



COMMUNIQUÉ

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MVSU CELEBRATES MORE THAN 500 “GIANT SLAYERS” DURING 66TH COMMENCEMENT

President of Toyota Mississippi Sean Suggs equipped the “giant slayers” of Mississippi Valley State University’s Class of 2018 with five stones to help them conquer success during the 66th Commencement Exercise held May 5.

“You’re graduating from one of the best Universities in the country. Did you know that only 35 percent of the 325 million folks in the United States have a 4-year degree? That means you’re an elite class. I would say that you are giant slayers” said Suggs to the over 500 MVSU graduates seated in the R.W. Harrison Sports Complex during the 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. ceremonies.

Alluding to the biblical story of David and Goliath, Suggs said that while David defeated Goliath with just one stone, he initially picked up five smooth stones from the stream.

“I imagine he picked up five because he wanted to have a backup plan,” Suggs said. You have proven that you are a giant slayer with the first stone by sitting here today as graduates. But what will you do next?”

Suggs continued his commencement address by sharing words of wisdom on how the graduates can keep “slaying” with the other four stones of success.

His advice for stones 2 and 3 was to dream big and trust your intuition.



“Dreams with no goals are just dreams,” he said. Set daily goals and objectives to live out your dreams.”

Asking those in attendance to repeat the Japanese phrase “Ikigai,” which translates as “your reason for being,” Suggs challenged the graduates to find and live out their purpose.

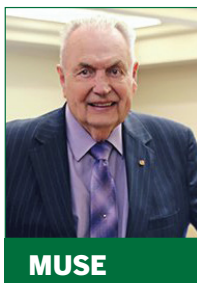
The fourth and final stones were to be risk takers and to have a great attitude about life.

“At Toyota, we challenge our team members to take risks every single day—to be creative, challenging and to be courageous,” said Suggs, who is responsible for the manufacturing and administration functions of Toyota’s Blue Springs-based plant. Every great leader I’ve ever been around have been leaders who have tackled challenges and taken great risks.”

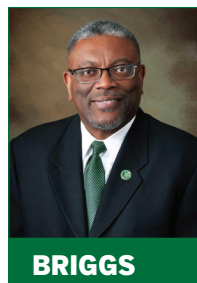
See “Commencement” page 8

MVSU, HINDS CC SIGN AGREEMENT ENSURING SEAMLESS TRANSFER

Hinds Community College (Hinds CC) recently signed a 2 Plus 2 agreement with Mississippi Valley State University to offer junior and senior level courses for students pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Health, Biology or Chemistry.



MUSE



BRIGGS

Representatives from both institutions gathered at 10 a.m. Friday, April 27, at Hinds CC-Raymond Campus for a signing ceremony

to formalize the new partnership, designed to better serve students and to promote successful undergraduate educational experiences for students who wish to attend both institutions.

Before signing the agreements, Hinds CC President Dr. Clyde Muse and MVSU President Dr. Jerryl Briggs, Sr. discussed the benefits of the partnership for both institutions.

“This is a good opportunity that we have to come together as institutions to confirm our relationship and to have the opportunity to further it with this agreement,” said Muse. With this agreement, we have made the process of transfer much simpler, and that’s an advantage for the student.”

During his remarks, Briggs stated that higher education is not just about providing students with a degree, but rather an education.

See “Agreement” page 9

NISSAN CONTINUES ITS SUPPORT OF MVSU STEM PROGRAMS

Nissan has continued its support of Mississippi historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), including Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU), with a \$250,000 donation to help boost science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs and departments.

Representatives from MVSU joined members from Alcorn State University, Jackson State University, Rust College, Tougaloo College, Coahoma Community College and Hinds Community College—Utica Campus Thursday, April 26, at Nissan's Canton-based facility for the donation presentation.

With its latest contribution, Nissan has invested nearly \$2 million in local HBCUs since its Canton facility opened in 2003—with more than half directed toward STEM-specific curriculums.

“Our continued commitment to HBCUs, specifically in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, is vital to fostering the minds of the next George Washington Carver or Mae Jemison,” said Jeffrey Webster, director of Diversity and Inclusion for Nissan North America, Inc. These institutions have implemented proven practices to assist students in STEM fields, and we are proud to help make their students’ career dreams a reality.”

