

GAZETTE

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Legendary Coach Archie ‘Gunslinger’ Cooley, Jr. ‘rewrote the record books’

Totten, Rice and others react to his passing

By Shomari Hunt, Staff writer

The history of college football has been marked undoubtedly by athletes of remarkable skills, coaches of elite strategy, and memorable games.

Among such categories of pioneers was legendary Coach Archie “Gunslinger” Cooley, Jr. whose death on April 18, 2024, may have closed his life’s chapter, but his unique impact on college football remains. Cooley was 84 years old.

In a release, Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) President Jerryl Briggs said: “He is a legend who had an incredible impact on the game of football and how it is played offensively. He was an innovative mind in football, and what he created at Valley during his time is still being implemented on football fields to this day on every level. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.”



Cooley

Born into humble beginnings in Sumrall, Miss., Cooley’s life was steeped in football from a young age. An outstanding player in high school, he quickly learned that it was

not just about winning but transforming the game.

His passion for the sport led him to Jackson State University, where his prowess and football acumen earned him the respect of his peers and coaches. Cooley’s career took a significant turn when he became the head coach at Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) from (1980-1986). Molding his program of football players at MVSU,

his ingenious “Satellite Express” offense has now become the modern-day West Coast offense that is widely used by NFL playcallers to date. Spearheaded by legendary QB Willie Totten and NFL Hall of Famer Jerry Rice, the offense took college football by storm.

Cooley then went on to lead Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Norfolk State, and Paul Quinn College.

As for his passing, fans and players alike had mixed reactions of sadness and admiration for the nationally-known coach.

“My first initial reaction, I was devastated,” Coach Totten told the Delta Devils’ Gazette. “I had to get myself together because I was driving to the office. I took the rest of the day off. He was a friend, mentor, and father figure. My fondest memory is when I was a freshman in college, and I wanted to

quit. He told me: ‘If you quit now, you’ll quit for the rest of your life,’ and that is something that has stayed with me until now.”

Totten’s former teammate Rice shared this tribute about Cooley on his Twitter (now X) account: “We lost a Legend yesterday, Archie the Gunslinger Cooley. He was a great friend, coach, mentor, and father figure, just like Bill Walsh. His impact on HBCU & MVSU football was huge, and he was an offensive genius. His legacy will live on forever. Love you, Coach Cooley, RIP.”

Cooley’s uniqueness was not merely confined to his inventive coaching strategies. It also extended to his leadership and motivational prowess. Recognizing the value of teamwork and the potency of a united squad, he

See “Cooley” Page 8

Founder’s grandson shares history and pearls of wisdom on MVSU’s 74th birthday

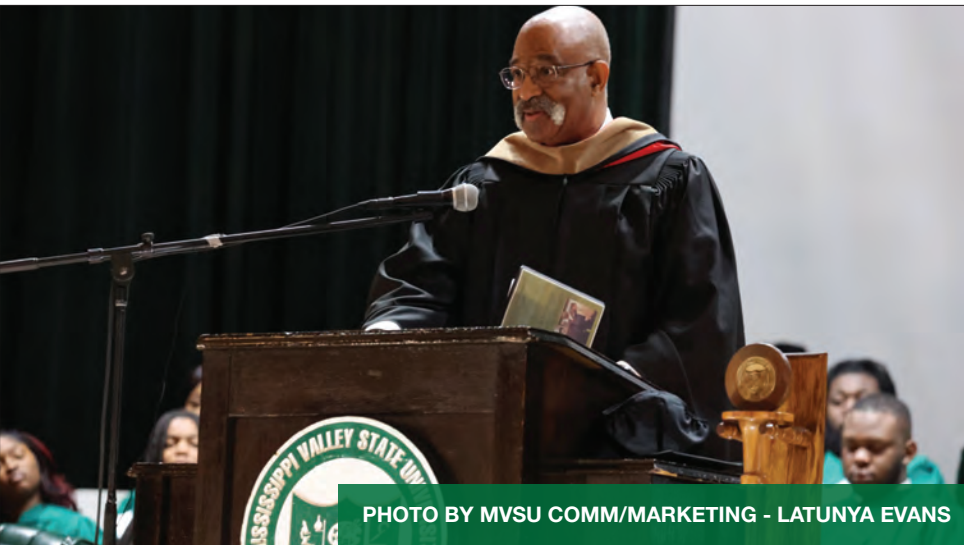


PHOTO BY MVSU COMM/MARKETING - LATUNYA EVANS

DDG Staff Report

On Thursday, April 11, 2024, Mississippi Valley State University celebrated its 74th Founder’s Convocation at the Walter Roberts Auditorium in the H.G. Carpenter Building.

