



# COMMUNIQUE

A Publication of Mississippi Valley State University for Faculty, Staff, Alumni and Friends | September 8, 2016 Vol. 13 Edition 8

## STUDENT SUCCESS ON THE RISE AT MVSU



“Close your eyes and picture the Delta without Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) in it,” said MVSU President William B. Bynum, Jr. during his state of the University address.

“Homes would be in foreclosure, cars would be repossessed, and the financial livelihood of

many individuals and their families would be in serious jeopardy.”

“It would also mean that the cycle of poverty in the Delta would become worst, because the opportunity for individuals to educate themselves at this “jewel of the MS Delta”

would not exist,” he added.

Bynum’s use of imagery settled into the hearts and minds of MVSU’s faculty and staff as he gave an update of the University’s triumphs and small ‘bumps in the road.’

He said one of the University’s accomplishments that he is most proud of is its ability to produce outstanding, career-ready scholars and productive citizens.

“Our students have received some outstanding offers in terms of jobs and internships,” continued Bynum. “We have had students placed with Microsoft, Merrill Lynch, Ingalls and Corporate Wal-Mart to name a few.”

He also announced that student athletes at MVSU graduate at a higher rate than the regular student body, and 122 of the University’s student athletes made the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) All-Academic Team.

The group maintained over a 3.0 grade point average while competing in their respective sports. This accomplishment placed MVSU fourth in the SWAC.

See “Rise” page 4

## WATERS SELECTED AS WHITE HOUSE HBCU ALL STAR



*Vester Waters was ecstatic after receiving a phone call from the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.*

Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The All-Stars were selected from over 300 students from 24 states, the District of Columbia, Ghana, Nigeria, and the Virgin Islands.

According to Waters, he is honored to have been chosen, but the selection came as a surprise.

“I applied, but I did not expect to be selected,” said Waters. “I was contacted on the last day that nominees were to be announced.”

recognized for their accomplishments in academics, leadership, and civic engagement.

Waters has served in a number of leadership positions at Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU), and hopes to one day work for the government.

“I would like to be a catalyst for change,” he continued. “My dream is to motivate people, so they can see that they can make positive impacts in our community.”

Waters will serve as an ambassador by providing outreach opportunities and communicating with other students about the value of both education and the Initiative as a networking source.

Vester Waters has been selected as a 2016 All-Star for the White House Initiative on

The All-Stars, comprised of undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, are being

See “HBCU All Star” page 2

# MVSU LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) recently launched its new website.

According to Torrey Moore, director of information technology, the website is much more modern, clean and enhances the University's virtual brand tremendously.

"It is optimized for viewing on mobile devices such as smart phones and tablet computers," he added.

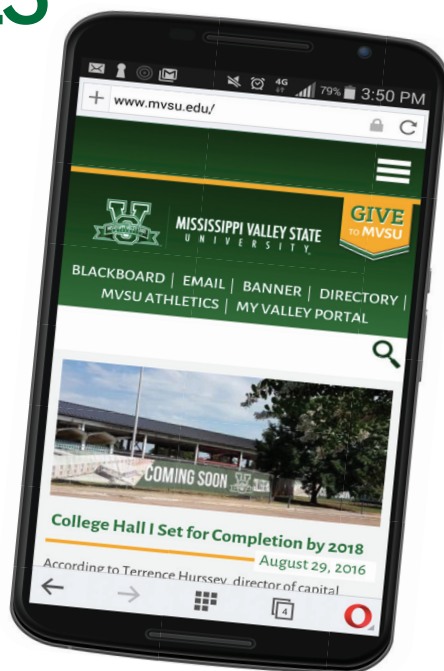
"Most people do not know this, but Google now penalizes websites that are not mobile friendly."

As said by Moore, if a website has a high ranking in Google searches, but it is not mobile friendly, eventually it will be dropped in the search rankings.

"A website can end up on the second page of search results, instead of the first," he added. "As we know, most people never go to the second page of search results."

