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the delta devils GAZETTE

An award-winning college newspaper, by students for students

Volume 23, Number 10

Mississippi Valley State University, Itta Bena, Mississippi

May 2009

PREEMINENCE AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIP GALA

By: Crystal C. Foster

The 10th Annual James Herbert White Preeminence Awards & Scholarship Gala took place the twenty fourth of April, in the Robert W. Harrison HPER Complex. This event is hosted every year in celebration of those who have supported the University through financial contributions. With the help of the companies and organizations, it gives the students at Valley a better chance in education by providing the funds needed.

This event kicked-off with a silent auction that had approximately 30 items up for bid, possibly more. Some items were donated from local businesses and companies, while others were signed sports memorabilia. The host for the evening was Tanya Carter, anchor on WABG-TV, and Reverend Herron Wilson of Delta Missions, Inc. They kept the audience enthused and laughing all night.

Elected SGA President, James Hudson began the night with his greetings, followed by Sheriel Perkins, the Mayor of the City of Greenwood to share a few words. Robert Draper, who is a Mortgage Banker, also stated a few words, and Elected SGA Vice President, Venishia Morgan, followed stating the purpose of the event.

Once all was said and done, Reverend Glenn Seefeld, Pastor of First United Methodist Church, blessed the food before everyone ate. Dinner was provided by Thompson Hospitality and it included, filet mignon with fresh crushed peppercorn, Alaskan crabmeat, steamed vegetables, twice-baked Idaho potato, leafy salad with raspberry vinaigrette, and three-chocolate mousse topped with raspberry drizzle.

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Congressman Bennie Thompson and Dr. Donna Oliver



**6 TIMES
SWAC
CHAMPS**

GRADUATING SENIORS

These are the confirmed numbers of graduating seniors, by each of four colleges at Mississippi Valley State University.

College of Arts and Sciences	89
College of Education	91
College of Professional Studies	183
College of Graduate Studies	129
Total	492

These are just the totals before we had to go to press.

THE DELTA DEVILS GAZETTE

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1989, 1990, 1991, 1997, and 2002
FIRST PLACE winner.

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ACTION RESEARCH: RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES



By Crystal Foster

"We do a great job of recruiting students to the Valley, but we need to work on how to retain them, matriculate them, and graduate them." These words were spoken from Provost and Senior Vice President Chief Operator, Dr. Joseph Stevenson. He is responsible for the academic administration and all of the operations throughout the institution. He was a former Provost at Jackson State, and served as a Provost in New York City and California. Stevenson is currently conducting "action research" to improve student persistence towards degree completion.

Colleges and universities nationwide struggle with retention and graduation rates with their current students. Once students are enrolled in school, it is not a known fact that they will continue until commencement. There are some variables that are causing the students to drop-out and not prolong their education. HBCU's also, have their own special problems regarding lack of retention. What are the motives that affect students to meet their goal of completion?

