

GAZETTE

the delta devils

An award-winning college newspaper, by students for students

MARCH 2024

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY • ITTA BENA, MISSISSIPPI

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MVSU Spring 2024 High School Day attracts nearly 1,500 students

By Michael Coleman, Graduate Student

Mississippi Valley State University held its annual High School Day on Friday, March 22. The event drew nearly 1,500 high school students to the Harrisons Complex, where they participated in exciting activities promoting the university.

The MVSU Office of Admission invited mostly high schools from the Southern region, but they also promoted the event heavily on social media, making it open to all. The school that traveled the furthest was Madison Metropolitan High School in Wisconsin.

“We have students from four of our schools,” said Tijuana Fountain-Wright, a student engagement specialist with the Madison, Wisconsin School District. “We are on spring break.”

Admissions Director Dr. Johnson expressed his satisfaction with the event,



(See highlights on the Delta Devils' Gazette Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/>)

stating, “My team and I did a great job today, everyone did great. We’ve been

getting good feedback and had 1,499 students to check-in. Now, we’ve got

to regroup for Monday and continue working towards our goals.”

Putting Theory into Practice

MVSU Mass Communication Department culminates its spring speakers' series

By Jaheim Wilder, Student Writer

ITTA BENA, Miss. — Mississippi Valley State University’s Mass Communication Department culminated its spring speakers’ series on March 21, 2024, with a notable event at the Cliff E. Williams Auditorium, housed in the Business Education Building.

Dr. Donna Oti, a distinguished figure in journalism, education, and research, was the featured speaker, drawing from her experience to enlighten students and faculty on the evolving dynamics of mass communication.

Dr. Oti, who has an illustrious career spanning more than two decades, has held prestigious positions, including associate collegiate professor at the University of Maryland, post-doctoral fellow at the U.S. Department of Defense, and communication instructor at the Department of State Foreign Service Institute. She has been at the forefront of facilitating leadership programs across various sectors, including education and health. In her presentation titled, “Mass Communication Studies: Past, Present, and Future,” Dr. Oti emphasized the core principles of journalism: seeking truth, minimizing harm, acting independently,



and maintaining accountability and transparency. She highlighted the critical issue of health disparities among minorities and the significant funds wasted due to these disparities, advocating for a reduction in healthcare inequities. Dr. Oti cautioned against the use of harmful skin-lightening agents, promoting the message that “Beauty comes in all shades.”

Beyond her speaking engagements, Dr. Oti is the founder and CEO of Communication and Culture, LLC, an organizational communication consultancy established in 2021. With a Ph.D. in Communication and Culture, she leads her team in providing research, strategy, and training services to enhance communication practices within organizations across the health,

education, defense, and diplomacy sectors. Her work, particularly in promoting health equity and educating on the risks of harmful skincare products, has garnered her the 2023 Entrepreneur of the Year Award from the Catalyst for Business and Entrepreneurship.

Dr. Oti’s commitment to bridging theory and practice in the field of mass communication was clear in her discourse, encouraging students to explore the myriad opportunities in journalism, research, and entrepreneurship. As the mass communication landscape continues to evolve, speakers like Dr. Oti play a pivotal role in inspiring the next generation of communicators to navigate and shape the future of this dynamic field.

Students say they learned a great deal from Dr. Oti’s presentation.

“Dr. Oti’s presentation was definitely one of the many highlights of the Department of Mass Communication Speakers’ Series,” said Jarkevious Edwards, Mister MVSU. “Not only was the presentation informative, it was also a template for graduating seniors who are conducting research. That was truly the tip of the iceberg.”

Women's History Month and Mental Health Month: "What have you done for YOU lately?"

By Amber E. Stewart, Editor-in-Chief

Contigo Wellness, a mental health equity non-profit organization, declared March to be Women's Mental Health Awareness month. While the month of March is known to be Women's History Month, I would like to think that they both work hand in hand.

According to hopkinsmedicine.org, women's emotions and their mental health play an influential role in their daily lives. Those two roles alone can affect the overall behavior in the individual's social life, work life, mental health, and other areas of their lives. Why is this important? Women play an important role in family and society being both the nurturer and the backbone.

As a woman who wears different hats, I know that it can become very overwhelming trying to keep an organized life with all of these

responsibilities. Acknowledging that the role that women play in society can sometimes cause poor mental health issues should not be a perturbed subject but it should be a subject of urgency and concern.

