

the delta devils

# GAZETTE

An award-winning college newspaper, by students for students

NOVEMBER 2022

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY • ITTA BENA, MISSISSIPPI

Volume 48 / Number 1

## HOMECOMING 2022: Awesome!



Centered: Mister and Miss Mississippi Valley State University Emmanuel Asuquo and Essence Simone Baggett Back row, left to right: Mister and Miss Junior Waltez Vance, Miss Junior Zapouria Wadley, Mister and Miss Senior Jessie Washington, Mister and Miss Freshman Tyler Scarborough and India Butler. Graphic courtesy of John McCall/MVSU Communication and Marketing.

By Joshua King, Co-editor

The 70th Miss MVSU, Essence Simone Baggett, discovered her love for The Valley during her Upward Bound experiences the summer of 2017. She accepted a MVSU choir scholarship and began her momentous journey toward success. A Music Vocal Performance major, who aspires to teach music to elementary students, she plans to one day perform

on Broadway in her own one-woman show. A strong believer that God created her for a special purpose, the Indianola native plans to fulfill that purpose “no matter the trials and tribulations,” according to her bio.

Emmanuel Asuquo, a native of Lagos, Nigeria, earned a full scholarship to MVSU. A Computer Science and Mathematics major, the honor student also works for FedEx Logistics on campus.

During the Summer of 2022, Asuquo interned at Morgan Stanley investment bank for 10 weeks and gain experience in the corporate world. He plans to become a software engineer in a big technology company and pursue a master’s degree in computer science. He also plans to become a pilot. He also glorifies God for his accomplishments. (See more Homecoming 2022 on Page 4.)

## EMMETT!

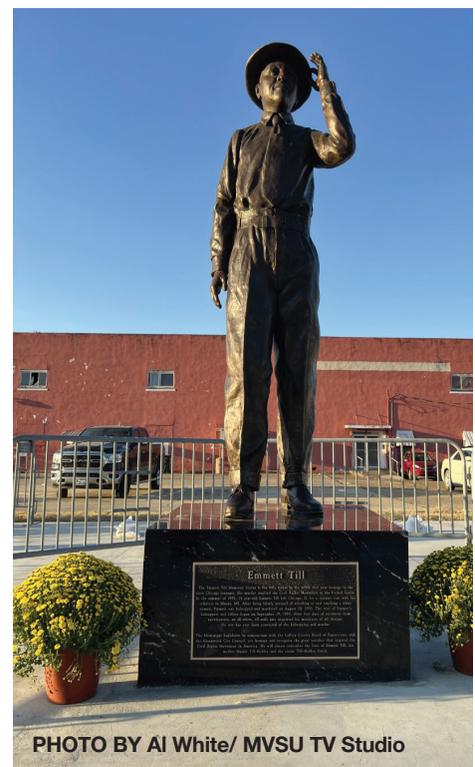


PHOTO BY AI White/ MVSU TV Studio

Emmett Till stands tall in the Mississippi Delta.

Hundreds gathered in downtown Greenwood, Miss., Oct. 21, for the historic unveiling of the world’s only Emmett Till statue.

In August 1955, Till, a 14-year-old black Chicago teen visiting Mississippi, was brutally murdered for allegedly whistling at a white woman.

This racial injustice event helped spark the Civil Rights Movement.

## The Historic DDG makes a much-needed Comeback!

By Kiara Love, Staff Writer

We’re Back! The Delta Devils Gazette has significantly provided an inside look into student life at Mississippi Valley State University. As it returns, let’s look at its history.

Using the James Herbert White Library resources via archivist, Dr. Wesley French, the Gazette staff found 58 back issues. A surprising discovery was the Delta Devils Gazette was not the original name. The original name was The Delvian Gazette as dated in 1980, 1981, 1982, and 1983.

After the September 1983 issue, the newspaper went dormant until 1985, the first comeback. Joseph Smith was Senior Editor. The reason for the name change has not been discovered.