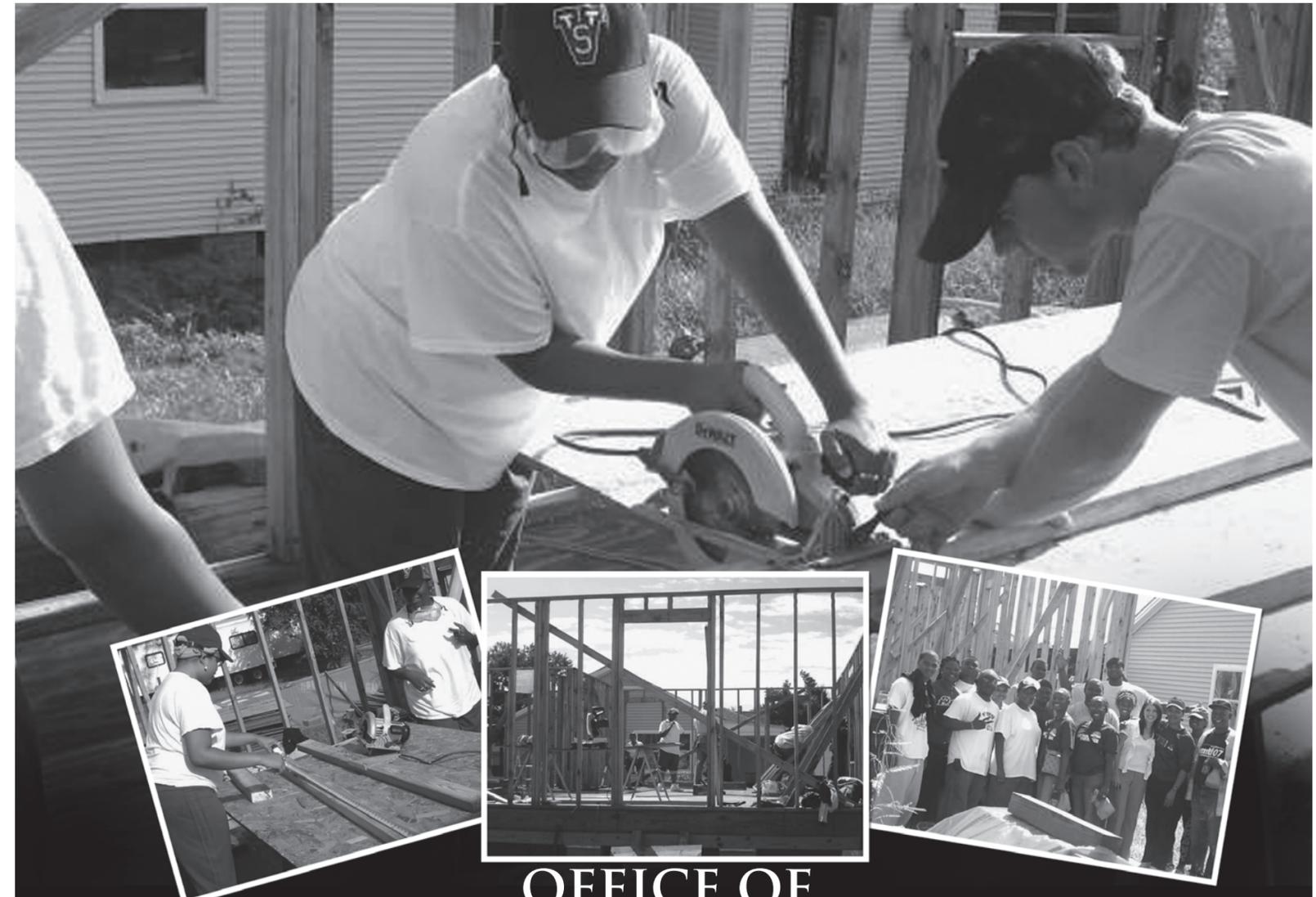
Dr. Stevenson noticed what the main problem at hand may be. "Well, I know that it would regard to recruitment, retention, matriculation, and graduation; and ethnic minority is a nationwide

problem. It's further compounded in both historically black and predominantly white institutions when it comes to African Americans. Particularly men, we tend to lose either in the first term of their second year, or the second term of their first year. We are also working harder to retain African American women."

It is important that institutional intent and student expectations reflect their educational success because that will keep the students attending school. With this in mind, the barrier that is hindering the students from their success ranges from many aspects. In particular, academics, social life, lack of activities on campus, and resident hall life. According to Dr. Stevenson, this is the opportunity for an action research to take place. "This will be an action research project. We're going to bring all the students in and ask them a series of questions, and I'm going to conduct focus groups to get a hold of what their issues are. Then I am going to take that data, and ask to rate student policy based on it. So if students say, 'There is lack of activities, there are not enough programs on campus, or we tend to not have a lot to do during the week.' If that is the case, then I am going to talk to student affairs and ask what we can do. Not only improve, but expand the activities that we have. And some of those activities may include some things we do on campus, and some things we do off campus to help again, improve the persistence of their academic performance." Once the data is revealed, they will make necessary changes that are significant to the students.

The major focus for the student's achievements is their academics. The main purpose of action research is to go beyond what is normally done to maintain the students and give them the chance to persevere in academic success outside of the classroom. There are many support services that are offered to help them thrive.

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Community Service is a great way to pay back a little to all the people and organizations that have helped us and so many others!

MISSISSIPPI
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THUMPS AND BUMPS

By Marcus Hill

Mississippi Valley has now put up additional speed bumps around campus. Majority of the students agree that the limit of the speed bumps has been reached. It seems to students that Valley has once again wasted time and money into a project that does not benefit the students. Those students who drive economy/smaller sized cars certainly have a hard time going over these new mountains in the road. True, some students do speed down the road on campus; however there were speed bumps already present.

There are areas around the school where the road is damaged, yet authorities rather add speed bumps than to smooth out the road. If you ask any of the students, they would probably tell you where there are even more rough spots. Mississippi Valley has good intentions for putting these speed bumps down; however could they repave the street first. It would be better once the construction of the new buildings is complete. That will eliminate the fork-lifting trucks damaging the streets, from constantly driving back and forth.

The thumps and bumps will remains as is, unless they decided to repave the whole street. Let's just hope that will come to pass in the near future. Even though everyone complained about the bumps being there, it's an advantage for the campus, because it slows down traffic and makes the environment safer.

