



# COMMUNIQUÉ

A Publication of Mississippi Valley State University for Faculty, Staff, Alumni and Friends | November / December 2019 Vol.16 Edition 8

## A NEW CHAPTER: MVSU CELEBRATES GRADUATES DURING FALL 2019



The Fall 2019 Commencement marked the ending of one chapter and the beginning of another for Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) graduates Saturday, Dec. 14.

“A book is comprised of several chapters which legitimizes that book, and that’s the same way with life. Our lives are full of chapters,” said MVSU President Dr. Jerryl Briggs, who served as the commencement speaker.

“Now, you all are about to fulfill another chapter, and with that chapter comes accountability and responsibility.”

Briggs, who typically presides over the ceremony, said he was honored to serve as the speaker for the special occasion.

The ceremony, hosted at 10 a.m. in MVSU’s R.W. Harrison Complex, marked the

reinstatement of the University’s Fall Commencement Exercise and the inaugural fall graduation ceremony under the institution’s current administration.

“As you go forward, you all will have several other chapters in your lives, but always remember this one as important,” said Briggs to

See “Fall Graduation” page 7

## MVSU NAMED TOP EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IN THE STATE FOR RECYCLING EFFORTS

Mississippi Valley State University was recently recognized as the top recycler among the state’s educational institutions by the Mississippi Recycling Coalition (MRC).

MRC is a consortium of business and industry executives, members of trade organizations, nonprofits, state environmental officials and other entities designed to promote and grow recycling efforts across Mississippi. Its mission is to complement, promote and encourage responsible solid waste management, which

includes source reduction, reuse, recycling and composting programs.

Each year, the coalition recognizes organizations, businesses, agencies, schools and local governments from around the state that have excelled in their recycling and materials management program efforts.

This year, MVSU received the “Educational Institution Recycler of the Year” award. MRC bestows the top award to institutions that

promote recycling on their campus and in their respective communities.

Terrence Hurshey, director of MVSU Facilities Management, expressed gratitude for the hard work staff members put in at the recycling center.

“We congratulate our Sustainability Coordinator Ms. Portia Boyd and Assistant Manager Mr. Michael Anderson for an

See “Recycling” page 15

# SEE IT THROUGH: MVSU GRAD EARNS DEGREE WITH HELP FROM C2C INITIATIVE

It's never too late to start again, and Serena Mouncil-Body is proof.

After years of only being a few credits shy of a college degree, the 47-year-old wife and mother of three received a bachelor's degree from Mississippi Valley State University on Dec. 14 through the Complete to Compete initiative, also known as the C2C.

The C2C is a statewide program designed to help Mississippi adults who have earned college credit—but not a degree—better their lives by completing a college education.

Mississippi's eight public universities and 15 community colleges all participate in the C2C program.

Mouncil-Body, who first attended college in 1992, said she learned about the program via Facebook.

"After I saw it on Facebook, I immediately did the intake form, and (MVSU C2C Coordinator) Shearra Hardwick called me back within hours,"



said Mouncil-Body. "She had me to send over my transcripts and informed me that I only needed 11 hours to earn my bachelor's degree."

The Belzoni native, who currently lives in Texas, said the special moment was indescribable.

"I was so happy that I was going to be a college grad! I've always wanted to get my degree, but things happened, and it was always put off until now," she said. "This program is one of the best things that ever happened to me. I'm forever grateful for the support I've received from Mississippi Valley State."

Mouncil-Body explained that her biggest inspiration came from the people she loves the most—her husband, and children.

"They are so happy and proud of me. They call me Supermom," she said with a chuckle. "Life is too short, and I wanted to be a good role model for my kids and show them that nothing is impossible."

See "C2C" next page

## MVSU HEP PROGRAM CELEBRATES 2019 GRADUATES



MVSU's High School Equivalency Program (HEP) recently celebrated 13 graduates during its Fall 2019 Commencement Exercise on Friday, Dec. 6. Family and friends of the graduates gathered in Dining Hall IV of the H.M. Ivy Cafeteria for the special occasion themed, "The Best of Best." HEP Reading Instructor Kenneth Davis served as the commencement speaker.

*Pictured (front row, from left) are HEP staff members Davis, Gloria Conley, secretary/data manager; LeMarrick Green, Sr., counselor; Dr. Tara Self, program director; David Pilcher, mathematic instructor; Nakeshia Anderson, mathematic instructor; Nereyda Zuniga Hernandez, recruiter (second row) Adedeji Jeremiah Adebisi, tutor; HEP graduates David Gamez Tinejro, Maria Vega*

*Castro, April Pegram, Jessica Moore, and Ivy Moore; Antonio Binder, recruiter; (back row) Florina Moreno, language arts instructor; HEP graduates Jadyen Hall, Adrian Mitchell, Tyrese Williams, Lil Robert Owens, James Cason, Joshua Wilkins, and Justin Walls; Tobiloba Precious Akinhanmi, tutor; and Dr. Kenneth Done, assistant vice president/ distance & online education.*

# FROM “COMPLICATED” TO SOFTWARE DEVELOPER: BARBER’S JOURNEY TO MVSU

“Complicated” is how Shaniqwa Barber of Greenville describes the first few years of her collegiate journey.

