



COMMUNIQUE

A Publication of Mississippi Valley State University for Faculty, Staff, Alumni and Friends | November 2017 Vol. 14 Edition 9

SEASON OF GIVING: MVSU DONATES CANNED GOODS



Mississippi Valley State University Master of Social Work Program donated 657 cans of food to Greenwood's Community Kitchen Nov. 21 following the program's third annual canned food collection, held at Greenwood Market Place Nov. 18. Pictured, front row, from left, are Catherine McCall, president of the MSW student organization; MVSU student Carolyn Davis; Community Kitchen's Director Carlee Bailey; student Sam Walsh; (back row) co-advisor Diane Boston; Sir James, assistant cook at Community Kitchen; and co-advisor Dr. Moses Newsome. Photo courtesy of the Greenwood Commonwealth.

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHTS HISTORY OF COTTON AND THE BLUES



Mississippi Valley State University continued its partnership with Khafre, Inc., da' House of Khafre, and the Mississippi Humanities Council to host the sixth annual "Cotton Kingdom/Sweat Equity Symposium" Ball" Nov. 9-10.

Themed "Field Hollers and Freedom Songs," the two-day event explored the history of

oppressed African Americans and their ability to cope in spite of their living and working conditions.

This year's event kicked-off with a special brownbag "Art Talk" featuring Mississippi-native Blues Historian Ben Payton and MVSU Speech Communication Professor Barbara Baymon.

It wrapped up Nov. 10 with several special presentations and exhibits. The event was highlighted by keynote speaker Avotcja, an Oakland, Calif. based poet and musician.

Avotcja told faculty, staff, students and community members in attendance that the blues has important historical significance in the history of African Americans.

"At one point it was our only newspaper, our way of communicating the circumstances of our lives," she said.

Avotcja encouraged students to help honor the legacy of the blues, which is rooted in slavery

MVSU STAFFER SELECTED AS DELTA LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FELLOW



MVSU Chief of Staff & Legislative Liaison La Shon Brooks has been selected among eight leaders from across the state to participate in the Delta Regional Authority's (DRA) Delta Leadership Institute (DLI).

Brooks will join fellows from seven other states to participate in the 10-month DLI Executive Academy program designed to further skills in community leadership and policy development in hopes of promoting regional collaboration and local economic growth across DRA's eight-state region.

"I am honored to be extended the opportunity to participate in the Delta Leadership Institute," said Brooks. "I'm looking forward to collaborating with leaders from across the state as we share ideas and develop strategies that will advance not only the Mississippi Delta, but the entire region."

As part of the program, Mississippi's DLI fellows will attend six sessions across the region, visiting each of the eight states in the DRA footprint.



BROOKS

They will also engage in policy and program development, advocacy training, case-study discussions, and on-the-ground field experiences aligned with DRA's priorities for the region. Those priorities include: transportation and

infrastructure; workforce training and education; entrepreneurship and disaster resilience for small businesses and communities; public health; policy and governance; and culture and tourism.

"DRA is pleased to begin working with this new class of leaders from across Mississippi who are committed to learning from each other and working together with their fellow leaders from other states to build a strong future for the Delta," said Peter Kinder, alternate federal co-chairman of DRA.

The fellows, who were selected by Gov. Bryant and DRA leadership, represent a diverse cohort of community leaders. The class includes seven members from Alabama; eight from Arkansas; five from Illinois; five from Kentucky; seven from Louisiana; eight from Mississippi; four from Missouri; and seven from Tennessee.

