

A close-up portrait of a man in a military uniform, looking directly at the camera. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark tie. A gold "U.S." insignia is visible on his lapel. The background features a large, stylized "VC" logo in red and blue, with white stars scattered around it.

THE VALLEY CONNECTION
ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2015

**THE
GENERAL**
ALUMNUS ACHIEVES
ONE OF THE MILITARY'S
HIGHEST POSTS

**VALLEY ALUMS, C'99,
WIN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS
TWO YEARS IN A ROW**



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THE VALLEY CONNECTION ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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President

Dr. William B. Bynum Jr.

Associate Vice President of Advancement
Veronica Cohen

The Valley Connection is produced by
the MVSU Office of Communications and Marketing.

*Director of Communications & Marketing and
Editor of The Valley Connection*
Maxine Greenleaf '07

Communication Specialist
Evan Barton

Senior Graphic Designer
John McCall

Associate Graphic Designer
Joseph Cotton '00

Contributors

Latacha Davis '08, Manager of Alumni Affairs
LaMonica Scott, Sports Information Director
Kenneth Mister, Former Sports Information Director

For a subscription to The Valley Connection, address change,
or letter to the editor, write to:

The Valley Connection
Office of Communications and Marketing
MVSU 7233
14000 Hwy. 82 West
Itta Bena, MS 38941-1400

Or e-mail news@mvsu.edu

Phone 662.254.3578

Available Online @ www.mvsu.edu/valleyconnection

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On the cover: Brigadier General Ronald Kirklin, Commandant,
U.S. Army Quartermaster School and 53rd Quartermaster General,
Fort Lee, Virginia

Basketball Coaches – Fragi Phillips and Anthony Davis

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Fourth Floor from the president



Dear MVSU Alumni:

I would like to thank our alumni and friends for their commitment to Mississippi Valley State University. We have accomplished many milestones through OUR steadfast devotion to OUR University. Most recently, we set a University record for alumni, corporation and foundation giving by reaching the \$1 Million level. Now that WE have achieved this milestone, I know WE can do this amount and more annually.

With this in mind, we still have plenty of work to do. We need your continued support as we petition the legislature for funding to improve our campus for current and prospective students. Please continue to write and visit your local legislators to address the needs of this great institution. Our students deserve the opportunity to live, study and recreate in modern, state of the art facilities like students at other IHL institutions.

Our primary reason for being here is the students. To reinforce and make this crystal clear, this year we are starting a "Students First" marketing campaign. Let's take the time to reflect on this primary purpose. We have a mission to fulfill at MVSU. Let's recommit to this institution and her students.

During my tenure at Valley, I have traveled across the state of Mississippi and beyond. There has been a tremendous sense of excitement amongst the various alumni chapters, groups and friends. Let's put that excitement to work for our dear ole MVSU. Let's continue to tell this country and the world about the significant contributions that Valley alumni, students, faculty and staff are making to humankind.

Our students need you - whether it's through a gift of your time, talent, or treasure. Our alumni have set the bar for our students today. They need to see the heights in which they can climb and exceed. Let's continue to let everyone know that we are: "One Goal – One Team – One Valley!"

In God I Trust,

Dr. William B. Bynum Jr.
7th President

NCATE GRANTS TEACHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CONTINUING ACCREDITATION

After a rigorous review process during the fall of 2014, Mississippi Valley State University's Teacher Education Department received continuing accreditation for five years through Fall 2020 from the National Council for Accreditation Teacher Education (NCATE), the organization responsible for professional accreditation of teacher education.

The board of examiners that conducted the review found that the MVSU Teacher Education Department met all standards for its categories of initial teacher preparation and advanced preparation. Accreditation is determined by assessing six categories of standards.



Standards for NCATE accreditation are driven by data that demonstrate teacher candidates know knowledge and classroom management skills. The standards are revised every five years to ensure they meet the latest research and best practices as well as teaching standards in each state.

The continuing accreditation review focused on the professional education unit at MVSU, which includes initial and advanced programs located within the Teacher Education Department.

Both initial and advanced programs in the unit were reviewed during the NCATE visit in 2014. These programs awarded degrees to 36 students leading to initial teacher education certification in the areas of elementary education, English education, science education and health and physical education; awarded degrees to 50 students at the master's level for grade K-8; and degrees to 22 students in the Masters of Science in special education program and elementary education.

The Teacher Education Department has 28 faculty members who prepare candidates in both initial and advanced programs.

Founded in 1954, NCATE is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a specialized accrediting body for schools, colleges, and departments of education. NCATE and the Teacher Education Council have consolidated and are now transitioning into the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation.

THREE VALLEY SINGERS ADMITTED TO MUSICAL TRAINING PROGRAM IN GERMANY



Three Valley students will travel to Germany this summer as part of a program intended to train musicians for careers in musical performance.

All three students are members of the "Valley Singers," the exclusive group of singers chosen to represent the university at special events such as Green and White Day and the First Lady's Luncheon.

The program, called the International Performing Arts Institute (IPAI), will take place in Kiefersfelden, Bavaria, a village south of Munich near the German border with Austria. Michael Lawson and Maiya Beavers, two of the Singers, will focus on the institute's musical theater track. Jamahl Cotton, the third Singer, will take the opera track.

Taking place from July 5 through July 26, students at IPAI take master classes in acting, dancing, vocal technique, and other aspects of the profession. They will learn from internationally celebrated instructors, such as opera singers Kirstin Chavez and Barbara Daniels.

Graduates have gone on to have successful careers on Broadway, in opera, and in musical theater productions across Europe.

In order to hold their place in the institute, Beavers, Cotton, and Lawson had to send a deposit to Dr. Bruce Earnest, the director of musical theater at the University of Mobile as well as the director of IPAI. The MVSU Alumni Association gave each student the \$500 necessary for his or her deposit, giving \$1500 in total.

The students will be able to use their financial aid scholarships to cover the cost of the institute, \$5,325. The cost covers room, board, and the regional travel opportunities tied into the track they auditioned for.

Although they are still responsible for raising the funds for their travel to Germany, Dr. Kathie Golden, associate vice president of academic affairs, recommended that they apply for the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program, a federally funded program that awards scholarships for undergraduate study abroad.

To enter the institute, applicants either submit a video audition or they attend one of the live auditions, which occur at various times in cities throughout the United States.

"This is my first time doing this type of thing," Cotton said. "I'm hoping it will build my confidence and help me get used to performing."

Beavers hopes the program will help her improve as a singer and give her a leg up on starting a career in New York City after graduation. Lawson, who eventually wants to study theater in graduate school, is looking forward to learning more about musical theater. If they do well enough at the program – and don't mind learning German – there is a chance that they could be invited back. IPAI offers some students the opportunity to return for the IPAI European Audition Program, a program designed as an audition process for placement in a European production.

MVSU STUDENT TO BE HONORED BY BET NETWORKS



Social Work major Vester Waters will be honored during the BET Experience, taking place June 25 through June 28, due to his ongoing community service commitments at Mississippi Valley State and beyond.

Both Waters and a student from Fayetteville State University in North Carolina will receive the Community Impact Award. Both students

were recipients of the Denny's – Tom Joyner Foundation Hungry for Education Scholarship, a scholarship they received for their work to end hunger in their local communities.

Waters received the scholarship after writing about how he had volunteered to deliver food to needy families in the Delta, in addition to wiring the proceeds from performing his gospel hip-hop single "Get Right (He's Coming Back)" to a Detroit-based organization that used the funds to give Thanksgiving dinner to impoverished families in Detroit.

Denny's is sponsoring the Community Impact Awards during the BET Experience. Only two student honorees from the 12 who won the scholarship were selected to receive this honor from BET.

On June 26, he will fly to Los Angeles to take part in the BET Experience. Once there, several celebrities are expected to receive the award in addition to Waters and the other student. Waters has continued to be involved with community service. Currently, he is working as a volunteer music teacher for the MVSU chapter of the Boys and Girls Club, which was reinstituted at the university this summer. In the fall semester, he will begin representing the university as Mr. Mississippi Valley State University.

Ultimately, he hopes to embody the MVSU motto "Live for Service," by empowering young people in his hometown of Detroit. He sees both the work he has done as a musician and the commitment to community service that lead to him receiving this honor from BET as stepping stones leading him to have a greater impact on larger groups of people.

BET Networks, a subsidiary of Viacom Inc. is the nation's leading provider of quality entertainment, music, news and public affairs television programming for the African-American audience. The primary BET channel reaches more than 90 million households and can be seen in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, the United Kingdom and sub-Saharan Africa.

NCAA RECOGNIZES MVSU MEN'S GOLF TEAM FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS



The Mississippi Valley State University Men's golf team has been recognized by the NCAA for academic achievement.

Each year the NCAA recognizes teams for Academic Progress Rates that are in the top 10 percent of their respective sports. The scores required to be in the top 10 ranged from 980 to a perfect 1,000, depending on the sport.

"I would like to commend Coach Murry on his team's academic progress rate (APR) of 1000. Retaining and graduating our students is our priority here at MVSU," said Dianthia Ford-Kee, Director of Athletics.

APRs for all Division I teams was released May 27. The APR is an annual scorecard of academic achievement calculated for all Division I sports teams nationally.

MVSU RECEIVES DELTA MU DELTA STAR CHAPTER AWARD

The MVSU chapter of Delta Mu Delta (DMD), a business administration honor society, recently received the organization's Star Chapter Award. Only 19 of the more than 300 Delta Mu Delta chapters were selected for this honor.

"It has been a pleasure to serve the students at Valley and to help them realize excellence in academics and community service," said Dr. Mary Shepherd, the department's DMD advisor.

This year marks the second time that Valley's chapter of Delta Mu Delta - Iota Kappa, has won the Star Chapter Award. In order to win the award, DMD chapters have to meet several standards. Each star chapter must complete at least one induction ceremony during the fiscal year ending on June 30, elect a full slate of officers, hold a minimum of two business meetings during the fiscal year, submit both annual and financial reports postmarked on or before

July 15, and have no bills outstanding for more than 90 days during the fiscal year.

Winning chapters are also judged on their track record for inducting new members, completing community service or business-related activities, and their participation in the DMD scholarship program.

Delta Mu Delta has a growing membership of more than 67, 000 undergraduates, graduates and alumni. The honor society came into being in order to recognize business administration students who have distinguished themselves scholastically. The coveted membership also means the student has good character and the unmistakable leadership potential for a satisfying career of service. The purposes of Delta Mu Delta are to promote training for business and to recognize and reward scholastic attainment in business subjects. Membership is accorded to undergraduates and graduates who are registered in business administration programs.

MVSU STUDENT TO PERFORM ANTI-GUN VIOLENCE SONG AT NAACP NATIONAL CONVENTION IN PHILADELPHIA



Mississippi Valley State University music major Lyriq Lashay (born Brittany McCreary) released a music video of her single “Out of Control” on YouTube.

The song raises awareness about the issue of gun violence in America. During the video, scenes from a candlelight vigil are interspersed between segments where Lashay serves as an anchor woman reporting on various stories about gun violence.

“I wanted to involve people and make it about people,” Lashay said while reflecting on the music video’s planning process. “A lot of things were in the news about police brutality, people getting shot down by random people, and just gun violence in general.”

Although the video has not been released for long, it is already garnering national attention for Lashay. Recently, she sent the video to the NAACP and the organization responded by

inviting her to perform at its convention in July.

Gerard Shelton, who produced the video, suggested that they make the news a central theme of the video.

