Missouri Valley College

53rd ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING TORCH RUN
Lamoni, Iowa to Marshall, Missouri

To continue one of our MVC traditions, an effort is being made to demonstrate the "Viking Spirit" and support the Missouri Valley College Viking football team when it plays the Graceland University Yellowjackets in the 2011 MVC Homecoming game. A group of MVC students will carry a torch, in relay fashion, from the campus of Graceland University to the Friday night bonfire and pep rally near Burns Athletic Center on the campus of Missouri Valley College.

Participants will include approximately 90 student runners, consisting of 6 teams from campus organizations. The first team will leave Lamoni, Iowa at 12:45 am Friday, October 21, 2011. Each runner will run a one-half mile segment before relaying the torch to another runner. Each team will be responsible for covering approximately 26 miles before another team will take the torch. The runners will continue in relay fashion until the 155 mile trek is completed in Marshall, Missouri. The planned route will be highway 69 out of Lamoni south to Bethany, then follow highway 13 south all the way to Higginsville, then east on highway 20 to Marshall. The 20-hour event is scheduled to arrive to light the bonfire in Marshall at 8:30pm on Friday, October 21, 2011. The Homecoming football game is scheduled to begin at 2:00pm on Saturday, October 22.

The torch run is not new to Missouri Valley. The first torch run of this type was successfully completed as a part of homecoming activities during the football season in 1958. Later in that same season, the MVC Viking football team was invited to participate in the Tangerine Bowl in Orlando, Florida and a group of 58 students ran a torch relay from Marshall, Missouri to Orlando (1285 miles). One of the students who helped organize and was a major participant in the 1958 torch runs is now a faculty member (Prof. Ed Leslie).

Every year since 1970, when Prof. Leslie helped revive it, the torch run has become a homecoming tradition at the college. The torch is carried from the hometown of the homecoming opponent to the MVC campus to begin the weekend of homecoming activities. Leslie coordinates the events each year.

As has been the case for many years, the torch run will generate interest, excitement, and enthusiasm among students, faculty, staff, and alumni at MVC as well as people in the towns along the highways from Lamoni to Marshall. Members of the campus community, alumni of the college and citizens of Marshall are invited and encouraged to attend the bonfire and pep rally to welcome the torch runners on Friday evening, October 21.

For additional information, contact Professor Ed Leslie at lesliee@moval.edu

TICKETS TO THIS YEAR'S HOMECOMING GAME CAN BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE CAMPUS LIFE OFFICE AT MVC. Phone: (660) 831-4000  www.moval.edu

VALLEY WILL ROLL!