



John Martin Branson, III, Mississippi Valley State University- c/o 1985, Social Science



Name : John Martin Branson, III

Your HBCU : Mississippi Valley State University

Graduation Year : 1985

Major : Social Science

Minor : Social Science

1. Where are you from? Who introduced you to HBCUs?*

I claim two hometowns, having grown up equally in both of them Drew, MS and Prentiss, MS.



Returning for MVSU Homecoming 2017: It's a Family Affair

2. Why did you choose an HBCU over a pwi?*

For as long as I can remember, I've been pro-Black. So it was a given that if went to college at all, it'd be a HBCU.

3. What is the story of your "experience" at Your HBCU given its heralded status as a stellar and prestigious institution?*

The best years of my life were spent at Mississippi Valley State University. I wouldn't trade the experience for nothing in the world. I'm a country boy. So imagine a boy from rural Mississippi attending a college with other blacks from different segments of life from across these United States of America. Plus, I wanted a sense of belonging. Mississippi Valley was small enough for me to feel 'included'. I really shined during my years there.

4. "First time" experiences at your HBCU?*

Attending my first collegiate homecoming at a HBCU, my first Southwestern Athletic Conference football game. Valley football was greatness personified. It was 'The Era of Good Feeling' at Mississippi Valley. I say that because the student body love was tight knit, the football team was the darling of college football - experiencing its glory days and I was into activities.

5. Who are the professors that have impacted your life in and out of the classroom? How did they do that?*

Mrs. Maxine Perryman Stewart - was The guiding light that dared us to dream and dream big. She made learning fun! I'll never forget her, Dr. David Wicks - was a stoic man, but I forged a bond with him that endured long after my Valley State. He said: Stay resolute and stay true to yourself, standby your convictions and NEVER, EVER give up. I still live by his logic.



Tony Haggie and I discussing our days at MVSU

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