Shelton runs a video production company in Minneapolis called 80G films. He met Lashay last December while filming her interview at KMOJ – a Minneapolis radio station. The song entered regular rotation on the station, just as she was leaving Minneapolis to complete her undergraduate education at MVSU.

“The song got so much attention that it seemed right to do a video,” Lashay said. She got the idea to do a video while at KMOJ, where her interviewer, Chris Styles, asked her when she would have a music video to go along with the single. Unfortunately, she had no budget for a music video. Shelton, however, who was already filming the interview, offered to help her produce one.

Lashay has an associate’s degree from McNally Smith College of Music in Saint Paul, Minn. She received a full music scholarship to attend MVSU.

She began writing the song in January 2014, shortly after graduating from McNally and only a few months after George Zimmerman was acquitted in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin.

Little more than a year later, in February 2015, Lashay returned to Minneapolis to begin production on the music video. The shoot took four and a half days to complete. The candlelight vigil depicted in the video was actually excerpted from a real vigil Lashay organized through Facebook.

“I let them know in the description that it was also a video shoot,” Lashay said, “but it was more about the candle lighting, giving reverence to the people that they had lost. So that’s how I was able to get all those people out – because even though many of them liked the song it wasn’t about me, it was about their personal experiences and the people that they lost.”

“Out of Control” is not Lashay’s only foray into the realm of socially conscious music. Recently, she put out an EP titled “Lyrik to Lyriq” that includes seven different songs. Also, she hopes to raise more awareness about gun violence and other issues that are “out of control” in America – specifically the African-American community.

“There are a whole bunch of things that are out of control,” she said, giving examples such as gun violence, sexual violence, and environmental degradation. She eventually wants to start an “out of control” program where participants tackle different issues each day, ending with gun violence. She also hopes to organize a flash mob in which students, staff, and members of the local community participate.

“It would not only be educational, it would be fun,” Lashay surmised. “It’s about the people – educating the people on certain problems, and making sure that you can discuss resolutions.”

“My goal with my music,” she added, “is to provoke people to change in a positive way. Music brings everybody together, and I want to create a movement that gets people to move in a positive direction.”

KALIK MAY DRAFTED BY THE TORONTO BLUE JAYS



In the 33rd round of the Major League Baseball Draft, the Toronto Blue Jays selected Mississippi Valley State University's outfielder Kalik May.

Kalik exclaimed, "It was an overwhelming moment. The anticipation had me kind of down because it was a long process but when it finally happened, I was relieved. I finally know that I can continue to play the game I love at the highest level."

May attended East Central Community College prior to his arrival at Mississippi Valley. During his two years in a Delta Devils' uniform, Kalik made an instant impact.

During the 2014 season, Kalik played and started in all 42 games. In 149 at bats, he recorded 17 runs on 36 hits, six doubles, four triples, one homerun and 14 RBIs. His slugging rate for the season was .356 and a fielding of .941.

Kalik started and played in 43-43 games this season. In 179 at bats, he recorded 37 runs on 60 hits, 11 doubles, five triples, four homerun and 33 RBIs. His slugging rate this season is .520 and a .896 fielding rate.

Head Coach Aaron Stevens stated, "First I would like to say congratulations to Kalik May on being drafted. The Blue Jays got a steal today when they picked a fine student-athlete with no ceiling on his athletic ability. He was just beginning to understand how he could take over games, he will do fine and then they (Blue Jays) will realize what a steal they received when they called his (Kalik's) name. I would also like to thank him for his time and efforts he put forth for our program and university."

In the history of the program at Mississippi Valley, with Kalik's selection, there has only been 15 athletes drafted from the baseball program.

"I am proud of and excited for Kalik and his family! He is an outstanding athlete and student. This is another great moment in MVSU's rich athletic history," said Director of Athletics Dianthia Ford-Kee.

ADAMS WINS FIRST PLACE IN NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION MINIVAN COMPETITION



Mass Transit Employee Lester Adams of Mississippi Valley State University recently won first place at the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) Expo in Tampa, Fla.

Last year, Adams won the Driver of the Year award for the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) Roadeo, along with second place in the minivan division at the national Roadeo

competition in St. Paul, Minn.

Both the state-level Roadeo and the national level are set up in a similar fashion. Broadly, the three main aspects of the competition are the pre-trip inspection, wheelchair securement, and driving test.

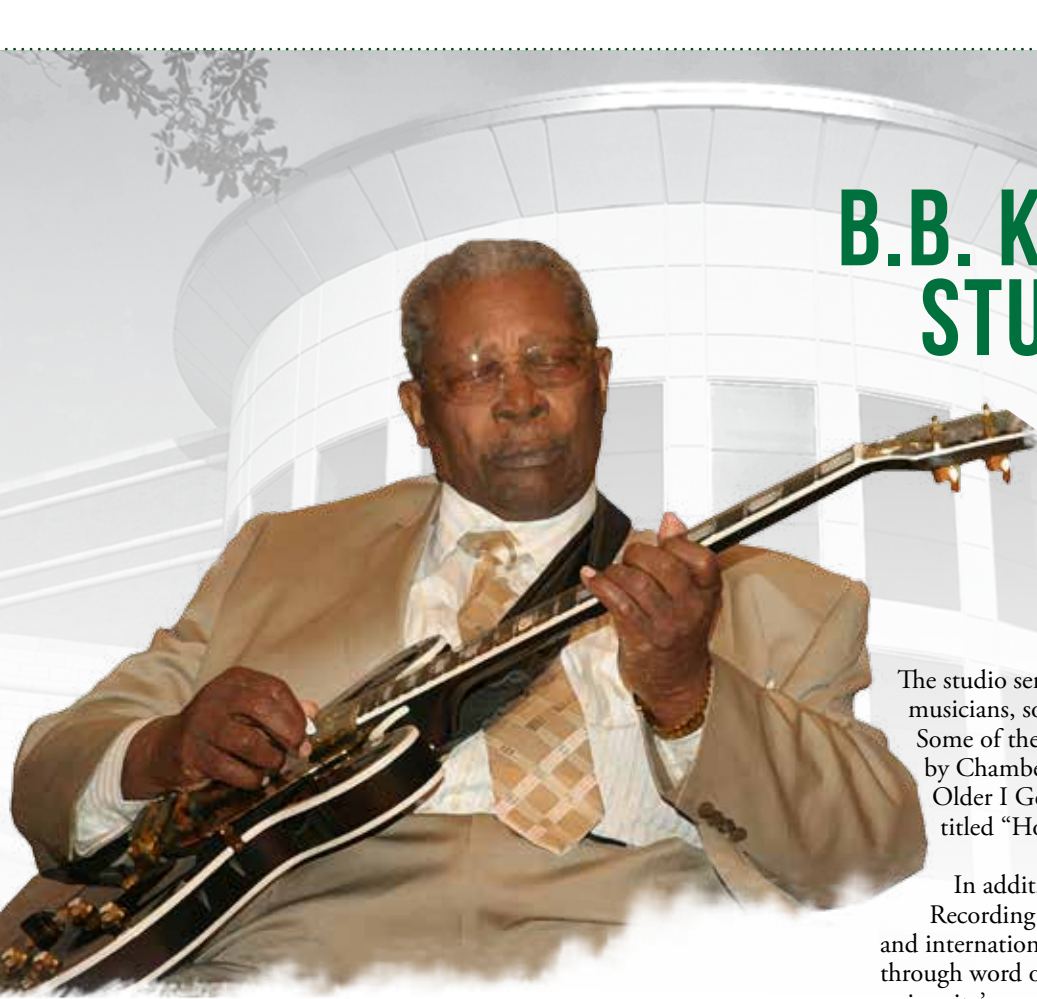
For the pre-trip inspection, the drivers arrive at their vehicles and must identify four safety defects within a seven-minute time span.

They receive points for each defect that they identify and for identifying all four within the seven-minute period.

During the wheelchair securement portion of the competition, the contestants again have seven minutes to properly secure the passenger into their vehicle's wheelchair lift and move him into the vehicle. Because securing a passenger in a wheelchair involves several steps, contestants are judged based upon how well they execute the steps necessary to properly move the passenger into the vehicle. Before attempting to move the passenger, for example, the contestant has to verbalize everything he is about to do before he actually does it.

The driving test is also composed of several different parts. The drivers again have seven minutes to maneuver the course designed for the contest. They have to work their way through a serpentine route, make left and right turns, demonstrate how well they can do curb-side pickups, make judgment stops, and complete other challenges as well. The driving routes are designated by large cones, and drivers lose points each time they hit a cone.

2014 was the first time that MDOT Roadeo gave the "Driver of the Year" award. Contestants competed in both van and bus categories, with one contestant receiving first place for each category. The "Driver of the Year" award, however, is given to the contestant with the highest overall score. The national Roadeo competition typically attracts between 65 and 75 drivers annually, about a third of whom enter the minivan category. Each year, MDOT sends its first-place contenders in the van and bus categories to the competition, which moves to different cities each year. Between the national and state competitions, Adams has almost 20 trophies.



B.B. KING RECORDING STUDIO CONTINUES TO HONOR LEGACY OF BLUES SINGER

The studio serves as an archive, recording many different local musicians, some of which are prominent Mississippi artists. Some of the noted recordings include “Inspirations,” a project by Chambers Middle School; Big Joe Shelton’s album “The Older I Get, the Better I Was”; a Fine Arts student project titled “Home Grown”; and “A Valley Christmas.”

In addition to serving Mississippi musicians, the BB King Recording Studio has also attracted the attention of national and international artists. “A lot of musicians hear about the studio through word of mouth,” said Jimmie Lee, a former student in the university’s music program who now manages the studio.

Since first opening in 2004, the BB King Recording Studio has recorded dozens of records for musicians based in the Mississippi Delta and beyond. It has also helped music and mass communications students learn how to use professional-grade equipment to record and edit sound.

Dr. Alphonso Sanders, who serves as the director of the studio, hopes that it will continue to rise in popularity, attracting a steady stream of artists wishing to record albums. The emphasis, however, will remain on its function as an educational tool.

“For the future of the studio,” Sanders said, “the Department of Fine Arts is instituting a degree emphasis on sound recording technology, which will be accredited by the National Association for Schools of Music.”

The BB King Recording Studio was first instituted under President Lester Newman with the purpose of recognizing BB King’s musical legacy.

“BB King was fond of music education and the school,” Sanders added. For over a decade, he made a point of visiting Mississippi Valley State University, performing during the BB King International Workshop.

Currently, mass communication students use the BB King Recording Studio to take a lab course titled “The Fundamentals of Recording.” The course teaches students how to use recording and editing technology for radio broadcasts.

A recent project involved saxophonist Joe Jennings, an Atlanta-based jazz musician and retired Spelman professor. His jazz quartet included pianist Chris Parker, bassist Bill Huntington, and drummer Renardo Ward. This project was an experiment exploring the studio’s potential for recording acoustical musical groups simultaneously. The studio has mainly been used to record individual tracks separately. It is housed in the O.P. Lowe Education building, whose limited space provided a bit of a challenge for the jazz quartet and the studio staff.

Recording is a process. Artists interested in recording at the studio should have a completed body of work that they wish to record, as well as plans to produce and sell the recording. After the music is recorded it must be edited and digitally mastered in order to produce the optimum playback experience.

On September 3, the studio will aid in hosting BB King Day. The day will offer forum discussions including participants who have been directly influenced by BB King’s life and music. Mississippi Valley State University made a resolution to have BB King Day annually on the first Thursday in September, which is his birth month.