Other Mississippi 2017-2018 DLI Executive Academy fellows include: Eric Atchison of Jackson, director of system analysis, research & enrollment management for the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning; Jo Ann Clark of Ridgeland, constituent services representative for U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran; Jon Delperdang of Leland, graduate student at Delta State University; Emanuel Edmond of Greenville, chief monitoring & compliance officer for the Delta Regional Authority; Jean Gross of Vicksburg, vice president/community development coordinator at Trustmark National Bank; Tray Hairston of Jackson, attorney with

See "Institute" page 7

TWO MVSU STUDENT-ATHLETES AWARDED DAVID M. HALBROOK AWARD

Mississippi Valley State University student-athletes Mariana Balbao and Deion Reid were recently awarded the David M. Halbrook Award. Established by former Mississippi Representative David Halbrook and his brothers in honor of their parents, the Halbrook Award is



BALBAO



REID

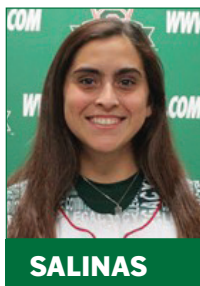
awarded to student-athletes across the state who excel in academics, leadership, and community service.

Balbao, a 2017 graduate of MVSU, majored in Business Administration. She maintained a 4.0 grade point average during her time at Mississippi

Valley and was honored as the salutatorian of the graduating class. Balbao played soccer and tennis for Mississippi Valley State.

Reid, also a 2017 graduate of MVSU, graduated with a degree in Health, Physical Education and Recreation. Reid was a member of the men's track and field team and played tennis in his late year with the university.

FOUR DEVILLETES NAMED TO THE 2016-17 NFCA DIVISION I ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM



SALINAS

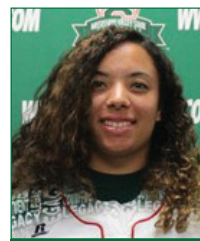
Four members of the 2016-17 Mississippi Valley State softball team earned National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-America Scholar-Athlete honors for the 2016-17 academic year, the organization announced.



WILBURN

The Devilletes named NFCA All-America Scholar-Athletes included Elissa Salinas, Lacy Wilburn, Andrea Elmore and Jordan Brown.

To qualify for the honor, the student-athletes had to



ELMORE

have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 from the fall 2016 and spring 2017 semesters.



BROWN

The rankings and honors recognize the academic prowess of softball teams across seven membership divisions. NCAA Division I, with 1,240 honorees, had the most student-athletes with a 3.5 grade-point average or higher. Overall, 5,493 softball players earned NFCA Scholar-Athlete honors.

MVSU MOCK TRIAL EARNS AWARD IN TOURNAMENT

Mississippi Valley State University's Mock Trial Team recently participated in the Jackson Joust Mock Trial Tournament, bringing home one award.

MVSU competed in two-rounds during the one-day tournament, hosted Sept. 30 at Millsaps College in Jackson.

Darius Bailey, a freshmen pre-law/legal studies and English double major from Montgomery, Ala., won an outstanding witness award for defense for his role as Jamie Morrison, an Uber driver.

Joining Bailey on Valley's green team were students Timothy Coleman, Kenya Jones, Barbara Duncan, Alexxus Ervins, Kambrea Mitchell, and Jasmine Murphy.

MVSU's white team included: Donovan Brownlee, Jaishone Cornelius, Tiwana Fraizer, Austin Gray, Angel Jackson, Lasharda Leasy, Jakaiyla Procter, Rodarius Turner, and Martavious Washington.

Both teams reportedly scored well and had attorneys as well as witnesses who ranked on ballots of the event's eight judges.

A total of sixteen teams competed from schools in surrounding areas, including Millsaps College, The University of Mississippi,



Mississippi University for Women, Louisiana State University, Mississippi College, and The University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Dr. Larry Chapel serves as the educator coach for MVSU's team while Greenwood, MS based attorney Neysha Sanders serves as the attorney coach.

The program is sponsored by MVSU's Department of Social Sciences, The Office

of Academic Affairs, the Office of University Advancement, the Office of Sponsored Programs, and the Office of the President.

Other recent events for the team included an exhibition scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 2, at Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale, Mississippi.

The team also participated in a tournament at Middle Tennessee State University Nov. 10-11.