To quote William Shakespeare, “what’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell just as sweet.” Although, the

Gazette has had two different names, its principles and integrity as a student news source remains.

The earliest back issue found was February 1980; Vol. 1, Issue No. 2. It featured athlete Melvin Williams who was voted The Most Valuable Player at the Black Colleges All-Star game.

Featured in Vol. 10, Issue No. 3, December 1991, MVSU football player Ashely Ambrose, one of 10 players to make the ALL-SWAC team, was the only player to earn first-team honors.

The Gazette also reported that during the Persian Gulf War, several students and staff were called into active military duty for a minimum of 90 days. One of whom, PFC Monica Williams, had to report the Iraqi



invasion of Kuwait.

The Gazette’s history reveals that students fought for rights that are still in effect today, such as, dorm visitation rights.

MVSU’s first International Week was featured in the May 2007 issue.

Issues in 2008, 2012, and 2018 featured popular entertainers for homecoming concerts sponsored by the SGA. They included R&B Artist and Songwriter Pleasure P, Rapper Lil Boosie, Comedian and Actor Gary Owens, Rapper and Singer Future, and Rapper and Songwriter Key Glock.

What celebrity guests could we have had for homecoming 2022?

A major headline was the students’ rally to save MVSU from closure! Joined by the NAACP on Jan. 28, 2010, MVSU students crowded the

steps and grounds of Mississippi’s capital and protested.

Giving MVSU students a voice has always been the focal point of the Gazette. It made another comeback last Fall 2021, emerging from disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite various challenges, the Gazette has won the Scholastic Press Association (SPA) awards: first place in 1989,1990,1991,1997, and 2007; third place, 2015; and second place, 2016.

You may continue the Gazette’s historic and award-winning spirit. Join our team or email, for consideration, your campus news to report: gazette@mvsu.edu

VOICE YOUR OPINION! Which name do you prefer and why? The Delvian Gazette or The Delta Devils Gazette. Email us: gazette@mvsu.edu or comment on our Delta Devils Gazette Facebook page.

# Students Complained About HC Event Costs

By LaTavia Williams, Co-Editor

The cost of recent homecoming activities received a lot of uproar from students. Many were not pleased about paying for so many events.

They voiced a lot of their concerns about homecoming amongst each other, leaving the question of “why” floating around waiting to be answered.

The biggest concern they had was why we did not have a homecoming concert. I had this same question. Therefore, I made it my mission to dig deeper to seek why the traditional homecoming concert has come to a halt here at MVSU.

Looking back at artifacts and older Delta Devil’s Gazette newspapers, I ran across an article written by Glenn Perkins, Jr, a former editor, in the September/October 2012 issue.

The article’s headline read, “MVSU Homecoming a Success” which made we want to investigate it even further. As I was reading, the special guest for the homecoming concert that year stood out to me.

That particular year, Future was the artist for the concert. I honestly couldn’t believe what I was reading! We were actually able to get Future back in those years of being at Valley.



Williams

Reading this made the question of “why” an even a bigger concern. I was determined to get the answers all of us as

students were looking for. I spoke with representatives of the homecoming committee.

President of the Student Government Association Keyjuan Meeks informed me that they had to use about 80 percent of the overall budget to ensure that homecoming was a success this year for everyone participating. Keep in mind also, students are only paying a \$10 activity fee each semester to sustain all student events held on campus.

That’s not nearly enough to pay for and host a homecoming concert this year and still have money left over to sponsor other events for the rest of the semester.

After gathering this information, I wasn’t as worried about the concert as before. Knowing that the SGA and the homecoming committee did what they could to make sure we have

a memorable homecoming this year, I decided to attend all the events I could to get the best out of the homecoming season.

Although we did not have a homecoming concert this year, who’s to say we won’t next year?



