017-2018 academic year. Students who are awarded full scholarships will receive tuition, fees, and room and board at Mississippi Valley State University.



The next event to be held will be a Young Artist Competition, beginning at 1:00 p.m., for students who are enrolled in grades 9 through junior college. Younger students with appropriate repertoire may also enter with the permission of the festival director. Students will perform at least two compositions from differing periods. The first prize winner will receive a cash award of \$500, second prize winner will receive \$400, third prize

winner will receive \$300, and the fourth prize winner will receive \$200. Honorable Mention awards of \$100 each will also be given at the discretion of the festival judge.

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

This year's festival is being co-sponsored by Bank of Commerce, Charles Hall Studio, Cowan Music, Greenwood Junior Auxiliary, Greenwood Matinee Musicale, Greenwood Rotary Club, Hays Piano Tuning, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Planters Bank, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, and Walmart.

For further information and an application, contact Dr. Lawrence Goldman, Director, MVSU Piano Festival, 14000 Hwy. 82W #7255, Itta Bena, MS 38941, (662) 254-3681. The application postmark deadline for participants is April 10.

only enriches higher educational opportunities for Mississippi Valley State University students, but also enhances the capacity to develop a better appreciation for the multicultural and interdependent communities, in which we live, work and play,” said Turnipseed.

The California native sees herself as many things, but is first and foremost an educator who looks at diversity as a multifaceted word.

“That word, that concept, informs me of its necessity in education and requires me to teach differently for the sake and benefit of my students,” said Turnipseed. As a social observer, I am charged with seeking out the best practices for implementation of the inclusion of change,” she added.

During her time at MVSU, Dr. Turnipseed has introduced the Valley community to a slate of innovative community outreach projects and in-house programs that embrace the collective narrative of the region.

Turnipseed’s most outstanding work is her ongoing research that shines a light on the sweat equity contributions of the cotton pickers of the American South.

In this effort, she initiated the ever expanding Sweat Equity Investment in the Cotton Pickers Symposium. Through the efforts of the symposium, Turnipseed has introduced a diverse audience of students, faculty and staff to a multitude of scholarly participants from Bamako, Mali; Notodden, Norway; Lagos, Nigeria; Washington, D.C.; Columbia, South Carolina; and many other states across the U.S.

As the founding member and Executive Director of Khafre, Inc., a 501 c3 not-for-profit Mississippi based organization, Dr. Turnipseed works on a volunteer effort to lead a community driven movement to erect a monument and establish a national park in tribute to enslaved workers, sharecroppers, tenant farmers and day laborers of the cotton fields of the American south.

anthologies. He is also the author of the book, *Doing Justice Without the State: The Afikpo (Ebugbo) Nigeria Model*, published in 2006 by Routledge, New York.



STEVENSON

Stevenson is a native of Dundee, Mississippi. While a student at MVSU, he is an honor scholar, maintaining a 3.6 GPA, conducting research at the REU Program at Elizabeth City State University, presenting at numerous

research conferences, participating in the Teacher Quality and Retention Program with the Thurgood Marshall College Foundation and becoming a member of the 2016 Who’s who among Students.

Following graduation, Stevenson plans to attend a graduate program and achieve his masters in mathematics. His ultimate goal is to achieve his Doctorate in mathematics education in hopes to become a collegiate mathematics professor.

WELCOME ABOARD



D'Arrien Clayborne
General Service Person
Facilities Management



Wendolyn Davis
Hall Monitor
Residential Life



Anthony Dotson
General Service Person
Facilities Management



Augusta Jackson
Press Operator
Laundry



Jeff Sawyer
Assistant Football Coach
Athletics



Kendall Tanner
Director of Development
University Advancement



Sandra Unger
General Service Person
Facilities Management

Two Minutes with...

Dr. Samuel Osunde

Department Chair, Mass Communications

Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

I was born in Benin City, Nigeria and I came to the United States for my college education. I obtained my Ph.D. in Mass Communication and Research from Howard University in Washington, D.C. I have more than 28 years of professional, academic and administrative experience. I served as the Special Assistant to the President for special projects at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, also served as Creative Director for Partnership Advertising and Admopol Advertising companies. My research interests include "The Role of Mass Media in Perception Influence, Intercultural and International Communication, and Mass Communication and Development" My professional memberships include Mississippi Communication Association, National Communication Association and the American Communication Association. I was awarded a two-year fellowship by the Kettering Foundation to serve as a public scholar

to examine the Role of the Media in the Democratic process. I was also recognized by the Congress of the United States for my service to the Mississippi Delta Community.