Past donations have helped MVSU’s Engineering Technology Department to purchase material for three concentrations: Electronics Technology, Architectural Construction Management and Computer Aided Drafting and Design (CADD).

During Thursday’s presentation, MVSU Computer Science major Freronica Frizell



of Durant, Miss. shared how the company’s continued support has impacted her learning experience at The Valley.

Frizell, a graduating senior, said that many of the expensive computer programs she used during her various internships were made available to her at MVSU through donations from Nissan.

“I didn’t know who was contributing the donations to my school, and when I learned it came from Nissan I was really surprised,” Frizell said. To know that Nissan cares so much for my school and my education really means a lot.”

A 2016 report from the National Science Foundation showed that HBCUs make up 21 of the top 50 institutions for educating African-American graduates who go on to receive their doctorates in science and engineering. While HBCUs make up just 3 percent of colleges and universities, they produce 27 percent of African-



American students with bachelor’s degrees in STEM fields.

Nissan was recently recognized by *US Black Engineer & Information Technology Magazine* as a 2018 Top Supporter of HBCU Engineering Schools.

MVSU SHINES DURING NATIONAL MINORITY COMPUTER SCIENCE/ENGINEERING SYMPOSIUM

Mississippi Valley State University students outshined STEM students from across the nation during the 2018 Association of Computer and Information Science/Engineering Departments at Minority Institutions (ADMI) symposium hosted recently in New Orleans.

Themed “CompUtainment: Gaming, Graphics, Music, Visualization and Animation,” the

symposium highlighted undergraduate and graduate research with particular interest on innovations in the computing field.

During the event, MVSU students won first place in the Cybersecurity Bowl Competition and second place in the Hardening Challenge using Raspberry Pi.

The winning team included MVSU Computer science majors Henry Akaeze of Nigeria; Shaniqwa Barber of Greenville, Miss.; Kyanie Waters of Heidelberg, Miss; and LaAndrea Gates of Greenville, Miss. They were led by Christopher Lanclous, MVSU assistant professor of Computer Science.

See “Symposium” page 6

MVSU NAMES SOCIAL SCIENCE AUDITORIUM IN HONOR OF ALUM ATTORNEY CARVER RANDLE, SR.

Attorney Carver Randle, Sr. of Indianola, Miss. came to Mississippi Valley State University for the chance to play football and earn a solid education by way of an athletic scholarship. However, he graduated in 1965 with so much more—unforgettable memories, life-long connections, and a long-standing, mutually beneficial relationship with his beloved alma mater.

That relationship will now be solidified for years to come with MVSU renaming its Social Science Auditorium in Randle's honor.

MVSU's Carver A. Randle Social Science Auditorium was unveiled Saturday, May 5, during a special ceremony hosted at 1 p.m. in the W.A. Butts Social Science Building.

"It is indeed a privilege to honor our dear alum, Carver Randle, Sr. with the naming of his auditorium," said MVSU President Dr. Jerryl Briggs, Sr. "Mr. Randle has been an unwavering supporter of his alma mater. We've truly appreciated all that he has done and will continue to do to assure our university remains **IN MOTION.**"

Randle said he's humbled by the gesture.

"It's unimaginable. It's quite rewarding, and it's a distinct pleasure to have something named



in your honor—even if it's nothing more than a broom closet," Randle said. The fact that the University has extended this honor to me is really special, and I'm thankful to President Briggs and all those who helped make this possible."

Even after graduating 53 years ago, Randle has continued to show his support for MVSU through monetary gifts, volunteering and recruiting.

Randle has personally donated more than \$25,000 to MVSU and has helped to raise more than \$150,000 with the Douglas T. Porter Athletic Scholarship fund.

"I have a love for Valley because I know the opportunities that it provided me and what it continues to do for me," Randle said. It's an ongoing relationship that still has its benefits.

See "Randle" page 6

2018 MVSU GRADUATE LANDS JOB WITH IBM



Hard work and dedication are two of the main characteristics that often propel a college student to graduation and on to a successful career.