Although she faced personal hurdles, including starting at one school, then transferring to another, all while juggling her military career, she eventually found her way. Despite the rough start, Barber prevailed and was among those who graduated from Mississippi Valley State University on Dec. 14 with a bachelor’s degree in Computer Science.

Now, the Greenville, Miss. native has accepted a job to work as a software developer for FedEx in Collierville, Tenn., where she’ll be in the corporate office working in the Cloud Engagement and Enablement Department.

A 2014 graduate of Greenville High School, Barber said she’d never imagined she’d be where she is today.

“I was shy and didn’t talk to anyone when I first started college. I was so stuck in my life in Greenville that I didn’t open up to make new friends,” she shared.

Barber believes that if it had not been for her hard work and the commitment of the faculty in MVSU’s Mathematics, Computer & Information Sciences (MCIS) department and one professor, in particular, she would not be in the position she is now.

“Initially, I commuted from Greenville, and one day, I heard students talking about internships, and I didn’t know what that was about. I talked with Dr. (Candace) Carter-Stevens and asked if she thought I should move on campus. She said,



‘Put your faith in God and move on campus.’ That decision changed my college life,” Barber explained.

“Thanks to Dr. Stevens’ encouragement, I moved on campus and started working on weekends at my job at Pizza Hut instead of every day. It was like, ‘Boom!’ I got on campus and started doing work-study. I became a mentor for Robotics, I tutored, and I started going to conferences. Since I was on campus, I was exposed to more things. I attended an all-expense paid conference in New Orleans, and I was blown away by that,” said Barber.

Also, Barber gained her first internship at the New Orleans conference. Following that experience, she said she returned to campus feeling empowered!

“My time at that internship gave me focus. When I returned, I felt unstoppable. Before moving on campus, I did not know how great my professors were and how much time and resources they provide us,” she said.

See “Journey” page 6

## C2C *continued from previous page*

Her family consists of her husband, Marcus Body, and three kids with one stepson. They are Taporsha Mouncil, Demarcus Body, Dajah Body, and Marcus Yarbor.

Currently, Mouncil-Body is working as a real estate agent, and she plans to get a Master’s in Business Management.

“I plan to become a real estate broker, become the owner of a real estate company and specialize in real estate education and real estate investment,” she said.

By having my bachelor’s degree, it will compensate for the 630 hours that I will need to get my broker licenses,” she added.

Mouncil-Body said while some may feel like they can’t go back and complete their college degree, she hopes that her story serves as an inspiration to push them toward finishing what they started.

“I want people to follow their dreams and get the education they deserve. Doing something like this, you will

be a role model for your kids and family. No matter how old you are, you can do it. If it’s been a while and you have college hours but no degree contact the C2C Coach Shearra Hardwick, and she will go above and beyond to help you get your degree,” said Mouncil-Body.

To learn more about the C2C Program at MVSU, contact Shearra Hardwick, MVSU’s C2C coach, at (662) 254-3439 or [shearra.hardwick@mvsu.edu](mailto:shearra.hardwick@mvsu.edu).



# 11 MVSU STUDENTS ATTEND THE 2019 HBCU CAREER DEVELOPMENT MARKETPLACE

A group of Mississippi Valley State University students are now more prepared for corporate America as they transition into the workforce after attending the 2019 Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU) Career Development Marketplace Conference.

MVSU's Career Services Center recently traveled with 11 students to Baltimore, Maryland, to attend the conference, designed to inform and educate students from HBCUs about opportunities after graduation.

This year, 374 students from 32 HBCU across the nation participated in the event, hosted Oct. 28 through Nov. 1. Those representing MVSU included: Correaunte Fowler, senior, Mass Communications major; Nijal Burns, senior, Engineer Technology major; Kristopher Bonds, sophomore, Business Administration major; Jai Cosey, senior, English major; JaQuana Williams, senior, Mass Communications and English major; Glenn Johnson, junior, Engineering Technology major; Chris George, senior, Criminal Justice major; Jaylin Smith, junior, Mass Communications major; Jeremyia Merritt, sophomore, Business Administration major; and Jaymie Kennedy, junior, Business Administration major.