MVSU HOLDS SPONSORED PROGRAMS AWARDS DAY

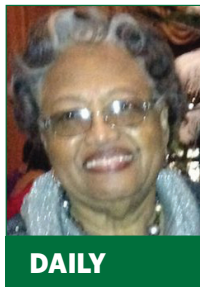


The Mississippi Valley State University Office of Sponsored Programs and Title III honored faculty, staff and one deserving person recently during its awards day program.

Hosted in H.M. Ivy Cafeteria Dining Room IV, the annual event is designated to show appreciation from sponsored programs to faculty and staff members who have competed for funding from government agencies, private foundations and other non-profits.

During the 2016 academic year, the university received 28 awards, totaling over \$7.5 million.

“Sponsored programs are critical for the university, not only from a budgetary standpoint, but for its continued success,” said MVSU President Dr. Jerryl Briggs. You all are an example of the dedicated faculty and staff we have on our campus who work hard to ensure our students are first and that they are successful.”



DAILY

In addition to shining the light of success on faculty and staff, the program also celebrated the long time and outstanding work of Irma Burks Daily. In her absence, Daily was presented an award for her accomplishments, which was accepted by Jannette Adams, MVSU Senior Development Officer/Grant Administrator.

“She has continued to work with Sponsored Programs even after her retirement as a consultant, and I can tell you at the age of 85, she’s still sharp,” said Samuel Melton, MVSU Director of Sponsored Programs/Title III.

Since 1968, Daily has worked with MVSU to help secure TRIO, a federal outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals from

disadvantaged backgrounds.

A native of West Point, Daily began her career at MVSU as a counselor with the Upward Bound Program and has worked on every TRIO proposal submitted by the university for the past 50 years.

“She was a lady of integrity and dignity. She had a charisma about her that you couldn’t help but to love,” said Abraham Gates.

Gates was one of Daily’s first hires as the director of the Upward Bound Program, and he shared remarks on her commitment to the university and young people during the program.

“Her dedication was never related to the income she may have received, but it was always to the children that she served.”

See “Awards Day” page 7

BRIGGS AMONG SEVERAL TO RECEIVE SEAL AWARD

Mississippi Valley State University President Dr. Jerryl Briggs was among Mississippi public university leaders to receive the Seven Seals Award during the Nov. 16 IHL Board of Trustees meeting in Jackson.

The award was presented by the Mississippi Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (MSESGR) in recognition of significant individual or organizational achievement, initiative, or support that promotes and supports



BRIGGS

the ESGR mission.

Major General Janson D. Boyles, adjutant general of Mississippi, made the presentation.

MSESGR is a Department of Defense office that is led and operated by dedicated volunteers and staff. Its mission is to gain and maintain employer

support for the Mississippi National Guard and Reserve.

The organization has more than 70 volunteers across the state and reaches out to employers and service members in areas such as employer outreach, military outreach, public affairs, mediation, training, and employment initiative programs.

MVSU HONORS CAMPUS VETERANS WITH SPECIAL PROGRAM

Mississippi Valley State University saluted veterans and current members of the United States Armed Forces on campus during the annual Veterans Day program Nov. 10.

Organized by MVSU's Office of Student Records, the event was designed to show a small token of appreciation to service members for their selflessness and bravery.

Estelle Sims, who served in the United States Air Force and is currently a professor in MVSU's Business Education Department, served as the keynote speaker for the event.

Sims shared her experience in the military and spoke highly of the role MVSU played in her life.

"Mississippi Valley State University prepared me and allowed me to show what a woman from Itta Bena and a small HBCU could do. We can do things just like a person who attended Yale can do," said Sims.

Sims completed her Bachelor of Science degree at MVSU in 1979 and was immediately commissioned into the United States Air Force. She served for 15 years during which she held



several positions, including: Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Deputy Crew Commander and Air Force Technical Training Management Officer.

During the event, Dr. Earlean Anderson of MVSU's Mathematics, Computer and

See "Veterans" page 8

Symposium *continued from cover*

and sharecropping, by appreciating the authenticity of the genre and the influence it has had on modern day music.