ACTION RESEARCH *Continued from page 2*

Some services like, tutorial services, food services, and the library, which are all parts of the institution to assist a higher education for the sake of the students.

On the other hand, Dr. Stevenson feels that not enough is being done in the classroom. "We don't do enough about things that can be done within the classroom. The classroom experience is where most of the magic occurs, between the student and the professor; that's where we want to focus our attention. And by getting faculty to conduct research on the way they teach, the methods they use, the way students learn, the difference between discipline, helps the professor becomes a better professor because he or she is collecting data about the student and modifying the classroom instruction based in what those data revelations provide to the professor."

Forty faculty members have been recruited to partake in a three session fundamental training. The first session is an overview of how it works; second, will be a specific to their discipline or area of research; third,

will be about making the manifestation of the two occur. Coming the following school year, the faculty can use the training they received and integrate what was learned in a classroom setting.

Presently, Dr. Stevenson has faculty forms trying to address the academic issues. In the fall school year, Stevenson will have student forms. Student will only be invited and will be asked specific questions to figure out what is preventing people from their success. The Provost himself wants to have a discussion with the students at Valley. "Please spread the word that the Provost wants to have a conversation with the students about what specifically do they believe contributes to their failure or inability to persist through the academic programs that we provide." Every student should consider conversing with Dr. Stevenson so in the near future; there will be a higher number of graduation rates.

SWINE FLU

Continued from page 9

Antigenic Shift most likely occurs when the virus forms common of two different hosts are present in the same host. As is possible when people live in close proximity to pigs and chickens. A human host then contracts Avian influenza virus H5N1 and a mammal form (either human or swine) As the two different forms of the virus RNA are replicating inside the host they will then begin to share certain of their genetic characteristics and can become that different sort of virus form (H5N1 Sub-type A) then there are no antibodies against it in the host. In fact there are very likely no antibodies to it in any human, anywhere. This also increases the chance that it will come out as a form that can be transmitted from human to human. So far of all the people that have died or become sick with the avian flu virus contracted the virus from some avian species. The H5N1 virus had not made the major "Shift." to include swine and humans until this new outbreak in Mexico. Even if this is not the "Big Shift" it's not a question of if the pandemic will come, but when it will come. When it does come very likely someone you know will die. It might only kill the very young and or very old. It could have deadly effect on those that have weak constitutions, and or immune systems. The majority of deaths caused by the 1918 Spanish Flu were between 20 and 40 years of age. Once this new viral form begins to effect humans all it will take is four or five infected individuals from where ever it starts to fly into a couple of major US airports. All they have to do once they get here is sneeze and cough on a few hundred people and then for them fly off to destinations nation wide then "It's on!"

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention says to protect yourself from the swine flu. You must routinely wash your hands with soap and warm water and wear a N99 mask, such as the WeinVira Mask may also be helpful if you must be in public places. If you are planning on traveling by air or train, having a mask available would be a good idea. Also avoid contact with sick people and use alcohol based hand sanitizer to minimize infections risk.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: THE 4TH AMENDMENT ON CAMPUS

By: Connor Mendenhall

Every year, scores of students are evicted from UA residence halls for alcohol and drug violations.

A cursory look at the Wildcat's popular "Police Bear" reveals that many of those evictions could be avoided if students merely exercised their rights. Unfortunately, too few students are aware of their Constitutional rights and their ability to stand up for them - and sometimes, the UA wants to keep it that way.

Before moving into campus housing, all UA students sign a license agreement - a contract laying out their financial and personal responsibilities. The majority of the document is devoted to rent and payment schedules, which makes it easy to overlook its most powerful line: section 15b, in which the university reserves the right "To enter and inspect residence rooms by authorized personnel at any time to verify inventory records or occupancy; to perform maintenance; to enforce safety, health and University Student Code of Conduct or Housing Community Standards; or during an

emergency." Sounds reasonable - there are many legitimate situations when the UA should have access to a student's room, like replacing a leaky air conditioner, turning off a wailing alarm clock or giving a resident medical attention. Unfortunately, sometimes enforcing conduct standards conflicts with a more important document: the Bill of Rights.

The fourth amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects against unreasonable search and seizure, requiring probable cause before any government actor can intrude on your privacy. Case law supports the notion that it extends to your dorm room: *Morale v. Grigel* held that public universities are subject to the fourth amendment, *Smith v. Lubbers* and *State v. Kappes* suggest that resident assistants are state actors unless conducting routine inspections, and the doctrine of "unconstitutional conditions" (see *Piazolla v. Watkins*) says that no matter how hard you try, you can't sign away your constitutional rights as a condition of living in a dorm.

