

GAZETTE

An award-winning college newspaper, by students for students

SEPTEMBER 2024

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY • ITTA BENA, MISSISSIPPI

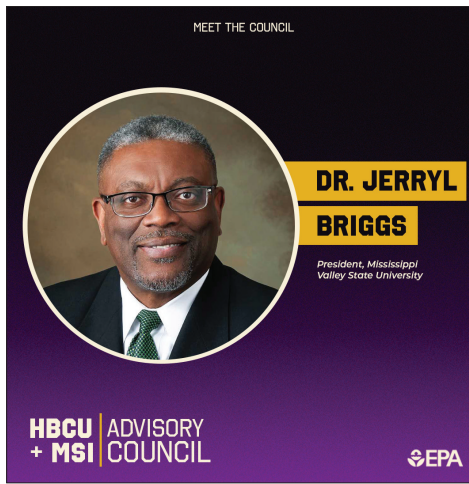
Volume 50/ Number 1

The MVSU family congratulates Dr. Briggs on his appointment to EPA Advisory Council

DDG Staff Report

Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) proudly announces that Dr. Jerryl Briggs, the university's president since 2017, has been appointed to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) newly established Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) Federal Advisory Council.

This innovative council aims to empower HBCUs and MSIs within federal environmental programs, ensuring that the unique voices and needs of these institutions are represented in national policymaking. Dr. Briggs brings



over 35 years of leadership experience in higher education, advocating for student success and community development.

In expressing his excitement about

this role, Dr. Briggs stated, "I am deeply honored to be selected as a member of the EPA's inaugural HBCU-MSI Federal Advisory Council. This opportunity to contribute to the intersection of education and environmental justice is a significant step toward ensuring that our communities, especially those at HBCUs and MSIs, are not only represented but also equipped to lead in environmental sustainability efforts."

The HBCU-MSI Federal Advisory Council, comprised of 20 distinguished leaders from various sectors, will provide independent advice to the EPA Administrator. The council identifies barriers to employment opportunities and nurtures future environmental

leaders while ensuring that HBCUs and MSIs receive the necessary resources for continued success.

Students, staff and faculty are delighted that their university president has been esteemed with such a significant achievement and look forward to his contributions to advancing environmental justice and sustainability initiatives.

"As a new student of MVSU, hearing the news of our very own president becoming a part of such a council sparked pride in me," said Freshmen Amiyah Spencer. "Dr. Briggs' appointment to this council reflects the type of institution my school prides itself in being."

B.B. King 10th Annual Symposium at MVSU: A Milestone Success

By Ameena Rauf, Staff Writer

On Sept. 4-5, 2024, the 10th Annual B.B. King Day Symposium was held at Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) in tribute to the blues legend. The celebration kicked off with a dedicated lecture attended by MVSU students, faculty, and guests. Panel discussions explored the future of African Americans and the broader impact of blues culture on international audiences, including those from Europe.

The theme for this year's symposium, "The Next Generation of Blues

Artists," highlighted how contemporary musicians preserve the legacy of the blues while evolving its cultural narrative. Symposium Founder Dr. Alphonso Sanders has been a key figure in this effort for over 25 years. He has traveled internationally, engaging with diverse audiences and showcasing a musical range that spans from ragtime to modern electric blues. Sanders is former chair of MVSU Fine Arts and former Director of the B.B. King Recording Studio.

"So, to be asked to come back is related to me starting a symposium 10

years ago as a tribute to B.B. King. And then I felt it an honor to continue the program after I left," Dr. Sanders expressed. He shared insights about B.B. King's life, recounting how the legend elevated the spirits of younger generations during his annual visits to Indianola, Miss. He emphasized that King was not only a musician but also an educated man committed to learning and advocating for African American rights through his art. "Blues is the thing that faced hurdles and threats," Sanders noted, but he remains optimistic about the future. He cited young musicians

like Kamasi Washington and Esperanza Spalding as examples of how the genres are being revitalized.

Event coordinator Margaret Clark remarked that King's legacy exemplifies music's power to bridge divides and unite people. During the lecture, Dr. Sanders performed "Triumph," showcasing the original blues instrument he discovered at MVSU. Mr. Webb also performed a harmonica piece, enriching the atmosphere.

During the Q&A session, Webb shared a poignant reflection, stating, "In

See "Symposium Page 3

MVSU hosts a voter registration drive

DDG Staff Report

On Sept. 18, 2024, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., the MVSU Student Government Association (SGA) and Student Alumni Association held a "What's Up Wednesday" Voter Registration Drive at the H.M. Ivy Cafeteria. Partnering with the Leflore County Circuit Clerk, the event aimed to emphasize the importance of student votes, with the clerk on hand to collect registrations on-site.

Students were treated to free slushes and were reminded that their campus precinct allows them to easily vote by simply walking from their dorms to the poll. The event highlighted how college students' votes can make a significant impact.

See Michael Coleman's commentary on the "power" of college students' votes on page 2.