The event honored the university’s past and inspired its future. Winthrop “Butch” Malone, the grandson of Dr. James Herbert White, the university’s first president and founder, was the featured speaker. In his message, Malone shared some thought-provoking questions and

urged students, faculty, and staff to make good use of the resources they already have.

He also talked about how his grandfather helped elevate Valley from a cotton patch to a reputable university.

Malone expressed his pride in seeing Alum and NFL Hall of Famer Jerry Rice and a young lady from Valley deliver the Vince Lombardi trophy to the Super Bowl 2024 arena. He acknowledged that Valley has come a long way, but there is still a long way to go. In the words of Dr. White, “just keep living.”

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Carroll-Montgomery alumni donate \$6K for band uniforms



PHOTO BY CHAPTER MEMBER ALFONZO WHITE

Monday, April 22, 2024, was a very good day for the MVSU Mean Green Marching Machine. The Carroll-Montgomery County Chapter of the MVSU National Alumni Association made a \$6,000 donation to the national association, earmarked for band uniforms. Chapter members making the donation (left to right) were DeNeen Banks-Alumni Affairs Director, Shirley R. Phillips-Chaplain, Artie Bibbs-First Vice President, Dr. Earlean Anderson, Ruby S. Miller, Shirley H. Phillips, Army Hobbs-Treasurer, Jessie Young, Mary S. Bibbs, Laura Curry-Vice President, and Shirley P. Butts-President. Not pictured is Eula Phillips. On hand to receive the donation was MVSU National Alumni Association President Jerry Redmond.

Stay focused on your goals, regardless of the path

By Amber E. Stewart, Editor-in-Chief

When I used to travel home from Georgia to Mississippi, I would take the route that allowed me to travel through Birmingham. So, my preferred route meant more traffic and additional travel time to reach my destination. However, when my brother drove us, he went a different route. He wanted to dodge the traffic. Therefore, his preferred route meant that we would arrive to our destination quicker, but we would have to stop for a toll or two; this was his satisfaction.



Stewart

The point I am making is, we both had two different routes but the same destination! When you set out for a goal, please keep in mind that the endpoint is the mark. Author and speaker Nicolas Cole, said, "Too many judge success by the day - which isn't realistic." When you keep your eyes on the prize, the mark can and will be met accordingly. We were all created in such

a manner that allows us to simply be ourselves. Who can be you better than you?

My desire for each person who sees and reads this message is that you love and accept yourself where you are until you get to that goal that you have set out to achieve. Keep your eyes on the prize because if you think that you can do it, it can be done. Please note there is no timer on how long it should take to meet that mark because this is a "self-thing". The only competition that should exist is who you are and who you want to become.

Whatever may come your way, remain encouraged and remain rooted in who you are and what you set out to do. "Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6, KJV) It has been said, so let it be so!

Growing in Grace,
Amber E



By Zapouria Wadley, Student Columnist

Hello, MVSU Family!
Are you aware that April is Autism Acceptance Month? The Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), also known as autism, is a developmental disability caused by differences in the brain. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, ASD begins before the age of 3 and can last throughout a person's life, although symptoms may improve over time. People with ASD often have problems with social communication and interaction. This can include avoiding eye contact, not responding to one's name by 9 months of age, and not playing simple interactive games like pat-a-cake by 12 months of age. People with ASD also experience restricted or repetitive behaviors or interests, such as repeating

words or phrases over and over (called echolalia), playing with toys the same way every time, and getting upset by minor changes.

There is no cure for autism. However, there are treatments available. These treatments can be broken down into the following categories, although some treatments involve more than one approach: Behavioral, Developmental, Educational, Social-Relational, Pharmacological, Psychological, Complementary and Alternative.

