

the delta devils GAZETTE

An award-winning college newspaper, by students for students

NOVEMBER 2024

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY • ITTA BENA, MISSISSIPPI

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Journey into STEM: nearly 100 Clarksdale students explore opportunities at the Valley

by Trenton Williams, Staff writer

Mississippi Valley State University Mathematics, Computer and Information Sciences Department is thrilled to share that the students from Clarksdale Collegiate Middle School were incredibly eager to learn about the opportunities in mathematics, computer science, engineering, and education at MVSU during a Nov. 12 tour of the campus.

These bright seventh and eighth graders were able to see firsthand what programs Valley has to offer. According to Department Chair Dr. Latonya Garner, "These scholars are especially interested in HBCUs and have shown enthusiasm for programs in mathematics, computer science, engineering, and education. This visit was a wonderful chance to inspire them and showcase how MVSU can support their academic journeys."

They explored Valley's state-of-the-art facilities during their tour, including the computer labs, engineering workshops, and educational resource centers. They also had the opportunity to meet some of Valley's dedicated



faculty and staff and student members.

Additionally, walking around the campus allowed them to experience

the vibrant community and supportive environment that makes MVSU special.

The visit was a fantastic opportunity

for them to envision their future academic journeys and see how MVSU can help them achieve their goals.

Forever Living 31: student athlete Ryan Quinney remembered in touching university memorial

By Ka'Lireon Alford, Staff writer

On Nov. 14, 2024, Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) held a memorial ceremony for one of its fallen soldiers, Ryan Quinney, 20.

Ryan was a junior linebacker of the MVSU Football Team, and a member of Omega Psi Phi, Fraternity Incorporated. He sadly lost his life as a passenger in a horrific car crash in Yazoo City, Miss. on Nov. 8,

During the memorial service, there were speeches given by MVSU President Dr. Jerryl Briggs, MVSU Head Football Coach Kendrick Wade, and others who expressed fond memories of the Mobile, Ala. native. Wade paid tribute to Quinney's memory by wearing his football jersey number, No. 31.

"Precious Lord" was sung by the MVSU choir under the direction of Dr. Brandon T. Cash.

Ryan's legacy will definitely live forever on MVSU campus. Ryan's

brother Ryheem Quinney said that "He was loveable, and energetic off of the field, and it was never a dull moment with him." He also said that Ryan "was his best friend and his twin. We were in the womb together... twenty years strong."

Students around MVSU campus filled the H.G. Carpenter Building Walter Roberts Auditorium as they showed their love for Ryan. Teammate Zamariyon Kendall said, "Ryan was really expressive and full of life, and I looked at him like an older brother." Kendall's favorite memory of Quinney is when they were in practice, and they both agreed to go 50/50 on hitting drills.

Quinney was known for expressing himself as a real Delta Devil, and he will be greatly remembered.

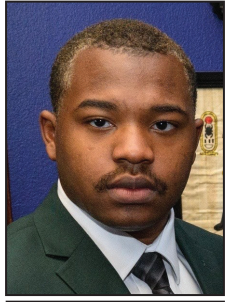
As President Briggs said, "We are One Goal. One Team. One Valley. In Motion. We will continue to elevate as we keep Ryan in our precious memories."





By Jaheim Wilder, Columnist

Hey Family!
It's that time of year when everything seems ready to rest, and the world feels a bit quiet. The weather is cooler, the days are shorter, and the trees are shedding their leaves. The falling leaves remind us that sometimes letting go is exactly what we need. November invites us to take up space, whether that be space for new growth, new dreams, or renewal.



Wilder

This season isn't just about taking a pause, it's a chance to reset. It's a time to reflect on where we've been and where we want to go. Maybe it's reconnecting with friends and family, catering to your inner child, finding moments of rest, or starting a new project. It can be as

simple as rereading your favorite book or setting new goals for the future. And as we step into the holiday season, it's a great chance to rebuild those bonds, check in on loved ones, and give thanks for the journey we're all on.

This November let's embrace the beauty of renewal. Let's give ourselves permission to rest, to reflect, and to dream. And as we look forward, let's step into the future with open hearts and new intentions.

Here's to a season of letting go, making space, and finding peace in what's next!

Song of the Month: The song for this month is Donny Hathaway's, "For All We Know." Through this song, we are reminded to cherish the present and not take for granted the time we have now.

Newspaper carried by an additional local business



DDG Staff Report

The Delta Devil's Gazette Newspaper has now expanded its access by housing one of their newspaper racks at a popular local business. W8 Restaurant and Sports Bar, located at 309 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Itta Bena, MS, has become one of the pick-up locations this fall for MVSU's award-winning newspaper.

Manager Damien White is pictured (above) holding one of the issues. "Come grab you some good reading and some good eating!" he said.

