The Star-Spangled Banner

Lyrics by Francis Scott Key
Music by John Stafford Smith

O say, can you see by the dawn's ear-ly light what so proud-ly we hailed at the twi-light's last gleam-ing? Whose broad stripes and bright stars thro' the per-il-ous fight o'er the ram-parts we watched were so gal-lant-ly stream-ing? And the rock-ets' red glare, the bombs burst-ing in air, gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there. O say, does that star-spang-l'd ban-ner yet wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?
Middle Tennessee State University has graduated 139,531 students since its inception in 1911. These students have received associate’s, bachelor’s, master’s, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees. Our first Doctor of Arts degrees were conferred on December 22, 1972, the first Educational Specialist degrees on December 20, 1974, the first Doctor of Philosophy degrees on May 10, 2003, and the first Doctor of Education degrees on August 6, 2016. There have been 399 Doctor of Arts degrees, 1,853 Educational Specialist degrees, 287 Doctor of Philosophy degrees, and 17 Doctor of Education degrees awarded.

Although degree candidates are listed in this program by academic degree sought, their names are called alphabetically by colleges. The listing of degree candidates and the announced honor distinctions are tentative and subject to final certification of graduation.
Program

Processional: “Rigaudon” by Andre Campra

Audience, please remain standing for the processional, presentation of colors, singing of the National Anthem, and moment of silence.

Faculty, please remove hats for the moment of silence and the singing of the National Anthem.

Presentation of Colors (morning) .................... ROTC Cadet Color Guard

National Anthem

Moment of Silence

Presiding .................................................................................. Dr. Sidney A. McPhee
President

Morning and Afternoon Address .............................. Chef Maneet Chauhan
Chef/Restauranteur and Television Personality

Presentation of Candidates for Degrees .................... Dr. Mark Byrnes
University Provost

Conferring of Degrees ................................................. Dr. Sidney A. McPhee
Morning Recipients ........................................................listing begins on page 12
Afternoon Recipients ......................................................listing begins on page 29

Alma Mater (morning) .................................................. Dr. Christine Isley-Farmer
Professor, School of Music

Alma Mater (afternoon) .................................................. Ms. Kristen Large
Graduate, School of Music

Retirement of Colors (afternoon) .................. ROTC Cadet Color Guard

Recessional: “Hornpipe” from Water Music by G. F. Handel
Audience, please remain standing until the procession has left the arena floor.

Middle Tennessee State University Brass Ensemble
Morning Ceremony
Dr. David Loucky, Conductor
Andrew Bible and Bryan Sanders, trumpets; Holly Smith, horn;
Nicholas Thomas, trombone; Keya Mabiala, tuba
Program

Afternoon Ceremony
Dr. David Loucky, Conductor
Tyler Bouttavong and Wesley Robinson, trumpets;
Henry Hoffmann, horn; Reginald Coleman, trombone;
Anthony Anderson, tuba

Organist.......................................................... Mr. Joseph Walker

Announcing the Graduates (morning).....................Dr. H. Stephen Smith
Interim Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts
Ms. Angela Tipps
Instructor, School of Music

Announcing the Graduates (afternoon).................... Dr. H. Stephen Smith
Interim Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts
Dr. Jennifer Vannatta-Hall
Assistant Professor, School of Music

Assisting with Diplomas.........................................Ms. Jaye Kiblinger
Executive Aide, Department of Marketing

Commencement Marshal
Dr. Laurie Witherow
Associate Vice Provost for Admissions and Enrollment Services

Heralds
Ms. Yvonne Elliott, Ms. Anne Ford, Mr. Tyler Henson,
Ms. Sherry Preston, Ms. Pat Thomas

Commercial photographers will photograph each diploma presentation.
These pictures will be available to graduates for purchase. For this reason, no additional
photography will be allowed on the floor of Murphy Center.
On behalf of the Middle Tennessee State University National Alumni Association, I congratulate you on joining a very special group. With today’s ceremony, you move from being a student to joining more than 130,000 MTSU alumni. As an alum, you are a vital part of the Middle Tennessee State University family. We count on you to represent us to this nation and the world. We hope that your experiences as a student will serve you well in the future.

Always be proud of your alma mater and stay connected to your University. If you would like to be involved in the Alumni Association, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 1-800-533-MTSU (6878) or visit mtalumni.com.

Welcome to the future and to your National Alumni Association.