It is important that providers communicate with each other as well as the person with ASD and their family to ensure that treatment goals and progress are meeting expectations.

For more information about Autism Spectrum Disorder, please visit <https://www.afhu.org/2017/10/23/what-to-know-about-asd>



Gazette pickup locations continue to expand

DDG Staff Report

The Delta Devils' Gazette has added two more locations to its pickup roster! They are Canon Nissan of Greenwood and Porter and Sons Funeral Home in Lexington.

Now, the Delta Devils' Gazette campus newspaper may be picked up from any of the following 16 locations:

- B B King Museum – DIC**, 400 Second Street, Indianola, MS 38751
- Canon Nissan of Greenwood**, 69900 U.S. 82 W, Greenwood, MS 38901
- Community Students Learning Center**, 333 Yazoo St. Lexington, MS
- CitiTrends**, 2608 US-82, Greenwood, MS
- Dollar General Market**, Hwy 82 W., Itta Bena, MS
- Double Quick**, Hwy 82 W., Itta Bena, 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)

Letter to the Editor
What happened to challenging the status quo?

It used to be able to come on change generation to challenge and overcome the status quo. The establishment, the power that be, has made it so much harder to challenge the status quo. In the past, it was just a matter of time before the status quo would be challenged. But now, it's a different story. The status quo is being maintained and reinforced by the establishment. The status quo is being maintained and reinforced by the establishment. The status quo is being maintained and reinforced by the establishment.



- PEAK's Restaurant**, Hwy 49, Tchula, MS
- Porter & Sons Funeral Home**, 237 Yazoo St., Lexington, MS 39095
- Sanders Grocery, US-49E**, Minter City, MS
- Save-a-Lot**, 719 W. Park Ave., Greenwood, MS
- The Greenwood Market Place**, 410 W. Park Ave., Greenwood, MS
- The Mayor's Office**, 105 S. State Street, Duck Hill, MS
- Urgent & Primary Care of Clarksdale**, 125 Hwy 322, Clarksdale, MS 38614
- Young Chapel M.B. Church**, 1196 Young Chapel Road, Duck Hill, MS



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2015 THIRD PLACE winner. 2016 SECOND PLACE winner.

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A Founder's Week panel shares memories and reflections of their Valley

By Joshua King, Graduate Student

On Tuesday, April 9, Mississippi Valley State University held a panel discussion featuring fellow alumni as panelists on a feature of the Founders' Week event. It was held in the Carver A. Randle Auditorium.

The discussion rekindled experiences of their time spent at the university. Panelists included: Instructor of English Shanell Bailey ('07), Assistant Professor of Mass Communication Gail Brown ('80), Mister MVSU Jarkevious Edwards ('24), District Manager Tamicko Ransome-Fair ('02), Instructor Henry Fant, III ('16), and Director of Sponsored Programs Samuel Melton Jr. ('05).

Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Ro'Shaun A. Bailey served as the discussion's moderator. One of the key questions Dr. Bailey asked the panelists was, "Why Valley?"

Fant stated, "A lot of reasons; I was born and raised here so Valley is in my blood." He also mentioned, "I can remember in high school or junior high sneaking into Valley's cafeteria and drinking the Kool-Aid." The audience



PHOTO BY MVSU COMM/MARKETING - DONELL MAXIE

laughed.

Shanell Bailey's answer to "Why Valley" went back generations. She said that she's a second-generation alumna, following her mother who graduated from Valley in 1978. "By the time '03 came, I decided I was going to college, but I didn't want to go too far, and I wanted to attend an HBCU," Bailey added.

Dr. Brown's grandmother who reared her chose Valley. Dr. Brown said she

wanted to attend Jackson State University at first, but her grandmother said, "No you're going down to that school in Itta Bena." Brown ultimately fell in love with Valley because of its family atmosphere.

Fair came from a long lineage of MVSU graduates with three of her older sisters graduating from the institution. "I knew in the fourth grade that I was coming here, and I don't regret it," said Fair. "I wouldn't trade my decision to come here for anything in the world."