SCORCHING FLUIDS INCREASE RISK OF CANCER

By La'Breda Mor

Researchers have not only found out that smoking and alcohol abuse cause throat cancer, but drinking hot fluids increases the risk of cancer too.

In its most recent edition the British medical journal *Lancet* quotes new research that shows a strong link between consumption of very hot liquids and a person's chances of developing throat cancer. Golestān Province in Iran has the highest per capita rate of esophageal cancer in the entire world. Iranian researchers there found that those who drank scalding hot tea between

149-156 degrees Fahrenheit were twice as likely to develop throat cancer when compared to those who drank warm tea below 149 degrees.

People who drink extremely hot tea have a higher risk of developing throat cancer. This is something very few people may not have known and never thought something like this could occur. People think smoking and alcohol can increase your risk to get cancer, but little do you know, drinking hot substances can damage the throat tissue. Iranian researchers went to Golestān Province; it has the highest rates of esophageal cancer in the world. They drink large cups of hot black tea,

DR. JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN

By Sherdell Turner

United States historian Dr. John Hope Franklin Franklin died at Duke University Medical Center, on the morning of March 25, 2009, he was 94.

Dr. Franklin was past president of Phi Beta Kappa, the Organization of American Historians, the American Historical Association, and the Southern Historical Association. Professor Emeritus of History at Duke University Dr. Franklin is best known for his work *From Slavery to Freedom*, which was first published in 1947, and continuously updated since. More than three million copies have been sold.

In 1995, Dr. Franklin was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. From the Duke University Education website a list of Dr. Franklins books in chronological order are with his biography such as: *The Free Negro in North Carolina*, *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African-Americans*, *The Militant South*, *Reconstruction After the Civil War*, *African Americans and the Living Constitution*, *Mirror to America: The Autobiography of John Hope Franklin*, *The Emancipation Proclamation*, *Land of the Free*, *Illustrated History of Black Americans*, and more.

Franklin's teaching career began at Fisk University and continued during World War II at St. Augustine's College and North Carolina College which is now North Carolina Central University. In 2002, scholar Molefi Kete Asante listed John Hope Franklin on his list of 100 Greatest African Americans. On May 20, 2006, Franklin was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters at Lafayette College's 171st Commencement Exercises. John Hope Franklin, great man of letters and great African American will be missed.

typically drinking 1.8 pints per person. Those who drank hot tea between 65-69 degrees Celsius, 149-156 degrees Fahrenheit were twice as likely to develop throat cancer compared with those who drank warm or lukewarm tea, whose temperature was 65 C (149 F) or less. In an editorial, *The Lancet* said, "The study backed evidence that scorching fluids may cause damage to the throat's epithelial lining and lead to cancer, although exactly how this happens remain unclear." Researchers indicate that you wait at least four minutes before drinking hot tea, so you can lower your chances of getting throat cancer.

MVSU SSS DEBATE TEAM WINS BIG IN 2009



By Crystal Foster

The Mississippi Valley State University Student Support Services (SSS) Debate Team won big at both the state and regional TRIO SSS/McNair Debate Competitions. On February 28, 2009, the MVSU SSS Debate Team, Sherry White, a junior English Education major from Millington, Tennessee and Lakeisha Mosley, a freshman Business Administration major from Cleveland, Mississippi, competed against Hinds Community College at Utica SSS Team and Jackson State University McNair Team. Each team did a great job in debating, but in the final round, it was HCC against MVSU, with MVSU winning the overall competition. This debate contest was hosted by the Mississippi Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (MAEOPP) on the campus of MVSU.

Each year the winning Mississippi debate team gets to represent MAEOPP at the regional competition always held in Atlanta, Georgia. This year the MVSU SSS Debate Team decided to take to heart President Donna H. Oliver's personal philosophy "working together works" by allowing HCC (the second-place team) to join them in representing Mississippi at the Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (SAEOPP) Student Initiatives Competition on April 18, 2009. At the regional, White, Mosley, Bentia Andrews, a freshman Psychology major and Andrew Dutton, a freshman Music major (both from Vancouver, Washington) "worked together" relentlessly to earn a second place victory.

The Morehouse College McNair Team placed first, and the Western Kentucky University SSS Team placed third. The two other teams in the competition were Tennessee State University SSS Team and Edward Waters College SSS Team. This has truly been a great year for the MVSU SSS Debate Team.

SSS has been on the campus of MVSU since 1973 and is funded by the U.S. Department of Education TRIO Programs. If you would like to learn more about SSS and/or the debate team, please call Joyce Roundtree-McCoy, director and debate coach, at 662-254-3477.