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

- B B King Museum – Delta Interpretive Center**, 400 Second Street Indianola, MS 38751
- The Greenwood Market Place**, 410 W. Park Ave., Greenwood, MS
- Save-a-Lot**, 719 W. Park Ave., Greenwood, MS

- CitiTrends**, 2608 US-82, Greenwood, MS
- Dollar General Market**, Hwy 82 W., Itta Bena, MS
- Double Quick**, Hwy 82 W., Itta Bena, MS
- PEAK's Restaurant**, Hwy 49, Tchula, MS
- Community Students Learning Center**, 333 Yazoo St. Lexington, MS
- The Mayor's Office**, 105 S. State Street, Duck Hill, MS
- Porter and Sons Funeral Home**, 237 Yazoo St., Lexington, MS
- Greater Macedonia C.O.G.I.C.**, CR - 247 Sidon, MS, 38954
- Holy Temple M.B. Church**, 5077 Cabaniss Circle, Jackson, MS (Sunday mornings only)
- Urgent & Primary Care of Clarksdale**, 125 Hwy 322, Clarksdale, MS 38614
- Young Chapel M.B. Church**, 1196 Young Chapel Road, Duck Hill, MS

A letter of encouragement to MVSU athletes

Dear MVSU Athletes:

As you are ready to tackle the challenges that lie ahead, pause to consider the amazing adventure you have taken together. Every practice, every match, and the innumerable hours spent perfecting your abilities not only help you improve personally but also create an unbreakable link with your teammates. The essence of competitiveness is genuinely embodied

by your unyielding dedication, unrelenting diligence, and unbreakable spirit.

Remember that every challenge you face is only a step closer to excellence when you are on the field or court. Accept the season's highs and lows with fortitude and resolve. Encourage one another on and off the field since it's this team spirit that will help you succeed. Remember that every setback you encounter is only a chance for a successful recovery.

Take advantage of any opportunity to show off your skills, and at every competition, let your enthusiasm come through. Be assured that you have the support and encouragement of your committed community at every turn. Go out there and proudly and resolutely represent Mississippi Valley State University! As you pursue excellence, I'm wishing you luck. Delta Devils, We got this!!!



Dennis Cheeks
Mass Communication Major

the delta devils GAZETTE

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2015 THIRD PLACE winner. 2016 SECOND PLACE winner.

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MVSU hosts over 300 future educators at 2024 Educators Rising Conference



DDG Staff Report

More than 300 aspiring teachers from 21 schools gathered at Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) for the annual Educators Rising Conference, an event designed to inspire and prepare the next generation of educators.

Dr. Jerryl Briggs, MVSU president, welcomed attendees with a message of unity, emphasizing the university's vision of "One goal, One team, One Valley, In Motion."

Participants engaged in breakout sessions, campus tours, and workshops aimed at honing leadership and teaching skills.

Dr. Tammie Brown of Belhaven University led a session on the national competition rubric, encouraging students to reflect on their commitment to shaping Mississippi's future. "Do you want to make a difference in Mississippi and our nation's future?" she challenged.

Shanta Washington, director of the Office of Student Organizations for the Mississippi Department of Education, delivered an interactive workshop titled, "Pitch Perfect," focusing on the 10 core leadership skills critical for future educators.

Jada Ervin, a Greenville High School student aspiring to become a high school art teacher, said, "Educators impact future generations, and that's the future of the world."

Acting Department Chair Dr. Teresa Dumas, event organizer, deemed the conference a resounding success. "Participants enjoyed the sessions and tours," she said. "Seventy-four 11th and 12th-grade students expressed interest in pursuing education degrees."

With over 300 students energized and equipped to explore teaching careers, MVSU continues to shine as a beacon for future educators in the Mississippi Delta and beyond.

Broadcasters are on the rise

Jahiem Wilder, Student Writer/Columnist

On Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024, the Mississippi Association of Broadcasters (MAB) hosted its annual student conference at the Mississippi e-Center at Jackson State University.



Wilder

The event featured a variety of Mississippi colleges and universities including: Mississippi State University, the University of Southern Mississippi, Hinds Community College—Utica Campus, the University of Mississippi, Jackson State University, and the "illustrious" Mississippi Valley State University. Students were given opportunities to mingle and network with each other as well as broadcasters from across the state, such as Chris Larum, General Manager of Twin States News, and Michael A. White, Jr., Director of Operations at Gray Media Training Center.

The conference featured three breakout sessions, and there was a special session held for faculty. Topics for these sessions included: AI Meets Media Storytelling with Artificial Intelligence, Other Broadcast Careers, The Secret Sauce of Winning Awards, Reel Talk, Digital Desk, and Best

Practices of TV Reporting and How to Market Yourself. Students were honored with awards and prizes for submissions of their works. This really showcased the best and brightest of the broadcasting community in Mississippi.

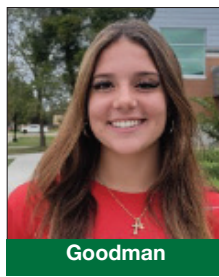
When asked her feelings on the event's turnout and success, Dr. Elayne Hayes-Anthony, President of the MAB, said, "I'm pleased that we sponsored this because it helps students get ahead in the job market." Dr. Anthony also shared exclusive information with the Delta Devil's Gazette about the unanimous decision to have the event again next year at Jackson State University.