Several free tips to help cope with mental health issues according to Mental Health America's article, "31 Tips to Boost Your Mental Health" include: Track gratitude and achievements, schedule a getaway, take time to laugh, dance, practice forgiveness, and smile. These tips alone can be very helpful and provide great results.

My question to you is, what have you done for YOU lately? It is always good to make sure that every role is fulfilled on a consistent basis; however, down time for rejuvenation is needed because you cannot pour from an empty cup. Make time for yourself!

Take care,
Amber E



Stewart

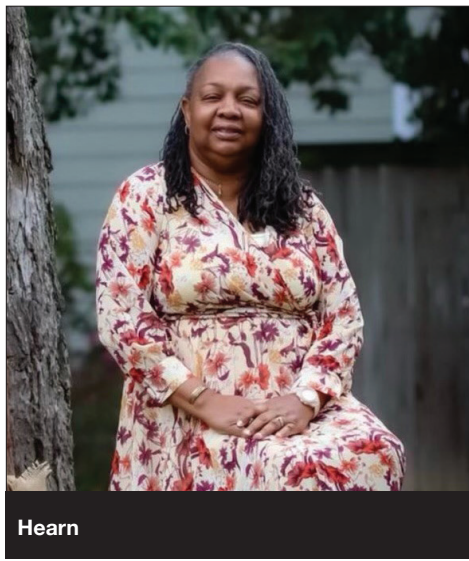


By Zapouria Wadley, Student Columnist

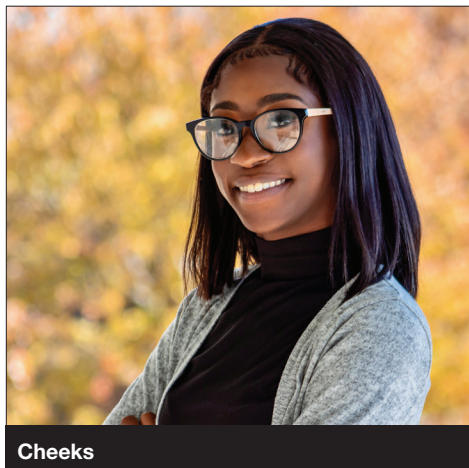
Hello, MVSU Family!
Happy Women's History Month! Whether you identify as a male or a female, women play a critical role in all of our lives. They are the ones who give birth to us. That alone is enough said. I am extremely grateful for every woman who has positively impacted my life. This month, I would like to highlight two women who have positively impacted my life during my academic journey at MVSU.

This first phenomenal woman that I will highlight is Connie F. Hearn. Mrs. Hearn was my first academic advisor assigned to me through University College as a freshman at MVSU. During my entire freshman year, Mrs. Hearn made sure that I succeeded academically as a new student from a different state. She frequently called me to see how my classes were going, and she would always register me early for my classes to ensure that my spot was secured in my required General Core classes. As a graduating senior, I can proudly say that I am grateful to have crossed paths with Mrs. Hearn at the Valley.

The second phenomenal woman that I will highlight is Dominique Cheeks. I met Cheeks as my peer within the Mass Communications Department at MVSU. Cheeks graduated from the department in the Spring of 2023. Although Cheeks graduated with a focus in public relations, her first job that she accepted was at The Delta News in Greenville, Miss. as a multimedia journalist.



Hearn



Cheeks

After three months of working as a multimedia journalist for the Delta News, Cheeks accepted another position as the staff writer for the Delta Health Alliance in Leland, Miss. As the staff writer, Cheeks is responsible for creating and disbursing all of the organization's press releases. Dominique has grown to be my close friend, and I am grateful to have met her during my journey at the Valley.