Sanders hopes that the BB King Recording Studio will help further mark MVSU as a historical landmark. “With the importance of Mississippi’s blues history,” he said, “we hope the studio will serve the university in a larger way as a tourist attraction as a part of the Mississippi Blues Trail.”

DONATION FROM NISSAN SUPPORTS TWO STEM PROGRAMS AT MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

--\$30,000 Donation from Automaker Allows Mississippi Valley to Enhance Programs in Engineering and Computer Science--

Mississippi Valley State University will enhance student learning experiences in two academic programs, thanks to a generous donation from Nissan North America. The \$30,000 donation, presented at a ceremony in March at Nissan's Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant, will support Mississippi Valley's Engineering Technology program and the Mathematics, Computer and Information Sciences (MCIS) program.

The donation to Mississippi Valley was a part of a larger \$250,000 donation from Nissan North America to six local Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to inspire and develop talent by promoting STEM initiatives at each school. Resources provided to each institution will be used to promote a range of STEM related programs and departments including applied sciences, engineering, math, computer and information science and many more.

"The MCIS Department will use Nissan's donation to purchase two crucial software programs: Wolfram Mathematica and Mathematica Online," said Dr. Latonya Garner, chair of the department of mathematics, computer and information sciences. "We are confident that access to these programs will facilitate our goal of training the leaders of tomorrow in the fields of mathematics and computer science."

Mathematica is a computational software program used in many scientific, engineering, mathematical and computing fields, based on symbolic mathematics. MCIS will use the software in several courses to enhance the mathematics and computer science majors' programming skills in modern technical computing.

The Engineering Technology program will utilize the funds to acquire Solid Works CAD and Chief Architect CAD software licenses, a 3-D printer, professional electronic tool kits and Amatrol e-learning electronics licenses, along with other tools to enhance the learning environment.

"These items will enhance students' skills in Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) and electronics technology," said Antonio Brownlow, acting chair of the department of engineering technology. "These additional skills will help to better prepare students to meet the growing demand for workers in high tech industries."

The other HBCUs receiving funds from Nissan are Alcorn State University, Coahoma Community College, Jackson State University, Rust College and Tougaloo College.

DELTA SIGMA THETA DONATES \$10,000 TO MVSU

Members of the Greenwood – Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. donated \$10,000 to MVSU during its Annual Founder's Day Convocation. Pictured,

from left, are Dr. William B. Bynum Jr., MVSU president; Felicia Lampkin, president of the Greenwood – Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta; Nicole

Watkins, social action chair; Paulette Palmer, and Victoria Watkins.



SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS TRAVEL TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In June, ten students from Mississippi Valley State University's Department of Social Work traveled to the Dominican Republic for nine days, taking part in a trip designed to complement their coursework on government social programs.

"The purpose of the trip was to study the social welfare structures and systems of operations in the Dominican Republic," said Dr. Cynthia Honoré-Collins, director of the Master of Social Work program.

The group arrived on Sunday, June 7, in Santiago, the largest city in the Dominican Republic's north-central region and the second largest city in the nation. Honoré-Collins organized the trip through the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE), which set up lectures and educational tours throughout the region.

Since the trip was educational in nature, Honoré-Collins continued to hold classes. CIEE set up lecture space for her at the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM), a private, Catholic university in Santiago.

The students focused primarily on the Dominican school system in their studies. Though education in the Dominican Republic is both free and compulsory through the eighth grade, the average level of grade completion is only through the 6th grade. Instead of going to school, Honoré-Collins noted that children often work to provide additional income for their families.

Additionally, according to the organization "Tailored for Education," only 12% of low-income students who start high school in the Dominican Republic will complete their studies, compared to 62% of those from higher income brackets. Furthermore, the organization reported that 85% of poor Dominican parents have never completed primary school.

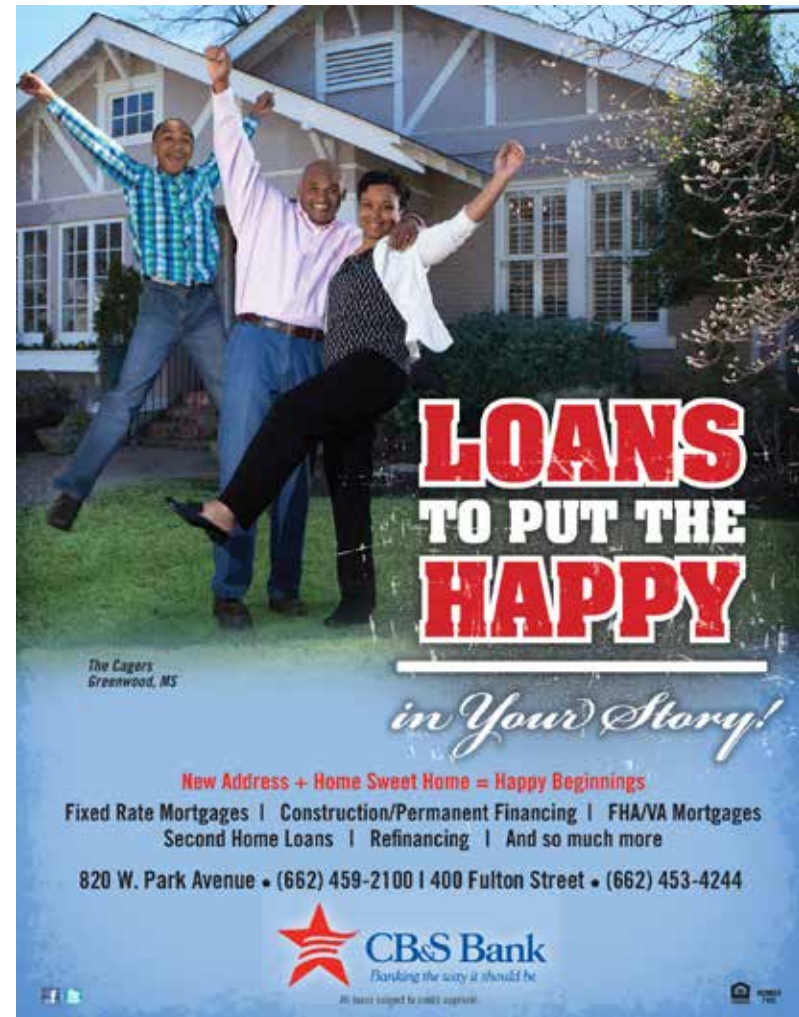
Another issue the students learned about during their trip was that while many schools have been built in Santiago, the government is not able to provide the resources to fully fund them. The mayor of Santiago, Honoré-Collins said, is working with non-profit organizations in order to provide funds for teachers and other resources needed to ensure that the public schools that have already been built are fully operational.

The group also spent one morning visiting an orphanage for developmentally disabled children. Honoré-Collins explained that in the Dominican Republic, the state does not provide additional resources to parents of children with mental or other developmental disabilities, so parents who are not able to take care of these children often give them up to orphanages.

While at the orphanage, the students held, played, and fed the children, and also gave them gifts. They ranged in age from three months old to teenagers, and although most of the students were not able to speak directly to the children in Spanish, they were able to communicate with each other effectively by paying attention to non-verbal cues.

The visit wasn't completely without more traditional tourist activities, however. The students also completed a nature hike through the "27 Charcos," a network of 27 waterfalls located north of Santiago in Puerto Plata province.

In the future, Honoré-Collins hopes to take 20 students on a similar international excursion. For more information, contact Dr. Honoré-Collins at 662.254.3099, or via email at chcollins@mvsu.edu.



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SYLVIA TAYLOR

TAKES HELM AS MS. NEVADA

A Mississippi Valley State University alumnae recently joined beauty pageant royalty after being crowned Ms. Nevada United States.

Sylvia Taylor, C'03, beat several other contestants in the "Ms." category, which is reserved for single women between the ages of 26 and 39.

"This was the first time I had ever done a beauty pageant," she said.

She got the idea from a friend who had been Ms. Nevada during the previous year. Taylor enjoys community service, philanthropy, and encouraging others to reach for their dreams. Her friend convinced her to compete after telling her that her goals and values are reflected in the Ms. Nevada United States pageant.

Many of her peers in the division had more experience with pageants than she did. "I was going up against girls who had done pageants in other states," she said. Staying dedicated to the process and giving thoughtful, honest answers to the questions, however, set her apart from the pack.

"Ms. Nevada" represents a division of the Miss United States pageant system, which is the fastest growing pageant system in the United States. Additionally, Miss United States ranked second on Pageant Planet's "Top Pageants of 2014" list.

Taylor, who was a computer science major at Valley, is using her tenure as Ms. Nevada as a platform to advocate for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education among women and minorities.

In order to prepare for the pageant, Taylor had to develop her platform, prepare to answer questions about herself, stay up-to-date on current events, and dedicate herself to a stringent diet and exercise regimen.

"After the pageant was over, the first thing I did was get a cheeseburger," she said, laughing.

For the on-stage question, Taylor was asked whether she thought the United States was ready for a woman president. She said that it was, suggesting that since women have traditionally managed families, taught children, and given advice to friends, there is no reason why people would not think a woman could be president as well.

Taylor moved to Las Vegas, Nevada in 2012, after having gone through a rough patch in Phoenix, where she had been laid off and was temporarily homeless. In Las Vegas, she was able to get a job working in IT at Caesar's Palace, a famous hotel on the Las Vegas Strip. Recently, she began working as a systems administrator for Nike, managing its procurement systems. Because her new job is in Portland, Oregon, she now commutes weekly between Portland and Las Vegas.

Through her trials, she said that she learned to stay positive and be open to opportunities for growth.

"Be open to people's advice," she said. "The people who are in your life for good reasons – they celebrate your successes, and they also correct you when you are wrong. Be open and humble. And always and in everything thank God."



AlumniNOTES



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY *National Alumni Association, Inc.*

POST OFFICE BOX 401 · ITTA BENA, MISSISSIPPI 38941 · PH: (662) 254-6650 · MVSUNAA@ATT.NET

June 29, 2015



Dear Fellow Alumni:

It has been a tremendous honor to serve you as the national president of the Mississippi Valley State University National Alumni Association, Inc. The National Alumni Association (NAA) has had one of its most productive years in recent memory. The visionary NAA officers and board of directors are responsible for this phenomenal growth. Though the association had a setback with the untimely death of its treasurer, Lee A. Frison, Sr. and the lengthy illness of its secretary, Navie Lloyd, we continue to make gigantic strides in the areas of alumni engagement, chapter reactivation and the development of partnerships with the Office of Alumni Affairs and the MVSU Foundation. The establishment and reactivation of local chapters provides opportunities for our alumni and friends to join together to support current and future MVSU students through contributions to the chapter's scholarship fund.

A major accomplishment of the NAA this year was the providing of NAA membership cards to all the 2015 MVSU spring graduates, both undergraduate and graduate. Our hope is that many of the 400+ graduates will connect with existing NAA chapters or keep in touch with the NAA and the Office of Alumni Affairs. Additionally, technology upgrades will give these new and existing alums the opportunity to register online for all NAA activities as well as pay NAA dues and make contributions to the University. The implementation of new technology is intended to engage young alumni with the use of social media.

The NAA's participation in the Unity Day activities at the state capitol with our sister institutions, Alcorn State University and Jackson State University was a historic event. The unity day activities was the result of a few members of the Mississippi Legislature and the national alumni president's from each institution who realized the need for a united conversation on funding effort as we approached the ending of Ayers funding for our institutions. The Unity Day activities lead to the planning of a one day summit at JSU that addressed a number of additional issues other than funding which negatively affected our institutions.