THE LUNCH TIME HIGH

By Charles Warnsley

April 21, 2009 online videos showed teens getting high off Salvia Divinorum, a plant being examined by a research grant from the Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) due to its strong effects on human mood and low toxicity. According to WCCO TV there are more than 4,000 videos about Salvia, also called the lunch time drug, on YouTube, many of them showing people tripping on the plant. Jason England had a friend who tried it. Once was enough. He compared it to an almost acid trip, out of body, and kind of scary. Dennis Douda reports, it is a strong hallucinogenic drug, and users can chew it, smoke it or brew it into a tea. It produces profound hallucinations and out of body experiences.

Jordan Zjawiony, professor of Pharmacognosy, University of Mississippi, is the lead chemistry researcher for the part of the \$11 million research project that expects to investigate hallucinogenic plants that will lead to potential relief of neurological disorders. (Professor

Emmet McClary contributed these quotes from a previous interview at the time of the grant announcement), Zjawiony said, "Studying the way these naturally occurring chemicals from plants reach and plug into receptors in the human brain can give us new information to help us understand neurological processes. Unfortunately Herbalist are already selling powerful concentrated forms of Salvia and other plants via the Internet. According to McClary these could be Genies that will be almost impossible to put back in the bottle if people find they can get effects similar to illegal drugs from plants that are not regulated by the government. Carol Falkowski, the director of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division of the state Human Service department, thinks Salvia should be illegal. There may be a time in the near future when understanding hallucinogenic plants may help

Dr. Zjawiony and other researchers to improve brain functions in humans but the pharmaceutical curiosities of these plant substances could have many other far reaching benefits

WEIGHT GAIN LINKED TO CHILDHOOD OBESITY

By LaCresha Bailey

According to the Health Daily News, they state that babies who gain weight during their first six months are likely to be obese as a toddler. Doctors are trying to find out why children gain so much weight when they become toddlers. This study has looked at over 500 children in the Boston area. Obesity mostly comes from the size of

the parents and how many pounds the mother gained during her pregnancy. There are myths that states, chubby babies are healthier and the baby fat disappears over time. The National Institute of Health examined the factor that led to sudden weight gain in infants has something to do with parents overfeeding them. Research teams do warn parents not to put their overweight babies on a diet.

FIRST US SWINE FLU DEATH AND PRECAUTIONS FOR STUDENTS

Amos Taylor

The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention April 29, 2009 confirmed the first swine flu death outside of Mexico, a Mexican toddler who had traveled with his family to Texas. Kathy Barton, a spokeswoman for the city's health department, told KTRK-TV. CNN say Texas Department of State Health Services officials said the boy would not have been infectious when he flew from Mexico City to Matamoras, across the border from Brownsville.

The boy had several underlying health problems, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. He had developed a fever on April 8, followed by other flu-like symptoms. At the time, he

and his family were in Texas visiting relatives. None of his close contacts have developed symptoms.

Speaking at a Wednesday news conference, Houston's health director, Dr. David Persse, said, "The boys family members are healthy and well." Health officials in Brownsville are trying to trace his family's trip to find out how long they were in the area, who they visited and how many people were in the group, Sources said. The boy was admitted to a hospital in Brownsville before being transferred to Houston-area hospital, where he died.

From research done during the last national concern over a possible Avian Flu Pandemic, Professor Emmet McClary in Mass Communication shared some of

the science for this story. In trying to understand how Germs and Viruses mutate and adapt there are two main paths they can take to reach the human population from the livestock populations.

Antigenic Drift goes on all the time as one form of virus replicates itself inside one or a number of different hosts of the same species. This is because as the virus replicates itself each copy is an exact copy but only to a point. There is the rare chance this drift over time may produce a virus so different the hosts antibodies don't recognize it and are thereby rendered ineffective.

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WVSD 91.7 ON-AIR PERSONALITY GERMARION NOLAN WINS AWARD



By Anthony "DJ Tony O" Holmes

Nolan sat down with the Gazette and told us how he felt about receiving the award, what sparked his interest in broadcasting, what led him to radio and his informative, inspiring plans for the future

Never take small beginnings for granted. WVSD's very own Germarion "Mario" Nolan, was named On-air personality of the year at this year's "Black College Radio, Television/ Internet annual convention.