Newspaper carried by two additional locations

DDG Staff Report

The Delta Devils' Gazette is grateful to announce that two new businesses have agreed to be a pickup location in their communities for our campus newspaper:

Urgent & Primary Care of Clarksdale, 125 Hwy 322, Clarksdale, MS 38614

B B King Museum – Delta Interpretive Center, 400 Second Street Indianola, MS 38751

The Delta Devils' Gazette campus newspaper may also be picked up from the following business locations:

The Greenwood Market Place, 410 W. Park Ave., Greenwood, MS

Save-a-Lot, 719 W. Park Ave., Greenwood, MS

CitiTrends, 2608 US-82, Greenwood, MS

Dollar General Market, Hwy 82 W., Itta Bena, MS

Double Quick, Hwy 82 W., Itta Bena, MS

PEAK's Restaurant, Hwy 49, Tchula, MS

JANUARY 2024 **GAZETTE** **CAMPUS** 3

University College kicks off spring semester with an exciting Student Meet N Greet



MVSU Mass Comm kicks off spring speakers' series with a history-maker



Community Students Learning Center, 333 Yazoo St. Lexington, MS

The Mayor's Office, 105 S. State Street, Duck Hill, MS

Sanders Grocery, US-49E, Minter City, Miss.

Greater Macedonia C.O.G.I.C, CR - 247 Sidon, MS, 38954

Holy Temple M.B. Church, 5077 Cabaniss Circle, Jackson, MS (Sunday mornings only)

Young Chapel M.B. Church, 1196 Young Chapel Road, Duck Hill, MS



American Scholastic Press Association
1989, 1990, 1991, 1997, and 2002 FIRST PLACE winner.
2015 THIRD PLACE winner. 2016 SECOND PLACE winner.

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<https://mvsu.edu/academics/academic-programs/mass-communication-homepage>

Student Voices Question:

What is your opinion about this legislation that could ban TikTok in the U.S.?

In my opinion, the legislation's attempts to ban TikTok is more of a money move. I honestly don't think it's a national security concern, because they want to buy TikTok from China. This means the United States will have our data as well, and what are they doing with this data that they are holding on to. From my standpoint, TikTok has been a very powerful platform with information about our government, and information about things that are going on in our economy.

TikTok users have also been given the opportunity to work for themselves to reach financial freedom. More people are able to make more money and replace their 9-5 with working for themselves. This is the reason I feel like our government wants to get rid of TikTok. I think they want more people to go back to the workforce and not make a way for themselves. When the pandemic happened people saw that they didn't need to work jobs that didn't serve them anymore. They found ways like being an influencer and building brands and businesses for themselves. TikTok has been a big part of that. TikTok has also brought out so much information to the younger generation's attention. I feel like our government want our eyes to be closed to some of the things that happen in the United States.

TikTok is a platform where information is being gained from everywhere. Yes, we do know that we have to decipher what's the truth from fake news. A lot of the time we are told to watch the news, but that is what TikTok has become for our generation. TikTok covers world news, celebrity news, and war conflicts, and gives us as a collective the chance to connect with each other without specifically talking to a person one by one. Overall TikTok has been way more positive than harmful to the people of the United States.

-SRA'Daija Powell
Mass Com. Major

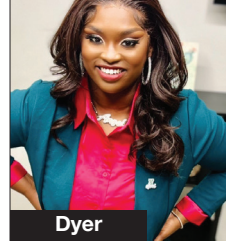
Word on the street is, the use of the famous app TikTok may be banned from USA citizens. This has been a loud topic and fans of TikTok have been letting their voices be heard. Since 2016 TikTok has been the way people express themselves creatively through short videos. From cooking tutorials, news updates, to talent exposure, and business usage; TikTok has been a

BIG influencer in freedom of speech and self-expression. By this ban taking place, could it possibly set things back for those who are actively receiving income or just even enjoying all the incredible qualities that TikTok embody. According to

Jessica Guynn's article from USA TODAY, "If signed into law, the bill would prevent app stores like Apple and Google from distributing or updating TikTok and web hosting companies from distributing it. This is the least of what's to come with social media platforms, but it is a bombshell!"

-Amber E. Stewart
Speech Communication Major

Honestly being that I am a content creator with over 96,000 followers, not only will it set me back from the previous years, late hours and long nights I dedicated to my work, but it's also going to be hard to continue growing due to the community on TikTok being completely different and diverse from all other platforms because it allows users to



be themselves in a whole new light. Also, as of right now, I'm being paid for content. It is another income that I look forward to. Being a college student, we have other things to pay for; therefore, with the extra income not being in, it will really change my life in more ways than one can imagine. So we really plead that they come up with another platform like TikTok, if they MUST ban it.