I am excited about the opportunity to engage and connect with my fellow alumni as we work toward continuing the legacy of our great alma mater, Mississippi Valley State University. I am committed to the mission and vision of the University and look forward to your involvement, participation, and continued support through giving, campus involvement and recruitment.

Yours for the Valley,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John H. Johnson'.

John H. Johnson, '68

President, MVSU National Alumni Association

NATIONAL ALUMNI OFFICERS

John H. Johnson, President · Kurt Higgins, 1st Vice President · Charlie Tolliver, 2nd Vice President · Navie Lloyd, Secretary · Leroy Riley, Treasurer
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JAS BOOTHE OF “FINAL SALUTE” RECOGNIZED FOR HER OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE HOUSING FOR HOMELESS FEMALE VETERANS



Photo Courtesy of Harpo Studios, Inc. / George Burns

Amy Purdy (far left) with Jas Boothe (middle), founder of Final Salute, Inc., recipient of the Toyota “Standing O-Vation” Award; and Oprah Winfrey (far right)

“Oprah’s The Life You Want Weekend,” Oprah Winfrey’s eight-city arena tour and transformational weekend, announced the third Toyota “Standing O-Vation” award recipient in Washington D.C. The Toyota “Standing O-Vation” recognizes extraordinary people who are making positive changes in their communities and inspiring others to do the same.

Oprah Winfrey and Team Toyota brand ambassador Amy Purdy honored Jas Boothe of Final Salute, a Washington, D.C.-based organization Boothe founded to help homeless female veterans in the United States by providing them and their children with transitional housing. As a recipient of the “Standing O-Vation” award, Final Salute received a \$25,000 grant from Toyota in support of their outstanding commitment to supporting homeless female veterans in the local Washington D.C. community.

After losing her own home and belongings during Hurricane Katrina, and overcoming a devastating cancer diagnosis, Jas Boothe faced homelessness and the loss of her job firsthand. Once back on her feet, Boothe recognized the availability of helpful programs for male veterans, and the lack of such services for women. She knew she had to help meet this desperate need for female

veteran housing programs. Today, Final Salute has three homes in Virginia, West Virginia and Ohio, and has helped more than 300 female veterans and their families from 15 states and territories. For more information, visit www.finalsaluteinc.org.

“Today was one of the proudest moments of my life, standing on stage with Oprah Winfrey and Amy Purdy to receive a standing ovation for the work we do at Final Salute,” said Jas Boothe. “I’ve made it my life’s mission to give back to the brave women who have fought for our country, and this grant of \$25,000 from Toyota will allow us to help even more homeless female veterans.”

The driving force behind The Toyota “Standing O-Vation” stems from the automaker’s commitment to fostering women’s interests.

While reflecting the kind of stories that define the brand, The Toyota “Standing O-Vation” is an opportunity to celebrate remarkable women who are not only making the world a better place, but also motivating others to spark their own journey of personal change.



ATLANTA METRO ALUMNI CHAPTER

Atlanta Metro Alumni Chapter is currently making tremendous strides to assist with the recruitment and retention efforts for Mississippi Valley State University. The Chapter recently collected over 500 applications from perspective students in the Atlanta Area. The Chapters Goal is to collect a total of 1,000 applications in the next two year says recruitment Chair Earl Townsend, Jr.’ 70. In addition, the chapter made a generous contribution for \$4,000.00 during homecoming to provide scholarships to deserving students at MVSU.

Chapter President: Oscar Stokes ‘64

BOLIVAR COUNTY ALUMNI CHAPTER

Students of Mississippi Valley State University will be reaping the benefits of a generous gift provided by the Bolivar County Alumni Chapter of the MVSU National Alumni Association, Inc. The Chapter presented the gift to the University totaling \$10,000 during the University’s Annual Homecoming Celebration in October 2013. (Please include inserts and photo from Homecoming Communiqué)

Chapter President: Maurine Gray’68

HARRISON COUNTY ALUMNI CHAPTER

The Harrison County Alumni Chapter assembled and disseminated personalized care packages to MVSU students from the Mississippi Gulf Coast Counties. Each package contains a personal letter from the chapter, a mixture of personal care items, school supplies and snacks. The purpose of a care package is to build a connection between the local alumni chapter and MVSU students from your area. It is an opportunity to reach out to these students, to recognize their efforts and to encourage their future membership in an alumni chapter, said Kirk Higgins chapter President.

Chapter President: Kirk Higgins '88

Pictured from left to right: Frank Yates, Mary Crump, Carrie Williams Pillers, Ph.D.,

JACKSON HINDS ALUMNI CHAPTER-

The Jackson-Hinds Alumni Chapter recently adopted John Hopkins Elementary School in Jackson, MS. As part of this initiative, chapter members read to students, provide school supplies, and occasional visits to talk about MVSU. Mary Crump, Chapter President, said, "If we begin the pipeline early we will be able to get students early on to think about and plan to attend the Valley." Also would like to include their scholarship donation of \$11,000 to student scholarships during Annual Scholarship Business Luncheon.

Chapter President: Mary Crump '67

MVSU FOUNDATION, MAGNOLIA AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES PRESENT SCHOLARSHIPS TO FOUR MVSU STUDENTS

Special from the MVSU Foundation

The Mississippi Valley State University Foundation partnered with Magnolia Automotive Services, Inc. to award \$15,000 to four MVSU students in the Engineering Technology Program. Magnolia Automotive Services President, Lorrion James and Plant Manager, Andrew Burks presented the scholarship award during the MVSU National Alumni Association general body meeting on campus. The MVSU Foundation-Magnolia Automotive Services Scholarship was awarded to Kendrick Woods, Datreion Eatmon, Tommie Moore, and Geoffrey Dugger-Briggs. Each recipient received \$3,750.

Dr. Constance G. Bland, Vice President of Academic Affairs, affirmed, "We are elated that such an opportunity is being facilitated by our Foundation and salute the leaders of Magnolia Automotive Services. I echo the sentiments of our Engineering Technology students, faculty, and staff in acknowledging how grateful we are for your support."

The visit to campus was the first for Lorrion James who acknowledged he was

honored to support his father's alma mater and look forward to building a strong alliance with the Foundation. Esteemed Valley alum John A. James is a member of the MVSU Foundation Board of Directors and Chairman of James Group International. Magnolia Automotive Services, located in Blue Springs, MS, is a strategic alliance between James Group International and Toyota Tsusho America, Inc. engaged in global supply chain logistics and parts assembly.

MVSU Foundation Chairman, Dr. Walter Roberts and NAA President, John Johnson have made great strides to strengthen the two organizations with improved technology, infrastructure, accountability, and strategic collaborative efforts to support the University. Chairman Roberts noted, "We are working to do so much more for Valley as our collective goal is to ensure we are able to support the University's mission to improve enrollment and student achievement with increased scholarship awards."



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YOUNG NAMED DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS



Willie James Young, Jr. was recently named the new director of alumni affairs at Mississippi Valley State University.

"I'm very excited about being here at Valley," Young said. "It's kind of like a

homecoming, but it's also an opportunity to make a difference."

Most recently, Young has worked as the personnel director for the Greenwood Public School District, a position he held from July of 2003 until June of this year.

As director of alumni affairs, Young hopes to reconnect with as many alumni as possible. He is building a database of alumni contact information in order to keep alumni abreast of current events at Valley. "There's strength in numbers," Young said. He hopes to get more alumni volunteering their time and resources to the university in order to help the institution in its mission to meet the educational needs of its students.

A native of Greenwood, Miss., Young has been instrumental in the development of the lives of many young people, in particular young men, in the Leflore County area. Because of his desire to develop the whole person, he has often gone far beyond the call of duty to give love, support and time to the young people of this community.

In 1980, Young began his professional career in Greenwood at Republic Finance, Inc., where he eventually became a branch manager. In 1992, he became the owner and manager of C&W Collection Services and an independent associate for Pre-Paid Legal Services (now LegalShield) in 1998. He has worked as a lead counselor with Three Rivers Community Economic Development Corporation's Leflore County Juvenile Report Center in 2001-2002, and as

director of the Education and Training Institute's Leflore County Fatherhood Initiative Program from 2002-2003. He served as head coach of the Greenwood High School Baseball Team during the 2003 season.

Young is a 1976 graduate of Greenwood High School, where he was involved in the baseball program and other school activities. He graduated with honors in 1980 from Mississippi Valley State University with a bachelor's degree in fine arts. While at MVSU, he was captain of the MVSU Baseball Team and the Most Valuable Player during the 1980 season. He was also a member of Alpha Chi National Honor Society.

"As a first generation college graduate, I truly understand the value of our wonderful university and the impact it has had on the lives of so many," Young said.

Throughout the years, Young has dedicated his service to several community projects. He has served as co-founder of the Davis School Male Mentor Program, president of the Davis School Parent Teacher Association, a member of the Greenwood Public Schools Strategic Planning Committee, and coach/secretary-treasurer of the New Stone Street Baseball League. A member of the Baptist faith, Young is a member of Salem Missionary Baptist Church, where he serves as superintendent of the Sunday school.

"I am a true believer that, to whom much is given, much is required," Young said. "I encourage all alumni to be an even greater part of the bright future of our beloved alma mater."

An avid baseball fan, Young enjoys hunting, fishing, baseball, golf and cooking in his spare time.

Young and his wife, Wanda, are the parents of two adult children, Courtney JeLecia and Willie, III. He is the son of the late Willie J. Young, Sr. and Mary Young of Greenwood.

NORTHEAST MS ALUMNI CHAPTER

Northeast MS Alumni Chapter is vigorously involved in the recruitment efforts at MVSU. The chapter recently co-sponsored an ad with the University in the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal College Prep Guide. This guide is a special tabloid edition that helps high school students choose their paths for continuing education post-high school. The College Prep Guide was distributed to 35,000+ households, and to high schools in neighboring 16-county coverage area. This is an excellent opportunity promote Mississippi Valley State University to future prospective students in said Samuel Buchanan, chapter member.

Chapter President: Russell Brooks '88

SUNFLOWER COUNTY ALUMNI CHAPTER

The Sunflower Alumni Chapter gave over \$3,000.00 in book scholarships to students from the Sunflower County Area.