"Somebody somewhere in a cotton field prayed us into existence," she said.

Since its inception, the symposium has served as America's premier interdisciplinary conference on the cotton kingdom, exploring sharecropping, tenant farming and the significance of cotton to the successes of both American and European economies.

Organizer Dr. C. Sade Turnipseed, an assistant professor of history at MVSU and the executive director of Khafre, Inc., said she began the event as a way to preserve the history as well as honor the legacy of cotton pickers.

"The partnership formed between MVSU and Khafre, Inc. validates the notion that a tribute to sharecroppers and cotton pickers is not just significant, but long overdue," she said. Honoring the legacy of 'grandmamma-



nem' in a university setting gives artistic and academic license to the pursuit of gaining more scholarship and international acceptance, of the contributions and sweat equity made by the people who picked cotton throughout the American South."



MVSU PROFESSOR'S ART TO APPEAR IN EXHIBITION



HATTIESBURG, Miss.— Sodam Lee, an assistant professor of Fine Arts at Mississippi Valley State University, was recently selected to have her artwork appear in the Hattiesburg Emerging Artist Exhibition.

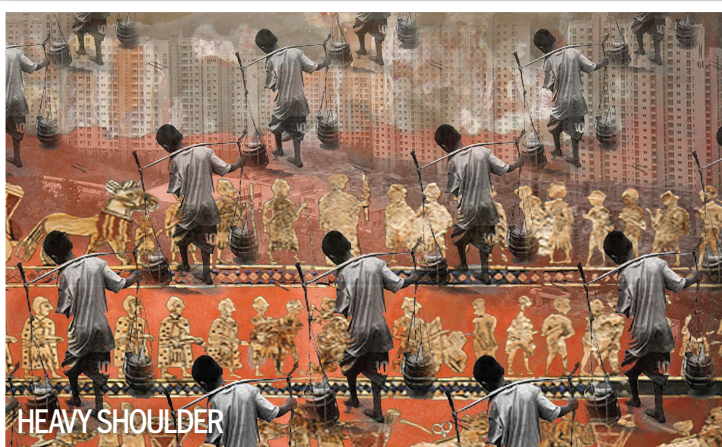
Lee's artwork, "Heavy Shoulder" and "Fishing Boys", were displayed during the Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association's 2017 Fall Art Walk, hosted at the Hattiesburg Cultural Center from 3-7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11.

Her pieces were highlighted along with work from 20 other emerging artist.

Lee said she was excited about the opportunity to showcase her work.

"Since I began teaching in the art department in 2016, I have had an opportunity to learn about African American's culture and life. Being a representative of visual artist in Mississippi, I am glad to participate in the Hattiesburg Emerging Artist Exhibition and have the opportunity to introduce my personal work to the people in Mississippi," Lee said.

Lee was accepted to the Mississippi Artist Roster by a panel of artists, presenters and educators. She represented as a "Mississippi Visual Artist" at the Mississippi Arts Commission in Jackson.



Lee was also recently invited to the Incheon International Design Fair 2017 where her artwork, "Fishing Boys", was exhibited at the Cultural Center in Incheon, South Korea Oct. 26-30.

The "Heavy Shoulder" piece featured a young, barefoot boy in a long white T-shirt and shorts carrying two buckets of water balanced on each end of a pole across his shoulders. He is missing an arm, presumably lost during the Korean War, and appears in black and white against an orange background.

"He is repeated several times in a diagonal pattern across the image. This boy represents my father's generation who lived through miserable conditions in the aftermath of the Korean War in 1950s, the same situation that many in the older generation of African Americans suffered

during slavery," Lee said.

In the background of the print, covering the top third, a series of modern apartment buildings represent the wealth of South Korea today.

"In contrast to these buildings, I placed an image from The Royal Standard of Ur, which is a Sumerian artifact discovered at the Royal cemetery of Ur in ancient Mesopotamia," explained Lee. Soldiers and wagons pulled by horses are parading in a row."