Gemarion is a senior broadcast major here at MVSU and in part of the "Play-maker" (our local sport team) and one half of the brunch (a weekly entertainment

segment on WVSD 91.7. He plans to graduate in december and continue his education at Arkansas State University. When asked who and what inspired him to go into sports-casting and who have been some of his role models Marion smiled and replied, "I began in television and with the help of instructors here at Valley I found my home in radio I used to watch sports on TV and talk to the players and my mother would say "they can't hear you baby. I would practice over and over. I like thee styles of Gus Johnson, Marv Albert and Kevin Harlo. What advice would you give future communication majors.?" Learn to write for newspaper radio as well as TV. Many people don't know that we have to write for radio, everything from or scripts, spots, and show prep. Everyone who has an interest in radio should learn as many different kinds of audio editing software as possible. The only regret that i have is while a the conference i was not familiar with what the presenters were referring to when it came to the various audio editing software." When asked who carries the responsibly of teaching and learning current audio editing software, Gemarion relied "Mario was quick to answer;" It is important that the instructor make resources available and e student take full advantage of the tools that we have

here at WVSD." Germarion smile turned into a stern look as he went on to say, "You have to get it your self, you can't wait until some one brings it to you. The communication filed if fierce, you have to be on top of your game. Many students don't realize that the equipment that we have is the same or better that any radio station in the area.

We need to appreciate what we have and take pride in it and use it." The trip to Atlanta was exciting to Gemarion and met many personalities that we see on a weekly basis on TV, in front and behind the scenes. "Atlanta is the biggest one of the biggest markets in the U.S.. you have to be better than just good. "We learned that you have to know how to every thing from running the cameras, the mixing board .. , everything. A cute face with no skills want face won't get it. Many people choose communication because they think that it is an easy field. Trust me it is not." Gemarion advises students to be themselves when it comes to being an on-air personality. As we wrapped up our conversation with Gemarion he picked up his filed recorder; as he was already preparing for next years football season, he left us with these words. "If you love it give it your all".

“THE VALLEY RENAISSANCE”

By: Dorice Beamon & Kemarius Lee

On Wednesday April 8, 2009 the rebirth of a movement happened on the campus of Mississippi Valley State University and the renaissance men and women had many faces. One West Productions, which was founded in the fall of 2008, produced a stellar stage play, the first of its kind that was written and produced by award-winning student and newly appointed Editor-in-Chief of the Delta Devils Gazette, Crystal Foster. The script, entitled “The Right Choice” took well over two months to complete, and focuses on a group of college students, who are determined to make all types of decisions except the right ones. The script also deals with ones relationship with God and the importance of HIV and STD awareness. Foster, who birthed the critically acclaimed campus organization, which, since its inception has already garnered much success, said she did it to help those students who don't normally participate in campus activities to find an outlet. The production was put on in the H.G. Carpenter Auditorium on campus, and some major actors contributed to the work. Majority



of them were students from the department of communications and they were: Candace Young (Tierra), Alexis Jones (Nina), Cedric Cox (Michael), Crown Victoria Coefield (Precious), Fantasia Maine (Mother), Marquida Morgan (Keyshia), Gladys Mitchell (Emily), Rodney Rice (Johnny), Napoleon Johnson (Ace), Ricky D Maine (Pastor Williams), Christopher “Lil Chris” Thompson (Matthew and Peanut), Carlissa Simpson (Toni Ray), Wilshonda Johnson (Mercedes), Tonique

Hill (Casey “Juicy” Thornton), and Kemarius Lee (Curtis Slim Windfield) Each student gave a fascinating performance, and the job of bringing each individual character to life was phenomenal. “The Right Choice” exemplified the play in every way. Each scene was uniquely titled as well, with befitting titles such as: “Playa Playa’s”, “She Say What?”, “Be Mindful”, “The Fall Out”, “All Black Party”, “Is He or Not?”, “Got Tested?”, “Turning Point”, and “The Cycle Continues”. An additional tool that made the play even more interesting were songs that

related to the scene after it was over. This play was a reflection of a Valley Scholar on her way to success as well as the wonderful team who contributed to make it all possible- Kudos! To the One West Staff and the cast & crew for an absolute job well done.... You truly have awakened a sleeping giant on the campus of Mississippi Valley Sate University and we will definitely be on the lookout for more from One West very soon!

A FUNNY WAY OF SHOWING IT

By Christopher Thompson

The MVSU Department of Communications presented, “A Funny Way of Showing It.” This was a one-act dramatic play by Jerry Rabushka, which took place on April 14 and 15, in the MVSU student union Royal Room. Barbara Baymon, Theater Arts instructor, directed and advised this spring production. The play expressed a serious issue that is common among most young adults today, domestic violence. It illustrated a young, naïve girl attending high school being abused verbally and physically by her football boyfriend. With the support of her friends and teachers, she was able to seek



help and get out of the situation.