President
Brian Walsh (’09)
President, MTSU National Alumni Association Board, 2017–18
Maneet Chauhan, a featured judge on the Food Network’s hit show Chopped, is a recognized cookbook author, active philanthropist, and chef/owner of Chauhan Ale and Masala House in Nashville. She also is a founding partner in Life Is Brewing LLC, whose Hop Springs agritourism complex and Steel Barrel Brewery facility in Murfreesboro are partnering with MTSU’s new Fermentation Science program for fermentation and sensory labs.

A Culinary Institute of America (CIA) graduate who swept all the awards in her class, Chauhan has worked in some of the finest hotels and restaurants in her home country of India and in the United States. As an executive chef, she presided over kitchens in such successful ventures as Vermillion in Chicago and New York City, where she won Best New Chef.

In 2014, Chauhan was invited to the White House by President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama as part of the Easter Egg Roll Hunt. She is a member of Indiaspora, an organization of the top 100 influential Indian-Americans in the U.S.; the Board of Society of Fellows of the CIA; and Les Dames d’Escoffier.

Chauhan has been lauded by media in the U.S. and abroad, including Bon Appétit, Wine Enthusiast, USA Today, Wall Street Journal, New York Times, New York Post, Times of India, The Telegraph, and O: The Oprah Magazine. Her TV appearances include ABC’s The View, NBC’s TODAY, Lifetime Channel’s Designing Spaces, and Fox News.

After competing on Iron Chef and The Next Iron Chef, Chauhan sits on the permanent panel of judges on Chopped, where she became a James Beard Award of Excellence recipient.

She and her husband, Vivek Deora, live in Franklin, Tennessee, with their two children and are part of the dynamic team behind Life Is Brewing’s Mantra Artisan Ales boutique craft beer brewery and taproom in Franklin and the newly established Steel Barrel Brewery. Chauhan is committed to her new Southern home, forming Nashville-based Morph Hospitality Group in 2016. The group has since opened Tansuo, a contemporary Chinese restaurant, and The Mockingbird, a modern diner serving global fare, in The Gulch, Nashville’s booming neighborhood.

Devoted to creating a unique dining experience in the bustling Nashville food scene, she opened Chauhan Ale and Masala House in 2014 as her first venture into restaurant ownership. The menu offers globally-influenced fare that combines Indian cuisine with traditional Southern dishes.

Chauhan mentors new CIA graduates and is involved with the educational arm of the National Restaurant Association’s ProStart program for high school students. She is an active supporter of various charities and locally was the 2016 event chair for the March of Dimes Signature Chef Auction.
Platform Party

Dr. Sidney A. McPhee
President

Mr. Darrell Freeman Sr., Vice Chair
Founder, Zycron Inc.

Dr. Mark Byrnes
University Provost

Chef Maneet Chauhan
Chef/Restauranteur and
Television Personality

Mr. Alan Thomas
Vice President, Business and Finance

Mr. William J. Bales
Vice President for
University Advancement

Mr. Bruce Petryshak
Vice President for Information
Technology and Chief
Information Officer

Dr. Debra K. Sells
Vice President for Student Affairs
and Vice Provost for Enrollment
and Academic Services

Mr. Jack Ross (morning)
Division of Marketing and
Communications, Senior Director,
Resource and Operations Management

Mr. Andrew Oppmann (afternoon)
Vice President for Marketing
and Communications

Dr. Cheryl B. Torsney
Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

Dr. David L. Butler
Vice Provost for Research and
Dean, College of Graduate Studies

Dr. Richard Sluder
Vice Provost, Student Success and
Dean, University College

Dr. Robert Fischer
Dean, College of Basic
and Applied Sciences

Dr. Harold Whiteside
Dean, College of Behavioral
and Health Sciences

Dr. David J. Urban
Dean, Jennings A. Jones
College of Business

Dr. Lana Seivers
Dean, College of Education

Dr. Karen Petersen
Interim Dean, College of Liberal Arts

Mr. Kenneth A. Paulson
Dean, College of Media
and Entertainment

Dr. John R. Vile
Dean, University Honors College

Ms. Bonnie Allen
Dean, James E. Walker Library
Mace and Chain of Office

Originally a medieval knight’s weapon, the mace evolved into a symbol of royal scepters in various crown jewel collections. Large versions of the scepter have come to represent the power and authority of institutions such as our University. The mace measures 50 inches in length and is made of Tennessee cherry wood embellished with sterling silver and lapis lazuli. The Tennessee flower, the iris, denotes the public the University serves who, by their loyalty, give it strength and power. The leaves form a crown to symbolize the ennobling achievements of our graduates. Tennessee freshwater pearls, the official state gem, suggest the inestimable value of inquiring minds. The streamer on the wood shaft carries the names by which the University has been known since its founding. The finial at the base of the mace is a stylized nut, representing the core, the seed from which springs the mighty tree of those committed to lifelong learning.

