



COMMUNIQUÉ

A Publication of Mississippi Valley State University for Faculty, Staff, Alumni and Friends | September 28, 2017 Vol. 14 Edition 8

BLUES LEGEND B.B. KING HONORED WITH HIGHWAY DEDICATION, SYMPOSIUM



Mississippi Valley State University hosted the 3rd annual B.B. King Day Symposium on its campus September 6-8 and welcomed a plethora of legendary blues musicians and blues contributors.

The event is held each year in celebration of the life and work of B.B. King and this year's event highlighted the "Chitlin' Circuit Years."

"No one can talk about the blues and its role in the evolution of modern American music without talking about the 'chitlin' circuit," said Dr. Alphonso Sanders, professor of music, chair of the fine arts department and director of the B.B. King Recording Studio at MVSU.

King's legacy was also celebrated with the naming of the section of United States Highway 82.

House Bill 907 enacted by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi designated that the

section of the highway from Berclair Road to the point of its intersection with Valley of Scholars Boulevard in Leflore County is designated as B.B. King Memorial Highway. The dedication ceremony was held in the W.A. Butts Social Science Auditorium on Sept. 8.

Senator David Jordan, District 24, spoke during the highway dedication ceremony and shared his memory of King when the legislature honored him at the state capitol.

"B.B. King said he had been before many heads of state, but it was his first time ever being in the state capitol in his home state and wept," said Jordan.

The celebration kicked off with symposium lectures on Wednesday with Malika Polk-Lee, director of B.B. King Museum; Bobby Rush, Grammy winning Blues artist; and Preston Lauterbach, author of "The Chitlin Circuit:

Road to Rock n' Roll."

The symposium continued on Thursday with panel discussions, musical presentations, laughter, fun, food and memories.

Frank "Scrap Iron" Robinson, Jr. explained when talking about the Blues, "you have to have it in your heart to do this music."

People from all over the state and country visited MVSU for the celebration, but none traveled further than Ako Shichiji, who came from Tokyo, Japan for the symposium.

"I am a big fan of the blues and Mr. B.B. King," said Shichiji. I attended about 90 concerts of Mr. King between 1997 and 2014. I wanted to attend this event to honor him and his music and keep his legacy alive. I was very impressed with all the wonderful people I met here." she added.

See "Dedication" page 2

COOLEY, TOTTEN AND RICE HONORED DURING 2017 TRAILBLAZERS GALA



From Left to Right: Dianthia Ford-Kee (Athletic Director), Jerry Rice, Archie "Gunslinger" Cooley Jr., Willie Totten and Dr. Jerryl Briggs (Acting President, MVSU)

The 2017 Trailblazers Gala weekend provided an exciting atmosphere for the Mississippi Valley State University fans, family, and friends. With emotions stirred and laughter prompted the 2017 honorees provided a flashback of the past.

Willie "Satellite" Totten, Jerry "World" Rice and Archie "Gunslinger" Cooley, Jr. provided MVSU with plenty to smile about over the course of the day.

From the renaming and reopening of the, now, Archie "Gunslinger" Cooley, Jr. Devils Den to Jerry Rice providing a snippet of his time on

Dancing with the Stars, there wasn't a person unaffected by the jovial mood.

With videos highlighting the 2017 Trailblazers, Mississippi Valley received a wealth of knowledge from Totten, Rice and Cooley. Cooley's philosophy throughout life and his career was inspired by his father, who instructed him to never give up and excuses were not allowed.

This message was instilled into his athletes and the proof was present this evening. With former players on the stage and in the audience, Cooley's touch on the lives of the athletes in his charge was evident.

He took his teams and completed a task, many are still puzzled about today. Willie Totten followed in Cooley's footsteps of coaching and provided the Delta Devils with back-to-back winning season, during his tenure, a feat untouched since his playing days.

Rice, a standout at Mississippi Valley and in the National Football League, demonstrated his humbleness in the face of his many achievements over the course of the day. He shook hands, took selfies and provided a glimpse into the daily life of the G.O.A.T. (Greatest of All Time).