MVSU's Mister Junior Jabari Johnson and Mister Sophomore Henry Espy assist students with voter registration. PHOTO BY Myiesha Smith

DDG wins coveted ASPA first-place award



The Power of College Voters: Paving the way for possible historic change

By Michael Coleman, Contributing Writer

The influence of young voters, particularly college students, is undeniable in shaping the political landscape of the United States. College campuses have long been hotbeds of political activism, playing a pivotal role in social and political movements throughout history.

Today, college students stand at the forefront of a unique opportunity: the potential to elect the first African American woman as President of the United States. This momentous possibility underscores the power of the college vote and highlights how this generation could forever alter the course of history.

College voters represent a critical demographic in U.S. elections. Historically, young voters have been known for lower turnout rates, but recent trends suggest a shift in this behavior. According to the United

States Census Bureau, voter turnout among 18- to 29-year-olds surged during the 2020 presidential election, with approximately 51.4% of eligible voters in this age group participating, compared to 42.6% in 2016. This increase was largely attributed to college students mobilizing through campus-led efforts and social media campaigns that encouraged civic participation.

This growing influence is further underscored by the fact that college students are often highly engaged on issues such as climate change, racial justice, healthcare, and education. Their active involvement in these causes means that they not only bring fresh perspectives to the political process, but also tend to support candidates who align with their vision of a progressive and equitable future.

Imagine the historical significance of being the generation to elect the first African American woman to the

highest office in the country. This would be more than just a victory for representation; it would be a victory for the very ideals that college students hold dear—equality, diversity, and justice.

Electing an African American woman as president would shatter one of the highest glass ceilings, inspiring countless young women and people of color to pursue leadership roles in all sectors. According to a report from the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP), although women have made significant gains in political representation, they remain underrepresented at all levels of government. For African American women specifically, the numbers are even more grim. According to Congress's own Congressional Research Service (CRS) report, updated Sept. 12, 2024, only 30 Black women are serving in the 118th Congress.

Moreover, African American women are already recognized as a crucial voting bloc. In recent elections, they have consistently shown some of the highest turnout rates among demographic groups. A 2016 study by the Pew Research Center revealed that 64% of eligible Black women voters participated in that year's election, showcasing their political engagement and influence. Electing an African American woman president would not only honor this legacy of engagement but would also affirm the growing power of women of color in shaping national policy.

College voters have the potential to transform the political landscape in unprecedented ways. By embracing the power of their vote, college students could be the generation to elect the first African American woman as President of the United States—a historic moment that would signal progress toward a inclusive and representative democracy.

VP Kamala Harris may be the 'chosen one' after presidential debate with Trump

By Starneicia S. Campbell, Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2024, millions of people across the world tuned in to watch the first and possibly only presidential debate of the year between Former President Donald Trump and VP Harris as they faced off on important issues.

This live event was hosted virtually by ABC news in Philadelphia, pa. at the National Constitution Center. The two candidates gave their argumentative reasons about why they are both qualified for the position as they were closed off in an intimate setting with no live audience.

Democratic Candidate VP Harris began giving her viewpoints on the economy and cost of living, which she stressed very factual issues. Harris has plans for the people of America, not only middle class as she is herself but for all. She plans to build an "opportunity economy" planning to extend a tax cut for families which will be 6,000 dollars, making it the largest child tax credit.

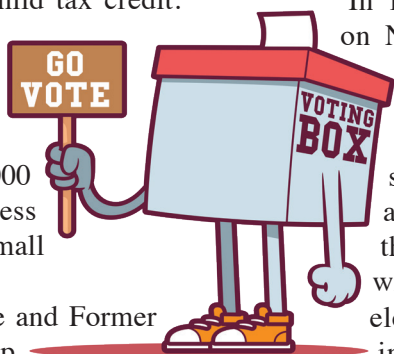
She goes on to express that there are shortages of homes, housing is very expensive, she also plans to give a 50,000 tax deduction to business owners to help grow small businesses.

Republican Candidate and Former President Donald Trump has broad plans if he is chosen as president, he has a "Concept of a Plan". He highlighted the fact that he will be implementing tariffs as it will be substantial in some cases as other countries will be able to pay the United States back after 75 years. He

goes on to state how the economy has been terrible because inflation breaks up countries, which leaves millions of people "pouring" into our country from prisons, jails, mental institutions, and insane asylums. He stated that they are coming in to take African American, Hispanics, and occupied jobs. He strongly feels that Biden and Harris are at fault, and quote "They let them into our country and are destroying our country". I do not support his plans for the presidency if chosen.

VP Harris plans to expand, raise health care, and believes that abortions should be a choice for women to make. She expressed that women should have that choice because there are so many that go through unfortunate situations and Trump should not be the judge of that. VP Harris also feels that there should be a change within gun laws, and that students need more aid in colleges. As a believer in Pro-Choice people should have the freedom to do what is right for them.