"I enjoyed the conference," said Bonds. "It equipped me with a lot of important tools that will assist me in Corporate America. There are a couple of things that really captured my attention at the conference in reference to



internships."

"I'd advise all juniors and senior who are extended the opportunity next year to attend," he added.

A native of Greenwood, Fowler said the event exposed him to career opportunities across the nation.

"As a graduating senior, I found the conference very useful," he said. "I connected with many job opportunities that will allow me to relocate after graduation."

The conference's workshop topic included personal branding, career readiness, social

See "Marketplace" page 10

## MVSU STUDENTS CURATE "THE COLOR OF MONEY" ART EXHIBIT

Two Mississippi Valley State University students are behind the "The Color of Money" art exhibit, currently on display in MVSU's James H. White Library.

Shalae Ryan, a junior History major from Decatur, Georgia, and Marshun Street, a senior History student from Olive Branch, Mississippi, curated their first art exhibit, which debuted

Tuesday, Nov. 6, during an opening ceremony.

The exhibit, which investigates the importance of slavery in the economy of the South, will remain on display through May 2020.



See "Exhibit" page 10

# MVSU'S KINDS NAMED VICE-PRESIDENT ELECT FOR STATE'S N.O.S.S CHAPTER

A Mississippi Valley State University staff member was recently selected to serve as vice president for a state organization dedicated to ensuring student success.

MVSU's Director of Developmental Studies and Academic Support Larry D. Kinds, Sr. was named vice-president elect for the Mississippi Chapter of the National Organization for Student Success (formerly Mississippi Association for Developmental Education) last week.

Kinds was unanimously elected for the position during the organization's 38th Annual Conference, hosted Nov. 7-8 on MVSU's campus.

He said he's excited about the opportunity to help the organization strive towards its mission to improve the theory and practice of developmental education and student's success.

"I am honored to be elected as the Vice President of NOSS, MS Chapter" Kinds said. "I am humbled that my peers in developmental education would nominate me."

A native of Greenwood, Kinds is a graduate of Mississippi Valley State University where he obtained a bachelor's degree in Education and a master's degree in Business Administration.



The former America Reads MS (Americorps) Tutor has worked for the Greenwood Public School District as a Certified Tutor and a Computer Technology Asst.

In 2011, Kinds returned to his alma mater to serve as a counselor for the MVSU Office of

Student Financial Aid. In 2016, Kinds joined MVSU's University College team as the Summer Developmental Coordinator, and later became the director of Developmental Studies and Academic Support.

See "N.O.S.S." page 10

# MVSU'S CARTER PRESENTS DURING COUNCIL OF SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION'S ANNUAL PROGRAM MEETING

A Mississippi Valley State University faculty member recently presented during a national conference designed for social work educators and influencers.

Dr. Candace Carter, assistant professor of Social Work, presented her research, entitled "Parental Knowledge and Communication about Sexual Health Predicting Teen Parenting Status: An Implicit Approach," during the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE) 65th Annual Program Meeting (APM).

Hosted October 24-27 in Denver, Colorado, the APM is the preeminent annual meeting for social work educators, students, deans, and directors worldwide. Each year, the APM brings together more than 2,500 individual members

as well as the largest gathering of graduate and undergraduate programs of professional social work education.

Carter's presentation highlighted findings from research conducted that shed light on the role that parents play in the early onset of sexual activity by examining key factors, such as parent-child communication, parent-child relationships, and parental knowledge.

Findings from the research that were discussed during the presentation suggested that the lack of education about sex and unhealthy sexual



practices among adolescents and their parents are paramount in understanding the rise in teenage pregnancy among African American teens residing in rural southern areas such as the Mississippi Delta.

CSWE conferences help promote and teach best practices in research and curriculum development through dynamic educational sessions, peer networking forums, and job-search opportunities.

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

For more information about MVSU's Social Work programs, call (662) 254-3365 or visit [www.mvsu.edu](http://www.mvsu.edu).

# GASBY KEYNOTES ALZHEIMER'S SYMPOSIUM

Mississippi Valley State University welcomed author and Alzheimer's advocate Dan Gasby Nov. 19 during its Graduate Read-In Symposium, hosted at 6 p.m. in MVSU's Science and Technology Center.

Gasby's wife, the iconic model and restaurateur B. Smith, was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's in 2013. Since then, the couple has been open and transparent about their experiences grappling with the disease.

Gasby said he visited the Itta Bena campus to give a serious existential warning, particularly to women and African Americans, on the impact of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia can have on their lives, their families and future generations if it's not first mitigated and ultimately eliminated.

"Two out of three people affected by Alzheimer's disease are women. African Americans are twice as likely to be affected by the disease, with two out of three African women projected to be diagnosed with the disease," said Gasby to an audience made up of MVSU faculty, students, and community members.