One Mississippi Valley State University student is on his way.

Victor Oporum graduated from MVSU on May 5 with bachelor's degrees in Mathematics and Computer Science. Not only did the Nigeria native cross the stage to a degree but also a job; he has been offered and accepted a position with IBM in Littleton, Mass., as a software developer.

Oporum is set to begin his career on July 10.

"The journey from my freshman year doing research to performing internships at Dell and a company called SWAYS and now finally being able to put those experiences and technical skills

to use to land a job with IBM is a dream come true," said Oporum.

From his humble beginnings as a youth in Imo State, Nigeria to his life at MVSU, Oporum said it has been all about the journey and the experiences he has shared with classmates, including many of whom are also international students.

"The job is great, but the journey to get here is what has been most exciting to me," said Oporum. Coming from Nigeria, I was always enthusiastic about opportunities. I came to Mississippi Valley in the fall of 2014, and I came with the mindset to work hard and achieve my goals."

One goal for Oporum was to become a software engineer or developer. This goal is rooted in

See "IBM" page 10

MVSU CELEBRATES AREA GRADUATING SENIORS



Mississippi Valley State University applauded graduating seniors at area high schools during several special events throughout the month of May.

MVSU began the celebration at Greenwood High School by sponsoring its inaugural College Signing Day, hosted May 7 in the school's gymnasium.

Inspired by signing days for athletes, College Signing Day is designed to honor high school graduates and celebrate their next steps in life—whether it be attending college, joining the military or entering the workforce.

The event included a special address from MVSU President Dr. Jerryl Briggs. Those seniors planning to enroll at MVSU received

extra-special recognition from their future alma mater during the event.

A reception for all Greenwood High graduates was held immediately following the program, courtesy of the Leflore County Alumni Chapter.

The celebration continued May 9 at Murrah High School in Jackson with a “MVSU Presidential Salute” that included a meet-and-greet with Admissions and Enrollment Management staff, words of encouragement from Briggs, special recognition of those seniors accepted into MVSU, on-site admission for interested students, and a reception sponsored by the local alumni chapter.

The events were spotlighted by local media outlets and on MVSU social media platforms,

including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

“MVSU Presidential Salute” events were also hosted at Gentry High School in Indianola and Greenville High School in Greenville on May 11 and Leflore County High School on May 15.

“As a part of recruitment, it is important that students know that we, here at Mississippi Valley State, support them from the beginning to the end,” said Jacquelyn Williams, MVSU’s director of admissions and recruitment. These seniors have completed such an important milestone and are preparing to move on to a new journey. We wanted to congratulate them and let them know how proud we are of their success.”

MVSU STUDENT AWARDED TEACHING SCHOLARSHIP

Mississippi Valley State University Education major Kalik May was recently awarded the Linda Anglin Teacher Presentation Scholarship by the Mississippi Professional Educators organization.



As part of the honor, May received a \$500 scholarship as well as a complimentary membership to the MPE for his first year of teaching.

The Greenwood native is a former professional baseball player and currently volunteers as an assistant coach for the MVSU baseball team.

Founded in 1979, the Mississippi Professional Educators is Mississippi’s largest and premier organization for professional educators, serving approximately 14,000 teachers, administrators and support personnel.

MPE serves members in pre-K through graduate education in both public and private institutions with the purpose of promoting

better education for the children of Mississippi.

MPE offers an annual scholarship to an MPE student member from each School of Education at Mississippi’s fifteen public and private institutions of higher learning.

For more information about MPE, visit www.mpe.org.

For more information about MVSU’s Teacher Education program, call (662) 254-3613.

COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING TEAM BRINGS HOME FIVE CPRAM AWARDS

Mississippi Valley State University's Office of Communications and Marketing staff recently won five awards during the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi's (CPRAM) annual conference, hosted May 22 in Ridgeland.

MVSU's "Valley in Motion" commercial won first place in the Senior Division-Television Spots category. The winning team included Brittany Davis-Green, director; John McCall, senior graphic designer; Joseph Cotton, associate graphic designer; Shanae Curry, project coordinator; and Donell Maxie, communications specialist.

