
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Relations Contacts:

Chad Jaecques, (660) 831-4172, jaecquesc@moval.edu

42nd VALLEY WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME TO BE INDUCTED

Hall of Fame Tea set for April 30 on MVC campus.

Marshall, Mo. (April 27, 2010)—Missouri Valley College's Valley Women organization will honor three women at its annual tea at 4 p.m. on Friday, April 30 in the Ferguson Center Formal Lounge on the MVC campus. The 42nd inductee into the Valley Women's Hall of Fame, the 2010 *Outstanding Senior Woman*, and *Valley Women Scholarship* recipient will be recognized.

Virginia Zank, retired public school educator, will be inducted into the Valley Women's Hall of Fame, and she says MVC has positively impacted her life.

"Valley gave me the opportunity to make new friends, change and enrich the lives of my students, and do really good work," Zank said. "Valley came along when I needed a new home—Marty, my husband, died in 1992. I had retired from high school teaching and Valley allowed me the opportunity to reinvent myself and start over."

Virginia taught for 30 years in Missouri public schools retiring from Marshall High School in 1993. After her retirement from MHS, she was an adjunct instructor in English at Missouri Valley College from 1993-1997.

"Shortly after I began fulltime as assistant professor of English, I went to State Farm and got computers, printers, tables, and chairs, and started the first writing lab with tutors in Ferguson Center in the room next to my office, and I was appointed composition director." Zank said.

That would lead her to her next assignment in 2002—director of the MVC Learning Center, a position she held until 2008.

"I designed the program in the Learning Center and moved to Baity Hall on the third floor in the newly remodeled chapel," Zank said. "It was a beautiful place to work—stained glass windows, new furniture, new computers—the writing program at Valley was no longer a step-child. We had clout. President Humphrey wanted it to be a 'happenin' place,' and it was indeed. I worked with many students every day to help them fulfill their dreams."

From 2002-2008 she would also serve as supervisor of the Freshman First Year Program, a program designed to help freshman with the transition from high school to college. Zank and Dr. John McLean published an article for Noel-Levitz about starting the program on a shoestring, and the company has used the information in their marketing program for several years. Zank also oversaw the production of *The Purple Patch*, MVC's student-produced literary magazine.

From 2008 to present she has served as an educational consultant to MVC, where she works on the revision of the mission statement, assessment, accreditation, and research.

Her many years of involvement and her excellence in education is why Zank is the 2010 inductee into Valley Women's Hall of Fame.

As stated on the Valley Women anonymous nomination form, “Virginia remains active since her retirement as a consultant for the improvement in the programs at Valley. She is always willing to help.”

Zank said she is proud to be a Valley Women’s Hall of Famer.

“I am honored to be inducted into the Valley Women’s Hall of Fame—I am also shocked, but grateful for the honor,” Zank said. “Valley is not only a place for me, it is a feeling. I found a place of academic freedom, a feeling of family, supportive people who believed in me and what I was doing. I felt secure, which was an important thing in that stage of my life. I like the feeling of growing and moving forward that is always present on campus.”

Zank’s professional memberships include National Council of Teachers of English, MO Association of Teachers of English, and MO State Teachers Association.

Also active in the Marshall and Branson, Mo. communities, Zank was a longtime member of the Marshall Community Chorus, is currently a member of the Marshall Optimist Club, currently serves on the Architectural Control Committee for Stonebridge Village in Branson, is a member of the MVC President’s Society, and is a member of the Kimberling City United Methodist Church.

The Valley Women will also present Alayna Palmer with the 2010 Outstanding Senior Woman Award. She has participated in women’s soccer, Gamma Alpha Lambda Christian sorority, and was the *Top Academic Scholar* recipient for her major in Spring 2010. She has also served as the editor of *The Purple Patch*.

Palmer, an English major from Kennett, Mo., will graduate with honors May 8. The Outstanding Senior Woman is decided on the basis of scholarship, leadership, character, and service, and is voted on by MVC faculty, staff, and Valley Women members.

An MVC junior woman will be awarded the Valley Women scholarship at the event. Money for the scholarship comes from private donations and fund-raisers.

The Valley Women’s Tea is free and open to the public. No reservations are required.

****Photo of Zank available upon request.**

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. 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.