In less than two months, on Nov. 5, 2024, Election Day will be present and there will be a new reign. I look forward to seeing what will happen as well as the rest of the world. Keeping up with presidential debates, elections, and voting is important because this country demands someone to run it and that should be someone who will keep America safe, and flowing. I do proudly express that VP Harris has won my vote. I hope this urges everyone to go out, make the choice they feel is right and vote!



the delta devils
GAZETTE

American Scholastic Press Association
1989, 1990, 1991, 1997, 2002 and 2024 FIRST PLACE winner.
2015 THIRD PLACE winner. 2016 SECOND PLACE winner.

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Dr. Gordon interviews Diplomat in Residence of the Central South for 'Consider This' session

By Amiyah Spencer, Staff Writer

Dr. Gordon sat down with the Diplomat in Residence of the Central South, Shane Hough, on Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024, in the Mass Communications Conference Room.

Hough is a recruiter for the foreign services. He is visiting Mississippi Valley State University for the first time. He started his venture of a career in hopes of gaining experience of the world outside of what he was used to. He was a guest on Dr. Gordon's show, "Consider This." A few students attended this session as audience.

In this interview, Dr. Gordon and Hough reflect discussed the true purpose of a Diplomat and some doubts people may have about abroad ventures that come along with international internships and studies. Hough mentioned that his mission as a diplomat is to ensure peace



Diplomat Hough poses for a photo with (l-r) Anuja Halder, Dr. Carolyn L. Gordon, Diana Toxanova and TV Instructor Alphonso White. PHOTO: DDG Staff Writer Amiyah Spencer

and safety for all Americans abroad. The discussion then goes into detail of the purpose and impact of foreign services starting with details of Hough's own experience.

His goal is to recruit MVSU students interested in international internships

and abroad study, bringing in diversity to the Foreign Services. A Key factor mentioned in this interview was the preparation of the "Next Generation of Diplomats," as Dr. Gordon put it. In completing this goal, the purpose will continue to be served.

Mixer attendance proves to be 'eye opening'

Jair Horton, Staff Writer

After attending the Mississippi Valley State University Mass Communication Mixer recently, I got a chance to see what MVSU's Mass Communication program has to offer.

Instructor and TV Studio Director Alphonzo White did the welcome. We learned that he is also a major of a local city. Acting Chair Dr. Carolyn L. Gordon greeted us with a smile and a fun Q&A icebreaker. Faculty members introduced themselves and gave many words of encouragement telling my peers and I that life gets hard, but it is all about perseverance. The main goal is for all of us to graduate, but if life has a different path for us then it is ok for us to step away. They all emphasized that it is all love, but please do not abuse the love that is given. Every student was given a detailed description of the expectations the department has for us. We were also told all the benefits that we get from being in the major. To top it all off, each student was fed a wonderful lunch consisting of chicken, vegetables, bread. In all the mixer was a wonderful experience and opened my eyes to what the major had to offer.



Symposium

continued from page 1



Melody Angel, only the second woman to play B.B. King's famous guitar, "Lucille," at the symposium, thrilled blues enthusiasts. PHOTO: DDG Staff

Alabama, there is a movement to find out the truth. One of my late friends said, 'They never should've called it the Blues; they should've called it the truth because that's what it is.'

Samaria Williams, an MVSU senior from Houston, attended the symposium due to her Mississippi roots. "My father is from Greenville, Mississippi. Even though I was miles away in Texas, I was well-informed about my Mississippi heritage, and B.B. King was present at those talks," she said.

The symposium successfully elevated the spirit of attendees and marked a critical moment in the history of American music in Mississippi, the birthplace of the blues.



MVSU joins financial literacy program to empower students

By Latavia Williams, Contributing Writer

Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) has partnered with the Society for Financial Education and Professional Development (SFEPP) to enhance financial literacy among its students. The SFEPP program focuses on helping Historically Black College and Universities (HBCUs) develop essential financial skills. The university officially joined the program in August 2024.

The SFEPP Student Ambassador Program aims to teach first-generation college students financial strategies and economic skills for use in everyday life.

MVSU's Coordinator of Financial Literacy LaTonya Jones said the program will equip students with



the knowledge to make informed financial decisions and manage their money responsibly. "I am excited that MVSU is among the HBCUs hosting SFEPP financial literacy program on our campus," Jones said. The

program encourages students to share these valuable financial lessons with their families and communities after graduation.

Four MVSU students have been named ambassadors for the program:

Jouri Thornton, Jabari Johnson, Artaveian Epps and Ava Anderson. These student ambassadors will lead peer-to-peer financial education workshops and events covering topics such as budgeting, saving, credit, and debit management.

The SFEPP Student Ambassador Program goals are to embed financial education into college culture, expand SFEPP's reach, and create last financial literacy programs at HBCUs. It also seeks to help students make informed financial decisions improve retention and graduation rates, reduce loan defaults, and positively impact community financial habits.

MVSU is excited to embark on this new journey and enhance the financial well-being of its students a community.

Valley Singers lift spirits at 3rd Annual Till Memorial

By Cortney Dyer, Staff Writer

On Sunday, Aug. 31 at 11 a.m., the 3rd Annual Memorial Service for Emmett Till was held at the National Park, located in Ruleville, Miss. Locals got to celebrate and remember the life of Emmett Till.