"I know the impact of Alzheimer's in the South—this is ground zero. I don't want to see you go through what I've been through," he added.

Gasby said whether as a patient or caregiver, the impact of the disease will be felt profoundly.

"Every 66 seconds, someone is diagnosed with Alzheimer's," said Gasby. "Whether you're in college or a few years away from retirement, this disease can and will impact you."

He said the stress, lack of sleep, obesity, and lack of exercise all play a significant role in bringing on the disease.



"I'm begging you to get out your comfort zones," said Gasby. "This is a threat to all Americans, but particularly African Americans."

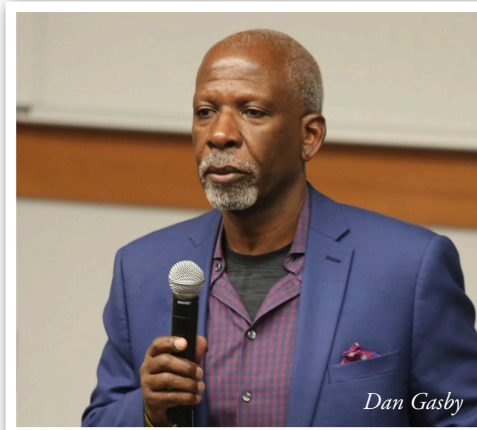
He also encouraged those in attendance to become advocates as well as to participate in drug trials.

"I believe you have to participate in drug trials because while we're the same, drugs can affect us differently," said Gasby.

"Please don't sit and be idle. Write letters, support universities, and like this and encourage our young people in STEM fields."

During the event, Gasby signed copies of his book, co-authored by his wife, "Before I Forget," and answered questions posed by those in attendance.

The event also included poster presentations on Alzheimer's research conducted by MVSU graduate students.



MVSU's Graduate Read-In includes a semester-long series of events centered around a common read. This semester's selection was "Before I Forget."

The Fall 2019 Graduate Read-In was supported by funds from the New Masters grant made possible by the U.S. Department of Education.

## Journey *continued from page 3*

"When I was on my own, my grades were suffering, but then I surrounded myself with people who were trying to accomplish the same goals as I was, and I started getting A's and B's," she added.

Finishing her college journey at MVSU is something that Barber describes as a "blessing."

"Valley gave me a solid foundation to learn whatever I need. I am so thankful to the

MCIS department for helping to build my confidence, and as a result, I go out now and try to encourage young girls to go into the STEM disciplines. Because of my department, I feel ready for the world," she said.

With this chapter of her life closing, Barber said she wants all students following her to know that it is okay to step out of their comfort zone.

"I would encourage students to build relationships with other students and faculty. I

want them to understand that the faculty is not their enemy—they are here to help."

"I want them to step out of their comfort zones, step out on faith and do something different to get different results," she added.

To learn more about MVSU's Mathematics, Computer & Information Sciences (MCIS) department, call (662) 254-3422, e-mail [mcis@mvsu.edu](mailto:mcis@mvsu.edu) or visit [www.mvsu.edu](http://www.mvsu.edu).

# 8TH ANNUAL SWEAT EQUITY SYMPOSIUM EXPLORES GULLAH GEECHEE TRADITION

The Carver Randle Auditorium was filled with cheers, singing, tears as history lessons were brought to life during the 8th Annual Sweat Equity Investment in the Cotton Kingdom Symposium Nov. 6-7.

Themed “400 Years of ‘Knowing Who We Be’” this year’s event explored the Gullah Geechee culture and heritage.

Anita Singleton Prather, also known as Auntie Pearlie Sue, served as the moderator for the two-day event and captivated the audience with her storytelling, acting, singing and comedy.

The South Carolina-based historian expressed how much she enjoyed visiting MVSU.

“This feels like home,” said Prather. “Mississippi really knows how to do it,” she added following a stirring performance from the Gentry High School “Gentrytes” Choir from Indianola.

In addition, the world-renowned Griffin Lotson and the Geechee Gullah Ring Shouters from Georgia participated in the event.

The ring shouters shared dancing, singing as well as information about their culture and the significance of how their ancestors were able to maintain and practice their traditions throughout slavery until present day.

Organizer Dr. Cassie Sade Turnipseed, an assistant professor of history at MVSU, said



having the ring shouters at this year’s symposium offered a strong and vital connection to honoring the legacy of our ancestors.

“They reveal how, over time, their forefathers and mothers developed a language as a means of communicating with each other which enabled them to preserve many African practices through the arts, crafts, cuisine and spiritual practices,” she said.

“This evolving story of self-determination, persistence, resilience, innovation, isolation, and

enslavement captured the theme for this year’s symposium.”