Future

# Mass Comm Students attend MAB’s First Student Conference



From left to right, Jessie Washington, Mikayla Etienne, Zapouria Wadley, James Snipes, Tahj Bradley, Latavia Williams, De’Nautus Liddell, MVSU Mass Communication graduate Jaylin Smith, Jar’Kevious Edwards, and MVSU Mass Communication Acting Chair Dr. Carolyn Gordon. COURTESY PHOTO

By James Snipes, Student

The Mississippi Association of Broadcasters’ (MAB) first Student Conference was an abundance of knowledge and networking agreed the eight students from Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) who attended. They were among more than 200 students from around the state in attendance.

Hosted by Jackson State University Department of Journalism and Media Studies, Nov. 10, the conference featured a plethora of valuable information, workshops and seminars for broadcast students. There were also many radio stations from across the

state of Mississippi seeking different radio talent.

The students say it was a great educational experience and one that they believe will have a resounding positive impact on everyone who attended. Next year’s conference is scheduled for Nov. 14 at the JSU e-Center.



# MVSU Scholars in Motion

By MVSU Career Services

Through Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) Career Services, numerous students have been able

to participate in some meaningful educational travels to various events throughout the country. These travels are to help them prepare for future careers in their field of study.



Above, students recently attended the Thurgood Marshall College Fund Institute in Atlanta. In the above photo, left, students posed on the stairway after participating in the institute’s HBCU Commercial Real Estate Immersion. Above, right, attendees are: Javid Ibrahimov (MCIS), Adedapo Adeola (MCIS), Caleb Wafer (Bioinformatics), Ayomide Olasupo (MCIS), Abdul Baqiy Diyaolu (Computer Science & Math), Zapouria Wadley (Mass Comm. & Speech Comm.), Ayomide Olatunde (Computer Science & Math), and Shodubi Oluwapelumi (Biology & Chemistry).



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

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The Delta Devils Gazette welcomes news and editorials from all students. The Delta Devils Gazette is a student publication of Mississippi Valley State University, under the supervision of the Department of Mass Communication.

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Jackie Hampton, Publisher

## Raegan's Advice to Excellence (RAE)

By Raegan Young, Columnist/Staff Writer

Hey Delta Devils!

Word on the street is that it's difficult to make friends when you're new to campus. Need a little advice? I got'cha! I felt the same way. Here are a few ways to become more sociable and make those college friends we always dreamed of!



PHOTO BY Dreamstime Stock Photos

You may meet people via social media, but nothing is more genuine than in-person interaction (when it's safe of course)!

- You could start with a roommate or even the person who sits to the immediate right of you in class. Invite him/her to lunch or even a campus event. By following this small tip, I've been able to meet new people, find study friends, and even attend events so neither of us was alone nor felt out of place.

The only way you will experience it is by interacting with others.

- Break the ice. Introduce yourself. Yeah, you're shy but they may be shy too.

Studies show that students who are isolated and keep to themselves risk mental health issues, such as anxiety and depression. They are more likely to turn to drugs and alcohol to fill the void!

(See these links for more info on such studies: <https://www.verywellfamily.com/college-students-coping-with-loneliness-4589991> and <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/news/2017/05/student-loneliness.page>)

- Lastly, join groups of your interest. This one may be the most obvious, but it's true. You can find people just like you and BOOM! A friendship match made in heaven.

But seriously, even if you don't join any of the organizations or groups on campus, just go to events and practice the steps offered, and you should go far with being sociable and racking in the friends.

With love, from a proud Delta Devil!!!

Raegan Young is an Education major. RAE's advice column will be a regular in *The Gazette*. If you would like to suggest a college-related topic, email it to: [gazette@mvsu.edu](mailto:gazette@mvsu.edu) Use RAE in your subject line.

## 'This Is My Story' - A Stellar Production!



Photo by LaTunya Evans/MVSU Communication and Marketing

The Valley Players presented something different this fall, "This is My Story," a presentation of the spoken word.