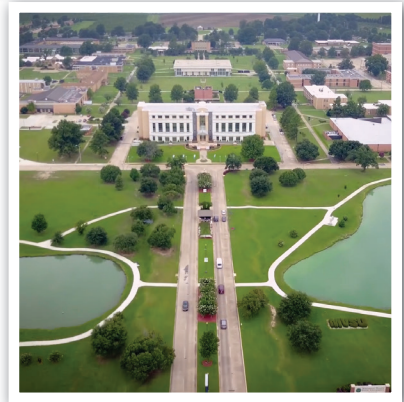
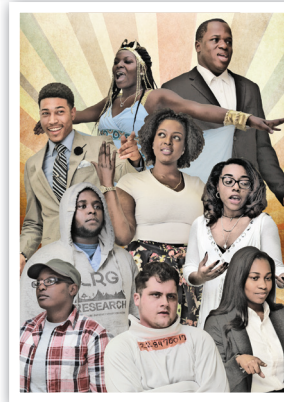
The University's *Communiqué* won second place in the Senior Division-Newsletter category. On the winning team were Davis-Green, Cotton and Maxie.

McCall and Cotton won first place in the Single Piece Artwork (Sports) category for their "ONE GOAL. ONE TEAM. ONE VALLEY." athletic stadium banners.

Cotton also won first place in the Single Piece Artwork (Non-Sports) category for his piece "Past, Present, Future."

Maxie won second place in the Feature Story-Senior Division for his 2017 Graduation series.

Davis-Green received the first place and second place awards in the Junior Division-Feature Story category for pieces she wrote while previously serving as the Chief Communications Officer for Coahoma Community College in



Clarksdale.

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.

More than 100 entries from 12 senior public and private institutions in the state of Mississippi participated in this year's awards competition.

MVSU SENIOR SELECTED FOR RIGOROUS PAID INTERNSHIP

A Mississippi Valley State University student will spend his summer break preparing for his future with a rigorous paid internship through the Mississippi Idea Network for Biomedical Research Excellence (MS-INBRE).

Senior Biology major Stephon Simpson of Indianola, Miss., has accepted an internship at the University of Southern Mississippi in the area of Microbiology, under the direction of Dr. Mohamed Elasari through the MS-INBRE program.

The 11-week training kicked-off May 11 and will include training in basic laboratory techniques, ethics, biosafety, bioinformatics and professional



SIMPSON

career development.

An aspiring medical doctor, Simpson said he's grateful for the opportunity.

"Attending MS-INBRE will sharpen my scientific research skills, increase my network capacity, and it's also something that could be added to my resume' for job placements after graduation," he said. "I'm truly thankful for this awesome opportunity because I get a chance to represent my HBCU."

MS-INBRE is a network of colleges and universities designed to reach out to Mississippians and other talented researchers that will increase the state's competitiveness as well as the impact on citizen's health.

For more information about MS-INBRE, visit www.msinbre.org

To learn more about MVSU's Chemistry degree program, call (662) 254-3377 or visit www.mvsu.edu.

Symposium *continued from page 2*

The team competed in the highly competitive event against students from several schools, including: Hampton University, North Carolina A & T, University of Alabama, Morehouse College, and Winston-Salem State University.

In addition, MVSU placed second in the Computer Science Quiz Bowl competition. Team members included Kizito Nwaka of Nigeria; Mubarak Ibrahim of Nigeria; Arian Williams of Mound Bayou, Miss.; and Koran Wright of Clarksdale, Miss.

Dr. Constance G. Bland, MVSU vice president of academic affairs, was invited to serve as the keynote speaker during the symposium.

Bland captivated the audience with her profound speech entitled, "My Story."

She told those in attendance that they have the ability to become whatever they desire in life if they work and study hard.

One key factor that she emphasized to students was that while on their journey to success, they must "learn how to lose but never quit."

ADMI was founded in August 1989 and established as a national organization dedicated to exploring and providing remedies to the educational issues in computer/information science and computer engineering that confront minority institutions of higher education.



Pictured are STEM students, faculty, and staff members along with MVSU Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Constance Bland, who served as the keynote speaker during the Association of Computer and Information Science/Engineering Departments at Minority Institutions' (ADMI's) annual conference.