In addition to the Gentry choir’s performance, the MVSU choir also performed and students from Dr. Cassie S. Turnipseed’s history class shared information from their various assignments in her class

Sponsors for this year’s event included Mississippi Valley State University, the Mississippi Humanities Council, and KHAFRE, Inc.

## Fall Graduation *continued from cover*

the graduates who received both master’s and bachelor’s degrees.

Recounting his own life’s chapters, Briggs said he wouldn’t be standing where he is today if it wasn’t for other’s who paved the way for him.

“I want to give thanks to all of our ancestors and to all of those who have made a difference in our lives today,” he said. “I’ve sat in the chair that you all are sitting in now. One very special person in my life was my mother. She passed in 2005, but I know she’s standing here with me now.”

Reading a quote from a commencement speech given on Dec. 6, 1953, by MVSU’s Founding President Dr. James Herbert

White, Briggs encouraged the graduates to continue to embrace the commitment to service instilled in them during their time at The Valley.

He also reminded them of the gravity of what they’ve accomplished by both earning a degree and receiving an education.

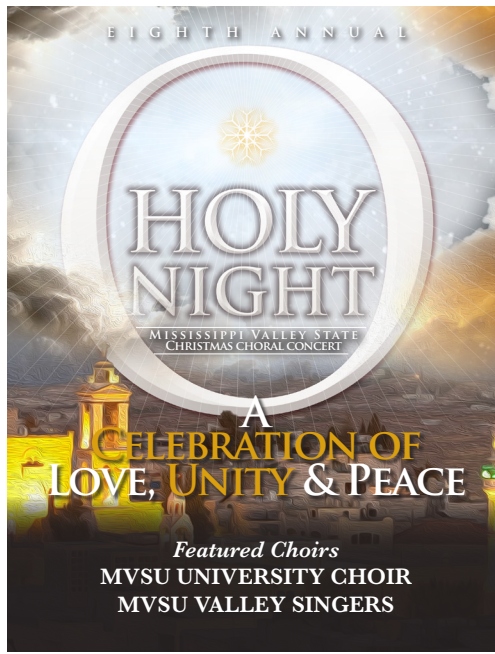
“Getting a degree is very important, but receiving an education is most important,” he said, “We know that it’s education that transforms lives, communities & societies.”

During the ceremony, special recognition was extended to two graduates who earned the distinction Summa Cum Laude for earning a grade point of average of 3.8 or higher. Those

graduates were Hanesia Friend of Itta Bena, Miss., who received a B.S. in Health, Physical Education & Recreation, and Justin Read of Sydenham, Victoria (Australia), who received a B.A. in Mass Communications.

Briggs closed by encouraging the Class of 2019 to share their experiences, knowledge, and love for MVSU with the world.

“Whatever your next chapter entails, remember that part of that preparation started here, at Mississippi Valley State University, and don’t let anyone lessen the importance of that opportunity and the degree that you’re receiving.”





# LOCAL AKA CHAPTER AWARDS MVSU BOOK SCHOLARSHIPS



On hand for the presentation are, from left, Dr. Kalanya Moore, MVSU Teacher Education Department chairman; Dr. Jerryl Briggs, MVSU president; KAO member Joyce Dixon; Rayven Holston, recipient; KAO members Marlene Johnson, Maxcine Rush (2019 chapter president), Jocelyn Haley, Lillie Stanley (2019 vice president), Anjavelle Payton, Caloron Byrd, Diane Parker, Auguster Wallace and Wanda Young (MVSU Book Scholarship Committee chairman).



KAO members are joined by Dr. Jerryl Briggs, MVSU president, and Dr. John Zheng, MVSU English Department chairman, as they present Kenyatta Robinson with her book scholarship. Pictured are, from left, KAO members Shirley Blanton, Caloron Byrd; Briggs; KAO member Joyce Dixon; Robinson; KAO members Marlene Johnson, Jocelyn Haley, Maxcine Rush (chapter president), Anjavelle Payton, Lillie Stanley (vice president), Wanda Young (MVSU Book Scholarship Committee chairman) Diane Parker, Auguster Wallace; and Zheng.

The members of Kappa Alpha Omega (KAO) Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority, Inc. recently awarded \$1,600 in book scholarships to two Mississippi Valley State University students on Dec. 11.

The chapter's MVSU Book Scholarship rotates annually between two departments among the university's academic departments. According to the Chapter's rotation schedule, the selected students would come from the Departments of

Education and English and receive \$800 each in 2019.

Kenyatta Robinson, a senior English major in the English Department, has a 3.64 grade point average (GPA). Robinson was selected by English faculty, led by Dr. John Zheng, department chairman. She hails from East Point, Ga.