The emotions of each story impacted the audience.

The 2022 Fall Performance offered two opportunities to be amazed by the talented MVSU theatrical stars: Wednesday, Nov. 16 at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, Nov. 17 at 11 a.m. in the Carver A. Randle Auditorium.

"We presented dramatic poems written in the form of speeches for individual characters," said Director Barbara Baymon. She explained the pieces were self-conversations presented dramatically using the upper body. There were not a lot of moving around in the space.

"Each student expressed his/her inner

thoughts and emotions using face, voice, and hands," said Baymon. "Members in audience may have personally identified with a story on stage."

The audience's attentiveness was apparent evidence of just that. One attendee expressed the production was a "stellar performance." The audience gave the performers a standing ovation!

Senior Zapouria Wadley and Graduate Assistant Joshua W. King were emcees. In closing, Acting Chair Dr. Carolyn Gordon called for another round of applause for Baymon and The Valley Players. She also recognized her faculty and staff and invited those interested to join the players.

For more info about the Department of Mass Communication, email: [carolyn.gordon@mvsu.edu](mailto:carolyn.gordon@mvsu.edu)

## Homecoming Highlights



Photo by Gabrielle Jones-Hall, Co-Sports Editor. Subsequent photos courtesy of friends of the Gazette.



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# New Hires Meet with President

## Gray Media Training Center, Inc. Visit



By by Joshua King, Co-Editor

Oct. 3, MVSU President Dr. Jerryl Briggs held a Meet & Greet for the new hires in the President's Boardroom of the William Sutton Administration Building.

Colleagues from all across the campus got a chance to introduce themselves to Dr. Briggs. The goal for Dr. Briggs is to meet with any new hires monthly and to give them a chance to tell what they do in their department as well as learn what he does as President. Dr. Briggs shared information about himself, his administrative priorities and the great things happening on campus.

Dr. Briggs is a native of New Orleans. He said he believes in blessings and is blessed to be here. His passion for higher education is what drives him. Dr. Briggs said his mother instilled the importance of education into his life. "Even though she didn't have an opportunity to go to college, she made sure that I did," said Briggs.

"She is the reason I have a passion for learning."

"I think it's important as we talk about growth and diversity that we're really talking about experiences and what [these experiences] are going to bring to our students," mentioned Briggs.

"I'm excited and really appreciative of everyone working here."

New residential hall director, Robenicia Burns, a first-year graduate student on campus, said: "I'm so glad to be in this position and to grow relationships with students who are my age and to be a voice for this in their home away from home."

MVSU is currently hiring in certain positions around campus and would be elated to bring anyone onto the team with the right skill experience. For great career opportunities at MVSU, click on the link: [Employment | Mississippi Valley State University \(mvsu.edu\)](#)



By Morgan Rosell, Staff Writer

On Thursday, Oct. 13, Michael A. White, Jr., director of Operations for Gray Media Training Center, located in Jackson, Miss. came to speak to the MVSU communication students about their internship opportunity. Two students from each HBCU in Mississippi will be selected to work first hand with the network affiliate.

They will develop new skills and even get an opportunity to work in the newsroom. Students who are interested in applying may apply through the Gray Media website, [www.graytrainingcenter.com](http://www.graytrainingcenter.com) Or, by emailing White at [Michael.white@wlbt.com](mailto:Michael.white@wlbt.com)

# 5G FAST FIBER FAST



## TED molds teachers with “Excellence and Dignity”

*By Raegan Young, Columnist/Staff Writer*

During its recent virtual Meet and Greet, the Teacher Education Department (TED) highlighted its program, faculty, staff, and facility.

Acting Chair Dr. Theresa Dumas and Director of Field Experience Dr. Kalanya Moore stressed that TED is CAEP (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation) accredited. Dr. Moore described the holistic transformer model, in which the expectations of the students include molding or transforming into premium educators.