The content management system allows for Adobe portable document format (pdf), image, audio and video uploads as well as simple text changes.

"As we continue to update and make tweaks, our users will see more imagery and interactive online forms, instead of the traditional downloading of pdf files to fill out," said Moore.



"There are also drop down menus which alleviate the extra clicks to get to web pages."

Along with the 'bells and whistles' of the new website, the University has also increased its campus-wide internet bandwidth from 100MB to 1GB, and wireless internet connectivity has been setup in the residents halls, cafeteria, and student union.

The University also plans to launch a mobile application before December 2016, and wireless internet connectivity is to be setup in the Education, Fine Arts, Math & Science, and Social Science Buildings.

## HBCU All Star

*continued from page 1*

He will also participate in the White House HBCU Week Conference, national and regional events, and webinars with Initiative staff and other professionals on a range of disciplines that support a spirit of engagement and personal and professional development.

The All-Stars will work together and as a group and network with one another to achieve their goals.

Using social media, relationships with community-based organizations, and sessions with industry professionals, he and other students will share proven practices that support opportunities for all young people to achieve their educational and career potential.

"In order to see improvements on campus, I will need the support of my fellow colleagues," he added.

"Together we can be a force of change."



# MENGNAN GONG RECEIVES FULBRIGHT FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING ASSISTANT AWARD TO MVSU

Mengnan Gong of China has been awarded a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program grant to serve as a teaching assistant in Chinese language and take courses at Mississippi Valley State University for academic year 2016-17. While in the United States, Gong will share their language and culture with U.S. communities to inspire Americans to travel and study overseas, and make U.S. citizens better prepared to engage with businesses, governments, and organizations abroad.

Mengnan Gong is one of nearly 400 young educators from 50 countries who will travel to the United States in the 2016-2017 academic year through the Fulbright FLTA Program to help internationalize U.S. colleges and



universities, a key goal of many institutions as they prepare students for the 21st century workforce and globalized world. Recipients of Fulbright FLTA grants are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential.

Fulbright FLTA scholarships are awarded by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

In the coming year, grant recipients from East Asia and the Pacific; Europe and Eurasia; the Middle East and North Africa; South and Central Asia; and Sub-Saharan Africa will contribute to U.S. students' foreign language acquisition in more than 30 languages at over 200 U.S. institutions. The primary source of funding for the Fulbright Program is an annual appropriation made by the U.S. Congress to the U.S. Department of State. Participating governments, universities, corporations, and foundations in foreign

See "Fulbright Award" page 4

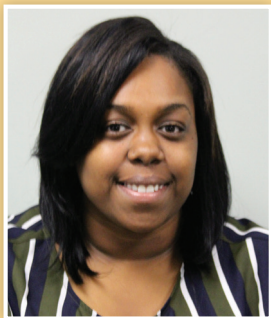


# MVSU VOLLEYBALL TEAM VOLUNTEER ANNUAL BIKES, BLUES, & BAYOUS BICYCLE MARATHON



MVSU Volleyball team volunteered for the 9th Annual Bikes, Blues, & Bayous Bicycle Marathon. Downtown Itta Bena served as the first major rest area for bikers. Pictured from left are Terrea Sims, Hayle Means, Cynthia Richardson, Jaime Polk, Alexandria Douglas, Kalin Barnes, Megan Jones; Itta Bena Mayor, Thelma Collins; Brooklyn Hudson, Victoria Hicks, Brianna Watkins, Marissa Chalmers, and Sydney Robinson.

## WELCOME ABOARD



**Wytavia Brown**  
*Student Accounts  
Receivable Clerk  
Business & Finance*



**Shahara Dente, Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor of English  
English & Foreign Languages*



**Danelle Jackson**  
*Secretary  
Teacher Education*



**Shakina Nelson**  
*Human Resources Assistant  
Human Resources*



## Rise *continued from page 1*

After the audience applauded the efforts and accomplishments of the University's students, another round of applause was granted due to the University's current student enrollment status.