MVSU Mass Communication Public Relations scholar, Hillary Victor, had this to say about the conference: "The MAB student conference was informative and eventful. We were able to network at the event as well as meet college students from different schools."

Victor was one of five MVSU Mass Communication students who attended the conference along with faculty members Ida Cannon, Yamika Williams and Acting Chair Dr. Carolyn L. Gordon.

Students' Voices Question:

As we approach the Thanksgiving Holiday, what are you thankful for?



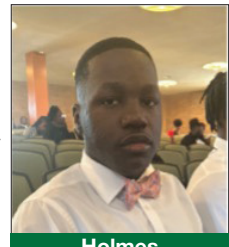
Goodman

"My name is **Jada Goodman**, and my major is Hyper. I am most thankful for all my friend's family and family and being able to have the opportunity to play the sports. I love every day and I'm also thankful for being able to get an opportunity to get a good education and go to college. My family celebrates Thanksgiving by all of my family comes in town and we all have a Thanksgiving dinner. And also, we spend the whole day with each other and it's really nice being able to celebrate with the people that you love. And yeah, and it's really nice having your family that you haven't seen in a long time and being able to have Thanksgiving with them and yet Thank you."

major at Mississippi Valle State University. I am currently a junior classified as a senior in 2025. This Thanksgiving, I will be spending it with my friends and family. I am thankful for my family. I'm grateful for being here another year for God allowing me to be able to get my education at an HBCU which is a dream of mine. I am thankful for the resources that the University provides us. Thankful to the people that I meet here that teachers the faculty staff that encourages us to keep going as a graduate. Thank you."

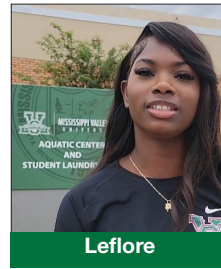
Dreylin Holmes:

"Thanksgiving to me means a full 24 hours of being grateful. It is one of the few times in the year where a whole family gets together and enjoys each other's time. Also, giving back is a thing I like to do as well. For those who aren't as fortunate as me, I like to make sure they have something. My favorite dishes to eat on Thanksgiving include dressing, dressing, dressing, and cranberry sauce."



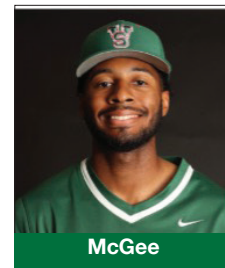
Holmes

"Hey my name is **Jacqueline LeFlore**. I'm a graduating senior. I'm thankful for my family, and I'm thankful to always being able to have



Leflore

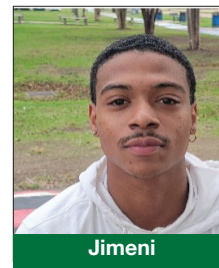
a clear mind; to see my family all the time, and I will celebrate Thanksgiving but of course bear with my family and eat like some of my favorite things that we always used to eat. One thing that I am thankful for, I am thankful that I wake up every day. I'm thankful for to be able to go to school. I'm in thankful that I am going to graduate in December."



McGee

Craig McGee:

"Thanksgiving is not a holiday in my eyes, it is a reminder to be grateful. During Thanksgiving and the days surrounding it, I am always fortunate enough to be around loved ones, some whose presence is long overdue. Being able to see family and friends who I have missed always leaves me with immense gratitude for the connections that they and I share. My favorite dishes are ham and macaroni and cheese. I especially enjoy these dishes when I am able to get a delicious side of dressing. As for dessert my favorite dish is my grandmother's homemade pound cake."

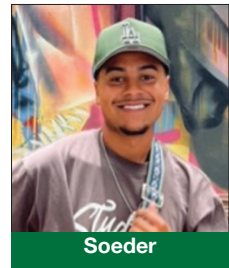


Jimeni

"A good afternoon my name is **Samaj Jimeni**. I am a business administration major senior at Mississippi Valley State University. What I'm most thankful for this Thanksgiving is first is being alive. So I'd like to thank Jesus Christ first. Also, I'd like to thank my family and friends well without them I would not be where I'm at. what I do to celebrate Thanksgiving is I celebrate my grandmother's house while she was making the traditional Thanksgiving of greens with a dressing with Turkey. And her doing that brings a lot of joys, sitting around with family and bringing up old memories and laughs. That's the most thing I'm thankful for Thanksgiving. Also, I celebrate in 2 homes my mom side it in my dad's side so that right there seeing both sides that the family get together is the most thing I am grateful for."

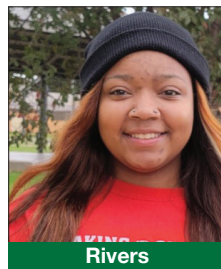
Chris Soeder:

"Thanksgiving to me means family and togetherness. A time where the worries of this crazy world we live in go away for a day, and we just focus on each other and the moment. Some of my favorite dishes are my sister Christina's Mac & Cheese, my other sister Tennie's dressing and to top off my Mom's pumpkin roll."