The chain of office worn by the president is made of sterling silver. The lapis lazuli gems, mounted on scroll shapes, represent the colleges within the University. The knotted components depict the interdependence of knowledge and the various academic programs of MTSU. The lapis lazuli and sterling represent the University colors of blue and white. The Great Seal of the State of Tennessee embellishes the medallion suspended from the chain, representing the University as part of the Tennessee higher education system.

These unique emblems of authority were designed and crafted by Professor Klaus Kallenberger, formerly of the Art Department. The mace and chain of office are a generous gift to the University from the MTSU Foundation.

Mace Carriers

Morning

Dr. Robert B. Blair is a professor of Marketing in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business. He serves as director of the Center for Economic Education. He is also a member of the graduate faculty. Blair received a Ph.D. from Louisiana State University, M.B.E. from MTSU, and B.S. from Oral Roberts University. Blair has taught at the secondary and collegiate levels. He has served as sponsor to Collegiate DECA, Future Business Leaders of America and Phi Beta Lambda Collegiate Secretaries International chapters and is a lifetime member of FBLA-PBL.

Blair is a Certified Online Instructor, Certified Business and Social Etiquette Consultant, Certified Dale Carnegie Curriculum Trainer, and Professional Registered Parliamentarian. He was the first Tennessee career and technical education teacher to earn National Board Certification.

During his 30-year teaching career, Blair has been the recipient of 29 honors and awards for teaching, research, and service. He is an accomplished academic author and conference presenter.

Blair is past president of the National Business Education Association, National Association for Business Teacher Education, Southern Business Education Association, Tennessee Business Education Association, Tennessee Association of Parliamentarians, Gamma Eta Chapter of Delta Pi Epsilon, Tennessee Delta Unit of Parliamentarians, and Murfreesboro Chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals. He served two terms as Tennessee Association for Career and Technical Education vice president. Blair is an active member of his profession, serving on several other national, regional, state, and local organization committees.

Afternoon

Dr. Lisa Langenbach joined the MTSU Political Science faculty in 1993. She received her Ph.D. in American Politics from Purdue University in 1986 and has a special interest in party politics and elections, specifically the role of interest groups in American politics. She has a particular interest in far right and far left political movements both in the U.S. and in Europe. Langenbach has taught 11 different classes for MTSU and regularly teaches both on campus and online. She is also director of the Political Science internship program and places about 50 interns per year in various legal, nonprofit, and governmental internships in the middle Tennessee area and all over the country.

Langenbach pioneered distance education in the department and has earned the Certified Online Instructor designation, works as an online faculty mentor involved in reviewing new and revised online classes, and has taught online for both MTSU and the Tennessee Board of Regents. For this effort, she won the Distinguished Educator Award in Distance Education in 2000 and again in 2013. She was also the recipient of the Golden Apple Award in 2001 and was honored as Outstanding Advisor for the College of Liberal Arts in 2014. Finally, Langenbach was recognized with the MTSU Outstanding Teacher Award for 2015–16.

She has been faculty advisor for over a half-dozen student organizations, teaches in the Experiential Learning (EXL) program, and has won several grants to revitalize and reinvent the teaching of General Education courses, specifically her PS 1005 Introduction to American Politics course.
The black gowns and colorful hoods traditionally worn in Middle Tennessee State University commencement ceremonies have their origins in the Middle Ages.

A statute in England in 1321 required that all “Doctors, Licentiates, and Bachelors” wear gowns. In the second half of the 14th century, the statutes of certain colleges forbade “excess in apparel” and prescribed the wearing of a long gown. Scholars were often clerics as well, and they adopted costumes similar to those of monastic orders. While the special attire covered rank or social status, thus lending a uniform look to ceremonies, it also served another purpose: warmth in drafty, unheated buildings.

As the universities began to pass from the control of the church, colors often were added to the somber robes and hoods, eventually signifying the degree and specialization.

The cut of the gown, which is usually black, also varies with the degree held—pointed sleeves for the bachelor’s degree; long, closed sleeves with a slit in the arm for the master’s degree; and round, open sleeves for the doctoral degree. While the bachelor’s and master’s gowns have no ornamentation, the doctoral gown is faced down the front with velvet and has three velvet bars across the sleeves.