Melton found his way to Valley through his love for music in the band. "Like Dr. Brown stated this is a home away from home," Melton said. His knowledge and intellect in music guaranteed him a spot in the band without any hassle.

The panelists shared a myriad of other fond memories of their V-State experience. All panelists are affiliated with the university in a way that is helping to foster positive change in the newer generation of Valley students.

MVSU faculty and Mass Comm alumna receive professional development at BEA 2024 Mass Comm graduate Jayla Smith presents at BEA

DDG Staff Report

According to its website, "the Broadcast Education Association (BEA) is the premiere international academic media organization driving insights, excellence in media production and career advancement for educators, students and professionals."

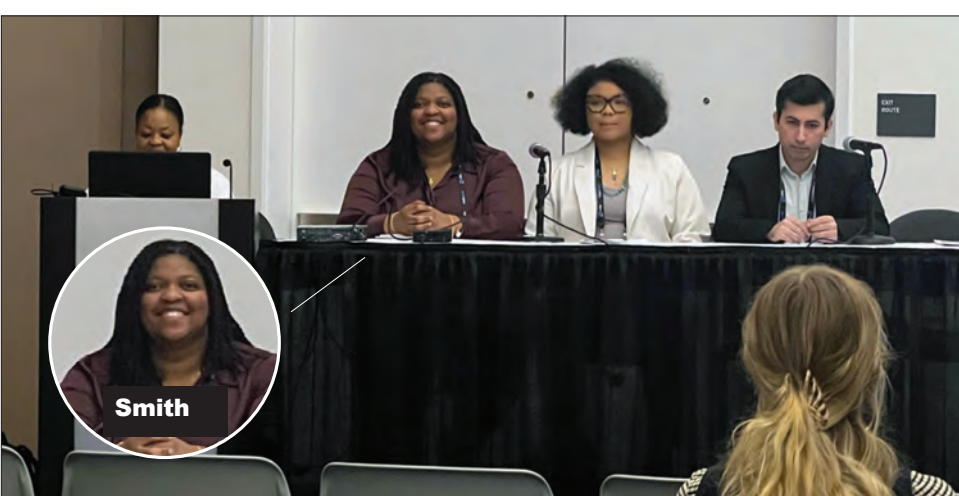


White

The Mississippi Valley State University Department of Mass Communication is fortunate to have had two of its faculty members take advantage of the professional development

opportunities at this year's BEA annual convention, April 13-16, in Las Vegas.

Director of Television Studio/Instructor Alfonzo White and Instructor/



Coordinator of Public Broadcasting Ida Hampton-Cannon reported that BEA 2024 was packed with a wealth of workshops, research presentations, industry hands-on technology sessions, and more.

They were surprised to see one of their MVSU Mass Communication graduates, Jayla Smith, among the presenters at one of the sessions they attended.



Cannon

medical cannabis project, documenting some of the pioneering moments of Mississippi's new form of medicine. Being a black journalist from the Mississippi Delta, I wanted to show black and brown people in a more flattering now biased light when it came to showing their images in association with medical cannabis. Because of this work, I was able to pitch a panel to BEA about the work we did for the project as well as changing the narrative about black and brown communities using medical cannabis."

Acting Department Chair Carolyn L. Gordon was elated to learn of Smith's BEA participation.

"I am here; I am so proud of her," said Cannon after White emailed a photo of Smith to the Mass Communication team with the message: "Look who's presenting."

White later asked Smith about her opportunity to present at BEA. She shared this:

"As a graduate student at the University of Mississippi, I was able to work on the

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. wins Community Service Award

Averi Sanders, Staff Writer

During the month of April, the Eta Alpha Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. won the Community Service Award for having the most members in attendance for the April 15 highway cleanup. It was held by the MVSU Community Service Office.

On April 15, 2024, not only did the chapter win the community service award, but it also celebrated its one-year anniversary of being back on campus.

As one of the sorority's founding principles, the Eta Alpha Chapter is known for providing service on the MVSU campus community and in the surrounding communities.

The sorority's 22 founders set the standards high on the campus of

Howard University in 1913, focusing on sisterhood, scholarship, service, and social action.

Today, it is still building on what was set forth by these black collegiate women on a regional and national level. As a thriving chapter on this campus, it is the ultimate goal to provide services to all mankind.

