

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **RIBBON CUTTING SET FOR THREE RENOVATED SPACES ON MVC CAMPUS**

*Ceremony set for 11 a.m. on Oct. 3.*

**Marshall, MO. (September 22, 2009)** – Missouri Valley College will celebrate the opening of three renovated campus spaces on Oct. 3. A gift from Jon '87 and Dawanna Morris allowed MVC to renovate a section in the lower level of Morrison Gymnasium into the J & D Morris Dance Studio; convert the women's fitness center in the lower level of MacDonald Hall into the new Morris Experimental Theatre (MET); and construct the new Morris Fitness Center in MacDonald Hall.

"Over the last few years, Jon and Dawanna have been very supportive of MVC by offering gifts to specific areas," said MVC President Bonnie Humphrey. "This gift is significant not only in the amount of the gift, but also because it is wide-reaching and directly impacts a number of our students and programs."

The addition of a dance major at Missouri Valley College made the need for a dance studio imperative. The J & D Morris Dance Studio will be available for practice space for dance majors, dance ensembles, and the MVC Dance Team.

"The Dance Studio is giving us a designated space for our student dancers," said Diana Malan, director of MVC theatre, music and dance department. "They've had difficulty working on their dance skills because of the shared space in the gym. That won't be the case anymore. It's going to be nice for the students to walk in to a space that is designed and designated especially for them."

The Black Box, previously located in the lower level of Morrison Gym was designed for student directing and acting projects. It was also home to MVC's own comedy troupe, *Flatliners*. The new MET, which located in the lower level of MacDonald Hall will replace the Black Box. Throughout the school year one act plays, original plays, and student generated projects will be presented in the new space.

"The MET will provide a great deal more space for classes, performances, and seating for several more people," Malan said. "We'll be able to arrange the space in a variety of ways for a variety of performance styles."

The Morris Fitness Center is a welcomed addition to MacDonald Hall. The new women's only facility includes new exercise equipment and TV's.

"It's so nice to have a place where girls can feel comfortable when they work out," said Brittany Bertolani, sophomore exercise science major from Hampton, N.H. "It's convenient that anytime I want to work out, I don't have to worry about interfering with athletic teams or tons of other people."

Jon and Dawanna Morris will join MVC administrators in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m. on Oct. 3 with presentations at each renovated space. The couple will also be recognized during halftime of the Vikings home football game, which is a 1:30 p.m. kickoff.

**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 over 30 majors and 7 pre-professional programs, and 13 sports. The most popular majors include education and business, and the newest majors are nursing, graphic design, dance, and hospitality/tourism management, which will begin in Fall 2009. 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).

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