At Middle Tennessee, hoods are worn by holders of the master’s and doctor’s degrees, with the latter being longer. Hoods are lined with the official colors of the university which confers the degree; thus holders of degrees from MTSU wear hoods lined in blue and white. The velvet edging on the hood, and often the velvet edging on the gown, represents the candidate’s major academic field. Often holders of the Doctor of Philosophy degree (Ph.D.) will be seen with regalia in dark blue instead of a color symbolic of their discipline. This is accepted academic dress. Further, the velvet lining on the gown may be the same color as the discipline color of the hood, or may be black. Colors associated with various subjects follow:

- **Agriculture** - Maize
- **Arts, Letters, Humanities** - White
- **Commerce, Accountancy, Business** - Drab
- **Criminal Justice** - Midnight Blue
- **Economics** - Copper
- **Education** - Light Blue
- **Fine Arts** - Brown
- **Home Economics** - Maroon
- **Journalism** - Crimson

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<td>Law</td>
<td>Purple</td>
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<td>Library Science</td>
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<td>Music</td>
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<td>Nursing</td>
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<td>Philosophy</td>
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<td>Physical Education</td>
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<td>Science</td>
<td>Golden Yellow</td>
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<td>Social Work</td>
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The black cap, the mortarboard, is customarily worn. There is no general rule for the position of the tassel. In practice at Middle Tennessee State University, the tassel is worn on the right. It may be shifted to the left after the degree is awarded. Men may remove their caps during prayer, the playing of the alma mater, and during the commencement address.

Honor graduates are distinguished by the stoles added to their gowns: gold for those graduating summa cum laude, 3.90 to 4.0 (overall grade point average); silver for magna cum laude, 3.75 to 3.89; and white for cum laude, 3.50 to 3.74. Graduates with University Honors wear blue and white cords and have completed at least 31 hours with a 3.25 average in the Honors program, a curriculum of special classes designed for superior students. Those who have maintained a minimum average of 3.65 in the Honors program are graduating with Distinction in University Honors. Honor graduates and persons graduating with University Honors, along with those who have been commissioned second lieutenant in the United States Army, are listed in this program after the degree recipients.

Since 1993, graduates of the University Honors College have received the official Honors medallion in recognition of their final thesis defense and completion of special requirements of the college. The medallion itself is a replica of the official seal of the University Honors College and depicts a lighted torch, three Ionic columns, and a lightning bolt. Respectively, these symbolize the search for truth and knowledge, the stability and unwavering commitment to pursuing knowledge, and the flash of enlightenment or creative energy.
Military veteran students are distinguished by specially designed red stoles and red, white, and blue cords in recognition of their admirable service to their country.

Experiential Learning Scholars are distinguished by blue, silver, and white cords. These scholars completed EXL-designated hands-on learning courses, an off-campus service activity, an on-campus service activity, and a portfolio of reflections on their EXL activities. The EXL program provides students with opportunities for hands-on experience, valuable networking, and an opportunity to explore career paths through real-world experience.

International students may wear colorful sashes that represent their country of origin. Each sash symbolizes, in color and design, their country’s flag.

Most American colleges and universities have adopted a uniform code. However, at any academic gathering, costumes often are worn that are not described by these guidelines. Some of these may be from foreign universities, others from American institutions that have preferred to remain with the European tradition of allowing each school to determine its own costume. Silver medallions worn by faculty denote 15 years of service, and gold medallions represent 25 years.

**Academic Banners**

The banners carried and displayed at commencement represent the University; its nine colleges (Basic and Applied Sciences, Behavioral and Health Sciences, Business, Education, Liberal Arts, Media and Entertainment, Graduate Studies, University College, and University Honors); Walker Library, and Faculty Senate. Art Professor Janet Higgins, her student Kristi Baughman, and Darrell Callis Burks, designer in Creative and Visual Services and 2000 B.F.A. graduate, designed and executed the banners. The colors used in each banner represent disciplines within the colleges. The University seal centers each banner, symbolizing that the whole is greater than any of its parts.

