



2024 Fall Commencement

SATURDAY, THE FOURTEENTH DAY OF DECEMBER
EIGHT O'CLOCK
IN THE MORNING
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY FOUR

R. W. HARRISON COMPLEX
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
ITTA BENA, MISSISSIPPI

DR. JERRYL BRIGGS, SR.
PRESIDENT





2024 Fall Commencement



2024 FALL COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

EXODUS OKTAVIA BROWNLOW

Writer, Sewist, Author and Editor



Exodus Oktavia Brownlow is a writer, sewist, author and editor native to Blackhawk, MS. She is a graduate of Mississippi Valley State University with a BA in English, and Mississippi University for Women with an MFA in Creative Writing.

She is an associate editor at Fractured Lit and is the Editor-in-Chief of The Loveliest Review.

Exodus has been published or has forthcoming work with Electric Lit, West Branch, Denver Quarterly, F(r)iction, BOOTH CRAFT and more. She has been nominated for Best of The Net, Best MicroFiction, Best Small Fictions and a Pushcart Prize. Her pieces "Chicken-Girls and Chicken-Ladies and All the Possibility of Pillowcases" and "It's 5am-ish, and My Father Tells Me A Story From His Time in Singapore" were included in Best MicroFiction 2021 and 2022. Her piece "The Terrible Darling" was featured as a Wigleaf Top 50 2022 selection. She is the recipient of the 2022 "The Changing American South" fellowship at the Writers' Colony at Dairy Hollow in

Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Exodus also received a Mississippi Arts Commission Grant for an Individual Nonfiction Artist Fellowship in 2023.

Exodus' essay "When the World Was Ending We Wore the Cornrows, We Twisted Our Coils, and We Waited" was selected for Best American Essays 2024 as notable.

Exodus is the author of a fiction chapbook—"Look at All The Little Hurts of These Newly-Broken Lives and The Bittersweet, Sweet and Bitter Loves"—which was published with Ethel Zine and Press in the Spring of 2023. Additionally, Exodus is the author of a debut collection of essays—"I'm Afraid That I Know Too Much About Myself Now, To Go Back To Who I Knew Before, And Oh Lord, Who Will I Be After I've Known All That I Can?" [a Mississippi Top (ten) Reads with The Clarion Ledger debuting at #6], was published with ELJ Editions in the Summer of 2023.

Her favorite color is green.

PROGRAMME

Dr. Jerryl Briggs, Sr.
President of Mississippi Valley State University
Presiding

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Prelude | “Blessed Are They” | Johannes Brahms | |
| Processional | “Fanfare and Processional” | James D. Ployhar | |
| Posting of Colors | | Army ROTC | |
| Star Spangled Banner | | Mr. Steve B. Hayes, Jr. <i>Business Administration Major</i> | |
| Invocation | | Reverend Jessie Payne <i>Pastor of Providence Missionary Baptist Church</i> | |
| Introduction of Speaker | | Dr. Kathie Stromile-Golden <i>Provost/Senior Vice-President for Academic Affairs</i> | |
| Commencement Address..... | | Ms. Exodus Oktavia Brownlow <i>Writer, Sewist, Author and Editor</i> | |
| Special Recognition | | President Briggs | |
| Presentation of Candidates | | Dr. Kathie Stromile-Golden | |
| Conferring of Master Degrees | | President Briggs Master of Arts / Master of Arts in Teaching / Master of Business Administration / Master of Science | |
| Conferring of Bachelor Degrees | | President Briggs Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Science / Bachelor of Social Work | |
| Alumni Induction | | Mr. Jerry Redmond, Jr. <i>President of the MVSU National Alumni Association, Inc.</i> | |
| Remarks/Acknowledgements | | President Briggs | |
| *Alma Mater | | Traditional <i>Mr. Nicholas Patrick, Leader</i> | |
| *Benediction | | Reverend Payne | |
| **Recessional | | “FANFARE AND PROCESSIONAL” | James D. Ployhar |
| Postlude | | “EASTER MONDAY ON THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN” | R. Mark Rogers |