Lee said her main goal was illustrate a comparison between the two.

"These images intrigued me with their color and ambiguous shapes. I juxtaposed them with the boy carrying a water basket and used them as a symbol of cultural richness. The military figures and the apartments appear in gold to represent prosperity in comparison to the poverty of the boy," she said.

For more information about the Hattiesburg Emerging Artist Exhibition, visit www.HattiesburgArtsCouncil.org.

AKA'S PRESENT DONATION TO CANCER FOUNDATION



Vice President Raven Lomax (left) and President Erin Peery (right) of the Epsilon Pi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. recently presented MVSU alumna Freddie White-Johnson (center), founder and president of the Fannie Lou Hamer Cancer Foundation (FLHCF), with a \$1000 donation. Since 2005, the non-profit organization has been committed to preventing cancer in the Mississippi Delta by increasing awareness and establishing a public agenda for the prevention of cancer. The donation will be used to support the construction of the FLHCF headquarter, which will serve as a state-of-the-art cancer resource center, in Ruleville, Miss., as well as help provide transportation assistance for breast cancer survivors.

Awards Day *continued from page 4*

Dr. Constance Bland, Vice President of Academic Affairs explained the current financial climate of the university and the need to find alternative funding sources.

“The University is in a very precarious situation right now. We’ve just faced large budget cuts, and we’re facing additional cuts next year. It’s incumbent on us now more than ever before to seek other avenues of funding,” said Bland.

To culminate the celebration, Melton handed out awards to several faculty and staff members who either submitted proposals, had proposals funded or successfully implemented and managed projects and Title III activity.

Melton also extended his appreciation to all of the departments that work directly and indirectly with the Office of Sponsored Programs and Title III.

Those receiving certificates for proposal submissions included: RoShaun Bailey, Terrance Hurssey, LaShon Brooks, Dr. Alphonso Sanders, Dr. John Zheng, Dr. JoAnn Baldwin, Dr. Earlean Anderson, Dr. Rachel Beecham, Dr. Latonya Garner, Dr. Manji Pande, Dr. Hattie Spencer, Dr. Candance Carter Stevens, Dr. Jiabo Lium, Dr. Chukwuma Ahanonu, Timothy Holsten, Christopher Lanclos and Dr. Matthewos Eshete.

Those receiving new grant awards included: Dr. Mark Dugo, Dr. Kathie Stromile Golden, Dr. Cristina Radulescu, Andre Payne, Dr. Ying

Wang, Dr. Matthewos Eshete, Mr. Derrick Jones, Sonja Foster, Jannette Adams and Dr. Gloria Ross.

Those receiving certificates for maintaining funding sources include: Dr. Abigail Newsome, Alex Granderosn, Dr. Constance Bland, Dr. Earlean Anderson, Timothy Holsten, Lee Redmond, Dr. Raymond Williams, Sherman Freeman, Dr. Chukwuma Ahanonu, Dianthia Ford-Kee, Martha Smith, Dr. Daniel Trent, Betty Farmer, Raymond Williams and Dean Renardo Hall.

Title III Activity Director recognized were: Wanda Young, Dr. James Varn, Torrey Moore, Dean Renardo Hall, Terrence Hurssey, Essie Bryant, Dameon Shaw, Dr. Kenneth Done, Michael Taylor, Gladys Flaggs, Martin Davis, Elizabeth Hurssey, Sharon Freeman, Dr. Yolanda Jones, Mantra Henderson and Dr. Kathie Stromile Golden.



Gates felt it was because of Daily that many low-income students had the opportunity to travel and be exposed to new things.

“We don’t know the extent of the impact that her services to the university and the children who matriculated through these programs have had on the country,” Gates said. She is well deserving of the honor that is being bestowed upon her this day.”

Institute *continued from page 2*

Butler Snow LLP; and Bobby Morgan of Jackson, economic development policy advisor and senate liaison for Gov. Phil Bryant.

