



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Relations Contacts:

Pam Reeder, Murrell Library director; (660) 831-4123; reederp@moval.edu

Chad Jaecques, marketing/media relations director; (660) 831-4172; jaecquesc@moval.edu

MVC'S MURRELL LIBRARY TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Historian to present about Glasgow, Mo. native and great Negro League pitcher

Marshall, Mo. (February 1, 2008)—Missouri Valley College's Murrell Library will celebrate Black History Month on Feb. 5 by honoring the tradition of African American Baseball, including a special presentation on the life and career of Glasgow, Mo. native, John Donaldson.

Peter Gorton, a historian of the Negro League's great pitcher, will hold a presentation in the library at 2 p.m. Gorton's presentation will include career statistics, life accomplishments, and other information about Donaldson, one of baseball's greatest, yet nearly forgotten left handed pitchers.

Internationally known writer Phil Dixon will also appear at 7 p.m. in the Eckilson-Mabee Theater to present his lecture, "The African American in Baseball Past, Baseball Present, and Baseball's Future."

After Dixon's presentation, a reception will be held in Murrell Library's Coffee by the Book Room with "ballpark style" food and drinks. Both Gorton and Dixon will be available to answer questions and talk baseball after their presentations.

According to Wikipedia.com, researchers have documented much of Donaldson's career. Box scores reveal 235 wins and 84 losses and a winning percentage of .737. He also notched 3,832 strikeouts, an ERA of 1.37 and 86 shutouts against all levels of competition. He completed 296 of 322 starts (92%), had 22 one-hitters, six no-hitters and a perfect game. He also had a 30 strikeout game, 26 games with more than 20 strikeouts and a total of 166 double digit strikeout games. Donaldson could also hit, batting .334 in over 1,800 at bats.

Donaldson and the All Nations team played ball all year round, both in the Midwest and venues as far west as San Diego, California and as far east as Palm Beach, Florida. His championship club eventually disbanded, but after World War I, many of its players were signed by J. L. Wilkinson for the newly-formed Kansas City Monarchs in 1920. Donaldson played part-time with the Monarchs through much of the 1920s, also working with various semi-pro barnstorming teams in Minnesota. Crowds of over 5,000 people sometimes watched these exhibition games in the mid-1920s.

In 1923, he formed his own team of all-stars, the Donaldson Stars (though frequently referred to as the All-Nations), to play exhibition games against local baseball clubs throughout the Midwest, especially in such Minnesota towns as Bertha, Lismore and St. Cloud.

After more than twenty years as a player, Donaldson retired in 1934. Settling in Chicago, he worked for the U.S. Postal Service. Although Donaldson never gained the full recognition for his pitching skills during his lifetime and was never admitted into major-league baseball during his career, he made history by becoming the first full-time black talent scout in the big leagues for the Chicago White Sox of the American League in 1949.

ABOUT MISSOURI VALLEY COLLEGE

Missouri Valley College is a liberal arts college that provides educational, social and cultural experiences in a decidedly Christian environment. Established in 1889, MVC offers 27 majors and 7 pre-professional programs, and 12 sports and 20 varsity teams. The liberal arts heritage focuses on scholarship, critical thinking and academic excellence to prepare students to become members of a responsible citizenry. For more information, call (660) 831-4000 or visit www.moval.edu.

###