-Cortney Dyer
Convergent Media

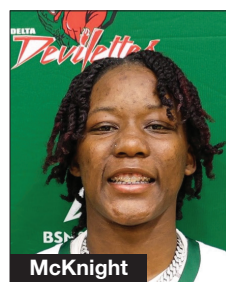
I have mixed views. I really feel like they shouldn't ban TikTok because it's people's lives now and something for people to know how or to go about nowadays. Plus, it keeps you out of trouble most of the time or really trying to figure out something that's going on in the world.

But a lot of people are social media influencers or work for themselves. It's a good thing to work for yourself because you don't worry about going to a 9 to 5 job. It's nothing wrong with that but people now are so used to making money off social media.

The reason why I think they should ban TikTok is because it's taking over young people's minds and having

them do things on the Internet that are not good for younger kids. Most people are scamming or faking about stuff they shouldn't or even meeting people on there that can really hurt some-one. So, that means going into cyberbullying.

-Tymell Davis'
Mass Com. Major

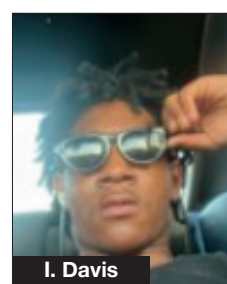


I really do not care if TikTok gets banned or not.

-Sh'Diamond McKnight,
Mass Com. Major

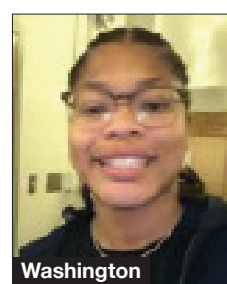
I think Tik Tok should not get banned because it shows us different cultures from all around the world. It keeps us updated with life. It provides people with their money.

-Kgotleelo Malefo
HYPER Major



I think Tik Tok should not be banned because it is the outlet to all social media. I always use the app."

-Isiah Davis,
Mathematics/Computer Science Major



I think TikTok should not be banned because it brings people together and makes people interact more.

-Bailee Washington,
Biology Major

I think TikTok getting banned is not a good idea because I use TikTok to know what is going on around me, and in other states and countries.

-Makyla Henderson,
Business Administration Major

I think TikTok should not be banned because it gives people something to look forward to at the end of the day. For me, it calms me down after a long day.

-Henry Epsy,
Engineering Technology Major

The US House of Representatives voted to ban TIK TOK during a session during this month. Despite the outrage from the American public, personally I could care less about the banning of TIK Tok. I've never used the app, nor do I have an account so therefore I have no personal perspective that I could provide as to why the United States government would want to ban this app. I'm sure they have their reasons but personally the banning of Tik Tok will have no impact on my day-to-day life.

-Shomari Hunt
Mass Communication Major

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS			
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL WEEK	15 April MONDAY	11:00 AM 12:00 PM 04:00 PM	Parade of Flags Start: Sutton Administration Building World Cuisine Front of Cafeteria Bollywood Movie Business Education #101
	16 April TUESDAY	1:00 PM 03:00 PM 06:30 PM	Arabic Calligraphy Library First Floor Lobby Kids Global Child Development Center Fashion Fiesta Social Science Auditorium
	17 April WEDNESDAY	12:00 PM 04:00 PM 06:30 PM	Japanese Calligraphy Science and Technology Lobby Nigerian Movie Business Education #101 Latin Night Pavilion
	18 April THURSDAY	11:00 AM 03:00 PM 05:00 PM	Cultural Fair Sutton Administration Bldg Lobby Kids Global Child Development Center HOLI: Festival of Colors Quad in Front of Library
	19 April FRIDAY	09:00 AM 11:00 AM	Travel the World in VR Sutton Administration Bldg #225 Travel the World in VR Sutton Administration Bldg #225
<p>For more info contact: studyabroad@mvsu.edu 662-254-3092 or 662-254-3094 international@mvsu.edu</p>			

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Mass Comm's inaugural black history event features two African American women publishers

A DDG Staff Report

On the eve of Women's History Month, Feb. 29, 2024, two "powerful" black Mississippi newspaper publishers were the invited presenters for the first MVSU Department of Mass Communication Black History Program. The event was held in the Business Building Auditorium Jackie Hampton, co-owner and publisher of The Mississippi Link, and Alice Thomas-Tisdale, owner, and publisher emerita of the Jackson Advocate presented the inaugural theme: "The Black Press Matters."