Soeder

"Hey, my name is **Tyana Rivers**. I'm an accounting



Rivers

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Communication/Marketing staff members featured during Mass Comm Speakers' Series

By Hillary Victor, Student Writer

The Mississippi Valley State University Department of Mass Communication Speakers' Series for October presented the MVSU Office of Communication/Marketing.

Held in the School of Business Auditorium on Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024, at 11 a.m., the event began with a welcome from Acting Department Chair Dr. Carolyn L. Gordon.

Shortly after, MVSU Communications Specialist LaTunja Evans, an MVSU Mass Communications graduate, discussed her journey to be where she is today. Evans then introduced her project coordinator/social media manager, Ms. Karington Stockstill. Ms. Stockstill listed that she had interned with Mr.

McCall first, then got a job with him at Valley. Lastly, Graphic Designer, Ms. Justice Williams stated what she has done in her career to succeed. Ms. Evans presented all of their information in case students wanted to reach out to their team about internships, work-study, or photo ambassador opportunities.

"Valley prepared me for all of the work that I have been assigned in the office," said Evans. She also encouraged seniors not to be afraid of research. "Research can be fun!" she added.

Students say they enjoyed the presentation from the MVSU Office of Communication and Marketing.

"This speaker series was one of my favorites," said Jaheim Wilder. "Hearing alumni from my department share their journeys and seeing them succeed in



Williams, Evans and Stockstill engage with Mass Com students during Speakers' Series.

their roles at MVSU was both exciting and meaningful. I left feeling motivated, inspired, and ready to embrace new opportunities."

"It was very well put together and very informative, I feel that I learned that networking will be big in your any career field," said Jaylia Reed.

The Marlin Ashford Memorabilia Collection: My perspective



PHOTOS BY C. TAYLOR & J. RIDEOUT

by J. Rideout, Staff Writer

God's children blessed the Mississippi Valley State campus! Today, I was able to witness some very powerful and outstanding artifacts put on exhibit at the James Herbert White Library by Dr. Cassie Sade Turnipseed, the niece of the late Ms. Marlin Ashford.

Marlin Ashford was a significant figure in the cultural and historical preservation of African American experiences, particularly in the Mississippi Delta region. She was a dedicated educator, historian, and community leader who focused on documenting and preserving the lives and legacies of Black individuals through her collection of artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia.

I came in very uneducated about the importances of these artifacts. Truly, I didn't understand what the students of Mississippi Valley State could learn from them. To my surprise I find that these artifacts can prove to be one of the most important things that has been shown on this campus. These artifacts show simple life but it can provide the viewers with complex feelings. The feeling of acknowledgement is strong when I look at the Marlin Ashford Collection.

The way the artifacts show black people in many different ways doing ordinary things is one of the first examples of representation. One of the family members said "black people



as a whole had real lives" describing the important message the artifacts are trying to tell the viewers. I predict that the Marlin Ashford Collection will flourish on this campus. It will leave the students of Mississippi Valley with a sense of acknowledgment and representation.

In conclusion, the Marlin Ashford Collection offers a profound opportunity for students at Mississippi Valley State to connect with the rich history and diverse experiences of Black individuals. These artifacts not only serve as powerful representations of everyday life but also foster a sense of pride and recognition. As the collection continues to be displayed, it will undoubtedly inspire and empower future generations of students on this campus.

"Prison Break"- My review



HEADLINERS



DIRECTED BY: MS. BARBARA BAYMON

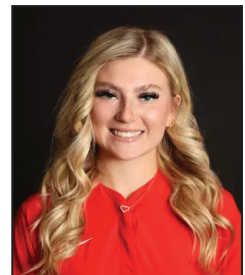
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 6:30 PM | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 11 AM

By Hillary Victor, Staff writer

There's a specific thrill in sitting down in your seat, with your program in hand, as the crowd fades and the performance comes to life.

The Valley Players' "Prison Break" at the Business Auditorium on Nov. 14, 2024, had been on students minds since the flyer was posted around classrooms on campus. With Director Barbara Baymon leading the production, expectations were high.

The cast of headliners included Jada Wilson with "Scars", Jaylin Smith with "Prison Clothes", Timothy Adams with "Worth the Wait", Amber Stewart with "I am That I Am", and lastly, Jaheim Wilder with "Grandma's Baby". The students eachwrote their own scripts for the play. Jada Wilson's and



Victor

Amber Stewart's scripts were both touching and personal to the audience.

Jaheim Wilder described what makes him, him and what forms him into

"grandma's baby." After that, one of the prisoner's "Hank" wanted to break out and flee, while the other "Shorty" did not want to break out. He was too scared, but Hank also scared him too, he even ended up killing Shorty in the end of the play.

The actors displayed their emotions strongly and the message that they were trying to convey very well.

