

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MISSOURI VALLEY COLLEGE ADDS MUSIC DEGREE TO FINE ARTS DIVISION**

**(Marshall, MO)** June 3, 2010—Missouri Valley College Interim Chief Academic Officer Marilyn Belwood has announced the addition of a bachelor of arts degree in music to the fine arts department. Beginning in fall 2010 students will be able to pursue a baccalaureate degree in music.

Although not a bachelors program music has been a long standing tradition at Missouri Valley College. Since the loss of the rehearsal hall and entire inventory of band instruments in the Stewart Chapel fire in the 1970's the music program has been rebuilding.

"We've waited many years to bring the music major back to the college," said Diana Malan, chair of the fine arts division. "Choir has always been solid, but the instrumental part of the program has struggled. Hiring Gary Anders, who became our director of instrumental studies, three years ago led me to believe that we could actually grow the instrumental side of the program and bring back the music major."

Before coming to MVC, Anders taught instrumental music at the middle and high school levels in Missouri for over 30 years. His bands have performed at state, national, and international music conventions.

"I am amazed and excited about the growth I've seen these past three years," Anders said. "Our goal right now is to recruit students who are not only interested in performing, but also interested in studying and working in the music field."

Demand, interest and growing numbers in the fine arts department led to the decision to bring the program back. Students have already shown interest in the program for the fall semester. Students will study music theory, aural training, music history, conducting, composition, applied lessons, and ensemble work.

Missouri Valley College hopes to offer two areas of specialization within the major — general music and music education. While general music has been approved, the division is awaiting approval from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for the music education program.

Over the last three years several instrumental programs have been added to the department including a drumline, jazz band ensemble and brass ensemble. This year the program plans to build a concert band, and in the future the program hopes to add a marching band.

"I'm thrilled that our administration has decided to support this program," Malan said. "It's a big undertaking, but I truly think it will be a great addition to what MVC offers its students, our college community and our Marshall community."

For more information on the Division of Fine Arts or the music degree program contact Malan at [maland@moval.edu](mailto:maland@moval.edu).

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

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