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AUTHOR TO VISIT MISSOURI VALLEY COLLEGE

Marshall, MO. (January 11, 2010) –African American children’s author Derrick Barnes will stop at Missouri Valley College’s Murrell Library to visit with faculty, staff and students about his latest release. Barnes will speak at 12 noon on Jan. 14 in Murrell Library on the MVC campus. A meet and greet with the author will take place from 8 to 9:15 a.m. in the Tech Center Room 203.

A Kansas City native, Barnes attended Jackson State University in Mississippi where he started writing poetry and shorts stories for fun. This led to a columnist gig at the college’s student newspaper.

Barnes graduated from Jackson State University in 1999 and moved back to Kansas City where he became the first African-American male staff writer hired by Hallmark.

Six years ago with the help of a former Hallmark colleague, Barnes created the Booker Boys, which are the three brothers of Rudy, the heroine in Barnes’ latest release. Barnes’ first stories featured the Booker Boys with Rudy as a secondary character. After finding the Booker Boys a hard sell to publishers, Barnes decided to rewrite his stories from Rudy’s point of view. Rudy became the main character in the first of two books of Barnes’ *Ruby and the Booker Boys* series: *Brand New School*, *Brave New Rudy* and *Trivia Queen*, *3rd Grade Supreme*.

“I wanted to do something totally different,” Barnes said in a recent Kansas City Star article. “There are enough stories about the downtrodden aspects of black life in this country. I want to give children images that they can look forward to.”

Attendees are welcome to bring a sack lunch to the presentation.

“Barnes creates characters that either don’t exist or are not being properly represented in children’s literature; in particular, African-American images of positive, functional family life,” said Brian Hampton, special events coordinator for Murrell Library. “His series *Ruby and the Booker Boys* is a winner!”

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 15 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.

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