Dr. Kalanya Moore, department chairman of the Teacher Education Department, and her faculty

chose Rayven Holston of Itta Bena, Miss. as their scholarship recipient. Holston is a senior elementary education major with a 3.2 GPA.

The MVSU Book Scholarship Committee, chaired by Wanda Young, is part of the sorority's Target 1 HBCU Initiative. 2019 KAO President Maxcine Rush issued the awards at a special event.



Street said he was grateful for the help the MVSU faculty provided in bringing the exhibit to MVSU.

“I am so thankful to Dr. (Cassie Sade) Turnipseed and her guidance because without her we would have been lost,” he said. “It is a breath of fresh air to finally have the exhibit open and to see how interactive people are with the art—asking questions and getting real interested to see African Americas on currency. I was able to give a personal tour to President Briggs, and he seemed really impressed.”

Ryan said that while the process was tedious, working with the creator of the exhibit, John Jones, made it worthwhile.

“The process was fairly simple. Mr. Jones did most of his work by creating his published book through this art exhibit,” said Ryan.

Ryan said the goal was to make the exhibit unique and informative from previous exhibits showcasing the pieces.

“Our process was getting all the artwork and determining what type of story we wanted to tell,” she explained.

“We introduce his work with the first image and then it follows with different phases like custom engraving and propaganda. My partner and I utilized the book as our main

source in curating this exhibit,” she added.

The duo said that working on the exhibit was a great learning experience.

“I didn’t know African Americans were on confederate dollars, and I didn’t understand its significance,” said Street. “I really took away that on top of picking cotton, enslaved African Americans also helped to build America’s economy by being on currency,” said Street.

Jones’ artistic investigation of a time when slavery and currency were one makes a powerful statement about the contribution of enslaved Africans to the American economy.

In bringing these images to the foreground, he reveals a story few history books tell. Yet, these bold acrylics do more than translate the engravings of slave labor enshrined in our monetary system by banks of the South.

The juxtaposition of the framed Confederate currencies with the acrylic paintings inspired by the slave images on the currencies makes a very powerful statement on the contribution of enslaved Africans to the American economy. In these paintings, as Jones says, “history informs art, which in turn artfully reveals more history.”

The exhibit will remain on display in the J.H. White Library through May 2020.



opportunities available at 140 companies.

According to the organization’s website, this year, 19 students received on-the-spot job offers or internships with additional attendees expected to accept jobs over the next few months.

To learn more about the HBCU Career Development Marketplace Conference, visit [www.hbcucareermarket.org](http://www.hbcucareermarket.org).

For questions or more information about MVSU’s Career Services Center, call (662) 254-3441 or email [careerservices@mvsu.edu](mailto:careerservices@mvsu.edu).

## N.O.S.S. *continued from page 5*

Kinds said his passion has always been motivating and helping students achieve academic success.

“Throughout my entire career, I have always maintained a position that would allow me to help students progress in some capacity. One of my personal goals is to ensure students in Mississippi are successful in college and beyond,” he said.

The Mississippi Chapter of NOSS was founded in January of 1981 when James Barber, from Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez, called together a group of developmental educators from across the state to form an organization based on the National Association for Developmental Education.

Over the years, the Mississippi Chapter of Noss has become a driving force in colleges and institutions across the state, ensuring that students receive an education that is based on their beginning capabilities and one that will take them as far as they can go.

For more information about NOSS, visit [thenoss.org](http://thenoss.org).

To learn more about MVSU’s Emerging Scholars (Summer Development) program, call (662) 254-3446 or visit [www.mvsu.edu](http://www.mvsu.edu).

The Annual  
**PRESIDENTIAL  
TREE LIGHTING &**  
*Holiday Reception*



# SENIOR ART MAJORS SHOWCASE ARTWORK

Two Mississippi Valley State University senior art majors showcased their work during an art exhibit hosted Thursday, Dec. 5, in the Johnson Gallery, located in MVSU Walter Sillers Fine Arts Building. The opening reception highlighted work from graduating seniors Angel Lett of Moss Point, Miss. and Michelle Hart of Leland, Miss. Lett's artwork depicted different colors that represented different emotions while Hart's pieces showed animals in their natural habitats. Both students showcased digital paintings and are interested in pursuing careers in graphic design.