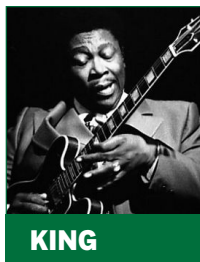
See "Trailblazers" page 8

Dedication *continued from Cover*

Shichiji expressed how much she loves the blues and that it was Mr. King who introduced her to the genre.

"When Mr. King came to Japan I went to his concert and it was the first time I heard the Blues and it hit me like a thunderstorm," she added.

Greg Renda traveled from Alexandria, La. to be a part of the symposium.



"I heard about the symposium through the B.B. King Museum. When I found out about this I jumped on the chance to come. This has been an overwhelming experience," said Renda.

"How can you get this much talent in one spot at any price and listen to the real background of the chitlin' circuit and the blues. People don't have their guard up and they are telling it like it

really is. This is my first one, but I plan to come back," Renda added.

Vicky Baker, a 1984 MVSU graduate and blues singer shared her experiences and how much she loves music.

"When you are passionate about something you don't have a choice, it's like your heartbeat; you have to do it. It's what I think about before I go to bed at night; it's what I think about when I'm sleep," said Baker.

JAMES H. WHITE LIBRARY TO HOUSE FACES OF AFRICA EXHIBIT

The Faces of Africa exhibit is making a historical debut on the Mississippi Valley State University campus this fall. The Faces of Africa exhibit is an intimate view of the heritages famously known throughout the continent of Africa.

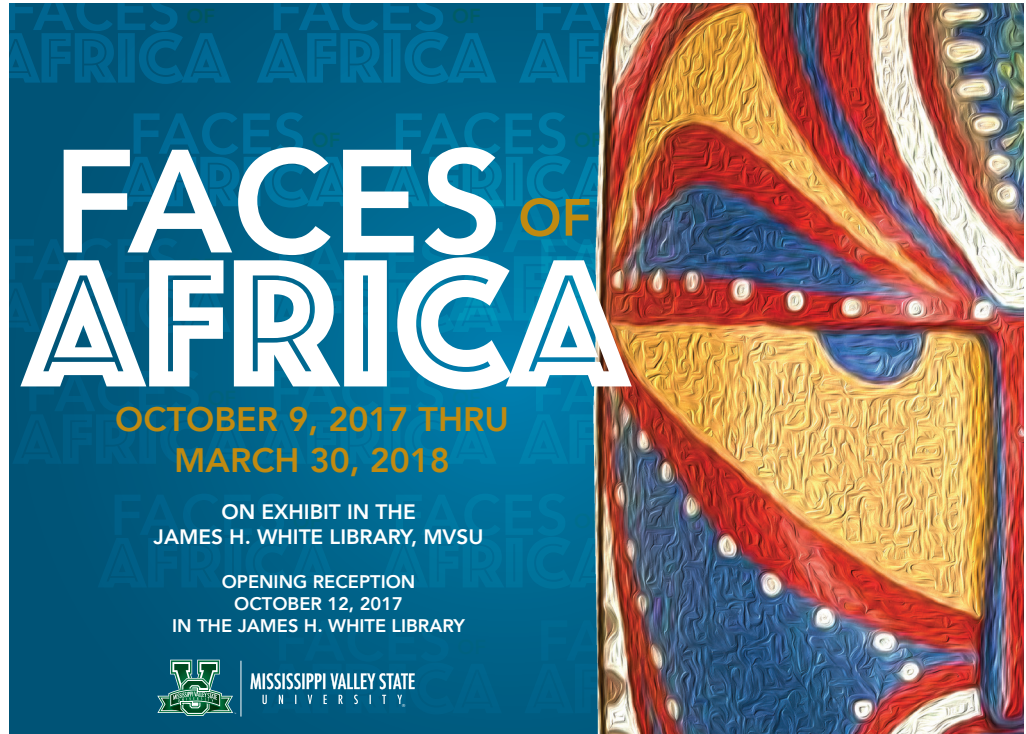
The highly praised collection reflects 3,500 years of African art and cultural traditions rendered by critically acclaimed artist Richard W. Jones (1934-2008). The collection features: ancient Nok head busts, Yoruba statues, Benin bronzes, as well as the spectacular masks of Dogon dancers and contemporary South African murals. This remarkable exhibit will also showcase a Diaspora collection that includes: Caribbean and African America expressions.

