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**MVC TO KICK OFF 2008-09 ACADEMIC YEAR WITH FRESHMAN CONVOCATION**

*First day of classes set for Aug. 25*

**Marshall, Mo.** (August 22, 2008)—Missouri Valley College President Bonnie Humphrey, along with members of the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and students, will officially welcome the Class of 2012 at Convocation on Thursday, Sept. 4.

The goal of the Convocation ceremony, which takes place at 10 a.m. in the Burns Athletic Center, is to provide a ceremonial setting to the beginning of the collegiate environment. Humphrey reintroduced the Convocation ceremony to the MVC community when she became president in 2005.

“Convocation plays a very important role in our students’ academic careers as it marks the beginning of their higher education experience,” Humphrey said. “From the brightly colored faculty processional to the diversity of students filling up the gymnasium, Convocation is a great way for our students to see the type of learning environment in which they are engaging.”

Dr. Marilyn Belwood, associate professor of mathematics, will be the keynote speaker at the 2008 Convocation. Belwood is the recipient of the 2008 John McCallum Excellence in Teaching Award and is currently serving as the Faculty Senate president. She also serves as the director of institutional research.

In addition to Humphrey and Belwood, other speakers at the 2008 ceremony include Marshall Mayor Connie Latimer and several other representatives from the college’s administration and student body.

Other activities taking place during Convocation week include a faculty, staff, and Board of Trustees dinner, open houses in several campus offices, and the presentation of the student organizations to President Humphrey.

Freshman Orientation begins Friday, Aug. 22 and classes begin Monday, Aug. 25.

**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](http://www.moval.edu).