Located in the OP Lowe Building, TED offers early childhood education, elementary education, and secondary education. Participants also learned about the various teacher certification exams.

An ACT score of 21 or above or a SAT score of 1060 or above waives the Praxis’ core reading, writing, and math needed to enter a teacher education program. Content areas are English, music, and science.

Kappa Delta Pi is one of several professional membership organizations. Scholarships are offered via it and the Mississippi Association of Educators.

Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services Workforce Wellbeing Unit representative, Biaundra Ruffin, shared agency services and employment opportunities. Visitor Cassie Harvell of Shreveport also shared opportunities.

The motto is “Teaching with Excellence and Dignity.” For more info, stop by or call (601) 254-3618.

## University Introduces new First Year Scholarship Initiative

*Courtesy of MVSU News*

Mississippi Valley State University is excited to introduce a new scholarship to encourage upcoming first-year college students to elevate their education by enrolling at MVSU.

Dr. Jerryl Briggs Sr. announced the Valley First Scholarship initiative, which will offer scholarships to high school students who enroll as first-time, full-time freshmen for the Fall 2023 semester.

The scholarship program offers guaranteed funds to first-time freshmen who meet the minimum admission requirements and have been admitted to the university. Students will receive \$1,000 (\$500 for Fall 2023 & \$500 for Spring 2024).

For students to be guaranteed the scholarship, they must have returned the

university’s intent-to-enroll form to the Office of Admissions by the March 1, 2023, deadline.

To qualify, students must have graduated from high school in the fall or spring immediately preceding enrollment into MVSU. For new first-year students starting in the Fall 2023 semester, you will need to have graduated high school after November 1, 2022.

Students who qualify for the scholarship must maintain full-time status (minimum of 12 hours) throughout the fall semester.

The Valley First Scholarship is a financial effort by Dr. Briggs and the University to continue offering students financial assistance as they navigate college. The university has intentionally found ways to assist students with financial hurdles.

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# V-State Clinches First Win, 30-20!

PHOTO BY AI White/ MVSU TV Studio



By Mauriohn Underwood, Social Media Editor

Mississippi Valley State Delta Devils battled their way to their season's first victory against the Alabama A&M Bulldogs at home on Thursday, Nov. 4.

The persistency was high. Fans gathered at the Rice-Totten Stadium as it was Greek Night and the season's Gray-out game. It was also televised on ESPN.

Cameron Garder earned the team's first touch down in the first half with a 57-yard pass from Jalani Eason. Jacory Rankin had five receptions for 66 yards, with an average of 13.2 yards.

The speedy receiver said, "I go in to the game with the same mentality every time; I have to score." Orlando Fernandez had a total of three complete field goals with one of them a season-high 48-yarder. Sylvester Campbell gained the Devils another touchdown for the night, ending Eason with three complete passes. The Delta Devils ended the game against the Bulldogs with a score of 30-20.

The Gazette's Co-Editor Joshua King, a graduate student in the MVSU Mass Communication Master's program, also contributed to this article.

# She's All SWAC

By Jessie Washington, Student



Soccer Player Raheal Aka-ety was selected All SWAC, Second Team by the league's head coaches and sports information leaders.

She is the first MVSU Devilette soccer player designated All SWAC since recent Graduate Assistant Coach Laadi Issaka and ex-midfielder Karenth Zabala-Terrazas were acknowledged at the end of the 2018 season.

Raheal explained her joy for such an accomplishment. "I am very blessed to have been voted onto the All-SWAC Second Team," she said. "I would say a big thank you to God for the abundant blessings and the body to endure throughout the season. I could not have done this without my hardworking coaches, teammates who stood by me, fans, and especially my family for everything they did for me. It hasn't been easy, but endurance and faith got me through it".

Aka-ety is the first Devilette defender to receive the honor in seven years, counting back to 2015 when Amberly Halstead led the Devilette soccer defense to a SWAC Regular Season Championship.



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