"As of now, we are tracking ahead of last year's 2,309 head count, and out of state enrollment is increasing" continued Bynum.

Bynum also announced the return of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program and the University's new masters programs in convergent media and sports administration.

The continued renovation of College Hall I, which will add 140 additional beds, will continue during the Fall semester, and phase one renovations for the original president's house, Friendship Manor, have been completed.

Phase two is scheduled to begin during the upcoming year. The space will be available for meetings and receptions.

Bynum also said the departments of English and Foreign Languages, Mass Communications, University College and Athletics are working with architects to design the interior of the Academic Skills building in which they will be housed in the future.

"We will continue with our low cost, high impact projects," he said.

The University received \$7.5 million for the renovations of Edna Horton Hall, which will add 275 additional beds, and plans to lobby the legislature for funds to improve the Jacob Aron Student Union is set for this year.

In addition to student success and face-lifts, the Office of Residential Life will launch a module that will allow students to manage their housing options and requests 24/7 online.

Bynum is extremely pleased with the two-year success of the Office of University Advancement.

"With the help of faculty, staff, students, corporations, foundations and the community, the Office of Advancement has exceeded its goal of \$1 million for the second time," he continued.


He is also grateful for the \$2.5 million increase in sponsored research, from \$6.6 million to \$9.1 million during the 2015-16 academic year.

As previously mentioned, the University did face a few 'bumps in the road' during the academic year.


"We had a slight tuition increase of 3 percent and fee increase of 2 percent," said Bynum. "We hate to have any increase for our student body, but this was by far the lowest increase of all the IHL institutions."

MVSU also faced budget cuts amounting to approximately \$500,000.


Despite these challenges, if we commit to recommitting to our One Goal (Student Success), One Team (University and Community Stakeholders working together), and One Valley (School Pride and Spirituality), we will start to see "The Valley" thrive and not simply survive.



**INTELLIGENCE  
PLUS CHARACTER  
MULTIPLIED BY  
AGILITY AND STRENGTH  
EQUALS  
MISSISSIPPI  
MAGNOLIA  
GOLD**

 **TEXT "4GOLD"  
TO 95577**

OR DOWNLOAD MS NATIONAL GUARD FREE APP  
AVAILABLE ON IPHONE AND ANDROID



## Fulbright Award *continued from page 2*

countries and in the United States also provide direct and indirect support.

The Fulbright Program was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. The Fulbright Program has given approximately 360,000 students, scholars, teachers, artists, and scientists the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas, and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns. Since 2001, more than 4,000 Fulbright awardees have been Fulbright FLTAs.

Fulbright FLTA recipients are among over 50,000 individuals participating in U.S. Department of State exchange programs each year. The Fulbright FLTA Program is administered by the Institute of International Education.

For further information about the Fulbright FLTA Program, contact the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, telephone 202-632-6452 or e-mail [ECA-Press@state.gov](mailto:ECA-Press@state.gov). Or visit:

<http://eca.state.gov/fulbright>  
<http://foreign.fulbrightonline.org/>

## EVENT CALENDAR

### September

**8 - Frozen Poetry;** Thursday, September 8, 2016 - 8:06pm to 9:45pm; Student Union Royal Room. Sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

**10 - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony;** Saturday, September 10, 2016 - 1:00pm to 3:00pm; Mississippi Valley State University, R. W. Harrison Complex (HPER Bldg.)



PRESIDENT'S ALUMNI  
SCHOLARSHIP  
*Reception*

SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2016

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY  
BUSINESS EDUCATION BUILDING - FOYER

14000 Hwy 82 West • Itta Bena, MS 38941

**TICKETS: \$10.00**

*For more information, contact the Office of University Advancement at (662)254-3790.*



Two  
Minutes  
with...