**BANNER CARRIERS**

**College of Basic and Applied Sciences**

**Dr. Mary B. Farone** is a professor in the Department of Biology. She earned her Ph.D. in Microbiology from Miami University in Ohio in 1993 and was a postdoctoral fellow in the Respiratory Biology and Physiology Program at the Harvard School of Public Health in 1994–95. Farone began teaching at MTSU in 1996 as adjunct faculty and joined the Biology faculty full time in 2003. She teaches undergraduate- and graduate-level courses in Microbiology. Her research interests are in the area of host-pathogen relationships. As part of MTSU’s Tennessee Center for Botanical Medical Research, she is investigating the antibacterial and antifungal properties of natural and synthetic compounds and also studies the use of protozoa for production of biofuels. Farone mentors undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral student research. Her research at MTSU has been funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Homeland Security, and Department of Agriculture. She was also a co-investigator on an NSF-funded GK–12 grant to improve science communication skills of graduate students seeking careers in molecular biology. Farone has been honored with the MTSU Foundation’s 2013 Outstanding Teacher Award and 2017 Distinguished Research Award.

**College of Behavioral and Health Sciences**

**Dr. David Kelly** is a professor in the Department of Psychology and joined the MTSU faculty in 1985. He earned a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Texas Tech University, an M.S. in Psychology from Oklahoma State University, and a B.A. from Georgetown University. Kelly completed an internship in Clinical Psychology at the Nashville Veterans Affairs hospital and the Vanderbilt Counseling Center. He served for several years as a consultant, supervisor, and psychotherapist at Dede Wallace Mental Health Center in Nashville. He has twice been director of MTSU’s Clinical Psychology graduate program. Kelly has published research in national journals in the areas of psychological testing, issues in education, and chronic self-destructive behavior. He has presented at regional and national psychology conferences on topics such as crisis intervention, risk-taking in college students, and substance abuse.

**Jennings A. Jones College of Business**

**Dr. Michael A. Roach** received his Ph.D. in Economics in 2011 and his M.A. in Economics in 2007, both from Northwestern University. He received his B.A. in Economics from Rhodes College in 2004. Roach
joined the faculty at Middle Tennessee State University in 2011. Much of his research has focused on applying empirical microeconomic techniques to a variety of legal settings, in particular the labor market for criminal defense attorneys. Roach also has published a number of papers in the field of sports economics, with a particular focus on turnover in the labor market for head coaches. His research on coaching turnover has been featured in the Washington Post, Sports Illustrated, and on National Public Radio. During his time at MTSU, Roach has taught microeconomics courses at the undergraduate, M.A., and Ph.D. levels, as well as more specialized courses in industrial organization and sports economics. He has actively mentored graduate students in the department’s Ph.D. program and undergraduate students working on Honors theses. In addition to serving on departmental committees, Roach has been faculty sponsor of the MTSU Economics Club since 2014, served on the Jones College of Business Faculty Development Committee, and was a member of both the University’s Graduate Council and Faculty Research and Creative Activity Committee.

College of Education

Dr. John Lando Carter is an assistant professor in the Womack Educational Leadership Department and the Assessment, Learning, and School Improvement (ALSI) Ed.D. program. As a former Rutherford County English and creative writing teacher, he researched writing pedagogy and writing assessment strategies. Carter also co-founded the Central Magnet Writing Lab, a student-centered and student-led initiative modeled after the MTSU Writing Center. Carter is a True Blue graduate from Middle Tennessee State University, with a B.A. and M.A. in English and an Ed.D. in ALSI.

College of Graduate Studies

Dr. Amanda J. Flagg, Ph.D., RN, ACNS, CNE, is an associate professor in MTSU’s School of Nursing. Flagg received her bachelor’s degree at the Nursing School of York College of Pennsylvania, then earned a dual master’s degree from Boston University in Education and Counseling and a third master’s degree in Nursing, followed by her doctoral degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio School of Nursing. She is retired from the Air Force Nurse Corps after serving 20 years. Flagg currently is a clinical nurse scientist, teaching mental health, research, and nursing theory among other courses to undergraduate and graduate nursing students. Her research interests include theory building, using the concept of concordance in patient-centered care; women’s health focus, regarding outcomes of women recovering from major cardiac events; educational interventions, noting impact of concept-based curriculum and improvement of NCLEX test scores; and instrument development. She has traveled with students overseas to enhance their nursing experiences attending to populations living in underdeveloped countries and enjoys working with students participating in flu shot programs, health fairs, and poster presentations. This is her fifth year as a faculty member at MTSU.