The exhibit will be on display from October 9, 2017-March 30, 2018, in the James H. White Library on the MVSU campus. The Opening Reception is scheduled for October 12, 2017, in the James H. White Library on the MVSU campus.

"Indeed, the Faces of Africa exhibit will enhance the public awareness of the African origins of mankind, as well as the significance of Africa's numerous historical contributions," said Richard J. Mushi, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the department of social sciences.

"Africa is world history. I celebrate and embrace this important offering to our MVSU community," Mushi added.

This phenomenal six-month presentation of traditional African images allows students,



faculty, and all the folks in our region to learn more about Africa's 54 sovereign countries, 9 territories, and 2 de facto independent states.

The Faces of Africa curator Albert Acosta owner of the International Museum Institute in New York is working closely with co-curator Dr. C. Sade Turnipseed, assistant professor of history, to bring a slate of amazing museum exhibits from Africa that not only depict the great empires of Africa, but to also demonstrate Africa's position in history as the place of origin for all humankind.

"Many Americans think Africa is one-big-singular country, with only one cultural identity. Nothing is further from the truth," said Turnipseed. When considering the fact that the continent can house nearly three USA's in its landmass; and doubles, with excess, the populace of North America. It is incumbent upon me as a public historian to showcase material culture in exhibits of this magnitude as often as possible for the benefit of our students and Mississippi Delta residents," she added.

See "Exhibit" page 8

MVSU ANNOUNCES ITS SMOKE AND TOBACCO-FREE CAMPUS POLICY

-Mississippi Valley State University is committed to promoting and providing a safe and healthy working and learning environment for its faculty, staff, students, volunteers, and visitors and hereby adopts a tobacco and smoke-free policy.

At the recommendation of the Committee for a Smoke and Tobacco-Free Campus along with approval from the President's Cabinet, Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) will be a smoke and tobacco-free campus effective immediately. The policy adoption reinforces the University's commitment to preserving and improving the health and safety of our students, employees, contractors and guests.

The commitment to a smoke and tobacco-free campus is a responsibility we all share together; and as efforts are ongoing, your support in transitioning is appreciated.

Also, in assisting with this transition, ash urns will be removed and replaced with signage which indicates MVSU is a smoke and tobacco-free campus. Additional communication and resources will be provided throughout the coming months.

For more information, please contact the Office of Human Resources at (662)254-3531.



MVSU PROFESSOR AND STUDENT PUBLISHED IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH MAGAZINE



Dr. Matthewos Eshete (left) an associate professor of chemistry at Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) and Kayla Bailey (student) had their work published in the August 2017 volume 6 issue of Scientific Research Magazine. The research article is called, Interaction of Immune System Protein with PEGylated and Un-PEGylated Polymeric Nanoparticles. The project was funded by U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) summer Research team program. Bailey who was student team member is the second author of the paper. The research was conducted in collaboration with DHS Center of Excellence for Zoonotic and Animal Disease Defense (ZADD) and Nanotechnology Innovation Center of Kansas State (NICKS) located at the University of Kansas, Manhattan, KS.

MVSU EXPERIENCES SLIGHT INCREASE IN FALL 2017 ENROLLMENT

Mississippi Valley State University saw a slight bump in its fall 2017 enrollment numbers from this time last year.

This year's preliminary enrollment numbers increased 0.1-percent. Valley State's numbers were 2,455 in fall 2016, but this year the enrollment number is 2,458.

Acting President, Jerryl Briggs shared his feelings about the university's ability to maintain enrollment amidst challenging times.