Soror Cheryl Featherstone was elated to present the award to her sorority sisters. Soror Featherstone stated, "I am proud of those young ladies, and I hope they continue to strive for excellence and keep giving back to their communities."

The young women did community service by cleaning Highway 136 in Itta Bena, Miss.



Eta Alpha cleaning highway 136 Itta Bena, MS. Photo credit: Jada McCary

FACULTY CORNER**Dr. Marikay Wilson: A beacon of support and guidance***By Raheal Aka-ety, Graduate Student*

For more than two decades, Dr. Marikay Wilson has been a steadfast pillar in the educational landscape of Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU).

Her MVSU journey began in October 1998 when she assumed the role of Professional Development Coordinator at the Institute for Effective Teaching Practices (IETP). Throughout that tenure, which spanned until August 2017, Dr. Wilson demonstrated unwavering dedication and passion for her work.

Transitioning to the position of Academic Advisory Center Coordinator for the Department of Teacher Education, Dr. Wilson continued to leave an

**Wilson**

indelible mark on the academic community. Her commitment to nurturing educators at every stage of their careers has been a cornerstone of her professional ethos.

Reflecting on her journey, Dr. Wilson shared, “My most rewarding experience has been the opportunity to teach and collaborate with educators throughout the entire spectrum of their career from pre-service teachers to veteran school-based educators.”

Dr. Teresa Dumas, her Acting Department Chair, echoes this sentiment:

“Dr. Wilson works to satisfy the academic needs of all students. She has an open-door policy and is very structured. She always keeps the student’s best interest in focus.”

Chackan Lindsey, a student who has known Dr. Wilson since 2020, said, “I can write a book about how Dr. Wilson supported, guided, and encouraged me during my Mississippi Valley State University journey. I truly thank God for bestowing such a liaison within my life.”

Despite the demands of her role, Dr. Wilson prioritized her students, offering assistance with kindness and patience.

Trimeka Peoples, another student, echoes these sentiments, highlighting Dr. Wilson’s unparalleled dedication, intelligence, and commitment to

excellence.

Peoples expressed that Dr. Wilson stands as a testament to the transformative power of education and mentorship. “When I needed help, whatever the situation or circumstance, she moved into action to help, even in her busiest moments,” said Peoples.

Peoples added, “I believe Dr. Wilson is one who reflects love, care and a whole lot of patience as an educator and a human being. She is someone who is trustworthy and understanding, and more.”

Dr. Wilson’s legacy of compassion, dedication, and unwavering support continues to inspire generations of educators, leaving an enduring imprint on the Valley community.

*Staff Spotlight***Watt earns an MBA while working for two academic departments***by Gail H.M. Brown, Ph.D., DDG Faculty Advisor*

Mississippi Valley State University’s Administrative Assistant, Dorothy C. Watt, has recently completed her Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from the MVSU School of Business, despite the challenges of working while studying.

Watt began working at MVSU in 2006 and graduated with a degree in Business Administration in 2013. She has been working for two departments since September 2021.

According to Acting Chair of the Department of Mass Communication, Carolyn L. Gordon, “The ways and nuances in which Ms. Watt juggles the responsibilities of servicing two departments is commendable.”

Watt’s English Department Chair Dr. John Zheng shared: “Dorothy is kind and always willing to help colleagues

and students. She’s also a helpful and supportive assistant as well. I have been impressed by her positive attitude about the job. Working for two departments is like walking on a tightrope; she has done a good acrobatic job.”

Students also value Watt’s work. “Upon my arrival at The Valley, Ms. Watt was the first person I had the pleasure of speaking with in the Mass Communication Department,” said Speech Communication major Amber E. Stewart. “She was swift in her work, and it was because of her that I was guided in the right direction with my major; speech communication.”

Watt said she had been so engrossed in her studies and meeting demands that she was surprised and overjoyed when she received an email from Dr. Jimmie Warren, Associate Professor of Management, MBA Coordinator, informing her that she had completed all of

**Watt**

the requirements for her MBA degree. “I thanked God first, took a deep breath, and realized that it was finally over.”