# Lonzia Copeland

*Records Evaluator/Student Records*

*Tell us a little about yourself and your background.*

I am a native of Sussex, Virginia. After working in a factory for a number of years, I joined the United States Marine Corps and remained enlisted for 22 years. While in the Marine Corps I experienced a huge crisis. I have been devoted to God for more than 30 years.

I successfully retired from the Marine Corps and became employed with Federal Express. While working for Federal Express, I received an associate's degree in computer science from Mississippi Delta Community College. I received a bachelor's degree from the University of Phoenix in business management.

*How do you approach providing service?*

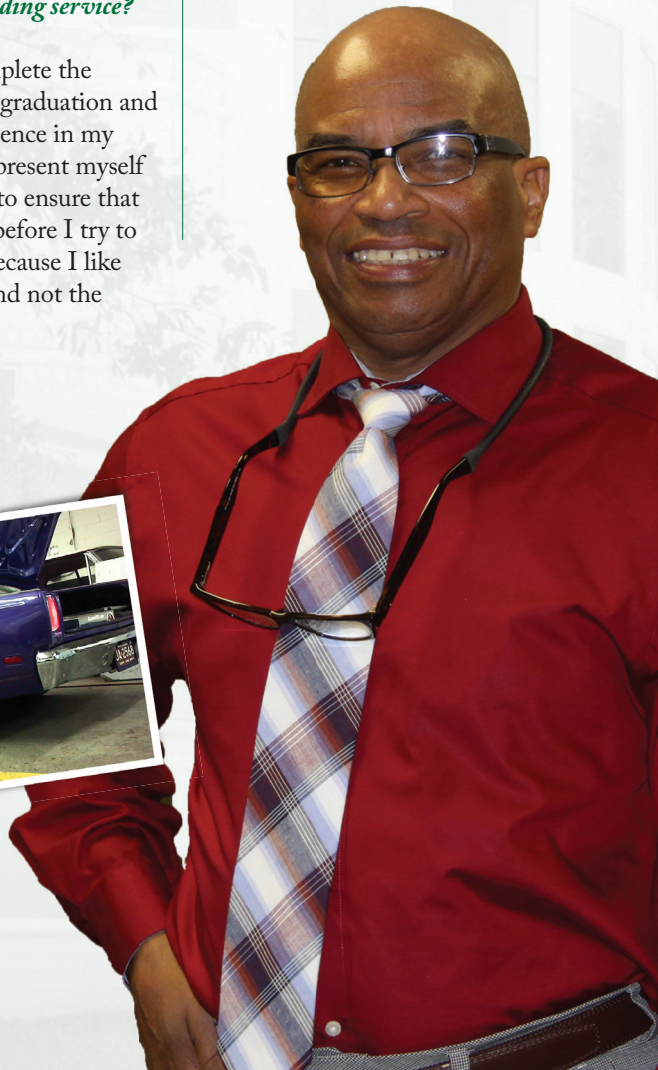
Students work hard to complete the necessary requirements for graduation and I want to make their experience in my office pleasurable. I try to present myself in a positive manner. I try to ensure that my self esteem is in check before I try to provide service to others, because I like to be part of the solution and not the problem.

*Where are we most likely to find you when you are not at work?*

I love my family. Whenever I am not here, I spend a lot of my time with my family, at church or volunteering at various locations. I am a volunteer employee at the Washington County Correctional Facility; I go there to minister to the inmates.

*What is something we would be surprised to learn about you?*

I am 63 years old, I have a new wife and a new home. I recently had double knee replacement surgery. I would also like to build a high performance street hot rod automobile.



# COMMUNIQUÉ

The Communiqué is published for faculty, staff, alumni and supporters of Mississippi Valley State University by the Office of Communications and Marketing

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Dr. William B. Bynum Jr.  
*President*



@MississippiValley



@MVSUDEVILS

**New Hashtag: #GOMVSU**

Mississippi Valley State University complies with all applicable laws regarding affirmative action and equal opportunity in all its activities and programs and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation or group affiliation, age, disability, handicap, or status as a veteran or disabled veteran.