Chapter President: Emma Golden '72

WASHINGTON D.C. ALUMNI CHAPTER

quam, am, ad et occatur recto et pratia ipsaniam eos autem explabor audantis nobit, secusam fugia qui bla porpor moles expe saeperro torercid et inimet, omnimpos de volorum natust, tet, identorumet es quis derferu metur? Olorehenis et eossuntotaes iderro ipsam aut ad quo ipsunt, quist, occum endam ius, everro blaborit harum conet odipsam vel magnam sum nonet et eatiatem qui blabor arum que derum quae mossedi onseque simolu

Chapter President: Gredta Hubbard

TONS OF FUN

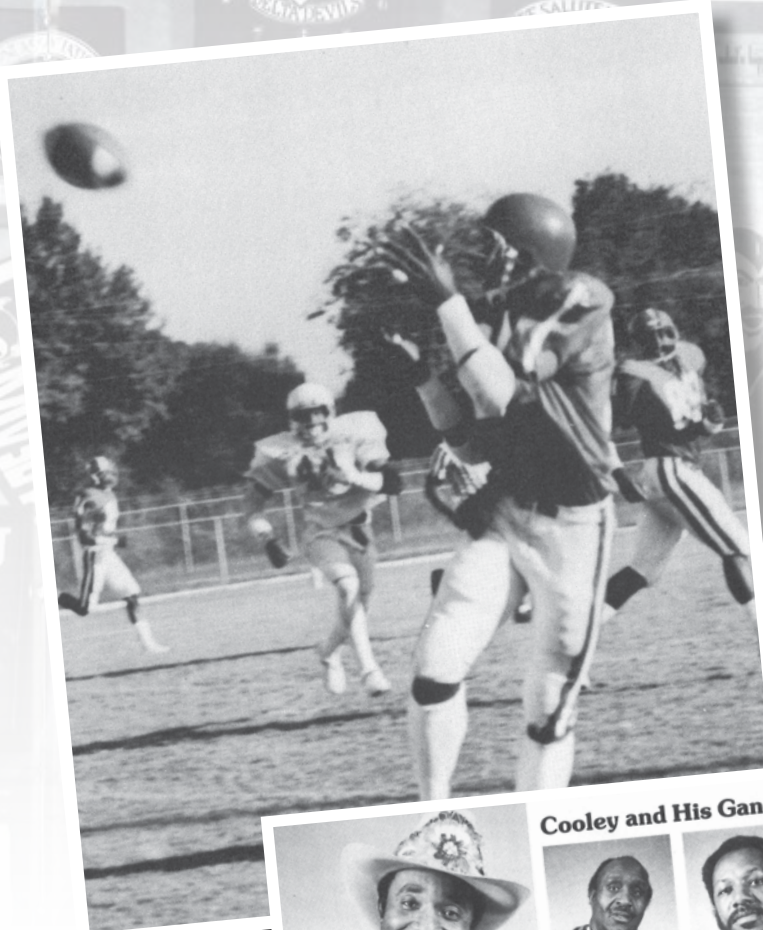
LAUDED AS NUTS AND BOLTS OF THE SATELLITE EXPRESS

It was a hot, summer day before the 1983 season when the MVSU offensive line started noticing that a lot of nicknames were floating around the football team. Coach Archie "Gunslinger" Cooley, Willie "Satellite" Totten, and of course Jerry "World" Rice.

And it wasn't just a few players. Some of the other units, like the running backs, also had nicknames.

Riley Murry, the starting center and in his senior playing year at the time, is not entirely sure how the topic came up, but he thinks it may have been Joe Bridges who said, "Man, why don't we have a nickname?"

From there the brainstorming started. Several ideas were shot down until they had come up with something everyone could agree on: Tons of Fun. Lauded as the "nuts and bolts" of Cooley's "Satellite Express" offense, it was during the 1983 season when the MVSU football team began turning things around, establishing its first winning season of the decade. Due to the efforts of the 1983 squad, the Delta Devils began garnering national attention in the media, paving the way for the nearly perfect 1984 season in the SWAC.



Cooley and His Gang



Archie Cooley, Jr.
Head Coach



Willie Jones
Assistant Head Coach



Charles Barron
Secondary

Coach Archie "Gunslinger" Cooley, Jr. is one of the most outspoken coaches in the SWAC. The husky ex-golfer held the 1981 SWAC Coach of the Year title. Cooley has really been working hard to bring the Delta Devils to glory.

Cooley, a flamboyant cowboy hat wearer, has become a well known figure in the SWAC and to the Valley family.

Throughout his two years here at Valley, Cooley has brought back the lost spirit that has plagued Valley. He has exemplified the point that Valley is indeed "Something Special." His popularity has led the Delta Devils fans to nickname him, his staff and athletes "Cooley's Gang." Harmony and togetherness prevail, even in defeat, as Cooley's Gang stand together.

When the 1981-82 campaign got underway, Cooley said, "We have a young ball club, and we'll do the best with what we have..."

When we suffered the biggest upset of the year to the Jackson State Tigers in Memphis, Coach Cooley predicted it would be a tough game. "The Devils played as best they could and you could not ask any more from a bunch of young men," he said.

At the beginning of the season, the present mascot was being threatened with a possible change — the cowboy image. Cooley did let it be known that he was for a change of the mascot, but he would be satisfied with either decision. When it was over, Cooley still headed the Delta Devils. The Cowboy just didn't seem to sit well with the majority of fans.

Cooley, who was criticized for his coaching practices, shrugged it off and said, "This is my team... I feel I know what is best for my ball club."

On October second, MVSU played Southern University Jaguars. Cooley and his team pulled off the biggest miracle possible in Valley 81-82 football with six seconds left in the game, MVSU scored winning by three points. Cooley credited his staff and players for the victory.



Carey Spears
Defensive Coordinator



C. A. Norris
Offensive Backs

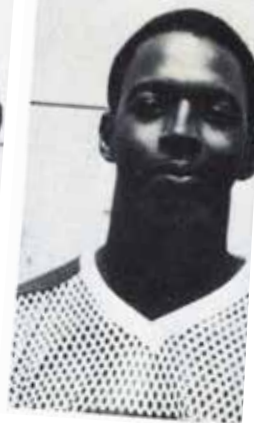


Ken Pettiford



Johnny Thomas





Standing, From Left to Right: Otis Culliver, Lloyd Mumford, Riley Murry, Clyde Jefferson, Willie Green, Jerry Rice, and Willie Totten. Seated is Coach Archie Cooley.



Murry recalls having some reservations about the name at first. Though hardly a little guy, the solid 250-pound center was comparatively svelte next to the other starters, all of whom weighed in over 300 pounds.

"Someone had mentioned how the Washington Redskins offensive linemen were called the 'hogs,'" Murry recalled. "We were trying to find something unique for ourselves when someone suggested 'Tons of Fun.' Then I said, 'How are we going to call ourselves the Tons of Fun and I don't weigh as much as the rest of you? You all are 300-plus pounds and I'm just two bucks and a half.'"

To balance things out, they decided to call Murry "half ton." Reinforcing the new moniker, the linemen wrote "ton" on their right pant leg and "fun" on their left. While Murry still wrote "fun" on his left pant leg, he wrote "1/2 ton" on his right.

In 1983, the other four players on the team were Joe Bridges at left tackle, Lorenzo Clark at right tackle, Michael Dean at right guard, and James Thompson at left guard. After the 1983 season, when Murry had finished his senior year on the team, Alvin Calhoun took Murry's place at center.

By the 1984 season, the offense was averaging over 400 yards a game – and in some games, over 500 yards. While Rice, Totten, and Cooley's passing game had much to do with that success, Bridges suggested that the pressure the line was able to put on the defense, due to the size of the players, was integral to the success of the offense.

"We would wear the defensive line down before the game was over with," Bridges said, commenting on the difficulty the opposing defensive linemen would face in trying to force their way through the Valley offensive line. "If it wasn't for those five guys up front," he added, "Rice and Totten couldn't have done nothing."

The players were well above average size for the time. Although offensive linemen began getting bigger by the 1970s, following changes in holding regulations for linemen, in 1983 the average offensive lineman at the University of Alabama was 6 feet 2.6 inches and 251.4 pounds.

Underscoring the point that a solid offensive line is critical for a successful offense, Bridges recalled a time when

Totten bragged that he didn't even need to wash his jersey because his never got hit. The linemen, sensing arrogance on his part, decided to slack off during one play and let him get sacked. As punishment, Coach Cooley made the linemen run drills into the night.

Rice finished playing only a year after Murry, so they played together for several years. Looking back on his years as Delta Devils, Murry recalled how dedicated Rice was to the game and improving his craft.

"Jerry had an internal drive that was phenomenal," Murry said. "He kept to a system: every day there was a certain number of things that he was going to do before the day was over with."

Murry added that Rice was typically quite and not given to lots of bragging. "He was one of those guys that really showed leadership by example," Murry said. "It didn't make any difference what coach wanted us to do, Jerry was always out front. If coach wanted us to do extra work, he wouldn't say a word, but he would be out front, every time."

Rice's determination influenced the rest of the team. "He was a special guy cause the whole team sort of fed off of him," Murry said. "His dedication spread throughout the rest of the team."

In many ways, Rice was a victim of his own success in high school. According to Murry, Rice had been such a good all-around player that his high school coach made him play in several different positions – and while his stats were good, they weren't good enough to attract the attention of larger Division I universities. Fortunately, Cooley was able to recognize Rice's innate talent, and while he was at Valley, he was able to improve upon his game by focusing on his role as wide receiver.

Bridges echoed Murry's sentiments. "Jerry was a hard worker on the football field," he said. "We all got along back then cause we were one team trying to win"

Together Rice, Totten, the Tons of Fun and the other team units were able to have the first winning season of the 1980s. It is for this reason that Coach Cooley called the 1983 team the "Founding Fathers" of the Cooley era.

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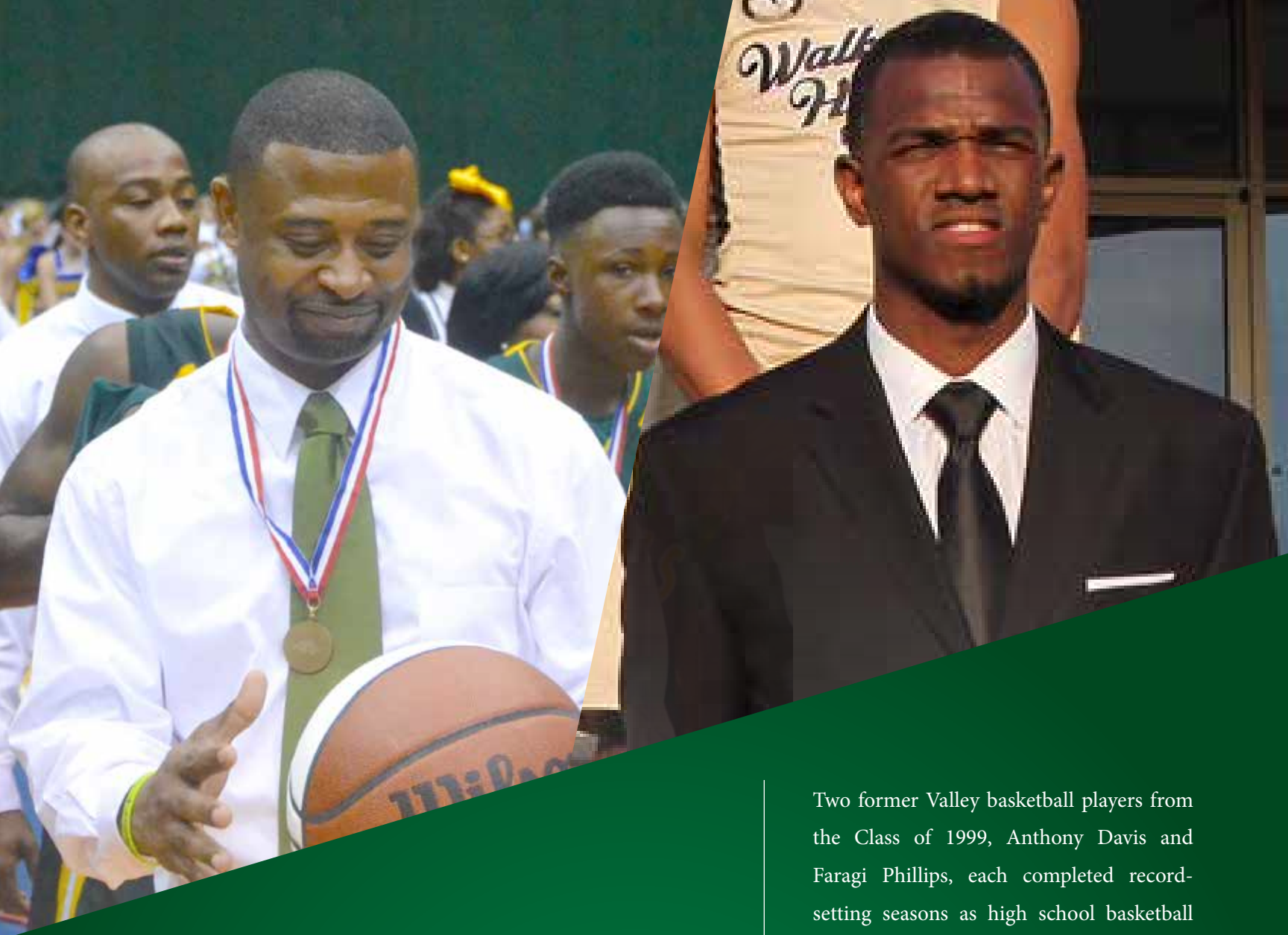
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VALLEY ALUMS, C'99 WIN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS TWO YEARS IN A ROW

Two former Valley basketball players from the Class of 1999, Anthony Davis and Faragi Phillips, each completed record-setting seasons as high school basketball coaches this year with back-to-back state championship wins in their divisions.