The DRA is a federal-state partnership created by Congress in 2000 to help create jobs, build communities, and improve lives through strategic investments in economic development and infrastructure projects in 252 counties and parishes across eight states.

Since 2005, the DRA’s DLI has worked to strengthen the knowledge and skills of community leaders across the Delta by broadening their understanding of regional issues and building a corps of alumni that have a regional and national perspective. Upon graduation, the 51 new members will have a toolkit of resources for addressing issues facing their local communities and providing the training and professional development needed to extend the pipeline of skilled local leadership within Delta.

For more information, visit www.dra.gov/leadership.



WELCOME ABOARD



Jerrold Gray
Painter/Helper
Facilities Management



Kyana Ramsey
Secretary/Data Manager
High School Equivalency Program



Information Sciences (MCIS) Department spoke to the audience about the HBCU-UP campaign, designed to increase the number of students in STEM majors.

“Currently Dr. Raymond Williams and I are working to make sure that no veteran student will ever be blocked out of a class,” said Anderson. If you are a military veteran we want to make sure we are doing all that we can to get you in the classes you need.”

Interim Vice-President of Advancement Dameon Shaw also presented the inaugural Colonel Tommy Dillard Jr ROTC Memorial Scholarship to Frager McCline, a freshmen ROTC student from Itta Bena.

The scholarship is a merit-based scholarship fund set up to assist in making college more affordable for ROTC students enrolled full-time at MVSU.

The event wrapped up with Jeffery Loggins, Leticia Clay and Barbara Robinson, all of MVSU’s Office of Student Records, presenting Valley’s veteran students with awards in recognition of their service to the country.

“This is our small way to show each of you how thankful we are for your service,” Loggins said.



Save the Date

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE
UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL

Tree Lighting &
FACULTY & STAFF
Holiday Reception

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2017 • 3 P.M. - 5 P.M.
R.W. HARRISON COMPLEX

VALLEY WINS 2017 SOUL BOWL BLOOD DRIVE



During the halftime of Mississippi Valley State University's Oct. 21 homecoming game against Virginia University of Lynchburg, one lucky student received a special surprise.

MVSU senior Raven Lomax of Southaven became the recipient of a \$1,500 scholarship on behalf of Mississippi Blood Services (MBS) who also announced MVSU as the 2017 Soul Bowl Blood Drive winner.

The Soul Bowl is a friendly competition held between Mississippi Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)—MVSU, Jackson State University and Alcorn State University. The goal is to see which school can receive the most blood donations. The prize is the scholarship to a student blood donor from the winning school, along with displaying the Soul Bowl Trophy and a year's bragging rights.

Valley's drive was organized by MVSU's Zeta Phi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and had a total of 104 students to register to donate blood.

Scholarship funds awarded to Lomax provided courtesy of Regions Bank.

"When someone donates one unit of blood, that donation can potentially save three lives," said Dawn Woods, MBS marketing representative for the Delta. We at MBS hope that as high school and college students donate blood they begin a lifelong commitment to MBS and Mississippi hospital patients. Raven represents the best in Mississippi students."

All donors must be at least 16 years old with signed parental consent, weigh at least 110 pounds and have a valid ID.

Mississippi Blood Services offers a "mini physical" before each donation to ensure the donation process is safe for the donor as well as the recipient.

Mississippi Blood Services ensures that donating blood is SAFE, SIMPLE and SAVES LIVES. For more information, contact (888) 90-BLOOD (888-902-5663), or visit www.msblood.com. You can also download the free MBS app for your smart phone and/or tablet.

MVSU ALUM SELECTED TO ATTEND HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL

The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) is continuing its partnership with Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) to offer an advanced education opportunity exclusively to members of the Delta Leadership Network.

The program, designed and led by Harvard faculty, focuses on cultivating "authentic leadership" to move Delta communities forward. The Delta Leadership Institute (DLI) will send 41 representatives from across the eight states of the DRA footprint.