The memorial was to acknowledge the life that was lost and remind the community of the history and accomplishments since then. Greeting the audience was Acting Superintendent William Cheek, who welcomed the audience with a brief rundown of the service. "I want to welcome friends, partnered organizations, faculty, students, and dignitaries," he said. "Thank you for joint us today and welcome to Gravel Landing."

The Mississippi Valley State University Valley Singers were in attendance with a special selection, "Precious Lord" arranged by Roland Carter with lead vocalist Jouri Thornton.



Till

Following their performance guest expressed their gratitude. "It was a wonderful selection; I love the spirit and the voices were just magnificent and added to the feeling of the day." Acting

Chair Donna Bryant stated.

Many in attendance reacted that the 3rd annual memorial service of Emmett Till was a special event that allowed guests to pay tribute to a beautiful life lost to soon, as well as enjoy selections that helped set the tone.

"The choir did a wonderful job that really embodied the theme of this commemorative event, we were glad to have them today and look forward to working with them again," Cheek stated.

MVSU Faculty Institute welcomes New Faculty Members



Above are seven of the new faculty members who joined the Valley family this academic year.

Homecoming Decoration Contest

THE HOMECOMING DEPARTMENT "SPIRIT OF LOVE" DECORATION COMPETITION

IS QUICKLY APPROACHING! THIS YEAR'S THEME IS "FOR THE LOVE OF VALLEY," SO LET'S SHOW OUR SCHOOL SPIRIT AND PASSION FOR MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY LIKE NEVER BEFORE!

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Decoration Start Date:** Monday, September 30, 2024
- Decoration End Date:** Monday, October 14, 2024
- Judging Date:** Tuesday, October 15, 2024

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

- Uniqueness:** How creative and original is your department's presentation?
- Theme Incorporation:** How well does your design reflect the theme, "For the Love of Valley"?

Valley Spirit: How clearly does your entry display pride in Mississippi Valley State University?

Overall Presentation: The quality and cohesiveness of the overall design.

HOW TO ENTER:

To participate, simply complete the registration using the QR code at the top of this announcement. This will provide you with all the details and instructions to ensure your department is ready to compete!

STAR STUDENT OF THE MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2024

Name: **De'Andre McGee**

Classification: **Junior**

Major: **Engineering Technology**

Hometown: **Greenwood**

STAR STUDENT OF THE MONTH

AUGUST 2024

Name: **Myiesha Smith**

Classification: **Junior**

Major: **Mass Communication**

Hometown: **Indianola**

STAR STUDENT OF THE MONTH

JUNE 2024

Name: **Shanti Prayer**

Classification: **Sophomore**

Major: **Business Administration**

STAR STUDENT OF THE MONTH

JULY 2024

Name: **Daryl McCray**

Classification: **Senior**

Major: **Health, Physical Education**

Hometown: **Indianola**

Mississippi Valley State University Named Fulbright HBCU Institutional Leader by the U.S. Department of State

By Dr. L. Shivakumaraiah / Fulbright Program

Mississippi Valley State University is proud to be named as a Fulbright Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Institutional Leader for 2024. Each year, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) recognizes the engagement of HBCUs with the Fulbright Program, the U.S. government's flagship international academic exchange program. MVSU has been recognized as the Fulbright HBCU Institutional leader for the fourth consecutive year since 2021.

Fulbright HBCU Institutional Leaders demonstrate noteworthy support for Fulbright exchange participants and encourage administrators, faculty and students at HBCUs to engage with Fulbright on campus. The Fulbright HBCU Institutional Leaders initiative highlights HBCUs as a destination for international students and scholars and showcases the deep intellectual tradition and proud

history of each to audiences abroad.

The announcement of the Fulbright HBCU Institutional Leaders was made on September 10, 2024 in advance of the 2024 Annual National HBCU Week Conference hosted by the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity through Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken congratulated each HBCU Institutional Leader, saying this designation "is a testament to your institution's dedication to promoting global engagement and international understanding."

"MVSU's recognition as a 2024 Fulbright HBCU institutional leader for four (4) years straight is not only an honor but also speaks to the University's commitment to its mission," said Dr. Kathie Stromile Golden, Provost/Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs. "More specifically this recognition



denotes our ongoing efforts to expose MVSU students, faculty and communities we serve to the Mississippi Delta and beyond. Indeed, the University's global footprint rivals those of larger institutions."

Dr. Lokesh Shivakumaraiah, Executive Director of International Programs, said, "The Office of International Programs continues to further strengthen collaboration with the Fulbright Program to promote curriculum and campus internationalization efforts at MVSU. Our partnership with the Fulbright Program has enabled us to continue

providing an opportunity for our students and faculty to interact with Fulbright scholars and professors worldwide." MVSU Departments and faculty interested in applying for the Fulbright program and hosting Fulbright scholars can contact the Office of International Programs at international@mvsu.edu or 662-254-3094.

"The U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Program are committed to reflecting the full diversity of the United States," said Scott Weinhold, Senior Bureau Official for the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, emphasizing that HBCU engagement with the Fulbright Program helps to accomplish this goal and "builds meaningful relationships between communities and people around the world."