Dr. Warren described Watt, a non-traditional

student, as “very conscientious, very personable, and easy to work with, a go-getter, and she did not let any setbacks stop her from achieving what she set her mind to achieve, even in the face of very demanding and challenging graduate-level courses and adversity, especially during her tenure in the MBA capstone course.

“She brought real-world experience to her understanding of graduate-level business concepts and learned much from

the MBA program that greatly enhanced her understanding and application of graduate-level business, as well. She was a joy to have in the program!”

Watt advises anyone who wants to work and attend school simultaneously to take into account the job they have and determine if they will be able to study during their free time.

Watt’s daughter, Tiffany Watt, also graduated from MVSU with a degree in Business Administration and Accounting and is now an accountant in Brandon, Miss. Spending time with her family, especially her six-year-old granddaughter, Ava, brings her the most joy.

Watt’s mother, Velma Watt, is her biggest fan and is always proud to tell people she meets about her daughter who works at MVSU.

COMMENTARY**Celebrating a Trailblazer: Honoring Booker T. Washington on his birthday***Dr. Vivek Singh, Fulbright Scholar*

April marks a poignant moment to reflect on the enduring legacy of one of America’s most influential figures, Booker T. Washington.

Born into slavery on April 5, 1856, in Hale’s Ford, Va., Washington’s journey from bondage to prominence serves as a testament to the power of determination, education, and resilience. His life was characterized by a relentless pursuit of knowledge and equality. Despite facing immense adversity, he recognized the transformative power of education and dedicated himself to uplifting his fellow African Americans. His tireless efforts laid the foundation for the advancement of civil rights and educational opportunities for generations to come.

One of Washington’s most enduring legacies is his role as the founder of the Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) in Alabama. Established in 1881, the institution became a beacon of hope for African Americans

**Booker T. Washington, portrait - public domain**

seeking to escape the cycle of poverty and oppression. Under Washington’s leadership, Tuskegee Institute provided vocational training and academic education, empowering countless

individuals to pursue meaningful careers and become leaders in their communities.

His philosophy of self-help and economic empowerment resonated

deeply with many, earning him widespread acclaim as a spokesperson for African American advancement. His famous Atlanta Compromise speech in 1895 called for cooperation between the races while advocating for economic self-reliance and educational attainment within the African American community. Beyond his contributions to education and civil rights, Washington was a prolific author and orator, using his platform to advocate for social and political change. His autobiography, *Up from Slavery*, remains a seminal work in American literature, offering insights into his remarkable life and the challenges faced by African Americans during the Reconstruction era.

As we reflect on Washington’s life and legacy, let us recommit ourselves to the principles of equality, justice, and opportunity for all. By carrying forward his legacy, we honor not only the man but also the enduring spirit of hope and resilience that he embodied.

International Week celebrated with vibrancy at MVSU



PHOTO BY MVSU COMM/MARKETING - LATUNYA EVANS

By Rahael Aka-ety, Graduate Student

Mississippi Valley State University’s campus came alive with a burst of colors, music, and cultural exchange during the 2024 International Week festivities, held from April 15 to April 18.

Hosted by the Office of International Programs, the week-long celebration aimed to embrace and showcase the diverse cultures within the MVSU community.

The festivities commenced with the Parade of Flags on April 15 at 11 a.m., starting from the Sutton administration building. Faculty members and students joyfully participated, accompanied and were energized by the rhythmic beats of the Valley Mean Green Marching Machine (MGMM) Band. The air was filled with excitement as everyone danced and shared smiles, setting a lively tone for the week ahead.

Executive Director of International Programs and Special Assistant to the Provost Dr. Lokesh Shivakumaraiah, highlighted the significance of International Week in fostering cultural appreciation and understanding. With MVSU boasting students from 25 different countries, including 55 international students, the event provided a platform for cultural

exchange and unity.

“We want to encourage more students to join us for events like this,” Dr. Lokesh emphasized, underscoring the importance of student engagement and creativity in making International Week a success.

Throughout the week, students, faculty, and staff indulged in a plethora of activities celebrating various cultures. From Parade of Flags to soccer, Latin Night to Fashion Fiesta, Holi—Festival of Colors to Japanese Calligraphy and Origami, there was something for everyone to enjoy. The Global Cultural Fair, Russian Arts, Arabic Calligraphy, and International Cuisine further enriched the cultural experience.