Among those participants will be 2008 Mississippi Valley State University graduate Timothy Lampkin.

Lampkin, a native of Clarksdale, described being chosen for the opportunity as a prestigious honor.

"It is an honor to be selected to attend the prestigious Harvard Kennedy School. I look forward to learning about new strategies to improve my overall leadership ability," Lampkin said.

The class includes six members from Alabama; seven from Arkansas; six from Illinois; two from Kentucky; four from Louisiana; four from Mississippi; six from Missouri; and six from Tennessee.



LAMPKIN

"My goal is to share the best practices from this experience with local stakeholders to ensure others can benefit from this opportunity. I'm truly thankful for the Delta Regional Authority commitment to support community leaders," said Lampkin.

This year's four-day session will be led by retired Air Force Brigadier General Dana Born, co-director of the Center for Public Leadership at HKS.

"This executive training will equip regional leaders across the Delta with the latest advancements in leadership skills and will prepare them to make positive changes in their local communities," said Peter Kinder, DRA's alternate federal co-chairman.

"These participants are alumni of the Delta Leadership Institute's Executive Academy

and were selected due to the leadership they have exemplified in their communities and their ability to translate these experiences to actionable solutions for the region."

Since 2005, the Delta Leadership Institute has worked to strengthen the knowledge and skills of community leaders across the Delta by broadening their understanding of regional issues and building a corps of alumni that have a regional and national perspective.



The DRA is a federal-state partnership created by Congress in 2000 to help create jobs, build communities, and improve lives through strategic investments in economic development and infrastructure projects in 252 counties and parishes across eight states. DRA has provided leadership development to nearly 500 community leaders over twelve years and strengthened regional collaboration through the Delta Leadership Institute.

Two
Minutes
with...

Kylon T. Alford-Windfield

Recruiter

Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

I am a 2013 graduate of Mississippi Valley State University, where I received my Bachelors of Art in Political Science. During my tenure at the university, I was active in various extracurricular activities, and held several leadership positions. During my sophomore year, I was a 2010 initiate of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. I currently serve as the advisor for the Zeta Zeta chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. here at MVSU. As a member of the Canton-Madison Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, I was elected as the director of Guide Right, the fraternity's national service program for the educational and occupational guidance of youth. As director, I chartered Thee Central Mississippi Kappa League, serving over 300 at-risk black males. Currently, I'm an active member of the Greenville (Miss.) Alumni Chapter of the fraternity. As a former admission counselor/recruiter at Rust College and currently Mississippi Valley State University, I have developed countless relationships with education administrators in the metro Jackson, Chicago, St. Louis, Minnesota, Cleveland (OH) and Memphis areas. I helped Rust College bring in its largest freshmen class in school history, and I served on their Retention Committee. My most notable accomplishments at Mississippi Valley State include creating and implementing a social media engagement recruitment campaign and assisting in the efforts of MVSU's annual Spring

High School Day, which we had a record attendance of 2,100 students.

How do you approach providing service?

I approach providing service with an open mind and heart. No matter if it's in my personal life or on the job, I'm willing to go above and beyond to accommodate anyone in need. I think my ability to respect the feelings of others and assert myself when appropriate, allows for a positive work experience.

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

When I'm not at work, you can find me in the gym. Most of my free time is spent in the privacy of my home networking, or studying social media trends, personal finance and economics.

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

I'm an outspoken advocate for HBCUs and social reform as it relates to the African American community. Through my work, I aspire to be a radical leader for conscious millennials in an effort to promote positive change for people of color living in the United States.



COMMUNIQUÉ

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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
or email news@mvsu.edu

Dameon A. Shaw
Interim Vice President for
University Advancement

Brittany Davis-Green
Director of Communications
and Marketing

John McCall
Senior Graphic Designer

Joseph Cotton
Associate Graphic Designer

Donell Maxie
Communications Specialist

Shanae Curry
Project Coordinator

Latrice Carothers
Intern



Dr. Jerryl Briggs
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.