Domestic violence is severe and important for people to seek help who are in similar situations. Yolanda Jones, Director of Student Counseling and Support Center, was present at the event. Jones spoke a few words after the show, mentioning the assistance and counseling

she provides here on Valley campus. Baymon's production was an excellent way of showing how both friends and community should respond to domestic violence. If you missed this play, you really missed a treat. I'm sure the audience would agree.

The acting was spectacular and the message was great. I commend Baymon on a great message being portrayed. Look for more great things coming from The Valley Players.

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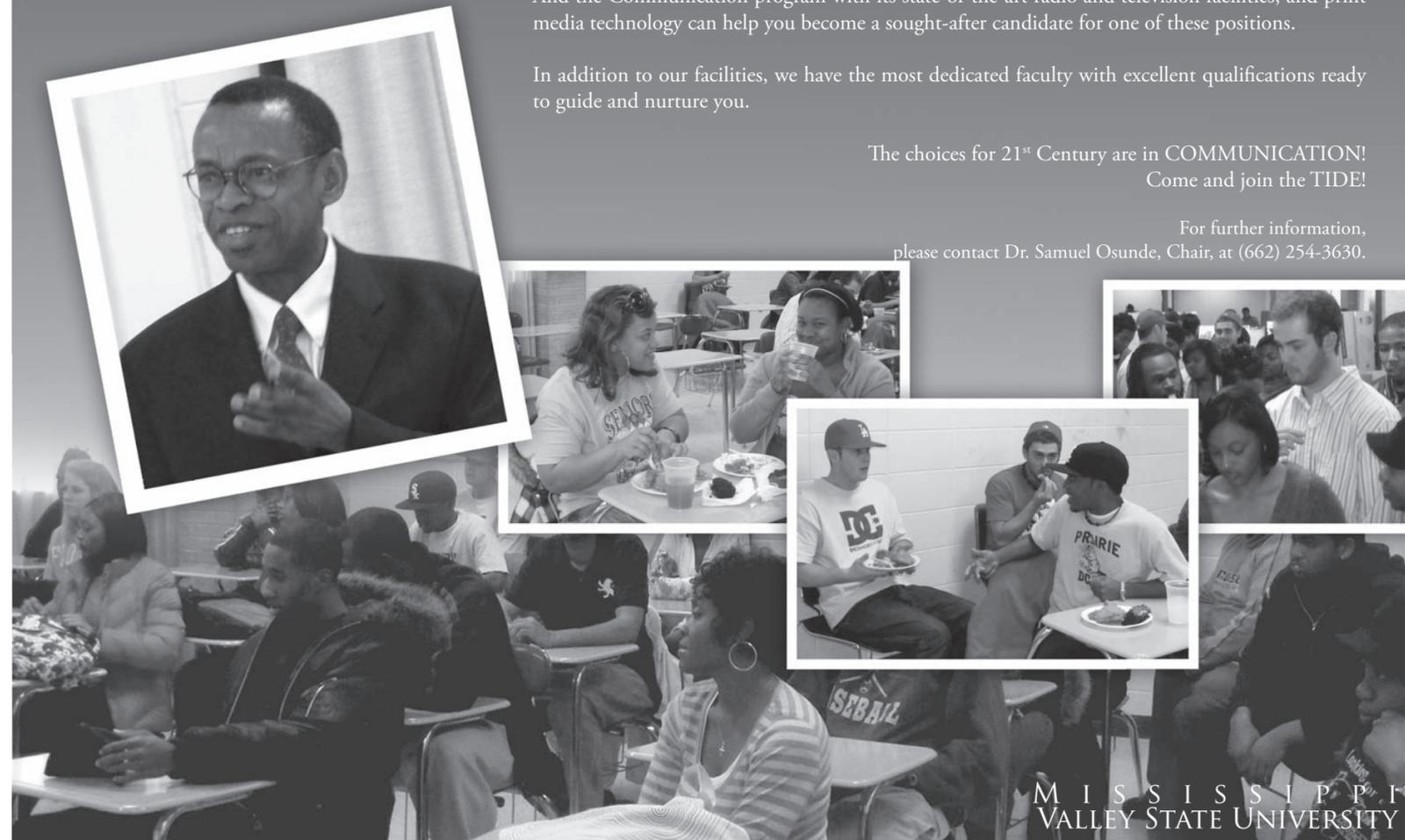
On the other hand, in public relations publicist, account executive, media buyer, or corporate advertising are opportunities that await you. Speech Communication program at MVSU, with its up-to-date curriculum will prepare you for positions such as speech writer, sales person, manager, educator, researcher, or scholar. All of these occupations can lead to executive marketing and management positions, where the BIG MONEY is.