One of the highlights of the week was the international soccer game held on April 15 at 6 p.m., at the women’s soccer field. With the help of the MVSU women’s soccer team, the event was a blend of fun, laughter, and learning.

Anthony Blakely, a mass communication major at MVSU, expressed his enthusiasm, jokingly likening himself to Cristiano Ronaldo after a spirited game. “Did you see how I headed the ball like Cristiano Ronaldo?” he said.

As the festivities drew to a close, the spirit of unity and appreciation lingered on, leaving a lasting impression on the



PHOTO BY LUDESHA REYNOLDS

MVSU community. With the success of International Week 2024, anticipation is already building for next year’s celebration, promising even more cultural enrichment and camaraderie at Mississippi Valley State University.



Students from around the world immerse themselves in the Holi celebration. Courtesy Photo

Hues of happiness: MVSU students celebrate Holi Festival

By Ekaterina Minakova, MVSU Global Editor

On April 22, students and faculty at Mississippi Valley came together to celebrate the Hindu festival of Holi, an event marked by vibrant colors and joyous revelry on campus.

Holi, also known as the Festival of Colours, Love, and Spring, is a traditional Hindu festival celebrated predominantly in India but embraced by communities worldwide. It signifies the triumph of good over evil, the arrival of spring, and the blossoming of love and unity.

At MVSU, the celebration commenced with a burst of colors as participants adorned themselves in brightly-hued powders and danced to rhythmic beats. Students from diverse cultural backgrounds joined hands to partake in the festivities, fostering an atmosphere of inclusivity and harmony.

It was a day filled with laughter, music, and friendship, forging lasting memories for everyone involved.

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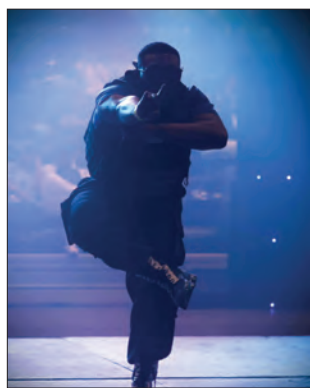
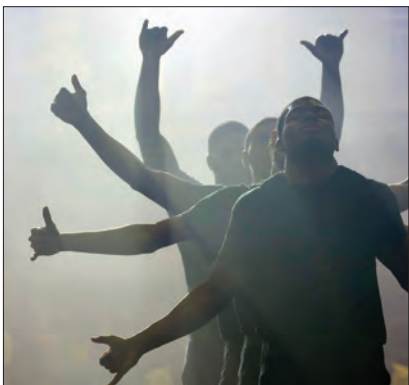
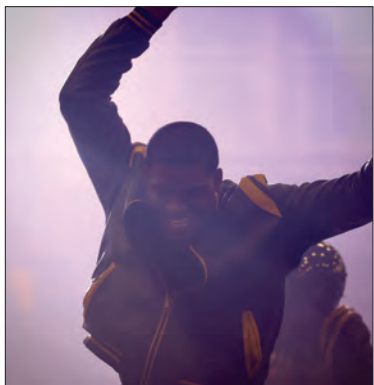
MVSU 2024 Athletic Banquet Highlights

PHOTOS BY CAMBREE CATALANO



2024 Spring New Member Presentation Greek Show

PHOTOS BY MVSU COMM/MARKETING - LATUNYA EVANS



Holmes Co. MVSU Alumni Chapter and Triumph Agility Care collaborate to hold free health fair in Tchula

DDG Staff Report

TCHULA, Miss. -- On April 20, 2024, despite the rainy weather, many residents gathered at City Hall for a free community health check. The health fair was hosted by the Holmes County MVSU National Alumni Chapter in partnership with Triumph Agility Care of Memphis, Tenn.

“The event aimed to promote health and wellness in the community,” said Idia Mitchell, who is the Chapter’s chairperson on health and wellness.

The event offered various screenings and services, including free blood pressure and blood sugar checks, door prize giveaways, healthy snacks, fruit, live remote broadcast music from 102.5 FM Radio Station, and more. One happy little girl even won a 24-inch bicycle.