Until recently, the two coaches both worked for 1-A public high schools, Coach Davis at Shaw High School in Shaw, Mississippi and Coach Phillips at Mitchell High School in Southwest Memphis, Tenn. In May, Coach Phillips took a position as head coach of Whitehaven High School in South Memphis.



Coach Davis sites his defensive strategy for helping him to win the championships. “Defense is what wins championships,” he said, “because you have to be able stop the other team from scoring the basket.”

Speaking more generally, Coach Phillips cited the hard work and team spirit he helped to cultivate among the basketball players as having contributed to their success.

Phillips started working at Mitchell High School in 2011. During his first season at the high school, the team went to the state championship but lost. In 2012 the team lost in the quarter finals, so in 2013 the pressure was on to show that it could go back to the championship and come home with the winning trophy.

According to Phillips, Mitchell High School had been to the state championship before but had never won. The Mitchell Tigers’ win over Meigs County in 2014 was the first title the school had received in any sport. In 2014, the Tigers beat Meigs County 56 to 27, and this past season they beat Union City High School 69 to 39.

Now that he is moving to Whitehaven, he will transition from a successful 1-A program to coaching at one of the largest high schools in the state.

Davis, who has been coaching at Shaw High School since finishing at Valley in 1999, has enjoyed similar success with his Shaw Hawks. Since becoming head coach in 1999, the team has only had one losing season. This past year, the Hawks beat the Coffeetown Pirates 56 to 46 in the finals.

Last year, the Hawks played the Hinds County Agricultural High School in the finals, winning the game 60 to 57.

Davis says that hard work, dedication, and staying focused are the keys to a successful basketball season. “We have to practice hard so that when it comes to the game time, they will be able to adapt to any situation that comes up.” Players go through a series of drills, including man-to-man, zone, boxing out, and shooting drills, so that they can be prepared for games.

Their hard work transfers off the court as well, as the team has produced several valedictorians and salutatorians.

“DEFENSE IS WHAT WINS CHAMPIONSHIPS, BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE STOP THE OTHER TEAM FROM SCORING THE BASKET.”

Phillips’ approach is similar to Davis’, although being a coach in an inner-city environment, he also takes the team to bible studies and community service projects so that the players stay focused on faith and school, and keep their dedication to the game. The team GPA average is above a 3.5

While at Valley, Davis, who is 6’0”, tended to play point guard. Phillips, who is 6’2”, was a shooting guard, although each would play the other position from time to time.

Both players came to Valley in 1994. While here, the basketball team won regular season championships in 1995, 1996, and 1998. The Devils also won a championship tournament in 1996 and played Georgetown in the NCAA tournament that year.

Vacha Baughn, who played with Phillips at Mitchell, is currently playing for the Devils. Phillips’ son Kylan Phillips play for the team in the fall.

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Left to right: Mary Springfield, Teller; Amy Tackett, Teller; Melanie Brunson, Teller; Susan Grantham, Teller; Jackie Lewis, Teller; Melissa Martin, Teller.



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Brig. Gen. Kirklin has devoted 28 years to the United States Army. During

his career, he has held assignments in Louisiana, Texas, Germany, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Florida, and Iraq.

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Brig. Gen. Kirklin took command of the Quartermaster School at Fort Lee, Virginia making him the 53rd Quartermaster General of the U.S. Army in December 2014. The Quartermaster School trains more than 18,000 students annually in nine enlisted career fields, five warrant officer specialties and the QM Basic Officer Leader Course. Training areas include aerial delivery, mortuary affairs, logistics movement and tracking, culinary, and petroleum and water distribution.

According to the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps website, it is the nation's oldest combat service support branch. Founded in June 1775, this year will mark its 238th anniversary. Since the early days of the American Revolution, Quartermasters have participated in every war, every major campaign, and in every theater of operations where U.S. soldiers have been deployed.

The Brigadier General had his first encounter with the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) while on the campus of Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU). "Skills learned in ROTC are extremely valuable, whether you continue on in the military, or take what you have learned into civilian life," said Brig. Gen. Kirklin. "Joining ROTC doesn't mean you have to stop being a normal college student, or stop enjoying other extra-curricular activities. I learned the fundamentals of becoming a small unit leader, and it certainly improved my knowledge of what it takes to lead and manage. I was also surrounded by good ROTC Cadre like Command Sergeant Major (Retired)

Hudgins and First Sergeant (Retired) Hines and by other great Cadets, who were commissioned as officers and have also had successful military and civilian careers. Even today, there is a strong communications network between us."

A Lexington, Miss. native, he notes joining ROTC as the best decision he ever made as a young man. "I did not realize it at the time I did it, but certainly realized the life benefits it provided a few semesters and years later," said Brig. Gen. Kirklin. "It helped me to become focused, a better student, a better leader and person. I also have to thank my brother, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Virgil Kirklin because he was already in the ROTC program and was constantly coaching and mentoring me on the opportunities that existed if I joined the program."

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from MVSU. Also, he received the Distinguished Military Graduate distinction upon leaving the University. He received master's degrees from Kansas State University and United States Army War College. His military education includes the Quartermaster Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Command and General Staff College, and the United States Army War College.

Brig. Gen. Kirklin's awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat Action Badge, and Parachutist Badge.

A milestone for Brig. Gen. Kirklin has been commanding at both the battalion and brigade levels in combat during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn.

Throughout all of his achievements, Brig. Gen. Kirklin considers MVSU as the educational foundation he needed to enter into life beyond college. "MVSU was also the place where I was introduced to Army ROTC, many lifelong friends, and life lessons," said Brig. Gen. Kirklin. "I am forever grateful for the opportunities MVSU provided me."





We support *our hometown Delta Devils!*

From the summer heat to the autumn's chill, Greenwood will always be there for our local team. Whether tailgating before the game, watching on the big screen from afar, or cheering on the Delta Devils at our hometown stadium, Greenwood looks forward to seeing you in the end zone.

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CLASS NOTES

1950's



**DR. CHRESTEEN
FRIDAY-SEALS'58,**
Elected November 4,
2014 to represent District
4 on the Cleveland
School Board District in
Cleveland, MS.

1960's



**MAURINE
GRAY, PH.D.'68**
Received her Ph.D. in
Theology on December
19, 2014, from Agape
Bible College, West
Memphis, AR and
currently serves as
an Instructor at the

local branch of the Agape Bible College in
Greenville, MS. She is a retired educator of 38
years.

Dr. Gray is the President of MVSU Bolivar
County Alumni Chapter and Chaplain of
MVSU National Alumni Association.

1970's



**DAVID P.
GRIGSBY'70**
Recently featured in
Strathmore's Who's
Who Worldwide
Edition, Mr. Grigsby
is an international
business and investment
consulting professional

who has an outstanding track record in
business. He is the current managing member
and CEO of TGG Global Consulting, LLC.
His first break in business happened during
his last semester at "The Valley," beating out
seven other students for the chance to attend
a management internship program in Saranac

Lake, N.Y. A trailblazer in his field, Grigsby
was the first African American member of the
Partnership Council at Prudential Securities.
He has received numerous honors, including
the Heroes Award from the Boys Choir of
Harlem. Grigsby was born in Greenville, MS
on March 6, 1949. He received his Bachelor
of Science in Business from MVSU in 1970,
completed Master of Business Administration
at St. John's University, and attended the
Donald T. Regan School of Advanced Financial
Management from 1985 to 1987. In his spare
time, he enjoys travel, reading and ministry.



**SANDY
BENDER'71**
A native of Picayune,
MS, Mr. Bender earned
a Bachelor of Science in
Biology from MVSU
and is the 2015 S.T.A.R
Honoree for the Jackson
State University Alumni

Association. He continued his studies at New
York University, Bank Street College in New
York and has received numerous certificates
from courses he has taken elsewhere.

Bender currently serves as Deputy Director
for the Comprehensive After School System
(COMPASS) of New York City at the
Department of Youth and Community
Development. COMPASS helps young people
build knowledge, skills, self-confidence and
nurtures their aspirations through a variety of
high quality enrichment programs.

Bender developed a strong sense of community
service at an early age. As a college freshman,
he was introduced to civil rights icon Fannie
Lou Hamer, and became involved in local
political organizing efforts. His dedication and
concerns for the youth and his community
led him to leadership positions in many local,
national and international organizations.
Recognizing the need to mold young minds,
Bender served as an Assistant Teacher for 13
years at the Brownsville Child Care Center in
Brooklyn, gaining recognition as an industrious
and respected community member. He is also
member of Epsilon Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta
Sigma Fraternity, Inc.



**MICKEY
BRELAND'72**
A retired Heavy
Equipment Supervisor
from Stennis Space
Center located in
Hancock County,
MS, Mr. Breland
spends his time Bass

fishing, playing computer games and reading.
Mickey is the father of one son Roderick and
currently resides in Gulfport, MS with his wife
Jacqueline Dancy Breland. He is also a member
of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.



**JACQUELINE
DANCY BRELAND'73**
Earned her Bachelor of
Elementary Education
from MVSU in is a
1973. After 30 years as a
First Grade Teacher with
Harrison County School
System, she became ill

and retired. She now enjoys working with the
youth at her church, reading, and doing crafts.
She is the mother of one son Roderick. She
is currently resides in Gulfport, MS with her
husband Mickey D. Breland.



**SANDRA
DANCY JONES'78**
Sandra Dancy Jones
is a 1978 graduate
of Mississippi Valley
State University with a
Bachelor of Science in
Elementary Education
and a minor in Special

Education. She received her Master of Science
in School Counseling, from the University
of West Alabama. After 35 years with the
Noxubee County School System, she decided
it was time to retire. Sandra enjoys shopping
and volunteering in her community. She is
the cofounder of, Distinguished Men of Color.
Sandra is the mother of two children, Chris
and Candice. Together they have blessed her
with five awesome grandchildren. She currently
resides in Shuqualak, MS with her husband Dr.
Kevin Jones.

**ELIZABETH D. EVANS'79**

Serves as an Assistant Professor of Public Administration and Rural Public Policy and Planning in the Social Sciences Department at Mississippi Valley

State University. She also coordinates MVSU's undergraduate Public Administration program, and is the current President of the MVSU Faculty Senate.