Pictured, from left, are first place Cybersecurity Bowl Competition and second place in the Hardening Challenge Using Raspberry Pi winners Henry Akaeze of Nigeria; Shaniqwa Barber of Greenville, Miss.; Kyanie Waters of Heidelberg, Miss.; LaAndrea Gates of Greenville, Miss.; and MVSU Assistant Professor of Computer Science Christopher Lanclos.



Pictured, from left, are second place Computer Science Quiz Bowl winners Kizito Nwaka; Mubarak Ibrahim; Arian Williams of Mound Bayou, Miss.; and Koran Wright of Clarksdale, Miss.

Randle *continued from page 3*

It's always home for me."

Randle, who earned a bachelor's degree in Natural Science at MVSU, said the University provided him with a holistic experience, preparing him to succeed both socially and academically.

"Valley provided me with a good college education and the opportunity to meet some acquaintances that have lasted a lifetime," he said. It prepared me to go on to the next level educationally."

After a brief stint teaching and coaching, Randle continued his education at the University of Mississippi School of Law, where he earned a Juris Doctorate degree.

He has been practicing law in the Mississippi Delta for 45 years.

During his extensive career, Randle served as special assistant to the president for former MVSU Presidents Dr. William Sutton and Dr. Lester C. Newman for 10 years.

He was instrumental in bringing blues legend B.B. King to MVSU's campus for several years and helped to bring the state-of-the-art B.B. King Recording Studio to MVSU's campus.

Randle has received several awards on behalf of the University, including the prestigious James H. White Award, the Alumni of the Year award, and induction into MVSU's Athletic Hall of Fame.

He was named Indianola's "Citizen of the Year" in 2011 and was a founding board member of the B.B. King Museum. In addition, Randle served as the president of the local NAACP chapter for several years.

According to Randle, understanding the importance of the University to the Mississippi Delta is what has fueled his dedication to MVSU over the years.

Randle has been a staunch supporter of MVSU, starting in his own home; all three of his children have attended the University.

"I've enjoyed the opportunities and exposure that the University has given me and would encourage anybody to go to Mississippi Valley State University," he said.

"I've always loved being at home, and I think we should always look at the best in our backyard before going somewhere else," he added.

For Randle, the dedication further proves his point that for MVSU alums, Valley is always home.

"You'll always have a home at Valley State. You can be gone 50 years, but you'll always have a home," he said.

Randle resides in Indianola with his wife, Rosie Knox Randle. Together, they have three children, six grandchildren and two great grands.



GOLDEN GRADUATES CLASS OF 1968 REUNION





Presidential Salute, to Graduating Seniors!



Commencement

continued from cover

Suggs said that, ultimately, attitude is what will set MVSU graduates apart.

“I believe your attitude is the engine; it’s the asset that you have to separate you from everyone else,” he said. Your attitude can shift the tide and make you and the company you’re working with great.”

During the ceremony, graduates Henry Akaeze of Lago, Nigeria (B.S. in Computer Science and B.S. in Mathematics) and Laadi Issaka of Accra, Ghana (B.S. in Health, Physical Education and Recreation) received special recognition for earning a 4.0 cumulative grade point average.

Also featured during the ceremony were the “Golden Graduates”, who commemorated 50 years since their graduation as the 16th graduating class of the then Mississippi Valley State College.

“You all came here for a degree, and you’ve achieved that,” said MVSU President Dr. Jerryl Briggs during closing remarks. But the education that you all received is priceless. We know that education changes lives; education changes communities. Education can change the world. So, make sure you use it as a tool for growth.”

Briggs’ final bid to the Class of 2018 was to share their knowledge and love for MVSU with the world.

“As graduates, my charge to you is to give—give back to others and help someone else,” he said. Congratulations, I’m so proud of you all, and I know you’re just getting started.”

TANNER SERVES AS CLASS DAY SPEAKER



MVSU’s Director of Academic Success and Student Development Heather Tanner recently served as the Class Day speaker for Mitchell High School in Memphis, Tenn. Pictured, from left, are Emerging Scholar Professor Cedric Dorsey; Tanner; Assistant Principal Dwana McGuire; and Principal Kelvin Meeks.