"I never majored in mass communication; I just knew I loved people, and that led me to be a sales executive in corporate America," said Hampton. She explained how a connection in Corporate America led her to the newspaper business and she enjoys it.

Thomas-Tisdale learned the newspaper business from her late husband Charles Tisdale. She described her drive for pushing black print with her ability to give other aspiring black writers a chance



to shine.

Students say they learned so much about the Black Press, known today as the National Newspaper Publishers Association NNPA. "I learned that the first black newspaper was called the Freedom's Journal in New York in 1827," said Shdiamond McKnight.

Donovan Sanders was impressed with how well the two publishers are connected with people, "especially them getting to meet the President of the United States."

The program also offered new knowledge for some. "I did not know anything about The Mississippi Link or the Jackson Advocate," said Jakaylah Redmond. Normally, I know my black history, but lately I've realized it's a lot I don't know."

After their educational presentations, the presenters received certificates of appreciation and gifts from the Department of Mass Communication as well as Delta Devils' Gazette t-shirts

from the DDG editors Amber Stewart and Myiesha Smith.

For more information about Mississippi's two leading black press newspapers, visit their websites:

<https://themississippilink.com/> and <https://jacksonadvocateonline.com/> For more on the history of the Black Press, view the documentary, "The Black Press: Soldiers Without Swords" at <https://youtu.be/Wo8Pvr7TyP4>

Gray Media Training Center announces its summer internship

JACKSON, Miss. - Gray Media Training Center at WLBT, a leading institution in media education, is thrilled to announce available opportunities for the 2024 Summer internship program. Designed for enthusiastic and aspiring media professionals, this internship provides a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the dynamic world of media and communications.

The program covers a diverse range of media disciplines, including journalism, marketing, media production, broadcast

engineering, and business development consulting.

Key Features of the Gray Media Training Center Internship Program:

Hands-On Experience: Interns will actively participate in various projects, gaining practical skills and exposure to different facets of media production.

Mentorship: Each intern will be paired with a seasoned mentor who will provide guidance, feedback, and insights throughout the internship.

Networking Opportunities: Interns

will have the chance to connect with industry professionals, guest speakers, and fellow interns, fostering valuable connections for future career endeavors.

Professional Development: The program includes workshops, seminars, and training sessions to enhance interns' professional skills and prepare them for success in the media industry.

Portfolio Building: Interns will have the opportunity to contribute to real projects, allowing them to build a robust portfolio showcasing their work

and accomplishments.

Interested candidates can apply by visiting: gray.tv/careers.

The application deadline is Monday, May 13. For more information, contact Michael A. White, Jr., Director of Operations, at 601-965-7585 or email Michael.White@wlbt.com | graytrainingcenter.tv



STAR STUDENT OF THE MONTH



FEBRUARY 2024

Name: **Tasya Roscoe**
Classification: **Senior**
Major: **Computer Science**
Hometown: **Greenwood**

STAR STUDENT OF THE MONTH



MARCH 2024

Name: **Quorien Waldon**
Classification: **Senior**
Major: **HPER**
Hometown: **Ellenwood, GA**

PHOTO OF THE MONTH *Mental Health Matters!*



This high school student from Madison, Wisc., wearing a hoodie that reads, "Mental Health Matters," was one of 1,499 high schoolers visiting the university during Spring 2024 High School Day, March 22. He plans to attend MVSU with an interest in mass media studies PHOTO by the DDG.

Art as resistance: an interview with Russian political painter

By Ekaterina Minakova, MVSU Global editor

Even in the darkest times of severe censorship, people still find a way to express their views. With the use of figurative language and symbolism, art becomes a way of speaking up when words are forbidden.

Omir Tsar (for safety reasons, the real name won't be revealed) is an aspiring artist and exchange student from Russia. Her paintings depict corruption, authoritarianism, and the pain that people go through. The Delta Devils Gazette spoke with Omir about her inspiration, the connection between art and politics, and the effects of governmental censorship.

When did you gain an interest in politics? What motivated you to become a political artist?

My interest in politics began to grow when I was in high school. Then Navalny* and his fellows completely changed my perception of the country. For me, Russia stopped being a country with the coolest army and a powerful president who should be intimidating.