She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics from Mississippi Valley State University, where she was commissioned as a Distinguished Graduate of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) program in May 1979. She went on to earn a Master of Arts Degree in Public Management from the University of Houston-Clear Lake in August 1986, and a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Public Policy and Administration from Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS in December 2012.

She joined the Mississippi Valley State University faculty in 2003 and teaches freshman through senior level courses, graduate courses, and manages the undergraduate internship program. Her personal passions are continuous personal improvement and student achievement. She believes teaching is more than giving of information; it is ensuring that learning takes place.

1980's

**SANDRA BOYD'80**

Appointed by Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell and confirmed by the Shelby County Board of Commissioners in January 2015, to

serve on the Juvenile Justice Consortium. This Consortium serves as a liaison between the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, the Memphis-Shelby Juvenile Court and Shelby County, TN. She is a life member of the MVSU National Alumni Association, Memphis Alumni Association and a retired educator, after more than 33 years of teaching. Additionally, she is the daughter of Mr. Eugene McCray, Jr., who retired in 1988, from teaching at "The Valley."

**DENNIS RAY QUINN'86**

After receiving his Bachelor of Science in Accounting in May 1986, Quinn was hired as an Employee Plan Specialist for the Internal Revenue

Service. He was later promoted to Return Classification Specialist and now currently services as the Senior Quality Assurance Employee Plan Specialist. He is currently the Head of Youth Ministry and Deacon of the Antioch Lithonia Baptist Church.

1990's

**JAMES H. MOORE, JR., PH.D.'90**

Became the Vice President for the Labor Division of IMPAQ International in October 2014. Dr. Moore manages

IMPAQ's multi-million dollar portfolio including a project with the U.S. Department of Labor to develop a descriptive statistical profile of women veterans and their economic and employment characteristics – helping clients better understand their needs and workforce challenges. He manages a talented team of labor economists and research professionals while leading the continued growth of the Labor Division.

Just recently, the U.S. Secretary of Labor approved Dr. James Moore's appointment to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Data Users Advisory Committee (DUAC). As a member, Dr. Moore will provide advice to the BLS on technical matters related to the collection, analysis, dissemination, and use of the Bureau's statistics, published reports, and its overall mission and function. As IMPAQ's Labor executive, Dr. Moore provides the company's viewpoints as it relates to the priorities of BLS data users, suggestions for BLS program modifications, and innovations ideas for data collection, dissemination, and presentation

Prior to joining IMPAQ, Dr. Moore served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy. In that role, Dr. Moore provided advice to the Secretary of Labor, Deputy Secretary, and departmental agencies

on policy development matters and the economic policy, research, and analysis agenda of the Department.

Dr. Moore has held numerous federal government positions including Senior Economist for the Employee Benefits Security Administration, Office of Policy and Research, U.S. Department of Labor and as a Labor Economist with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and with the Social Security Administration. Dr. Moore has also conducted extensive research on workforce development issues, income security, and the economics of aging with emphasis on the economic status of Baby Boomers. He has published several articles on these topics.

Dr. Moore, a war time veteran who currently holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the New Jersey Army National Guard, earned his B.S. from Mississippi Valley State University (1990), an M.A. from Virginia State University (1994), and his Ph.D. in Economics from Howard University (2004).

**DR. TALISA DIXON'91**

Named as the next District Superintendent for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights (CH-UH) Board of Education, Dr.

Talisa Dixon currently serves as the Deputy Superintendent: Teaching & Learning for the Saginaw Public School District in Saginaw, MI.

Dr. Dixon comes to the CH-UH District very familiar with Ohio. She began her professional career as an instructor at The University of Akron. She later taught high school social studies prior to serving as an assistant principal for Akron City Schools. She also served in two principal roles in the Columbus Schools. A graduate of Mississippi Valley State University with a B.A. degree, Dr. Dixon also holds three M.A. degrees and an Ed.D. from The University of Akron.

The CH-UH Board of Education chose Dr. Dixon after a thorough and exhaustive selection process, which included a national search with the help of a search consultant and substantial community input. "It is an honor to be chosen as the CH-UH School District's next superintendent," said Dr. Dixon. "I am excited about the opportunity to meet and work with the Tiger Nation staff, students and community. Together we

can create a school community that provides meaningful partnerships for the academic success for all children. This is an exhilarating time to join the CH-UH School District and I am committed for the long haul."



VALERIA HAWKINS'97

A native of Clarksdale, MS, Hawkins was recognized with a Spotlight Award at the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration's

(NASPAA) conference in Albuquerque, NM in 2014. Hawkins was recognized for her work as the Mississippi Program Manager with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Healthy Schools Program for her efforts to help reduce the epidemic of childhood obesity in the Mississippi Delta. The Alliance is a national nonprofit founded by the American Heart Association and W.J. Clinton Foundation.



KIZMET CLEVELAND'99

As an MVSU student, Ms. Cleveland got involved with HIV/AIDS community outreach activities. Since then in 2008, she founded and became

the Executive Director of Pharos, INC. a 501 c 3 HIV/AIDS service organization non-profit located in Greenwood, MS. Through Pharos, Ms. Cleveland build partnerships with federal, state and regional HIV/AIDS agencies. Additionally, Kizmet is also the MS Delta Housing Case Manager for the ASC Housing Consortium an agency from Hattiesburg, MS.

In the summer of 2014, Ms. Cleveland was selected as a stakeholder for the Southeastern Health Equity Council (SHEC) Region IV and previously served on the Mississippi Department of Health's HIV/AIDS Community Planning Group. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority, Inc.

A Tupelo, MS native and a 1999 graduate of Mississippi Valley State University with a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration, she received her Masters of Arts in Psychology & Counseling from Maranatha Christian College

Nora Gough-Davis'99, DNP, MBA, MSNS, FNP-BC

As an inaugural member of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree from Delta

State University, Nora earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree in 2014, and represents the highest level of academic preparation for nursing practice.

Dr. Davis earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology and Chemistry from Mississippi Valley State University in 1999 and was the Valedictorian for the graduating class. While at "The Valley", she became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in 1997.

Nora is currently co-owner, administrator and nurse practitioner for Shaw Family Medical, a family practice clinic located in Shaw, MS. This clinic was opened in 2012.

TRINA N. GEORGE'99

Recipient of the 2014 Unsung Hero Award, which recognizes outstanding work in rural development, George serves as the State Director for Rural Development. She was recognized by the Organization of Professional Employees of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (OPEDA) as one of 15 employees honored nationwide and the only one from Rural Development. OPEDA supports members in their public service as well as protects and advances employee interests. George is a graduate of Grenada High School and Holmes Community College and holds a Bachelor degree from Mississippi Valley State University and a master degree from Mississippi State University.

2000's

EDWARD H. HILL C'02,

Director of West Bolivar County Consolidated School District's Child Nutrition Program, was appointed to the State Food Distribution Advisory Council. The National School Lunch Program regulations contain a requirement for the State educational agency to oversee a State Food Distribution Advisory Council which meets periodically and provides recommendations on the commodity program. Council members are appointed for three-year staggered terms; in addition, members must represent a variety of schools and administrative levels. The council conducts a food-preference survey and gathers information; the council reports findings to the State Office of Child Nutrition. The state, in turn, informs USDA of the council's recommendations. Activities of the council

are vital links in the State information network. Recommendations by the council have often resulted in documented programs improvements. Hill will serve the following counties in Mississippi: Desoto, Marshall, Tunica, Tate, Coahoma, Quitman, Panola, Lafayette, Bolivar, Sunflower, Leflore, Tallahatchie, Yalobusha, Grenada and Carroll.

Edward earned his B.S. in Business Administration from Mississippi Valley State University in 2002. While attending MVSU, he served as the Pre-Alumni Club President for two consecutive terms. In addition, Mr. Hill is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and "proud" active member of the MVSU National Alumni Association, Inc., and the Bolivar County, MS Alumni Chapter.

ROBERT L. WILLIAMS, JR'04

Received his second master degree from Delta State University in Sports Administration/ Management in December 2014 and his Bachelor of Science in History from MVSU.



MARQUES LIPSEY'02

MVSU alum and educator Marques Lipsey recently published his first novel, through which he explores life in the Delta and the perennial

problems facing the black community in the region. Titled My Delta Blues, the novel is about a 15-year-old boy who has recently moved to the Delta from Chicago to live with his grandmother. The story takes place over one summer, yet through flashbacks, Lipsey delves into the history of his young protagonist, Malachi, exploring the events that both influenced his character and instigated the challenges he faces going forward.

Although Malachi, Lipsey's protagonist, is from Chicago, Lipsey was raised much closer to home in nearby Greenville, MS. After finishing his undergraduate education in 2000, he worked for Wwiscaa, a nonprofit community action agency, for several months before getting a job as a substitute teacher for Greenville Public Schools. In 2001, he became a high school teacher in Greenville, MS and after his first full year of teaching, he came to MVSU in the summer of 2002 to obtain his M.A. in Teaching.

With this book now complete, Lipsey is hoping that it can serve, in part, as a launch board for other things. He stated that he

would like to do some public and motivational speaking. He also discussed wanting to be a guest lecturer at a college. "I'm an educator," he said, stating that the work that he does with his students, he would like to bring to a wider audience. "I would like to inspire anyone who can't see the forest for the trees, that you can do it."



VERONICA (BLAINE) TUCKER 2006

Nominee for Huntsville Chamber of Commerce Young Professional of the Year Award 2014.



TIMOTHY E. LAMPKIN '08

Appointed to the 2014-2015 Delta Leadership Institute (DLI) Executive Academy by the Governor of Mississippi Phil Bryant and Federal Co-Chairman

Christopher A. Masingill. The DLI Executive Academy is a yearlong leadership development program coordinated by the Delta Regional Authority for regional leaders that prepares them to collaborate and address the most pressing issues of the Delta region. Lampkin is currently the Community Development Officer for Southern Bancorp Community Partners (SBCP) in Clarksdale, MS. He works with the city, county, and local nonprofits to identify funding for community development projects. Since joining in November 2013, he has helped secure over a half of million dollars for projects in Coahoma County.

Timothy earned his B.S. in Business Administration from Mississippi Valley State University, M.B.A. from Delta State University, and a M.S. in Organizational Performance from Bellevue University. He is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Education in Adult and Lifelong Learning from the University of Arkansas. Some of his affiliations include the Placemaking Leadership Council, American Management Association, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Mississippi Broadband Initiative, Christian Community Development Association, and the Federal Voting Rights Observer Program.



CORDIA MCFARLAND '09

Received a promotion as Career and Technical Education Director for the following schools: City Preparatory School, Focus Learning Academies: Southwest,

Southeast and Focus North High School.

Focus Learning is a state-funded charter school that helps teens and young adults earn their high school diploma while preparing for the workforce. Their unique structure offers a choice in courses, accommodates self-paced studies, and allows students to earn a living while attending school.



PRECIOUS PERSON-REDMOND '09

Named Star Teacher for the 2013-14 school year in the Greenwood Public School District. Precious holds a Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership and

Administration and a Master's in Elementary Education from Delta State University. She earned her Bachelor of Science in English Education from Mississippi Valley State University.



TRAVIS DIXON '10

Golden Apple Teacher of the Month, Dixon rapped his way into the hearts and minds of his math students at Neshoba Central High School in Philadelphia,

MS. In front of an assembly of students, Dixon was surprised to learn he was the Golden Apple teacher of the month winner, but he acknowledged his raps help students understand the quadratic equation impacted his numerous nominations for the award.