International potluck showcases a feast of flavors

By Dr. Lokesh Shivakumaraiah

In a vibrant display of cultural diversity, the MVSU Office of International Programs recently hosted its Fall International Potluck at the Campus Pavilion, inviting students, faculty, and staff to share traditional dishes from their native countries. The event, which brought together flavors from across the globe, provided a unique opportunity for the university community to celebrate different cultures while enjoying a delicious variety of foods.

Dr. Lokesh Shivakumaraiah, Executive Director of International Programs said the potluck not only serves as a culinary experience but also as an opportunity to foster a sense of community and belonging among the diverse student body. “We wanted to create an event where everyone, no matter where they are from - could feel included and share something personal with the rest of the university,” Dr. Shivakumaraiah explained. “This potluck is not just about food, it is about creating a space for cultural exchange, building friendships, and learning about each other’s



Faculty and students participate in International Potluck organized by the Office of International Programs.

traditions.”

The potluck featured an impressive array of dishes, from delicious main courses to sweet desserts, each one telling a story of its country of origin. Students, faculty and staff brought everything from American Yams sweet potatoes, Afghanistan’s Busrah to Indian butter chicken, Nigerian jollof rice, Chinese sweet and sour chicken, and Cambodian,

among many others. Each dish was accompanied by a brief description of its cultural significance, offering attendees a deeper understanding of the food’s roots.

Faezah Fathi, Junior Business Education major from Afghanistan participated in the potluck and said “Such an amazing day it was indeed! We could share our foods from different countries while tasting the most delicious

international foods as well. I made Busragh which is an Afghan dish in the type of fried bread. I am so happy I could share part of my country’s food with other people, so now people have an idea of what Afghan food tastes.”

Carolina Lopez, Business Administration student from Colombia who participated in potluck said “It was my first time attending potluck, and loved it. The event was full of delicious dishes from all around the world. I ate Nigeria jolof rice and I enjoyed it. I met new people. It made me realize that even though we come from distant places, our traditions can be so similar that we connect with one another in ways that go beyond borders.”

MVSU Graduate student of Rural Public Policy, Sotheara Soeun prepared food from Cambodia and said “I prepared Ginger Chicken Stir Fry and Plain Yellow Rice (Cambodian’s authentic meal). Seeing how much everyone enjoyed the dish was heartwarming, as it was gone halfway through the event. It was a proud and joyful moment to contribute to this celebration and put smiles on the MVSU family.”

Valley Global Fest - a world of experiences under one roof



Faculty and students at country tables during the Fall Valley Global Fest.

By Dr. Lokesh Shivakumaraiah

The Office of International Programs organized Valley Global Fest, an event that was designed to showcase the rich cultures that make up the university’s diverse student body. There were country tables from Afghanistan, Cambodia, Colombia, Japan, India, Kenya, Tunisia and Zimbabwe. Each country table was carefully curated by students from that country, bringing authentic elements of their heritage to life. Visitors were invited to wander from one country table to the other, listening to country presentations, enjoying traditional foods, listening to music, and engaging in cultural activities, all while learning about the significance behind each display.

From the colorful vibrant textiles of India to the intricate art of Japanese origami and Colombia’s Chiva bus, each booth offered a hands-on experience of global culture. “It is so incredible to see so many cultures coming together in one

space,” said international student advisor Ms. Cristina Radulescu. “This event is about fostering understanding, empathy, and global connections” she said.

Students and faculty from different classes attended the Valley Global Fest. Shelby Barnard, a Economic Development course student who attended the event said “Attending the Valley Global Fest was an incredible experience. It was inspiring to interact with the presenters and witness their excitement as they shared their cultures. This event reminded me of the importance of celebrating our cultural differences as they contribute to the beauty of the world.”

Dr. Adedayo Ogunniran, faculty of Business Education said, “The Global Fest offered a wonderful opportunity for my students and me to explore the cultures and attractions of other countries. I look forward to more events that celebrate and promote diversity in the future.”

MVSU launches Japan Outreach Initiative Program and partnership with Musashi University – Tokyo

By Dr. Lokesh Shivakumaraiah

MVSU Office of International Program is proud to announce an academic collaboration with Musashi University, Tokyo, Japan and welcome Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) Program Coordinator Mr. Koichi Paku (Park) to Valley to strengthen MVSU Japan Outreach Initiative. This initiative is designed to foster deeper understanding and appreciation of Japan’s rich language, culture, and traditions. It aims to provide students with unique opportunities to engage with Japanese language, cultural events, and study abroad experiences in Japan.

The Japan Outreach Initiative is a collaborative effort between the Office of International Programs Office and Academic Affairs. The initiative will offer a variety of activities throughout the year, including cultural demonstrations, language workshops, film screenings, and guest lectures. MVSU JOI Coordinator, Mr. Koichi Park said “Activities on Japanese culture are offered until the summer of 2026. Looking to Japan and other countries will expand your life possibilities. We hope you will participate in our upcoming activities.”

“Our students constantly talk about Japan as a Study Abroad Destination. Our goal is to give students not only the tools to learn Japanese but also a deeper appreciation for the history, art, and customs that make Japan such a unique and influential country and provide a strong foundation to study or work in Japan” said Dr. Lokesh Shivakumaraiah, Director of International Programs.