The more I understood the situation and read the news, the angrier I became,



"I love my country" by Omir

and the more I hated the regime and the destruction that the government was leaving behind. I wanted to act. I wanted and still want to show the other side of propaganda—what the government hides so hard and persistently.

Can you discuss any specific projects or pieces you've created recently?

Sure. Not so long ago, I did a rather simple but very expressive painting of the Russian flag. Originally, the flag has white, blue, and red stripes, but I improved it a little. I crossed out the red color, which signifies blood, with white paint, which represents peace and purity. Now it looks like the flag of the

Russian opposition that stands against the war. Thus, I try to show my protest and disagreement with the current authority.

In what ways do you hope your art can influence public discourse and provoke change?

I want to believe that the meaning I put into my paintings resonates with many people. My goal is to show what Russia looks like now. I want my paintings to support the people suffering from the Putin regime, and also to try to change the minds of people who are in support of the current usurper. The latter may seem out of reach, but sometimes seeing the reality shown in paintings becomes a breaking point in people's perspectives.

How is the art industry in Russia right now? Is it safe to do political art?

Today, the situation with political art is very difficult. Artists' apartments and houses are searched, and artists themselves are fined and imprisoned for dissent. It has become completely unsafe to stay in Russia and still publish your art.

Do you think there can be art without politics?

The beauty of art is that you can say and show what you are thinking about.

Right now, I think a lot about the political situation in Russia and how I can show people what injustice and contradiction are going on in this country. So currently, I can't "separate" myself from politics. Maybe if the war stops, I will switch to something else, but for now, we [me and other political activists] document lawlessness and history through art.

Some people don't want to engage in politics because they think they have nothing to change. What's your opinion on this?

I would like to answer this question in the words of Alexei Navalny.

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is the inaction of good people."

**Alexei Navalny was the leader of the Russian opposition and the founder of the Anti-Corruption Foundation. He has become well-known for his anti-corruption investigations against Russian state corporations and senior officials, as well as his campaigns against President Vladimir Putin and his government.*

Ramadan: A Time of Fasting, Reflection, and Renewal

By Sarah Yasser, 2023-2024 MVSU FLTA

With the sighting of the crescent moon, Muslims worldwide begin Ramadan, a sacred month of deep spiritual reflection. This month commemorates the revelation of the Quran to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), making it a cornerstone of Islamic faith.

Ramadan is the name of 9th month according to the Islamic (Hijri) calendar. The Islamic (Hijri) calendar is lunar which means it is based on the phases of the moon, beginning and ending with the new moon every year. It differs from the widely used Gregorian (Western) calendar which is solar and is based on the Earth's revolutions around the Sun. Unlike the 365 days a year in the Gregorian calendar, the Islamic (Hijri) calendar has 354 or 355 days a year, causing Islamic months and holidays to shift about 11 days earlier each solar year.

Fasting Ramadan is one of the five pillars

of Islam. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast every day from pre-dawn to sunset. They refrain from food, drink, and intimacy during daylight hours. Through fasting, Muslims reinforce the virtues of patience and humility. This act of abstinence serves not only as a physical discipline but as a means to spiritual cleansing and self-improvement and a means to cultivate empathy for the less fortunate.

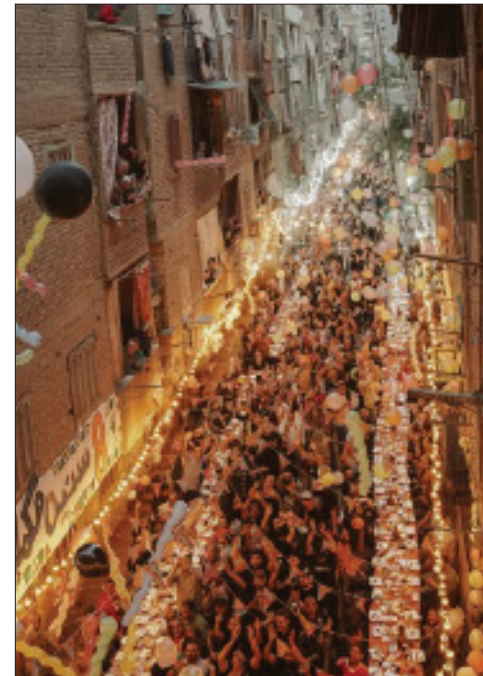
The essence of Ramadan extends beyond its dawn-to-dusk fast. It's a time for believers to deepen their connection with God, seeking forgiveness, mercy, and guidance. Community and charity are also central to Ramadan. Breaking of the fast, known as Iftar, often brings families and communities together to share dishes and enjoy the festive ambiance, strengthening their bonds and fostering a sense of unity. It's a time when mosques become hubs of worship and reflection, with special nightly prayers



The famous lantern (fanoos) that has come to symbolize Ramadan.

called Tarawih.