"Historically Black Colleges and Universities are vital contributors to America's higher education community. They are dedicated institutions working to develop the leaders

of tomorrow," said Weinhold.

The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program. Since its inception in 1946, the Fulbright Program has provided over 400,000 talented and accomplished students, scholars, teachers, artists, and professionals, of all backgrounds and in all fields, the opportunity to study, teach, and conduct research abroad. Fulbrighters exchange ideas, build people-to-people connections, and work to address complex global challenges. Fulbright is a program of the U.S. Department of State, with funding provided by the U.S. Government. Participating governments and host institutions, corporations, and foundations around the world also provide direct and indirect support to the Program. Learn more about the Fulbright Program at <https://fulbrightprogram.org>.

The Office of International Programs helps to diversify the faculty portfolio at the Valley

By Anuja Halder, MVSU Global Editor

With the continual efforts to foster a multi-cultural environment with an internationally engaged campus, the Office of International Programs (OIP) at Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) has welcomed a dynamic group of international visiting professors and scholars from five countries for the 2024-25 academic year. Dr. Lokesh Shivakumaraiah, Executive Director of the Office of International Programs, expressed deep enthusiasm for this new cohort of scholars by saying, "The Office of International Programs is excited to welcome our international visiting professors and scholars. OIP will continue to collaborate with Academic Affairs and Departments to internationalize the curriculum and campus." These visiting academics will be critical in enhancing MVSU's academic and cultural environment, offering unique insights and expertise from their respective fields and countries.

Among the distinguished group of scholars are:

Dr. Chung-Yung Chen (Taiwan) - Fulbright Faculty: Dr. Chen is a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence specializing in bioinformatics, will be contributing as a Bioinformatics faculty to MVSU's growing emphasis on scientific research and innovation.

Cristina Rascón Castro (Mexico) - Spanish Professor: Ms. Castro is a Spanish Visiting Professor and brings in extensive cultural experience in Latin American literature and Spanish language instruction. Ms. Castro said, "It is an honor and great pleasure to join the Mississippi Valley State University. As Spanish is one of the five languages with more speakers in the world and the second most spoken language in the United States, after English, I am happy to teach Spanish to MVSU students for them to enhance their possibilities of future jobs and scholarships abroad, as well to improve their skills to communicate with Spanish speakers in America. This will

increase their cultural understanding in any academic or employment field."

MVSU is hosting two Fulbright Language Teaching Assistants from India and Tunisia. They will be teaching Hindi and Arabic in the Department of English and Foreign Language.

Anuja Halder (India - Hindi) - Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant: Ms. Halder expressing her enthusiasm said "I am proud and grateful to be part of the vibrant community at the Valley in Motion, which is steeped in rich historical heritage serve as a cultural ambassador of India. I would be encouraging cultural exchange by showcasing Indian culture through language, events and celebration of festivals. I consider this as a great opportunity to teach Hindi as a primary instructor and a scholar to study and learn about American culture. I also look forward to making this program a truly enriching and wholesome experience for all involved in the US."

Nour El-Houda Souissi (Tunisia - Arabic) - Fulbright Language Teaching

Assistant: Ms. Souissi said "I am beyond honored to be joining Mississippi Valley State University as a Fulbright Language Teacher of Arabic coming from Tunisia. The students here have shown incredible enthusiasm for learning Arabic, and I've been amazed at how lively and dynamic this community has been. I am eager to share my Tunisian culture, language and contribute to the rich educational environment of the university. This opportunity to connect and inspire through an intercultural exchange is both exciting and deeply fulfilling."

Koichi Paku (Japan) - Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) Coordinator: The JOI coordinator's goal is to foster a greater understanding of Japanese society, culture, and language through outreach activities across campus and in the wider Mississippi Delta community. Mr. Paku said "I am here to introduce Japanese culture to the Mississippi-Delta region and promote grassroots exchange between the U.S. and Japan. I am looking forward to it."

MVSU welcomes Visiting Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence from Taiwan

By Dr. L. Shivakumaraiah / Fulbright Program

Mississippi Valley State University is hosting a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence from Taiwan to teach and pursue research in the Bio-informatics Program based in the Department of Natural Sciences and Environmental Health during the 2024-2025 academic year. Dr. Chung-Yung Chen, an expert in (name of discipline) at (name of scholar's home institution),

was selected for the Fulbright award by the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

The Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Program brings visiting scholars from abroad to U.S. colleges and universities, helping the institutions internationalize their curricula, campuses and surrounding communities, and diversify the educational experiences of their students, faculty, staff, and stakeholders. Dr. Chung-Yung Chen is one of forty-

three Fulbright Scholars-in-Residence, and among 1,000 outstanding foreign faculty and professionals who will teach and pursue research in the United States for the 2024-2025 academic year through the worldwide Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program.

Dr. Chung-Yung Chen will be teaching Bioinformatics graduate courses at MVSU. He will also collaborate with MVSU faculty to pursue research

and explore academic collaboration partnerships with Taiwan higher education institutions. MVSU academic departments interested to host Fulbright faculty, please contact the Office of International Programs at international@mvsu.edu or 662-254-3094.