And the Communication program with its state-of-the-art radio and television facilities, and print media technology can help you become a sought-after candidate for one of these positions.

In addition to our facilities, we have the most dedicated faculty with excellent qualifications ready to guide and nurture you.

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please contact Dr. Samuel Osunde, Chair, at (662) 254-3630.



MISSISSIPPI
VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

PREEMINENCE AWARDS *Continued from page 1*



After dinner, Dr. Donna Oliver and Dallas Reed came to the podium to present the awards to the five outstanding contributors to Valley of the night. This was Dr. Oliver's first Gala attendance at MVSU and she was very thrilled to be able to share this evening with everyone.

Dr. Lawrence Goldman was the first to be called and awarded for The Arts. He is a native of Santa Rosa, California, and been a faculty member at Mississippi Valley State University for the past 29 years. He has participated in more than 300 concerts performances on Valley campus.

Goldman was unaware of winning the award and was slightly unprepared. "I'm afraid I have the wrong speech prepared. There are some very devious people on this campus," he said playfully. Goldman was prepared to make a speech, just not a speech for receiving an award.

Second award winner was Dr. Ernest A. Boykin's Jr. He was the second president of Mississippi Valley State University. He was awarded in his field of Education/Academics. Boykin's expanded the curriculum at MVSU which included a variety of academic programs, such as Aerospace Studies, Family and Community Services, Environmental Health, etc. Boykin's was also surprised of receiving his award and agreed with Goldman about having another speech prepared. "I think it must be some kind of conspiracy because I had another speech prepared," he said.

The next individual that was awarded was Willie Gregory in the field of Philanthropy. He is an alumnus of Valley and supports his alma mater in anyway possible. He joined NIKE and has been a deal maker for communities

for more than 20 years of experience in sports, community and business investment, as well as marketing and sales experience. Gregory was honored to receive his award. "It's such an honor to be able to stand here and receive this award," he said.

Bennie Thompson was awarded in the fields of Government, Politics, and Advocacy. He is currently serving his eight term for Mississippi's Second Congregational District and third term on the Homeland Security Committee. And then, Dr. Dorothy Pernell, acknowledge in her fields of Leadership, Community Service, and Civic

Endeavors. Pernell and her daughter Dr. Erin Jacobs are currently practicing at Murphree & Pernell Chiropractic, located in Greenwood.



Pernell has volunteered her time and her own funds in the holistic development of MVSU student athletes.

The entertainment for the evening was the popular R&B vocal group, The Manhattans. They topped off the night performing their smash hit singles, "Kiss and Say Goodbye", and "Shining Star." According to Gerald Alston, the lead singer of the group mentioned, they have performed at Mississippi Valley State University before. "Maybe, about three or four times we have performed here," he said. They did an outstanding performance and had the whole audience singing aloud and dancing to their music. The Manhattans are currently on tour. "We are currently on tour with the Stylistics, The Magic's and The Whispers and on our way to Detroit" Alston stated.

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Mississippi Valley State University Professors and Students to visit (UN) the United Nations.

A delegation from Mississippi Valley State University attended a one week conference at the United Nations in New York. The delegation comprised of two professors and 12 students left on April 6 and returned on April 13, 2009. The delegates participated in the National Model United Nation's Conference in New York. The annual conference is attended by over 4,443 students from 239 colleges and universities representing five continents.

The five days conference "offered a diverse group of informed participants a forum for discussing global issues in a context that closely parallels the "real world" said Chair Dr. Morgan Ero, faculty advisor to the program and Social Sciences Department interim Chair "students as delegates propose resolutions addressing regional conflicts such as peacekeeping, human rights violations, economic and social development and the environment." "The conference gives our students a better understanding of the inner workings of the Unites Nations as they build skills in diplomacy and compromise. This gives our students, as future leaders, the opportunity to represent countries, other than their own. During the conference, students acting as delegates discuss contemporary global issues and pass resolutions". Dr. Ero said.

"Our students have had the rare opportunity to build lasting and valuable relationships with delegates from all over the world, enhance their writing and oratory skills, meet with member of the diplomatic corps and ambassadors of the member countries of the United Nations," added Dr. Ero.

Delegates for 2009 from Valley are comprised of Ilyas Zeynalov, Jermaine Simmons, Travis Leland, Kourtney Anderson, Kirri Bolton, Apolonia Kukla, Precious Alridge, Portia Weeks, Emily Johnson, Kortney Rule, Ashley Jones, and Sherelle Cohen. The students are accompanied by Professors Morgan Ero and Mrs. Antoinette Livingston, Assistant professor of Sociology.



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