During the presentation of the Golden Apple Award, Dixon received a Golden Apple trophy, a \$300 check, a voucher for \$1,000 in school supplies and he will automatically be considered for teacher of the year. For the Golden Apple Award, each month nominations are solicited and a panel of judges considers the nominations after the teachers' names, and the names of the schools have been removed.

DAVID FLETCHER '12,

second year law student at the University of Mississippi, participated on a national championship team at the National Professional Responsibility Moot Court Competition hosted at Indiana University School of Law – Indianapolis. The three member professional ethics team triumphed and received the award for Best Brief Respondent.

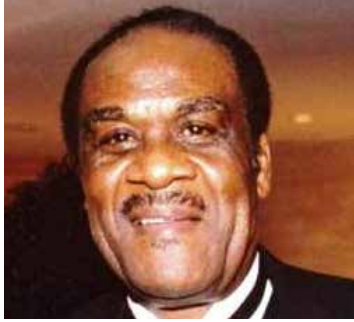
"We worked extremely hard preparing for this (competition) and we took down the number one team in the country — Florida Coastal for the win, arguing in the Indiana Supreme Court," said Fletcher. "It was an experience – to say the least."

Fletcher was the captain of the Mississippi Valley State University Mock Trial Team. He attributes some of his continued success in law school competitions to his training and experience at the Valley. "One of the standards for our moot court board is to perform without any notes," said Fletcher. "This sets winning teams apart from the rest. Having this exact same standard from years of participation on Valley's mock trial team has helped immensely in my preparation for this tournament. I can't adequately express my appreciation to Dr. Larry Chappell for helping me gain those skills."

Fletcher served as a judge and assistant coach this past year for the Valley Mock Trial Team. "Our team is truly grateful that David is willing to give back his time and energy to his alma mater," said Dr. Chappell, Mock Trial Coach. "It is difficult to find words for how proud I am that he has won the highest awards so quickly as a law student."

ALUMNI

ON THE MOVE



1960'S
BERAY THIGPEN '62

Was recognized by his peers at the 2015 HBCU-National Band Director Consortium (NBDC) during their Eleventh (11) Annual Convention in Atlanta, GA. The purpose of the Historically Black Colleges & Universities National Band Directors Consortium (HBCU-NBDC) is to provide an opportunity for Band Directors and students from predominately-black institutions to collaborate and develop strategic plans for success in instrumental music programs.

Beray Thigpen was born on July 3rd in Taylorville, MS to the late CeRoy and Mae Alma Thigpen. Beray is the youngest of seven children. He attended Smith County Public Schools and the now world famous Piney Woods Country Life School in Piney Woods, MS. He later attended Mississippi Valley State College in Itta Bena, MS where he received a Bachelor's of Science in Industrial Arts Education and a Bachelor's of Science in Music Education, graduating valedictorian of his class.



1963 (BY THE WAY OF 1973)
ANN WEST-WALKER

was recognized in October 2014 as a "Living Legend" during the Friends of Rosie G. Washington Annual Living Legends Gala in Gary, IN. She has led and served on various boards throughout northwest Indiana ranging from the Urban League Northwest Indiana, Gary Chamber of Commerce, and NAACP to Gary Historical and Cultural Society. Walker serves the needs of others by working through her lifetime memberships in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the MVSU National Alumni Association, Inc., and the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa. Ann West-Walker is dedicated to service and has a passion for uplifting others through poetry, education and the arts.

She is the wife of Bill Walker and mother of Melody Ann Walker.



1980'S
SCOTT & CLAIRE HINTON
C'85 & 86

May 2015 will mark the 30th Anniversary of the then oldest Graduates of Mississippi Valley State University, Scott & Claire Hinton. Mrs. Claire Hinton was 75 and completed her requirements in 1985. Scott was 79 and completed his requirements in January 1986. He died of a heart attack before marching, so his wife, Mrs. Claire received his degree posthumously.



1980'S
LASHURN WILLIAMS,
ED.S., C'89

attended Mississippi Valley State University and graduated in 1989 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. Williams is the principal at Bolton-Edwards Elementary/Middle School in Bolton, MS. Under her leadership, Bolton-Edwards successfully raised academic performance from "At Risk of Failing" to "High Performance Award" in two years. In January 2015, she was named the 2014-2015 Hinds County School District Administrator of the Year.

Williams's philosophy of education is that "all children can learn when they are provided instructions, guidance, encouragement, and empowerment to become successful individual.

She has seven years of administrative experiences, seventeen years of educational experiences, and has been in her current position as principal of Bolton-Edwards for two years.

I N M E M O R I A M

Norris E. Addison	Sherry Mosley
Taraneika Addison 2006	Charles Nichols
Robert F. Armstrong	Johnnie L. Nichols
Ronald Austin 2009	Eric W. Nicholson 1984
Maggie B. Bafford	Yvonne M. Oneal 1966
Joe Blake, Jr 1968	Eddie M. Ousley
Edward E. Boggs 1963	Lisa Parker
Billy Brown 1980	Jimmie N. Perkins
Lamar S. Brown	Charles E. Plainer, Sr
Linda Brown	Archie Quinn, Jr 1971
Constance M. Carter	Ardenia A. Rambeau
Alex L. Crawford, Jr 1968	Willie M. Reed 1995
Nathaniel Cunningham	Michael W. Rosa
Jeff Curtis, Jr 1972	Alfreda B. Rose
Erica S. Day	Beverly D. Ross
William P. Dennis	Jerome Ross 1980
Rebecca L. Denson	Clyde L. Sanders 1985
James O. Dudley	Vivian Sandidge 1963
Doretha Eason-Stewart	Mary Woods-Shaffer 1975
Barbara A. Evans 1980	Reubin Smith
Lee A. Frison, Sr. 1963	Arthur L. Sproles 1975
Paul T. Futch 1970	Isabelle Stokes
Lovie Goins	Teresa G. Stokes
Evelyn Graham 1963	Jake Sutton, Jr
Leslie S. Greene 2008	Lucille Tardy
Victoria A. Greene	Lemmie L. Taylor
Leonardo Hannah 2014	Rueben Watson, Sr. 1959
Gloria D. Harris 1987	Inez H. White
Joanne J. Harris	Joseph White, Jr
Bessie L. Henderson	Tavares Williams
Anna L. Hicks	Melvin L. Willis, Sr
W L. Holman	James B. Yeldell, Jr
Johnny B. Holt	Bernadine Young 1990
Bonnie J. Horton	Gwendolyn A. Young 2014
Loisteen Jackson	John Dickerson
Mary O. Johnson	Willie Fontaine
Willie R. Jones 1970	Angeline M. Harris
Rosa P. Keefer 1957	Jeffrey L. Huddleston 1985
Eva M. King 1967	Ruby E. McSwine
Mary A. Lenard	Morris T. Murray, Sr.
Cornelius Louis, Jr 1981	James J. Roberson
Addie Love 2008	Corrie Smith, Jr
Thunshonda Madison	Norman Smith
Dexter Martin 2002	Richard Spurlock, Sr
Etta B. McDowell	Tarkeshia J. Steen
Timothy E. McKinley 2000	Lutillie Stepney
Dorothy McMorris	Roosevelt Williamson, Sr
Ollie McWilliams	

Dear Alumni and Friends:

We are delighted to greet you as fellow alumni and Valley Supporters. What a great time we have together celebrating the many fond memories of our stay at MVSU. From the inception of this great institution, someone saw a need for its existence. Has the need change? No, it is needed more now than ever. Therefore, we are soliciting your support in building a stronger University. We must say to ourselves, if our founders visualized this institution with less resources and very limited technology if any, what can we do to make it stronger, more viable and attractive for our young people?

Fred and I want to challenge you today to give your resources, both cash and in-kind and your time to making MVSU what we know it can become. As we enter a "New Era" at the Valley, let us all work together to move the university forward. We can do this if we all work collectively to achieve the goal of educating young people to compete in a global economy. We have the skills, talents and the determination to fulfil our mission which is "Live for Service."

Mississippi Valley State University needs you! Our task ahead will not be easy with inadequate funding and talk of closure or merger coming up every few years. It is time for us to come together and be the supporting family that Valley needs. Can we make the difference? Yes, we can!

In closing, I am reminded of the story of Nehemiah rebuilding the walls of Jericho. Nehemiah had opposition but he also he knew who was on his side. Let us emanate together to fight against the adversary and work diligently to rebuild this precious jewel in the Delta, *Mississippi Valley State University*.

Join us today in making MVSU better for tomorrow.

Margaret Clark

Mrs. Margaret W. Clark,
Attorney Fredrick B. Clark

ONE GOAL
TEAM
VALLEY



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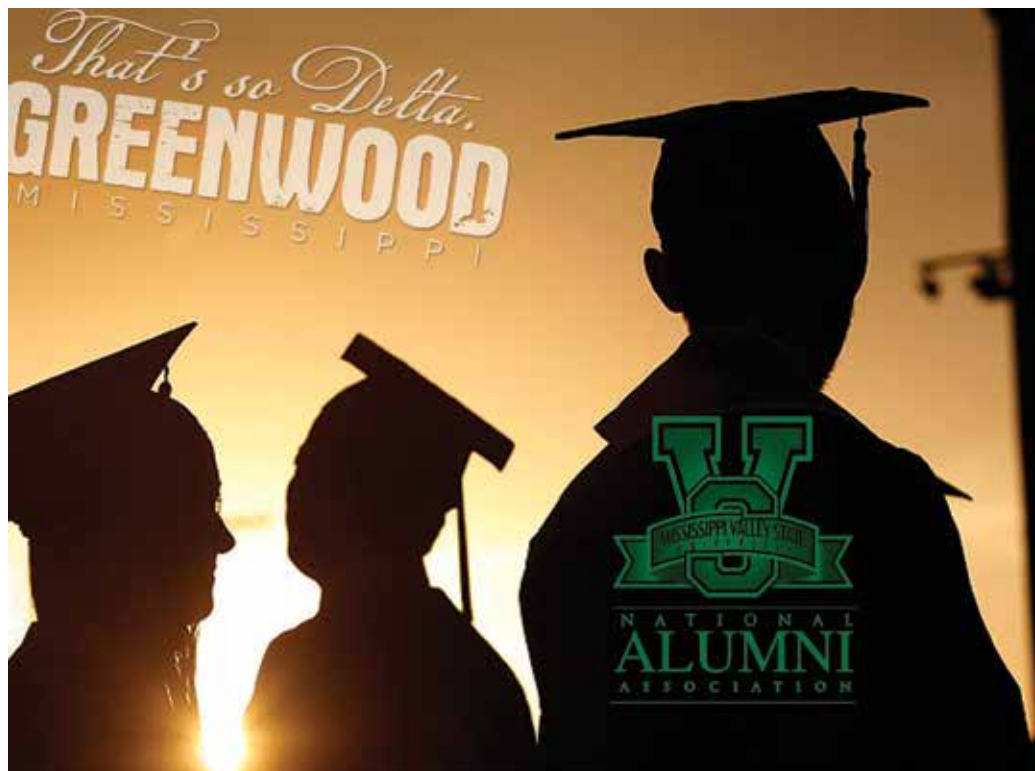


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Go Delta Devils!

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GREENWOOD
MISSISSIPPI



From left to right: Mayor Carolyn McAdams, Johnny Jennings - Ward 1, Lisa Cookston - Ward 2, Ronnie Stevenson - Ward 3, Charles McCoy - Ward 4, Andrew Powell - Ward 5, David Jordan - Ward 6 and Carl Palmer - Ward 7



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