One of the cornerstone features of the Japan Outreach Initiative is the Japan Study Abroad Program, which will



MVSU Japan Outreach Initiative Coordinator Mr. Koichi Park engaging students with Origami design and Chopstick Competition

offer students the chance to immerse themselves in Japanese culture by studying at Musashi University, a MVSU partner university in Tokyo and other institutions across Japan. Students participating in Japan Study Abroad programs will have the opportunity to enhance their language skills, engage with local communities, and gain invaluable international experience. “Studying abroad in Japan is a transformative experience,” said Dr. Shivakumaraiah. “We hope this initiative will inspire students to not only explore Japan’s cultural heritage but also prepare them for an increasingly globalized world.” The program’s launch marks an exciting new chapter in expanding the university’s global outreach and fostering cross-cultural exchange.

Students and faculty interested in Japan outreach initiatives can contact Dr. Lokesh Shivakumaraiah at the Office of International Programs at studyabroad@mvsu.edu and JOI Coordinator Mr. Koichi Park at koichi.paku@mvsu.edu.

St. Peter MB Church awards two scholarships to two MVSU freshman



From left to right, are scholarship committee members are Marvin Crump, Karolyn Bridges-Jordan and Jackie O'Bannon PHOTO: COURTESY OF COMMITTEE



Trenton Williams displays his scholarship letter that includes photos of the late Mother Bridges and Mother Scott. PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIAMS



Amiyah Spencer

DDG Staff Report

Thanks to the Lucy M. Bridges (LMB) and the Emma L. Scott (ELS) Memorial Scholarship Committee of Grenada, Miss., Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) freshmen Trenton Williams of Lexington, Miss., and Amiyah Spencer of Greenwood, Miss. received a financial academic boost.

The biology and business administration students each were

awarded a \$500 scholarship. They both went through the process of completing an application, providing proof of enrollment, writing an essay, and an interview by the committee.

The scholarship was created several years ago by the Bridges and Scott families to honor the legacy and memory of two Mothers of the Saint Peter Missionary Baptist Church (Oxberry, Miss.): Mother Lucy M. Bridges and Mother Emma L. Scott. Administered

through the church, this scholarship give \$500.00 each year to a student pursuing a college education at a Historical Black College and University (HBCU).

"I am so grateful for this award," said Spencer, a graduate of Greenwood High School. She wants to one day own her own business.

Williams expressed his gratitude in a thank-you note to the church and committee. Here are a few excerpts from his comments: "I am incredibly thankful

for the opportunities this scholarship provides and the doors it opens for my future. Your kindness and support have made a significant impact on my life, and I am committed to making the most of this opportunity. Your faith in me motivates me to work diligently and strive for excellence in my studies, especially in the field of Biology."

For the Love of Valley

MVSU Mass Comm students gain hands-on experience

A tremendous journey from alum to faculty

by Aameena Rauf, Contributing writer

Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) has a vibrant alumni community with many notable achievers.

Bright, intelligent, and talented Ida Hampton-Cannon is among them. Her gregarious, driven, trustworthy, responsible, diligent individual and teamwork qualities made her a great addition to Mississippi Valley State University. She currently serves as an Instructor/

Coordinator of Public Broadcasting in the Department of Mass Communication.

She graduated from Charleston High School in Charleston, Miss., and chose to attend Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) after being encouraged to apply by recruiter Suzette Myles. "I had a positive experience with Ms. Myles during College Day at our high school, where she spoke with me at the MVSU table," Cannon said.



Cannon

Cannon did apply and was awarded a full scholarship to the university.

An amazing fact about Cannon is that she graduated from MVSU with her bachelor's degree in 2000, and earned two master's, 2002 and 2011 respectively at her alma mater. Her bachelor's degree was in Mass Communication with an emphasis in Radio and Television Broadcasting, and her master's degrees from Valley were in Social Work and Criminal Justice.

She also has another master's degree in strategic communication from Purdue University. It is not an exaggeration to say that Cannon is a bank of knowledge and resources.

Cannon appreciates the education and experience she received during her studies. She shared that Valley gave her chances to participate in different activities and helped her accelerate her skills, success, and confidence.

Former MVSU King Jarkevious Edwards furthers his passion for public speaking

by Cortney Dyer, Contributing Writer

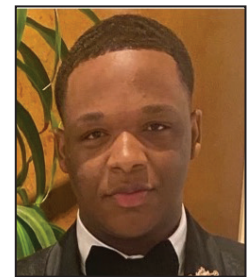
Since graduating from MVSU in May 2024, Jar'Kevious Edwards, a 22-year-old, is currently making waves in the Mississippi Delta as a promising news reporter at Delta News TV, furthering his passion for public speaking.

Originally from Charleston, Miss., Mr. Edwards earned a degree in Speech Communication. His journey from a small-town boy to a prominent news reporter exemplifies the power of mentorship, community support, and the importance of following one's passion. Edwards quickly established himself in the local news landscape, with his engaging reporting style.