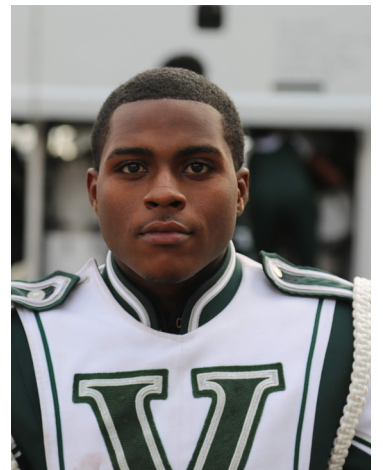
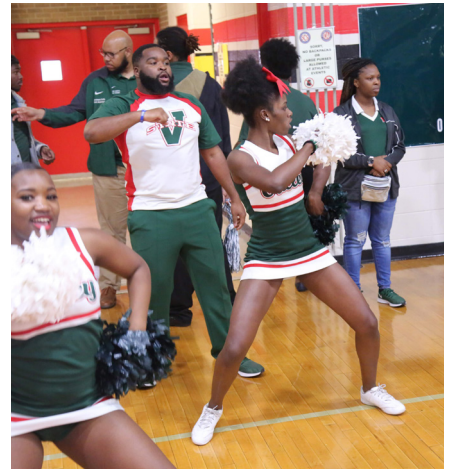
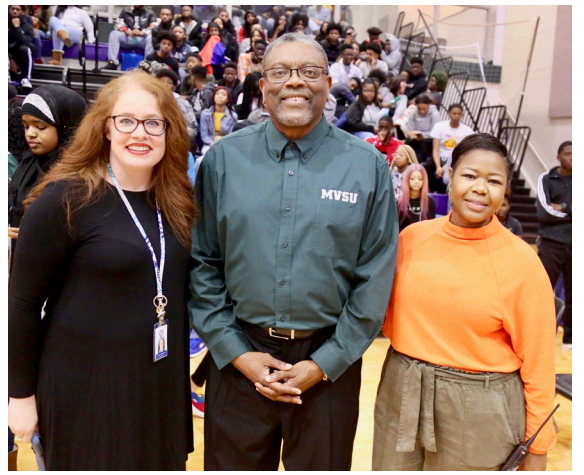
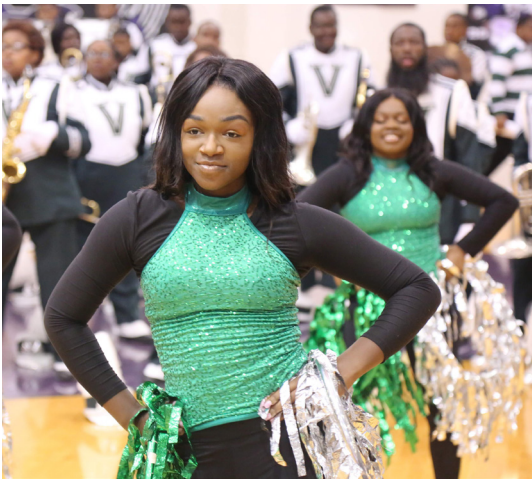


*MVSU students of all majors and classifications attended an Informational Session with Tanya Anderson, Diplomat in Residence, Nov. 14, in Auditorium 103 of the William Sutton Administration Building. During this special presentation, Anderson will share information on current scholarship, fellowship, internship and career opportunities available with the U.S. Department of State. The event was organized by the Division of Academic Affairs and the MVSU Career Services Center.*

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY  
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.  
**BLACK HISTORY CONVOCATION**  
"African Americans and the Vote"

**THURSDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 27, 2020**  
**11:00 am**  
**Carver Randle Auditorium**  
**William A. Butts**  
**Social Science Building**

**Keynote Speaker**  
**Eddie S. Glaude, Jr**  
Chair of African American Studies at Princeton University





Mississippi Valley State University's Bachelor of Social Work Club members recently presented canned goods to Community Kitchen in Greenwood. The cans were collected during a drive, organized by the club, on MVSU's campus.

*Pictured, front row, from left is Chetara Epps, instructor; Charleen Carter, BSW major; Yamesia Thomas, BSW major; Dr. Candace Carter, assistant professor; Raven Jones, MSW major; Latosha Ceasar, instructor; (back row) Dr. Cynthia Honore-Collins, MSW program director and associate professor; Angelica Robinson, BSW major; Catisha Lacy, BSW major; Diane Boston, MSW instructor/field coordinator; and Dr. Lucille Durham, assistant professor.*

## MVSU STUDENTS PRESENT DURING BLACK MALE SUMMIT AT DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Students at Mississippi Valley State University recently attended and participated in the Delta State University's Local Government Leadership Institute's Black Male Summit.

The event was created to target African-American male high school and college students attending schools in the Mississippi Delta and designed to promote civic involvement, community engagement, and professional development among area youth to strengthen a pipeline of future municipal leaders.

MVSU students presented a session entitled, "Klean & Debonair: Hand Shakes, Meetings & Neck Ties – A Tutorial on Personal Presentation & Professionalism."