How do you approach providing service?

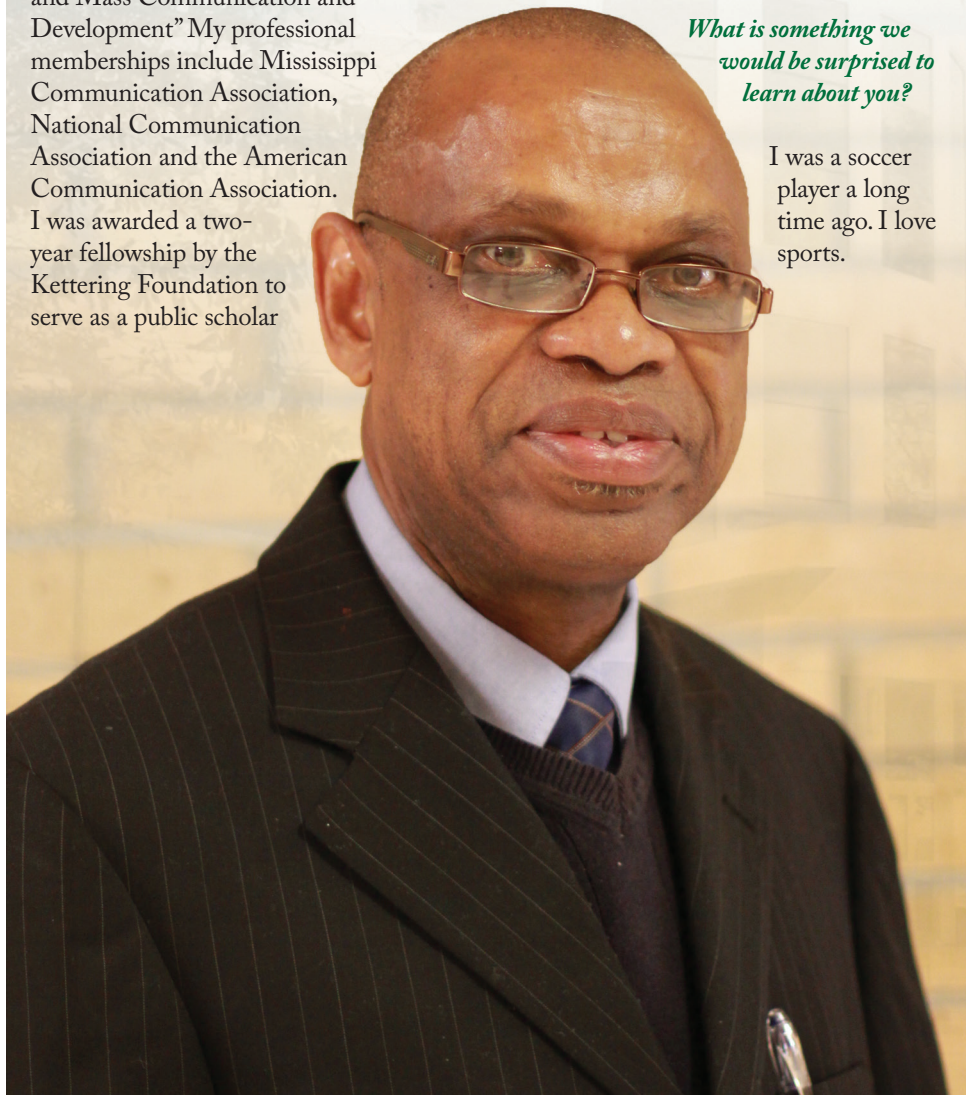
My philosophy is to live for service. There is no greater reward than to help your fellow human being. I set achievable goals and priorities and work diligently to accomplish them. I am a team player and I cherish the contributions from others.

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

You can find me at home with my family.

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

I was a soccer player a long time ago. I love sports.



COMMUNIQUÉ

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

Editorial material should be sent to news@mvsu.edu or mailed to:

**OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND MARKETING**
Mississippi Valley State University
MVSU 7233 • 14000 Hwy. 82 W.
Itta Bena, MS 38941-1400

For more information, call 662.254.3578
news@mvsu.edu

Dameon A. Shaw
*Interim Vice President for
University Advancement*

Maxine Greenleaf
*Director of Communications
and Marketing*

John McCall
Senior Graphic Designer

Joseph Cotton
Associate Graphic Designer

Donell Maxie
Communications Specialist

Shanae Curry
Project Coordinator



Dr. William B. Bynum Jr.
President



@MississippiValley



@MVSUDEVILS

New Hashtag: #GOMVSU

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.