Dr. Chen said "I eagerly anticipate the upcoming academic year and the contributions we will make together at MVSU."

Faculty Spotlight

From Valley alum to Valley advocate: A Journey of Service

By Dr. Gail H. Marshall Brown, DDG Faculty Advisor

In the heart of the Mississippi Delta, Derrick Beck, a proud Mississippi Valley State University alum and 2023 Business Administration graduate, exemplifies the university's spirit of education, service, and growth.

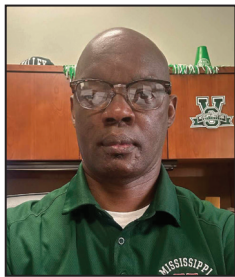
Beck's journey from student to grateful employee began in 2020 when he returned to MVSU to pursue a degree in Organizational Management.

He is currently a Business and Finance Administrative Assistant / Payroll Officer. He performs a multiplicity of tasks in the campus business office. Some of them are, but not limited to, ensuring that all documentation for new hires is with the paperwork for processing and processing documents that require action as requested. He is also responsible for processing and verifying bi-weekly payroll on time. He processes fringes and balances bills and process tax payments.

"My most rewarding experience at MVSU was the opportunity to return to school and earn my degree. This academic achievement is my greatest and most self-rewarding accomplishment," Beck shared.

Beyond academics, Beck takes pride in helping with service projects that make a positive impact on the MVSU community. "Participating in service projects has been incredibly fulfilling. It has allowed me to make a positive impact, build connections, and significantly contribute to my personal growth," he said.

Beck encourages students to embrace all MVSU offers: "This is your chance to shape your future, make connections,



Beck

and develop skills that will serve you for a lifetime." He also inspires potential employees, noting, "MVSU offers a vibrant, community-focused environment where your contributions can directly impact lives. It's not just a job; it's a legacy of service, education, and progress."

Humbled by this Delta Devils' Gazette spotlight recognition, Beck expressed gratitude for being featured, saying, "This award is special to me because you could have chosen so many other individuals that are doing GREAT work here at Mississippi Valley State University. I am so humbled that you noticed my work and thought enough to feature me this month."

Outside of work, Beck enjoys supporting MVSU athletics, especially women's basketball. As he continues his journey at MVSU, Beck remains dedicated to service, connection, and growth—building a future shaped by the values of his alma mater.

Before serving at Valley, Beck had a professional background with the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services and the Mississippi Department of Human Services.

He is currently in graduate school at his alma mater pursuing his Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree.

During leisure, the Valley advocate enjoys going on food-tasting tours by visiting new restaurants or hidden gems.

Special Announcement



DELTA DEVILS' GAZETTE

Breaking News

HELP WANTED!

Positions

1. Editor-in-Chief

Responsibilities: Oversee the entire newspaper operation, including content, layout, and deadlines. Coordinate with other editors and writers, manage editorial meetings, and ensure the quality and accuracy of all published material. *Skills Needed:* Strong leadership, organizational skills, and a solid understanding of journalistic standards.

2. Managing Editor

Responsibilities: Assist the Editor-in-Chief in managing the editorial team and workflow. Handle daily operations, track deadlines, and ensure that all content is edited and ready for publication. *Skills Needed:* Excellent time management, attention to detail, and strong communication skills.

3. News Editor

Responsibilities: Oversee the news section, assign stories to reporters, and edit news articles for clarity, accuracy, and adherence to the newspaper's style guide. *Skills Needed:* Strong reporting skills, knowledge of news writing, and the ability to handle breaking news situations.

4. Features Editor

Responsibilities: Manage the features section, which includes lifestyle, opinion, and arts & culture content. Guide feature writers, brainstorm story ideas, and ensure content is engaging and well-researched. *Skills Needed:* Creativity, strong editing skills, and a keen eye for compelling storytelling.

5. Sports Editor

Responsibilities: Oversee the sports section, including coverage of campus and local sports events. Assign stories, edit sports articles, and ensure timely publication of sports content. *Skills Needed:* Knowledge of sports journalism, strong editing skills, and a passion for sports.

6. Photo Editor

Responsibilities: Manage the photography department, including selecting and editing photos for publication. Coordinate with photographers to ensure high-quality images accompany stories. *Skills Needed:* Strong photography and photo editing skills, attention to detail, and creativity.

7. Copy Editors

Responsibilities: Review all articles for grammar, punctuation, style, and factual accuracy before publication. Ensure consistency and adherence to the newspaper's style guide. *Skills Needed:* Excellent grammar and editing skills, attention to detail, and a thorough understanding of journalistic standards.

8. Reporters

Responsibilities: Research and write news stories, features, or sports articles. Conduct interviews, gather information, and produce accurate and engaging content. *Skills Needed:* Strong writing and reporting skills, curiosity, and the ability to meet deadlines.



9. Columnist(s)

Responsibilities: Write regular opinion pieces or personal columns on various topics. Develop a unique voice and provide insightful commentary on current events or campus issues. *Skills Needed:* Strong writing skills, originality, and the ability to engage readers with thought-provoking content.

