MISSOURI VALLEY COLLEGE CONFER 196 DEGREES AT ITS 123RD COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Unreasonably warm temperatures didn't stop this year's commencement ceremony. 196 graduates joined the ranks of over 9,000 alumni on May 5. Volney Ashford Stadium was a packed house as faculty, staff, and friends said goodbye to another outstanding class of Vikings. Patricia "Patsy" Middleton of Springfield, Mo., and Devon Wade of Strong City, Mo., were awarded the Charles L. Bacon Distinguished Service Awards. The board of trustees honored Edward "Mickey" Burns '69, the 2012 commencement speaker, with an honorary doctorate degree.

COLLEGE RODD AGRI-BUSINESS DEGREE TO CURRICULUM

Missouri Valley College Chief Academic Officer Dr. Sharon Weiner has announced the addition of a bachelor’s degree in agri-business to the MVC curriculum. The new major, which is part of the business division, will add seven new courses to the MVC curriculum. In March the College hosted 1,300 high school FFA students from 54 Missouri high schools for the second annual Marshall FFA Alumni Judging Day. At this time the college met with several students to explore interest in an agri-business degree, and the results were encouraging. The program will begin in fall 2012.

VALENCIA WOMEN INDUCT 44TH HALL OF FAME

Missouri Valley College Women's Basketball Women honored three women at its annual tea on April 28. MVC President Dr. Bonnie Humphrey was inducted into the Valley Women's Hall of Fame. Dr. Humphrey has served as Missouri Valley College's 13th president since January 2005. She is the first female president to serve the college since its establishment in 1889. Under Dr. Humphrey's direction, MVC has established the MVC School of Nursing and Health Sciences, added five other majors to the MVC curriculum, and developed the first online degrees and master's program. She also was the driving force behind the Maasch Institut of Entrepreneurship, which is an annual speaker series featuring speakers from around the world.

During her tenure as president, MVC has seen its highest enrollment and retention in its history, an increase in the participation of alumni and friends, the completion of two residence halls, campus beautification, and renovations to campus facilities including science labs, residence halls, and athletic facilities. In October of 2011, MVC launched the "Your Valley, My Valley, MissOURI Valley" campaign for the construction of a student activities center.

The Valley Women also presented Amelia Fizer of Slater, Mo., with the 2012 Outstanding Senior Woman Award. MVC Junior Maya Natori, from Japan, was awarded the Valley Women scholarship at the event. Money for the scholarship comes from private donations and fundraisers.

MVC'S MACC PROGRAM PARTNERS WITH LOCAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

The Missouri Valley College Master of Arts in Community Counseling (MACC) program hosted area mental health professionals on campus to celebrate the collaboration between the College's graduate program and its clinical sites.

The MACC program has partnered with 10 regional mental health organizations: Mefford, Vaugnalov, & Associates; The Center for Counseling and Training; Columbia, Life Coaching, and Psychotherapy; Butterfield Youth Services; Community Counseling Services; Burrell Behavioral Health; Pathways Community Health Services; Royal Oaks Hospital; Desert Counseling Services; and the Lighthouse Shelter.

TWO FORMER VIKINGS MAKE 2012 US OLYMPIC WRESTLING TEAM

Chase, fourth from left, Lee, sixth from left

Stephanie Lee of Honolulu, Hawaii and Clarissa Chun of Kapolei, Hawaii both former MVC women's wrestlers will represent the United States at the 2012 Olympics in London. Lee wrestled for MVC from 2003-2007 and Chun from 1999-2002. Current MVC student and women's wrestling team member Morgan Bellas, a redshirt freshman from St. Louis, will also compete in the 2012 Olympics as an alternate weighing between 57-62 kilograms. Currently a redshirt freshman, Bellas wrestled for MVC from 2003-2007 before continuing on to the University of Kentucky. However, she did not compete in 2012.