As Ramadan concludes, the joyous celebration of Eid-al-Fitr brings the community together in a festival of thanksgiving to God. Marked by prayers, feasts, and acts of charity, Eid-al-Fitr embodies the spiritual regeneration and shared joy that Ramadan inspires.



Largest collective Iftar table in Egypt, gathering 3 thousand fasting people to break their fast together.

Celebrate diversity: MVSU's 2024 International Week is here

By Ekaterina Minakova, MVSU Global editor

From April 15-19, 2024, the Office of International Programs is organizing 2024 International Week to celebrate world cultures at MVSU. OIP invites MVSU students, faculty, staff, and the local community to join us in celebrating international culture, art, food, clothes, poetry and music.

The week-long events will feature a country fair, a festival of colors, a global fashion show, a parade of flags, country presentations, international movies, Arabic and Japanese Calligraphy, Henna tattoos and soccer (See schedule, Page 4).



For more information to participate in and co-host international week events, please contact the Office of International Programs at international@mvsu.edu or 662-254-3092/3094.



Students celebrate Holi, the Festival of colors (choose the one that you like).

More than 500 scholars recognized for academic achievements

By Shomari Hunt, Staff Writer

On Thursday, March 14, Mississippi Valley State University held its annual Honors Convocation. During this event, the university honored students who have obtained a 3.0 GPA average or higher.

More than 500 students were listed in the bulletin for meeting the above requirement.

The event was jam-packed with students who received an invitation from the university's Office of Academic Affairs inviting them to participate in the recognition event in appreciation for their commitment to academic excellence.

"The honored scholars were awarded with gold medals. It was a great convocation," said Hillary Victor, an honoree and softball standout.

The MVSU choir and band showcased their musical prowess and genius with songs and performances during the crowd-pleasing event. Mister and Miss Valley State offered the welcome and words of encouragement. They told their fellow students that they are the driving force behind the university.

The exciting event gave hope that many more students will be among the honorees next year.



Holmes County Chapter MVSU National Alumni Association's 20th Annual Green and White Scholarship Gala

March 23, 2024 | Holmes Community College | Goodman, Miss.



The community is invited to help Valley celebrate Founder's Week

By MVSU Alumni Affairs

Founder's Week is a time to celebrate the success and resilience of Mississippi Valley State University over the years. As we reflect on the achievements and milestones, we invite the MVSU community to help shape the university's future. Founder's Week provides a time for reflection on the past, present, and future of MVSU. A chance for the university to assess its progress, identify areas for improvement, and chart a course for the future.

We are happy to announce that the university experienced a 16.9% increase

in fall enrollment, which is the highest in the state and almost double the percentage reported by the next public, four-year institutions.

This achievement is a testament to the university's commitment to academic excellence, student success, and community engagement.

However, with 94% of our students receiving some type of financial assistance, we must not forget that we still have exceptional

students who need financial support to continue their academic journey.

By supporting the areas that are most important to you, you can make a significant difference in the lives of our students and contribute to MVSU's success.

Founder's Day of Giving is an incredible opportunity to support and propel the university into the future and grow our campus. We urge you to join the Delta Devils and support the areas that

mean the most to you. Your generosity and support are essential to our success, and we are grateful for it.

If you are employed by a private organization, please check with your human resources department to determine their matching gift policy for employee donations. This is an easy way to elevate and maximize the size of your gift to the university.

All donations are 100% tax deductible.

Founder's Day of Giving will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024. Visit <https://www.mvsu.edu/contributors> to learn more about giving to MVSU. You may also scan the QR code on Page 8.



Amid controversy, Senate Bill 2726 dies in committee

By Averi Sanders, Staff Writer

Senate Bill 2726 was a bill that planned to remove three out of eight higher education institutions in Mississippi. The bill recently died in committee.