Coordinating Partner Tanya K. McCaskill, FNP-BC and owner of Triumph Agility Care expressed, “It felt great to be able to do something for a community that helped raise and shape me into the person I am today,” McCaskill said. “Tchula, Mississippi will always be home no matter where I go! Words cannot express the magnitude of gratitude that I possess for even being thought of to participate in such an amazing event.”

Other vendors that participated in the



Valley alums pause for photo opt.

event included the Mississippi Tobacco Coalition of Madison, Yazoo, and Holmes Counties; Life Help-Region VI; Shared Health of Mississippi, Jackson; Miller and Adams Consulting Firm, Brookhaven, Miss.; Mississippi Health Department – Early Intervention Program, Jackson, Miss.; Mississippi Early Childhood Association; USA Social Security Administration; Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency; State of Mississippi, 21st District, Adult Felony Intervention Court; and Marketer Alliance Health Center.

Residents were grateful that the health fair was held in their city. They and the participants learned so much as a result of the event.

“The healthcare event was very beneficial because I was able to inform residents of Tchula about substance abuse and mental health services provided by our facility,” said Rendarryl Chandler of Marketer Alliance Health Center. “I also met other providers who shared very meaningful information about their services.”



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Cooley

continued from front page

emphasized not only physical fitness but also the psychological resilience of his players.

His legacy expanded beyond the football field to influence thousands. He was described as a mentor and motivator revered by many.

His departure is indeed a tremendous loss to the sports world. However, his legacy – much like one of his signature “Satellite Express” plays – was a sporting spectacle that won more than just games; it won the hearts of the fans.

MVSU graduate and current Grenada High School Basketball Coach Joey Cooley said, “I came to Valley the semester after Coach Cooley left; and of course, the last name instantly became a question of if we were related which we are not. Most of the questions came from faculty/staff/students who were upset that he left.

“So saying I was related may have not been beneficial to me at the time. Upset with his departure or not, I don’t think anyone could question his genius and innovativeness as a football coach.

He helped put “The Valley” on the map.”

The 1983 Grambling State University homecoming game stands out in the mind of former MVSU Photographer Floyd Bailey. “Valley was losing but made a big comeback,” he said.

The Gazette asked Totten about that game, and he shared that he had a knee injury from the previous game with Southern University at Baton Rouge, La. So, he did not start in that game against Grambling. Valley was losing, and Coach Cooley made the tough decision to put him in the game during the second half. He threw for 3 TDs, and they tied the game, 28-28. “Back then, games could end in a tie,” Totten said.

The echoes of Cooley’s life, a man who lived, laughed, and loved football left an insurmountable legacy. “I didn’t know him personally but I was a student from 1983 to 1986,” said Sidon, Miss. native Michael Stewart. “So, I was there when he coached that high-flying, powerhouse of an offense that rewrote the record books.”

PHOTO CREDIT: Floyd Bailey, former MVSU Photographer

MVSU Football Spring Game ends with defense dominating in a 49-25 victory



PHOTO BY ALIYAH HILL

By Andre Williams, Graduate Student

The Mississippi Valley State University football team showcased their skills in the annual Spring Game at Rice-Totten Stadium on April 13, 2024. The defense proved to be the standout performers, securing a convincing 49-25 victory over the offense. Despite the scoreline, the game was a display of teamwork and determination from both sides. The offense showed flashes of brilliance, but the defense ultimately prevailed. Graduate Defensive Assistant Coach

Brunson spoke highly of the team’s performance. “These guys are working hard every day to make themselves as well as Coach Wade proud,” Coach Brunson stated.

The Spring Game provided fans with a glimpse of what to expect in the upcoming season, and if this performance is anything to go by, Mississippi Valley State University football fans have a lot to look forward to. With the dedication and determination shown by the players, the upcoming season promises to be an exciting one for the Delta Devils.

MVSU Athletics Department recognizes its senior softball players



From Left to Right: Kathleen Sims, Kahlena Lentz, Kaitlyn Harper, Morgan Gutierrez, and Shelby Carson. PHOTO BY ALIYAH HILL.