WELCOME ABOARD



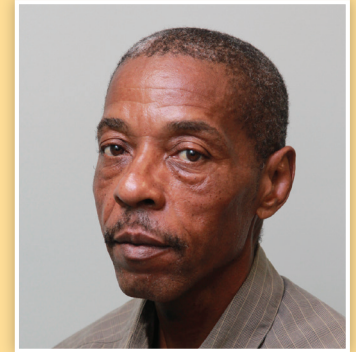
Antonio Binder
Recruiter
HEP*



April Hendrix
Student A/R Clerk
Business and Finance



Ashley Jones
Cashier
Business and Finance



Curtis White
Custodian
Facilities Management

*High School Equivalency Program



“I think that this partnership will speak to that—our students receiving an education from both institutions and moving on to build and grow their lives,” he said.

According to Briggs, the agreement serves as an example of both institutions moving forward.

“One thing that we’ve established at Valley is that vision of ‘ONE GOAL. ONE TEAM. ONE VALLEY.’ and now that’s ‘...In Motion.’ It means that we’re moving in the right direction, and this is the right direction, I think, for both institutions,” he said.

Alluding to her own start as a community college STEM major, MVSU Vice President of Academic Affairs Constance Bland reiterated how vital it is for community colleges and

4-year institutions to work together.

“50 percent of graduates from 4-year institutions get their start at community colleges, so it’s very important for us to embrace those community college students and make a pathway as large as we possibly can...I’m just really excited about this from an academic perspective,” she said.

Bland added that she’s excited to see the partnership expand to include other majors.

“It’s wonderful that we’re starting out with our STEM departments, and we’d like to fan this opportunity out to any majors that want to matriculate and make that pathway on to Mississippi Valley State University.”

As part of the agreement, MVSU will accept all Hinds CC courses outlined in the articulation

agreement, providing students pursuing bachelor’s degrees in Natural Science and Environmental Health with a seamless transfer.

In addition, MVSU has agreed to provide junior/senior and graduate level courses on Hinds’ campus. It will also offer two transfer scholarships to Hinds CC graduates with a 3.5 grade point average or higher.

Hinds CC has agreed to provide MVSU access to its campus for classes, registration, recruiting and support services.

According to MVSU Assistant Vice President for Online and Distance Education Dr. Kenneth Done, MVSU will begin offering courses on Hinds’ campus as early as the Fall 2018 semester.

HILTON PRESENTS DURING MIMSAC CONFERENCE



MVSU Director of Student Leadership and Engagement Pamela Hilton recently presented on the topic “The Impact of Tradition and Innovation on Student Success” during the 2018 Memphis In May Student Affairs Conference (MIMSAC). MIMSAC is a one-day professional development conference designed to provide attendees with the opportunity to share ideas and expertise regarding issues, challenges, and successes in higher education and student affairs.

PERFECT GRADE POINT AVERAGES



During the 8 a.m. Commencement ceremony, graduates Henry Akaeze of Lagos, Nigeria (B.S. in Computer Science and B.S. in Mathematics) and Laadi Issaka of Accra, Ghana (B.S. in Health, Physical Education and Recreation) received special recognition for earning a 4.0 cumulative grade point average. They are pictured along with MVSU President Dr. Jerryl Briggs, Sr.

IBM *continued from page 3*

in his passion for creating specialized software applications for prominent organizations.

“IBM is a huge company and very innovative, so I’m excited to come onboard and contribute as well as learn from the great professionals there. I also will be giving back to (MVSU) as well because my school has helped me a great deal through the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE),” he added.

His involvement with NSBE has played a pivotal role in Oporum’s success. It was during the annual NSBE convention that IBM reached out to Oporum to set-up an interview.

“Following my interview, they invited us to a reception and informed us of a successful interview. After that, they informed me that I had moved on to the next stage and was able to speak with a manager in North Carolina. I went through three stages and then I was offered the job,” he said.

Oporum said what Valley has done for him is something he will never forget, and his motivation is to repay the faith that the institution had in him by representing it as best he can.