"We are pleased with our enrollment stabilization for this fall semester," said Briggs. In these challenging times when several schools throughout the country experienced enrollment declines, for us to remain stable says a lot regarding our enrollment success planning and implementation," he added.

Briggs also expressed his pride in Valley's ability to continue to move forward.

"Although we only had a slight increase, compared to our enrollment last year, it's still an

indication that we are continuing to move in a positive direction," said Briggs.



Michael Taylor, who is the executive director of enrollment management and MVSU's Greenville Higher Education Center said he was proud of the effort of the entire university community's efforts.

"I am extremely pleased with the work of the Enrollment Management Committee, faculty, staff and senior leadership. These groups played a major role in stabilizing our fall enrollment. Our ability to maintain our enrollment with a slight increase is a testament to the benefit of planning. As we continue to follow our plan, we will continue to monitor the environment and look for ways in which to continually improve and implement best practices. I am very positive that we will continue to experience positive results," said Taylor.







TRAILBLAZERS TWENTYSEVENTEEN GALA Highlights



RENOVATED DEVIL'S DEN NAMED AFTER ARCHIE "GUNSLINGER" COOLEY

ARCHIE COOLEY, JR. DEVIL'S DEN



The Mississippi Valley Department of Athletics honored former football coach, Archie "Gunslinger" Cooley, Jr. by naming the recently renovated Devil's Den after him. Cooley received the honor during the 2017 Trailblazers Gala celebration.

GENERAL KIRKLIN RECEIVES PROMOTION



Brigadier General Ronald (Ron) Kirklin became the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4, United States Army Forces Command on May 1, 2017. BG Kirklin is a graduate of Mississippi Valley State University as a Distinguished Military Graduate.

MVSU JOINS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) is officially a partner with the California Community College system.

MVSU is one of two Mississippi Universities with the partnership and among 34 other participating HBCUs nationally.

The agreement, signed March 17, 2015 between the California Community Colleges system and several HBCUs afford students from community colleges in California who complete certain academic requirements guaranteed transfer to a participating HBCU.

Dr. Jerryl Briggs, MVSU's Acting President expressed his excitement for the partnership.



BRIGGS

"We are excited about our partnership with the California Community College system," said Briggs. Similar to our mission here at Mississippi Valley State University, the California Community College system is known for its excellence in providing students with a top quality education, and we look forward to students continuing their educational pursuits here on our campus."

Michael Taylor, executive director of Enrollment Management and MVSU's Greenville Higher Education Center believes the affiliation with

the California Community College System will help Valley's exposure.

"This is a great opportunity for MVSU to increase its national exposure as well as increasing MVSU's transfer student population. I am very encouraged regarding the opportunity," said Taylor.

The goal of the California Community Colleges HBCU Transfer Guarantee Program is to educate students about additional transfer opportunities at these institutions and develop pathways that will ultimately contribute to an increase in baccalaureate degree attainment.



Cooley, who is famous for his no huddle, spread offense he ran shared where the idea came from.

"I use to write down all the good pass patterns from the opposing team while I was a defensive line coach at Tennessee State. All the formations were tight so I thought what would happen if we spread things out," said Cooley.

"When I accepted this job at Valley we were heading to play Texas Southern and I asked one of my coaches, 'what would you do if I moved a guy out here and another over there?' He had a couple of answers. Then I asked him, 'if I put four on this side and stack them and one over here with no running backs, how would you handle that?' He didn't have an answer so we decided to try some of this and that's how it begin going from step to another," said Cooley.

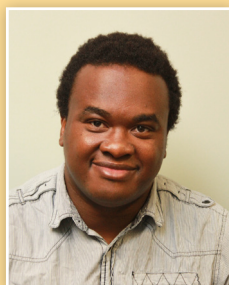
Totten shared his experience at Valley and what it meant to him to be honored by his alma mater.

"Being a country boy from Coila and having the opportunity to come to Mississippi Valley and excel is an emotional thing for me," said Totten. We had a good football team and Coach Cooley motivated us and got the best out of us. A lot of time we didn't have the best talent, but he got the most out of us," said Totten.