Like most recent graduates, life after graduation was a step in the real world that happens so abruptly one may not be prepared for.

Edward's experienced a time in his life that made him realized he no longer had Valley to lean on, but it was still time to show the world what he was made of. "That was my drive and motivation," Edward said. "I found courage in what felt frightening. Now, I'm in the right place at the right time."

Under the mentorship of Speech Coordinator and Instructor Barbara Baymon, Edwards honed his skills in public speaking and acting, discovering



Edwards

a natural flair for storytelling that has now become his hallmark. "Professor Baymon nurtured me and pushed me to embrace my talent," he said. "She really groomed me to be

the growing and learning orator I am today."

Graduate student of MVSU and close friend of Edwards, Morgan Jay stated "Seeing him now on a tv screen is amazing! Watching him report stories makes me so proud of him." Graduate Student Michael Coleman said, "He's always been an outspoken and valuable piece to the department university."

As Edwards continues to rise in his career, the Mississippi Delta is sure to benefit from his passion and dedication. With each report published, Edward stated, "It's not just delivering the news but building a bridge between the stories of the community and the world beyond, proving that one voice can make a significant impact."

Edward served as Mister MVSU during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Photo by Tanya James

STAR STUDENT OF THE MONTH

NOVEMBER 2024



Shemariah York
Classification: **Senior**
Major: **Biology/Chemistry**
Hometown: **Belzoni**

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NAACP, law enforcement, citizens address Holmes County's gun violence during forum

By Sherri Reeves, *Community Writer*

On Monday, Oct. 28, 2024, the NAACP of Holmes County hosted a forum on gun violence in light of an increase in occurrences in the county. City and County officials were invited to come up with solutions to deter gun violence in Holmes County. Law enforcement from around the county was present to answer questions and get feedback from the community.

Some of the possible solutions shared were police shadowing, law enforcement hanging out at ball courts and car washes with youth, Crime Stoppers and neighborhood watch. Bringing in outside law enforcement such as MBI, FBI, ATF, city curfews, and social media monitoring were also discussed.



From left to right: Mayor Haynes of Durant, Alderman Floyd, Chief of Police of Pickens, Sheriff March, Mayor of Pickens, Alderman of Goodman, Goodman Police Chief, Cruger Police Chief, Durant Police Chief, Officer Gee of Durant, Mayor Anderson of Goodman, Alderman Howard of Goodman, Tasha Davis, President of the Holmes County NAACP. PHOTO COURTESY OF SHERRI REEVES

The City of Canton honors its history-making activist

DDG Staff Report

CANTON, Miss. – A new Mississippi Freedom Trail marker was dedicated in Canton to honor its native Flonzie Brown Wright, a trailblazer in civil rights and political history. The unveiling was held on Friday, Nov. 8, outside the Historic Madison County Courthouse on Peace Street. Flonzie Brown Wright made history in 1968 as the first African American woman elected to public office in Mississippi, serving as Election Commissioner in Madison County.

“Too many heroes have been forgotten,” said U.S. Representative Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.) during the ceremony. “With this marker today, it’ll become a permanent legacy to her memory and work here in this community.” Brown Wright told reporters she “never thought that this recognition would even come to me.” The Madison County Board of Supervisors partnered with the Mississippi Humanities Council to bring this meaningful tribute to fruition, ensuring Wright’s contributions to civil rights and justice are remembered for generations.



Left to right: Darrell Goodloe, Flonzie Brown Wright, and Cynthia Palmer PHOTO CREDIT: AL WHITE

Micheal Joe Cannon and Tony Ellis
pictured being awarded the
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Delta Devils break the curse: Coach Wade leads MVSU to historic win over Florida A&M University

By Shomari Hunt, Sports Writer

Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) secured its first win of the 2024 season by defeating Florida A&M (FAMU) 24-21 at Bragg Memorial Stadium.

This victory ended MVSU's 15-game losing streak, which dated back to October 2023, and snapped FAMU's 23-game home winning streak.

Quarterback Ty'Jarian Williams led the Delta Devils with 251 passing yards and two touchdowns, while wide receiver Nathan Rembert had a standout game with 130 receiving yards, including a 60-yard touchdown. The win was a historic first against FAMU, displaying MVSU's resilience in a challenging season.

MVSU's win against FAMU marks a significant milestone for first-year head

coach Kendrick Wade. This victory not only breaks a long losing streak but also signals a turning point for a program looking to rebuild its identity. Wade's leadership and ability to motivate his team through adversity, especially following the loss of linebacker Ryan Quinney, highlight his potential to reshape MVSU football. This historic win could serve as a foundation for future success and inspire renewed confidence among players, fans, and recruits.

Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) shocked the SWAC with their recent victory over Florida A&M, marking their first win of the season. This momentum sets the stage for an exciting final showdown against Alabama A&M. Coming off a major upset, the Delta Devils are looking to build on their success and end the season on a high note



PHOTO BY DONNELL MAXIE

For Coach Wade, this victory signifies a turning point in his season. Securing a win against a powerhouse like Florida A&M shows that his team can compete at an elevated level, despite the challenges they have faced throughout the season.