*AUDIENCE, PLEASE STAND

**AUDIENCE, PLEASE REMAIN SEATED DURING RECESSIONAL



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY THE CLASS OF 2024

UNDERGRADUATE

- *****Summa Cum Laude** (3.80-4.00 cumulative grade point average)
- ****Magna Cum Laude** (3.50-3.79 cumulative grade point average)
- ***Cum Laude** (3.20-3.49 cumulative grade point average)

GRADUATE

- Highest Distinction** (3.91-4.00 cumulative grade point average)
- High Distinction** (3.81-3.90 cumulative grade point average)
- Distinction** (3.71-3.80 cumulative grade point average)

GRADUATE STUDIES

DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

DR. EMMANUEL AMADI, CHAIR

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE

BRIANNA R. JORDAN..... ELDRIDGE, IA
LEONARD M. MCKINNON..... GREENWOOD, MS
ZORI D. MOORE..... ROLLING FORK, MS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DR. THERESA DUMAS, ACTING CHAIR

SPORT ADMINISTRATION

MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE

LOVELY J. ANDERSON..... GREENWOOD, MS
DESTINI L. BANKS..... CROWLEY, TX
TORICO D. BELL..... TUNICA, MS
TONORRIS O. BROOKINS II..... STARKVILLE, MS
CALEB BRUNSON..... LAUREL, MS
TONI A. CARTER..... LOS ANGELES, CA
DEONDRI L. CLARK..... LAKELAND, FL
FREDERICK K. HUDDLESTON..... SHANNON, MS
KAIYUS J. LEWIS..... MACON, MS
TARIK MCKINZIE..... DELTONA, FL
SHERONDA A. POWELL..... ITTA BENA, MS
REGINALD REYNOLDS..... SPARTA, GA
KAYLA SIMS..... ITTA BENA, MS
SHELETHA D. STOKES-HORTON..... GREENWOOD, MS

TEACHING

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

BRITTNEY R. REESE..... GREENWOOD, MS

DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS

DR. CAROLYN GORDON, ACTING CHAIR

CONVERGENT MEDIA

MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE

CORTNEY M. DYER..... JACKSONVILLE, FL
ANDRE D. WILLIAMS, JR..... MEMPHIS, TN

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

DR. FARHAD CHOWDHURY, CHAIR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE

SHELBY BARNARD..... INVERNESS, MS
SAPHRONIA G. CROWDER..... GREENWOOD, MS
STEVE B. HAYES..... MOORHEAD, MS
DANIEL M. MCDONALD-HYLTON..... BROOKLYN, NY
BERNYJAH MOSLEY..... SUNFLOWER, MS
CHRISTOPHER I. SOEDER..... SARASOTA, FL
JAYLIN O. SWIMS..... GREENWOOD, MS

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT) BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE

MONTIZSE J. DILLARD..... GREENWOOD, MS
GINNA L. DOUGLAS..... TUPELO, MS
BRITTANY FLUCKER..... GREENWOOD, MS
JASMYNE A. O'BRAINT..... CLEVELAND, MS
DYNESIA POTTS..... MOORHEAD, MS

DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

DR. EMMANUEL AMADI, CHAIR

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE

TADERRIUS K. ALLEN..... BELZONI, MS
MALIK R. ANTWINE..... BENTON, LA
A'SHANTE M. HOLMES..... YAZOO CITY, MS
ANGELA T. KING..... SMYRNA, TN
JACQUELINE A. LEFLORE..... GREENWOOD, MS
DESTINEE P. MITCHELL..... GREENWOOD, MS
KAYLA SMALL..... MEMPHIS, TN
DAVITA V. TRIPLETT..... DREW, MS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DR. THERESA DUMAS, ACTING CHAIR

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE

TIFFANY R. AMOS..... WINONA, MS
CHANEYRIA M. BRAXTON..... ROSEDALE, MS
JASMINE D. CAREY..... GREENVILLE, MS
TARSHA COOPER..... ROSEDALE, MS
MARGIE L. MOORE..... SIDON, MS

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE

TRE'SORA T. SANDERS..... ARCOLA, MS

HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND RECREATION

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE

TARANECIA BROWN..... GREENWOOD, MS
DESTINY D. GLASPER..... ISOLA, MS
KAHLENA HENTZ..... BATESVILLE, MS
SYNIAH J. HOOKER..... BELZONI, MS
OSCSEONIA T. HUNT..... GREENWOOD, MS
GEORGE IVORY III..... GREENWOOD, MS
DESHAIYA S. JENKINS..... BENOIT, MS
RAYANA Z. JOHNSON..... GREENVILLE, MS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES

DR. JOHN ZHENG, CHAIR

ENGLISH

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE

KIEARAH A. ADDISON..... GREENWOOD, MS
DESTINY J. WASHINGTON..... ITTA BENA, MS

DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS

DR. LEMONDRRA HAMILTON, ACTING CHAIR

MUSIC

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE

TERRANCE R. ESTELLE HAMPTON, GA
CHANDRIAN L. MURPHY BASTROP, LA
RASHAD RAY DECATUR, GA

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COMMUNICATIONS

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE

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SPEECH COMMUNICATIONS

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE

KIEARAH A. ADDISON GREENWOOD, MS
DESTINY J. WASHINGTON ITTA BENA, MS

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES

DR. LATONYA GARNER, CHAIR

COMPUTER SCIENCE

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE

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JAVID IBRAHIMOV ITTA BENA, MS
AYOMIDE O. OLATUNDE SAN JOSE, CA

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BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE

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ALEXIUS T. HUDSON BELZONI, MS
AYOMIDE O. OLATUNDE SAN JOSE, CA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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BIOLOGY

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE

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TERREKA L. GIBSON MIAMI GARDENS, FL
MIA' MOSLEY LAKE VILLAGE, AR
SHEMARIAH YORK BELZONI, MS
D'KAYLA L. YOUNG GREENWOOD, MS

CHEMISTRY

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE

SHEMARIAH YORK BELZONI, MS
D'KAYLA L. YOUNG GREENWOOD, MS

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE

TALIAH C. GARDNER STONE MOUNTAIN, GA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

DR. RICHARD MUSHI, CHAIR

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BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE

JOSE AGUILERA ROWLAND HEIGHTS, CA
NATAYIA R. EDWARDS ITTA BENA, MS
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DREYLIN J. HOLMES GRIFFIN, GA
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HISTORY

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE

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UNIVERSITY STUDIES

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE

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SOCIAL WORK

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK DEGREE

CATHERINE T. ALLEN SHELBY, MS
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MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Created by the Mississippi Legislature in 1946 and opened in 1950, Mississippi Valley State University is a regional, state-assisted university, which offers programs of study at the bachelor's and master's degree levels. The University opened in 1950 under the name Mississippi Vocational College. In 1964, the name changed to Mississippi Valley State College, and in 1974, The Valley became Mississippi Valley State University. The name changes reflect the expanding mission and program offerings of the University. The late Dr. James Herbert White was Valley's first president, serving from 1950 to 1971. The late Dr. E.A. Boykins served as the institution's second president, serving from 1971 to 1981. The late Dr. Joe L. Boyer served as Valley's third president from 1982 to 1988. Dr. William W. Sutton served as Valley's fourth president from 1988 to 1998. Dr. Lester C. Newman served as the fifth president from 1998 to 2007. Dr. Donna H. Oliver served as the sixth president from 2009 to 2012. She was the first female to lead the institution and the first African-American female to lead a Mississippi public university. Dr. William B. Bynum, Jr. served as the seventh president from 2013 until 2017. Dr. Jerryl Briggs, Sr. was unanimously selected as the eighth president on October 19, 2017. Building upon the foundation laid by his predecessors, Dr. Briggs has enhanced the mantra "ONE GOAL. ONE TEAM. ONE VALLEY" with the addition of the phrase "...IN MOTION", which exemplifies the University's commitment to putting into practice its values as it continues moving onward to obtain preeminence as a premier institution of higher learning.

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ACADEMIC REGALIA

The traditional attire worn by university officials, faculty, visiting dignitaries, and candidates for degrees originated during the 14th century in medieval England. In that period, individuals were clad in gowns and hoods, which inevitably served to keep them warm because all the buildings were unheated. As a particular dress for distinction, for example, one could easily distinguish an Oxford man from a Cambridge man. The hood was needed to cover the heads of schools.