Rice said the difference between their team and the rest of the country was their work ethic, which was instilled in them from Cooley.

"I think the reason I had so much success in the NFL was because of these two guys (Cooley and Totten). My everyday life is all about hard work, dedication and giving 100-percent. Whatever endeavor I'm doing I am going to give 100-percent because there are no shortcuts. It's all about hard work and if you work hard you are going to get rewarded and I think we work hard as a team and that's why we had so much success," said Rice.

WELCOME ABOARD



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Robert Wright, Jr.
Instructor
HPER*

* Health, Physical Education & Recreation ** Natural Sciences and Environmental Health *** High School Equivalency Program

Exhibit *continued from page 3*

Mantra Henderson, director of library services, expressed her excitement to house this caliber of artistic collection.

"This exhibit marks the beginning of the kind of major displays we are very interested in presenting on-going in the James H. White Library," said Henderson.

"The library named in honor of MVSU's founding father and first president is designed

to enhance access, collect, organize and maintain collections that support the university's mission of research, teaching and learning, and its effective delivery of services," Henderson added.

For more information and instructions on how you may arrange a guided lecture/tour for your family; and field trips for your students, please contact Dr C. Sade Turnipseed @ 662.254.3025; 347.8198 or cassie.turnipseed@mvsu.edu.

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY PRESENTS THOUSAND DOLLAR CHECK TO MVSU



From Left to Right: Sowitza Johnson, Joyce Dixon, Laterri Hunt, Dr. Jerryl Briggs, Erin Peery, Sharon Carter and Claudette Curry

MVSU STUDENTS CELEBRATE CONSTITUTION DAY

Constitution Day falls on the 17th of September, the anniversary of the official signing of the US constitution in 1787. The document stood as the result of tireless work and compromise between the delegates of the Constitutional Convention – basically to bring about an agreement between the states which would allow a central government the power to enforce its decisions and allow the USA to stand as an international force, while maintaining a reasonable level of independence within the separate states.

Schools and other educational establishments receiving any form of federal funding are required to teach the history of the American constitution on this day, but more than this, many establishments such as universities and colleges look to celebrate the constitution by holding celebratory leisure events.

This year, MVSU hosted its celebration on September 20, which included a Constitution Trivia Quiz among several student teams.

The event was sponsored by the Office of Student Leadership and Engagement



*Constitution Trivia Quiz Winners (Front Row, L to R): Claiborne Fountain III, Vinoth Porkodi, Aigerim Milan, Shynar Gubaidullina, Aidana Tynyshkali, Tyler Johnson
Back: Pamela Hilton, Director, Student Leadership & Engagement*

Two
Minutes
with...

Mikhail Collins

Senior Accountant / AR Supervisor

Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

As an army brat, I was born in Fort Gordon, Georgia and I have lived in many other places including Fort Lewis, Washington. However, most of my childhood and adulthood were lived in Tchula, MS. I received a Bachelor of Science degree from Rust College in Holly Springs, MS and a Master of Business Administration degree from MVSU. I am newly and happily married to the beautiful, Mrs. Portia V. Collins who is also a Valley alumna and the Manager of Special Events here at the University. We presently reside in Greenwood. My motto is "to whom much is given, much is required."

How do you approach providing service?

In providing service, whether it is with my everyday interactions with students, parents, faculty and staff or just casual

relations, I always strive to uphold the well-known, yet minimally practiced golden rule--"do unto others as you would have them do unto you." It is always my desire to live selflessly by helping others in whatever way that I can. Furthermore, I believe that it is a great virtue to pay it forward.

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

When I am not at work, I am either spending quality time with my wife and family, on YouTube, singing (at a church or with my gospel ensemble, "Ministry") or traveling.

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

Actually, there are two things--I have a twin sister and I attended kindergarten in Fulda, Germany.



COMMUNIQUÉ

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New Hashtag: #GOMVSU

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