A strong finish against Alabama A&M could further confirm his leadership and strategy, providing a foundation for recruiting and program development in the offseason.

Delta Devils and Devilettes show growth in fall sports

By James Snipes, Sports Writer

The 2024 soccer season for MVSU has come to a close, and there are a lot of successes to applaud, both teamwise and individually.

On the season the Devilettes went 2-9-4, which was good enough for the #7 seed in the SWAC tournament. Their play this season ended a six-year drought from the SWAC tournament, since this was their first time heading to the playoffs since 2017 when they made it as a #6 seed. They eventually went on to fall short in the first round with a 3-1 loss against Grambling State University.

Liana Bryant earned the prestigious honor of being named to the All-SWAC First Team as a forward. Bryant scored nine goals this season (including a goal in the match in the tournament). When asked what this honor meant to her, she exclaimed that

"Being awarded First Team All-SWAC means a lot to me. It's a reflection of the hard work and perseverance I put into this season, especially after overcoming challenges like injuries. It shows that the effort I made to improve my game

and contribute to my team paid off. This honor isn't just about individual recognition. It is also a true example of the support I received from my family, teammates, and coaches, who pushed me to be the best version of myself on and off the field."

Though the season ended with this contest, the Devilettes can take pride in their tenacity and growth, looking forward to building on this foundation in the coming season.

Volleyball is close to wrapping up their season as well. At the time of writing on the 14 of November, the Devilettes have two games to finish against Bethune-Cookman University and Florida A&M University (both games played on the road). As it currently stands, MVSU is the #10 seed. Eight teams make the playoffs, so there is still time to make up ground and sneak in the back end of the tournament. Led by Alaya Rhodes with the offensive firepower, and Ashlynn Hawkins with the stout defense the Devilettes aim to make the university proud with a tournament



birth.

Basketball season is upon us! The women's basketball team has started to get their feet wet with some matchups throughout the south. Games against Memphis, Lipscomb, and Arkansas State have the team starting off slow but showing lots of promise. Sh'Diamond McKnight started the season against

Memphis with an insane stat line scoring 22 points, grabbing 8 rebounds, dishing out 8 assists, and accumulating 9 steals. McKnight is leading the team with 11.7ppg/4apg/4rpg/4spg averages to begin the season. Clemisha Prackett averages 11.3 points per game and 6 rebounds per game, and the Devilettes will look to get on track before they start conference play during the spring semester on January 2 of 2025.

The men's basketball team has started the season with a win and a loss. They have a bevy of ranked opponents ahead on their schedule, but with guys like Alvin Stredic, Donovan Sanders and Antonio Sisk, the Devils look forward to

bringing some wins back to the Valley. Stredic is averaging 11ppg/7rpg/2.5apg, Sanders is hooping to the tune of 11.5ppg/9 rpg/3.5apg, and these boys are just getting started. The boys play a home game on December 2, but besides that they will be on the road until after the New Year when they'll play on January 11 of 2025 at home.

The football team has one last game left on its schedule following a quality win against Florida A&M University in which Valley won 24-21. Ty'Jarian Williams showed out during this win as he had 251 passing yards and two touchdowns, and his offensive counterpart in Nathan Rembert racked up 130 receiving yards and a touchdown. The upcoming game is one at home on the 23 of November. Rembert will continue to lead the way for the Delta Devils as he averages 84.64 receiving yards per game, and Ty'Jarian Williams will continue to put the ball in the endzone with 14 touchdowns scored throughout the course of the season. MVSU looks to finish the season strong as they bring tenacity and spirit, building on the past games experiences to reach new heights.

MVSU Women's Soccer returns to SWAC Tournament after several year hiatus

By Lilly Gansauge, Contributing Writer

The Mississippi Valley State University Women's Soccer team made its remarkable return to the Southwestern Athletic Conference Tournament after seven long years, thereby beginning a new era for the Devilettes.

Finishing the season with a 1-3-4 record in SWAC play, the squad entered the postseason competition as the No. 7 seed against the Grambling State Lady Tigers, the No. 2-seeded team, at Prairie View A&M Soccer Complex on November 7.

In a single-elimination showdown, the Devilettes battled but fell short, 3-1, to Grambling in the tournament's opening quarterfinal round to wrap up their 2024 season. MVSU kept Grambling's defense on its feet with 13 total shots, including

eight on goal. Grambling had taken a 1-0 halftime lead, but MVSU refused to go down, once again demonstrating the maturity and fight that defined this season.

Liana Bryant and Sydney Whitten were the difference makers for the Devilettes in this game. Bryant, a sophomore attacker, scored her ninth goal of the season in the 83rd minute. Whitten had eight saves in the goal to show her defensive skills and ability to step up in important games for the devilettes.

The team's return to the SWAC Tournament is a promising step for the program, which has enjoyed past success, including a 2015 regular-season championship and a SWAC post-season title in 2012.



PHOTO BY ALEX ROBERTS