“This school and the organizations I had the chance to participate in have been very beneficial to me realizing my career goals,” Oporum said.

“NSBE is a great platform for smart and like-minded students to get opportunities to join great companies,” he added.

Before coming to MVSU, Oporum was a member of an organization called Education U.S.A. in Nigeria. A representative from Valley came to Nigeria and shared with Oporum great things about the University.

“She encouraged the students at that time to apply to Valley, and that is when my friend Rowland Ifeanyi applied, was accepted and attended.”

Having a friend come to the University provided Oporum with first-hand information on what the school was all about.

“Rowland shared with me, and when I arrived I also saw it for myself, the family togetherness that is here. Even though there are some cultural adjustments that I had to make being from a different place, I was always willing

to embrace change for the better and always willing to learn as quickly as possible,” he said. “The people here made that transition easy.”

Oporum, who had offers from other American institutions, said he chose MVSU for numerous reasons.

“I came to Valley because I always wanted to combine math and science as majors and Valley allowed me to do that,” he said.

“Another reason was that Rowland spoke well about the University and the fact that I would be able to have a personal relationship with my professors—that is not common at big schools with larger populations,” he added.

Oporum said that Valley’s status as a historically black university is what sealed the deal.

“I did a lot of research on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) before I left Nigeria to learn what they were all about, and I wanted to come and make an impact to show that people who come from HBCUs can compete with people all over the world.”

Mission accomplished, Oporum.

MVSU HOSTS 2018 STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT AWARDS LUNCHEON

MVSU's Office of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management held its 2018 Awards Luncheon May 23 in the H.M. Ivy Dining Hall IV. The event was hosted by Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Dr. Jacqueline Gibson Preastley. During the luncheon, special recognition was also extended to graduates Jasmyne Sanders, Kiedgar Curb, Lashanda McChristion, Derrick Jones, Katherine Granderson Aldridge, Carl Lee, Michael Clark and retiree Gladys Flaggs.



Teamwork Award - Office of Student Support Services

Brian Lee, Sandra Brim, Carol Cain, Elizabeth Dixon, Martha Smith and Stephanie Smith pictured with Dr. Briggs & Dr. Gibson Preastley



Leadership Award
Martha Smith, Director
Student Support Services



Student-Centered Award
Pamela Hilton, Director
Student Leadership & Engagement



Customer Service Excellence Award
Sandra Brim, Office Manager
Student Support Services



Exceptional Performance Award
Michael Taylor, Executive Director
Enrollment Management & GHEC

Two
Minutes
with...

Dr. Mark A. Dugo

Assistant Professor of Environmental Health



Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

I have been serving as Assistant Professor of Environmental Health in the Department of Natural Sciences and Environmental Health at Mississippi Valley State University since the fall of 2015. I am from Hampton, Va. and I have been living in Miss. for the last 18 years. I came to Mississippi to attend graduate school at the University of Southern Mississippi, where I worked on a collaborative research project studying the rare and endangered Gulf sturgeon. I earned my Ph.D. in Environmental Science in 2015, studying gene expression in native fishes following laboratory exposure to a carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon associated with oil refineries. My interests are broadly focused on the importance of ecological integrity as it relates to environmental health. I believe stakeholder engagement and education are vital components of public health intervention. I am pleased to work and live in the Mississippi Delta; a place steeped in history, inequity, and irony.

How do you approach providing service?

Service is a vital necessity for life. The most important services that I believe are,

promoting individual empowerment as a vehicle for positive change, and teaching the younger generation that they are “stakeholders” in their local communities and environments.

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

I most enjoy being outside enjoying green spaces, particularly those that are close to natural bodies of water. Ideally, I will be enjoying a cup of coffee with my wife in the morning shade, or relaxing outside at dusk, enjoying time with my family after dinner.

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

I enjoy healthy food and healthy cooking, using herbs and spices instead of pre-blended seasonings. I am fascinated in learning how cultures of the Mediterranean, Africa, the Middle-East, India and East Asia all share similar spices, and how they utilize them in a variety of unique dishes. Cultural cuisine tells a story of unity within our shared humanity. My favorite song writer is Bob Marley.

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:

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President



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New Hashtag: #GOMVSU

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