The session provided attendees with a hands-on tutorial for tying ties, an overview of the basics in professional dress and attire, and a discussion on the soft skills of professionalism.

Valley students conducted a one-hour session for high school students and hosted an adult session for college students immediately after their break-out session.



Representatives from MVSU included, Chris George, a senior Criminal Justice major from Yazoo City; Lamarkovic Dixon, a senior Engineering Technology major from Morgan City; Deveon Treadway, a senior English

major from Chicago; Kris Bond, a sophomore Business Administration major from Chicago; and Brandon Hawkins, a senior Biology major from Sherwood, Ark.



outstanding job. MVSU can proudly say recycling has improved community waste handling and environmental practices,” Hurssey said.

The nominees were evaluated based on the success of their recycling efforts including promotion and outreach, the duration and extent of their recycling program, their overall environmental stewardship, and the manner in which recycling has improved community waste handling and environmental practices.

“My assistant manager and I provide encourage our MVSU students, faculty, staff, and residents on the importance of recycling, such as global warming, keeping our environment clean, and the benefits that this program have for our students who participate in recycling,” said Boyd. “We are very honored and proud of

winning the award, as an HBCU institution, for promoting and encouraging participation in recycling.”

For the fiscal year of 2018, MVSU’s Recycling Center recycling pounds weighed at 92,297. For Title III Year 2018-19, the recycling pounds came in at 104,251.

“I truly must say that when it comes to our campus, the recycling center is greatly supported. Everyone across the campus and off-campus participate in recycling by either collecting for us to pick up or by dropping it off to our 24-hour recycling bins located outside of the Technical Education building,” said Boyd.

“When it comes to our campus, we know that we can count on them, and without their participation, we wouldn’t have received this award,” she added.

For questions or more information about participating in MVSU’s Sustainability Program, contact Boyd at (662) 254-3098 or via e-mail at portia.boyd@mvsu.edu.

# WELCOME ABOARD



**Robert Combs III**  
*Patrol Officer*  
University Police



**Jamarius Everett**  
*Laboratory Technician*  
J.H. White Library



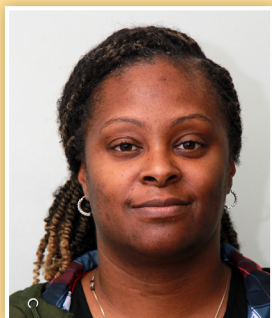
**Jamessa Jordan**  
*Information Specialist*  
Human Resources



**Demetrius Johnson Jr.**  
*Financial Aid Counselor*  
Financial Aid Office



**Tommy King**  
*Computer Tech*  
Information Technology



**Amber Williams-Lampkin**  
*Laboratory Technician*  
MCIS



**Henry Payne**  
*Technical Services Clerk*  
J.H. White Library



**Brian Phillips**  
*Network Administrator Technician*  
Information Technolog



**Lokesh Shivakumaraiah**  
*Executive Director*  
International Programs



**DeShannon Smith**  
*Athletic Academic Counselor*  
Athletics

Two  
Minutes  
with...

# Kimberly Meeks

*Campus Tour Coordinator / Enrollment Specialist*

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

My name is Kimberly Melissa Meeks. I am 37 years old, and I am a Greenwood native. My parents are the late Johnny Clyde Meeks & Patricia Liddell-Meeks, and I have two daughters, Kaitlyn Elizabeth & Lydia Elizabeth. At Mississippi Valley State University, I serve as the new Campus Tour Coordinator/ Enrollment Specialist. My role is to ensure a high-quality campus visit experience as well as to oversee and coordinate all Office of Admissions & Recruitment events, including logistics, meal planning, parking, programming, agenda, and networking. I also assist with other tasks in the office when needed. I am one of the advisors of the Student Alumni Association, which is a newly formed charter association at MVSU. I have a public health & medical management background in which I worked for various organizations in Leflore County. I am also a Certified Medical Biller.

*How do you approach providing service?*

I approach providing excellent service by being knowledgeable of the services I

provide to students, staff, and guests of MVSU. I also display a smile and say "Hello. How are you?" no matter if I see a colleague or student on or off-campus. I firmly believe in showing respect, saying thank you, being understanding and responsive. The key to providing service is being kind!

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

You would find me hanging out with my family (daughters, mom, aunt, and a few friends). We love to shop and try out new places to eat. Also, you would find me at church. I am the Youth Director, Assistant Sunday School Teacher, and Assistant Church Treasurer at Jerusalem Church of God in Christ in Greenwood.

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

I am a very, very picky eater, and I always have stage fright before I speak in front of others, no matter the size of the crowd.



# COMMUNIQUÉ

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**New Hashtag: #GOMVSU**

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