With the advent of colleges and universities in America, the dress for formal academic affairs took the design of the everyday costumes that were worn in England at universities in the Middle Ages. As the institutions began to increase in number, a group of representatives from leading colleges and universities gathered at Columbia University on May 16, 1885, and agreed to establish appropriate standards and practices for academicians. The Intercollegiate Bureau of Academic Costume was chartered in 1902 by the Regents of the University of the State of New York to serve as an arbiter on academic matters. The 1885 Code was revised in 1932 at the instigation of the American Council on Education and subsequently in 1959.

The origins of formal academic attire, often referred to as “dress” or “regalia,” are deeply imbedded into ceremonial exercises of most of today’s colleges and universities. The Uniform Costume Code, which is supported by the American Council on Education, has been widely adopted throughout the United States except for a few schools which continue to use the styles of England. In brief, the uniform code is evidenced in three types—bachelor’s, master’s and doctor’s. A scholar dressed in academic attire today may be distinguished by the style of gown, hood, mortar board cap, and color of tassel. The cap, gown and hood are generally black. However, in recent years many colleges and universities have adopted institutional colors for their gowns.

The bachelor’s gown is full-cut, falling in a straight line from an elaborate yoke with long pointed sleeves; the master’s gown has oblong closed sleeves which terminate in square ends below the knee, and an arc of a circle just above the bottom. There is a slit near the elbow for the arm to come through. A short sleeve master’s gown is also available. The doctor’s gown is an elaborate, full-cut flowing costume distinguished by velvet panels down the front and around the neck. It is characterized by voluminous bell-shaped sleeves on which appear three velvet bars. The color of the bars is normally black but it may be different to designate a field of study, such as green for medicine.

All hoods are lined with silk in the official academic color (or colors) of the institution conferring the degree, edged in velvet. The velvet color indicates the subject to which the degree pertains. The bachelor’s hood is rather short with narrow velvet edging. The master’s hood is considerably longer, has a wider velvet edging and exposes more of the lining. The doctor’s hood has wide panels at the side and is easily recognized since, of the three types of hoods, it has the widest velvet edging, greatest length, and fullest exposure of the lining. The black mortar board cap, with tassel, is worn with each type of gown. Those holding bachelor’s and master’s degrees wear tassels that are either black or the color appropriate to the field of study which they have pursued. A velvet cap with gold tassel is frequently worn by those holding a doctor’s degree.

ACADEMIC COLORS

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Agriculture | Maize | Medicine | Green |
| Arts, Letters, Humanities | White | Music | Pink |
| Commerce, Accounting, Business | Drab | Nursing..... | Apricot |
| Dentistry..... | Lilac | Oratory, Speech..... | Silver Gray |
| Economics..... | Copper | Pharmacy | Olive Green |
| Education..... | Light Blue | Philosophy | Dark Blue |
| Engineering..... | Orange | Public Administration | Peacock Blue |
| Fine Arts, Architecture | Brown | Public Health | Salmon Pink |
| Forestry | Russet | Science | Golden Yellow |
| Journalism..... | Crimson | Social Work..... | Citron |
| Law | Purple | Theology..... | Scarlet |
| Library Science..... | Lemon | Veterinary Science | Gray |

ALMA MATER

Hail to thee our Alma Mater
Colors Green and White
MVSU our sons and daughters
Always stand for right.

When the days of joy and laughter
Fade upon our sight,
We will love our Alma Mater
Dear old Green and White.

We will love and cherish thee
Through all our lives
Green and White we will honor
Keeping standards high.

CHORUS

Grateful, loyal, true and faithful
We will be true;
May thy name be everlasting
Dear old MVSU.

MVSU EXECUTIVE CABINET

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(B.S., Xavier University (LA); M.A., Louisiana Tech University; Ed.S. & Ed.D., College of William & Mary)

Provost/Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Kathie Stromile-Golden

(B.S., Southern University; M.A., Southern University;
Ph.D., University of Kentucky)

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and Student Affairs

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(B.S., B.A., Tuskegee University;
M.S., Clark Atlanta University;

M.A., The University of Chicago; Ph.D.,
The University of Washington)

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M.S., Walden University)

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Every effort is made to make the printed program accurate with respect to degrees awarded and honors conferred. However, printing schedules occasionally make this impossible. The student's permanent record, which is on file in the Office of Student Records, is the official record.