According to a [insidehighered.com](https://www.insidehighered.com) report, "If passed, the bill would have required the Institutions of Higher Learning, a statewide governing board for Mississippi's eight public universities, to choose the three institutions based on factors such as enrollment, degree attainment, federal aid, tuition rates, and local economic impact."

Based on those variables, Mississippi Valley State University would likely have been one of the three cuts.

However, many alumni of the schools that would have possibly been slated for closure and others began to come together and plan strategic protests (i.e., talks of boycotting

flooding calls, and more). The bill was authored by Republican Sen. John Polk,

CEO of Polk's Meat Products in Magee, Miss.

Bill 2726 is no longer a threat to any of the eight schools but has gotten the attention of each school. According to reports, the committee chair did not even bring the proposed bill

forth.

"I'm grateful that the bill has met its end," said MVSU student Kobe Hilliard. "I have temporary relief that something like this isn't bound to happen anymore. I know they do have a similar bill that could take place that would target low-enrollment colleges. The state of Mississippi should try to help low-enrollment HBCUs instead of trying to eliminate a whole institution."

Another student said the possible threats of such a bill have alerted schools to start doing better so this will not happen again.



Polk

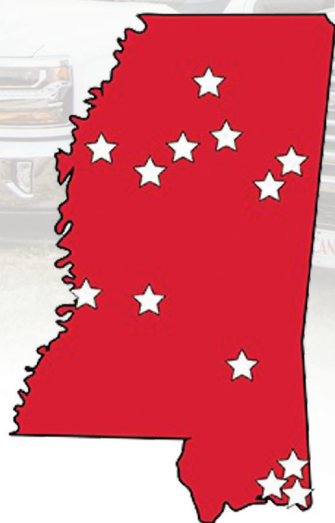


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Athletes are excelling in big numbers off the field



Photo Credit: Comm. & Marketing/McCall

By Hillary Victor, Staff Writer

The Delta Devilettes softball team had 14 out of their 23 players receive awards in the Spring 2024 Mississippi Valley State University Honors Convocation. “I am very proud of my girls the softball team was represented for the honors Convocation.

“That is what we strive for, working hard in the classroom and being a great young lady on and off the field” stated Head Coach Jimmy Buckner.

“Not only have the players been putting countless hours into practice but they have been locked in while attending

their classes.”

Athletes from other sports were honored as well. Their awards ranged from honor scholar, distinguished scholar to presidents scholar.

At the end of the convocation, Dr. President Briggs asked for all of the student athletes who received awards to take a picture together in front of the auditorium. Besides the 14 softball scholars, 30 other athletes participated in the photo opportunity. Those included Women’s Soccer, Men’s Basketball, Women’s Basketball, Cheer, Track, Volleyball and Football.

MVSU Baseball Team shows strong improvement early on

By Joshua Mahoney, Sports Editor

The Mississippi Valley State University baseball team is demonstrating significant improvement compared to last year’s performance, suggesting promising potential for the current season. In a no-table contrast, the Delta Devils have reached the eight-win mark in just 14 games, a considerable advancement from the 26 games it took them last season.

One key player driving Mississippi Valley’s recent success is outfielder Dreylin Holmes. Holmes has emerged as a pivotal figure in the team’s recent victories, averaging an impressive 2.3 runs in the Del-ta Devils’ last four wins. His consistent performance on the field has undoubtedly contributed to the

team’s overall improvement.

Additionally, outfielder Aaron Coates has played a vital role in Mississippi Valley’s recent triumphs, particularly in crucial matchups against Arkansas Pine-Bluff and Tougaloo College. Coates has demonstrated his value by contributing an average of 2.3 runs in two wins against Arkansas Pine-Bluff and one against Tougaloo College.

As the season progresses, the Delta Devils are steadily building momentum and aiming to secure their first conference win. Their next challenge awaits as they prepare to face Jackson State on Sunday, March 24th. With a focus on continuous improvement, the team remains optimistic about their prospects in upcoming matchups.

While it may not be a blazing start,



Photo Credit: Aliyah Hill

the Delta Devils’ progress is evident, reflecting the dedication and hard work of both players and coaching staff. The team’s improvement signals a promising trajectory as they strive for success in the remainder of the season.

Fans can look forward to witnessing further growth and development from the Mississippi Valley State University baseball team as they continue to evolve and compete on the field.

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