10. Graphic Design Helpers

Responsibilities: Create visual elements for the newspaper, including layouts, infographics, and illustrations. Work with the editorial team to ensure that visual content enhances the overall design and readability. *Skills Needed:* Proficiency in graphic design software, creativity, and an eye for design aesthetics.

11. Social Media Assistant

Responsibilities: Assist in managing the newspaper's social media accounts, promote articles, engage with the campus community online, and track social media metrics. *Skills Needed:* Strong understanding of social media platforms, content creation, and engagement strategies.

12. Advertising Team/Team Lead

Responsibilities: Oversee the advertising section, including selling ad space, creating ad layouts, and managing relationships with advertisers. Ensure ads are integrated smoothly into the newspaper. *Skills Needed:* Sales skills, organizational ability, and familiarity with advertising design.

Note: All of the above volunteer positions include some degree of training. Therefore, do not be afraid to apply if you are willing to help. However, seriously-interested students who have experience from their high school newspapers or other publications are essential. If interested, please email Gazette Faculty Advisor, Dr. Gail H.M. Brown, at gail.brown@mvsu.edu or telephone and leave a message at (662) 254-3458.

Join us!

Students who volunteer to serve with the award-winning Delta Devils' Gazette will earn Community Service hours. If interested, contact Faculty Advisor Dr. Gail H. Marshall Brown at (662) 254-3458 or email: gail.brown@mvsu.edu. Use in the subject line: **I WANT TO HELP!**

RESERVE YOUR AD SPACE!
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Greenville Community News

47th Annual MS Delta Blues Festival honors Bobby Rush

MVSU Mass Comm students gain hands-on experience

DDG Staff Report

Three-time Grammy Award winner Bobby Rush was the featured artist at the 47th Annual Mississippi Delta Blues & Heritage Festival in Greenville,



Rush

Miss., on Saturday, Sept. 21. Earlier in the week, the city honored Rush with a street-naming ceremony, recognizing his contributions to music and the Delta Blues tradition.

Other artists' line-up included: Rising Star Fife and Drum Band, Pat Thomas, Kattawar Brothers,

Cadillac John Nolden, John Horton Blues Band, Keith Johnson & the Big Muddy Band, Eden Brent,

Mr. Sipp, Lacy, Bobby Rush, FPJ and King George.

On-hand to capture the annual historic event on video were MVSU Mass Communication students (Broadcast Concentration).



Church members explore the struggle for freedom at Mississippi Civil Rights Museum

DDG Staff Report

Members of the Lexington, Miss. Sweet Canaan Church of God in Christ, led by Dr. Percy Washington, pastor, and First Lady Glenda Washington, took a powerful journey through history by visiting the Civil Rights Museum in Jackson, Miss., Sept. 14.

The trip aimed to deepen participants' understanding of the struggles and achievements that shaped both Mississippi and the nation.

Pastor Washington emphasized the importance of learning from the past, stating, "In order for us to understand where we are today, we have to go back and look at where we have come from. So many paid a dear price—even their lives—for the rights we enjoy today."

The church group, including members of all ages, reflected on Mississippi's role in the civil rights movement, with exhibits highlighting the legacies of Medgar Evers, Emmett Till, and others. The visit inspired a new appreciation for the sacrifices made in the fight for freedom and equality, sparking plans for future trips to continue exploring this rich, complex history.

Dr. Washington is a proud alumnus of Mississippi Valley State University who believes in everyone knowing the history from whence they came.



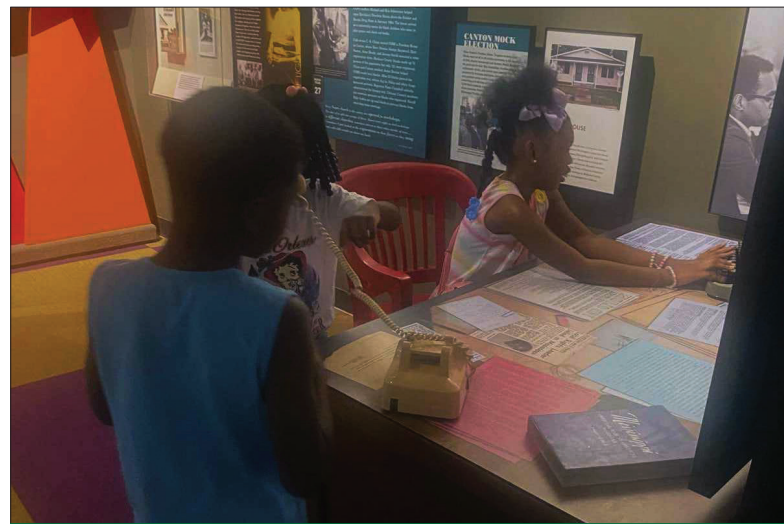
Church members excitedly enter the museum.



Church members chat near the museum's historic wall display.



MVSU Alumnus and Pastor Percy Washington takes pictures.



Youth members explore the old telephone and typewriter.

Micheal Joe Cannon and Tony Ellis
pictured being awarded the
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SEPTEMBER 19, 2024



My Perspective: Delta Devils seek redemption against Alcorn State

By Shomari Hunt, Sports Writer

When the Delta Devils take the field against Alcorn State this Saturday, Sept. 28, they won't just be playing for a win—they'll be stepping onto history. The new turf field and Jumbotron have brought a fresh energy to the Rice-Totten Stadium, a signal that MVSU is investing in its athletes and its future.

For us students, it's been a long time coming. We've watched other schools boast about their facilities while we've stuck with the same field for years. But now, seeing that bright green turf and the giant Jumbotron lighting up the end zone, it feels like we've turned a corner. It's not just about aesthetics; it's about pride. When the players run out onto that new surface, they'll know they're part of something bigger—a renewed commitment to the program.

This investment couldn't have come at a better time. With Alcorn State coming to town, the new field is more than just a facelift; it's a statement. It's a declaration that MVSU football is ready to compete, ready to be seen and heard. And trust me, that Jumbotron is going to make sure we're heard. Every big play, every touchdown, every defensive stop will be larger than life,



PHOTO BY ALIYAH HILL

adding a new level of excitement to the game-day experience.

As the Delta Devils prepare to face off against the Alcorn State Braves, the energy on campus is buzzing with anticipation. For students like me, it's more than just another game; it's a chance for redemption, a moment to show that MVSU football is more than its record.

We all know the story: Alcorn State has been a powerhouse in the SWAC for years, consistently topping the standings while we've struggled to

find our footing. But there's something different about this season. The new coaching staff has brought a renewed sense of discipline and pride to the team. You can see it in the way they practice, in the determination on their faces. They want this win, not just for themselves, but for all of us who bleed green and white.

The game itself is shaping up to be a clash of styles. Alcorn's explosive offense is a well-oiled machine, led by a dynamic quarterback who can torch defenses with both his arm and legs.

Our de-fense, while young, has shown flashes of brilliance. If we can keep their offense off the field and control the tempo with our ground game, we might just have a shot at pulling off the upset.

I won't sugarcoat it; it's going to be tough. Alcorn has experience and depth, and they've had our number for years. But as a student, I believe in the heart of this team. I believe in the fight they show, even when the odds are stacked against them.

Prediction? I'll go out on a limb and say this will be closer than the experts think. The Delta Devils will put up a fight, and while it may not result in a victory on the scoreboard, it will be a win for the program's progress. My gut tells me we'll see Alcorn edge us out in a hard-fought 28-20 battle, but this game will be a statement that MVSU is on the rise.

Regardless of the outcome, Saturday will be a showcase of our spirit and resilience. So, let's pack the stands, wear our green proudly, and make some noise. The Delta Devils are ready to prove they belong, and as a student, I'm proud to stand with them. Delta Devils Seek Redemption Against Alcorn State.

Valley sports stats thus far

By James Snipes, Sports Writer

Mississippi Valley State University athletics have demonstrated significant promise and exciting prospects as we enter the fall semester. The football team currently holds a 0-4 record, women's soccer stands at 1-5, and volleyball has started the season 1-6.

Liana Bryant of the women's soccer team earned well-deserved recognition on Sept. 6, 2024, as the SWAC Offensive Player of the Week for her outstanding performance in the Devilettes' 3-2 victory over Hampton University.

Bryant scored two crucial goals, with assists from Jacquelline Kambere and Jada Goodman. Genesis Hernandez added to the score with a penalty kick in the 49th minute, securing the win for the Devilettes. Goalkeeper Sydney Whitten played a pivotal role, making four key saves throughout the match.

Jacquelline Kambere also got recognized on Sept. 24, 2024, as a SWAC Offensive Player of the Week

for her contributions as Kambere scored the most goals by an individual player this past week of competition in the SWAC.

The team looks to end September strong with upcoming games against Texas Southern University (home), and Prairie View A&M University (home).

The volleyball team kicked off Freshman Welcome Week with a thrilling 3-2 victory over Jarvis Christian College. Letitia Franco led the team with 14 kills, while Mikayla Lee and Carrington Archer each contributed 3 aces. Aniyah Moore dominated defensively with 6 blocks, Archer added 33 assists, and Ashlynn Hawkins led with 14 digs.

The match was a close contest, with MVSU taking the first two sets before Jarvis Christian rallied to win the next two. However, the Devilettes sealed the victory by winning the final set 15-10.

The team will face Bethune-Cookman University, and Florida A&M throughout September.

The Delta Devils football have been



MVSU Soccer after a match at home taken. PHOTO BY JOSHUA GORDON

building momentum ahead of their first home game on Sept. 28 against Alcorn State, which will be played on their newly installed turf field located at Rice-Totten Stadium at Chuck Prophet Field.

The team will head to Montgomery,

AL to take on Alabama State, leading up to their highly anticipated homecoming game against Bethune-Cookman on Oct. 19.

For more information on fall sports and other athletic teams at MVSU, visit mvsusports.com.