College of Liberal Arts

Dr. LaToya Eaves is an assistant professor in the Department of Global Studies and Human Geography. She joined MTSU in January 2015 as a lecturer in the program. Eaves received her Ph.D. from the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies, with a major field in Geography, from Florida International University. Her primary areas of research involve examining social identities within spatial narratives and sociopolitical movements of the American South and the Atlantic World more broadly. She is a North Carolina native and holds degrees from North Carolina State University (B.A.) and Florida State University (M.S.).

College of Media and Entertainment

Dr. Christine Eschenfelder began teaching at the MTSU School of Journalism in the fall of 2015. She brings to the classroom more than a dozen years of professional experience, working in television news as a reporter, anchor, assignment manager, and producer. She has been honored with several industry awards, including the prestigious Edward R. Murrow Award. Eschenfelder earned her Ph.D. in Mass Communication from the University of Florida. She is passionate about teaching the skills, theories, and ethics of the profession to young journalists. The courses Eschenfelder teaches at MTSU include Media Ethics, Electronic News Writing, and Broadcast Announcing and Performance. She is the 2017 recipient of the MTSU School of Journalism Edward Kimbrell Teaching Excellence in Journalism faculty award. Eschenfelder taught broadcast journalism courses at the University of Florida before joining the MTSU Journalism faculty. Her research focuses on newsroom diversity, women in television news, work-life balance, and broadcast journalism education.

College of University Honors

Dr. Julie Myatt Barger is an associate professor of English and co-director of General Education English at MTSU. A graduate of Tennessee Technological University and the University of Louisville, Barger joined the faculty of MTSU in 2008. A member of the Honors and graduate faculty, she is a 2016–17 recipient of the award for Outstanding Teaching in General Education. Barger serves as co-president of WPA Midsouth, an affiliate of the Council of Writing Program Administrators.
University College

Mr. Thomas Torku is a lecturer teaching mathematics courses in the University Studies Department. He earned his bachelor’s degree in Mathematics with a Business minor from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, West Africa. He obtained his master’s degree in Mathematical Sciences from East Tennessee State University. Torku is currently a first-year doctoral candidate, pursuing his Ph.D. in Computational Science at MTSU. He serves as a social committee member of the University Studies Department. He tutors and assists with high school mathematics at Central Magnet School. Torku is passionate about student success.

James E. Walker Library

Ms. Kristen West, associate professor at Walker Library, has been a librarian at MTSU since 2007. Her work includes providing information literacy instruction to MTSU students in the library, in online courses, and through the library’s website. Her articles have appeared in several professional publications, including College & Undergraduate Libraries. West holds a bachelor’s degree in Art History from Brigham Young University and a master’s degree in Information Science from the University of North Texas.

Faculty Senate

Dr. Joey Gray is an associate professor and program director of Leisure, Sport, and Tourism Studies in the Department of Health and Human Performance. She received her Ph.D. in Leisure Behavior from Indiana University; her master’s degree in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management from North Carolina State University; and her bachelor’s degree from Averett University. A faculty member at MTSU since 2006, Gray primarily focuses her research on pedagogy in Leisure Studies and gender issues in Leisure. Her dedication to teaching is marked by a history of student engagement. Gray’s most prized honor to date is the MTSU Outstanding Teaching Award she received in 2017. While at Indiana University, she also received the Trustees’ Teaching Award. Gray is well known for her sense of humor, accessibility, and mentorship. Active in the MTSU community, she is the current president of the Faculty Senate and serves as a member of the Honors faculty, graduate faculty, and EXL and MT Engage programs.
THE COLLEGE OF Graduate Studies

Doctor of Education
Assessment, Learning, and School Improvement

Isra Brifkani
B.S., Middle Tennessee State University
M.Ed., Middle Tennessee State University
Dissertation: “Striving for Wholeness in Education: Perspectives from Accredited Islamic Schools in the United States”

Hooded by: Fred Vanosdall

Doctor of Philosophy
Computational Science

Dalal Alrowaili
B.S., Al Jouf University
B.S., Middle Tennessee State University
Dissertation: “Mathematical Modeling for Ring Systems in Molecular Systems”

Hooded by: Dong Ye

Economics

Saleh Saud Alsaid
B.S., Troy University
M.B.A., Troy University
M.A., Middle Tennessee State University
Dissertation: “Essays on Health Care Policies, Market-Entry Decisions, Quality of Care, and Medicaid Enrollments”

Hooded by: Michael Roach

English

Jessica L. Wofford
B.A., University of Illinois
Dissertation: “Practicing Feminist Cultural Studies: Raymond Williams and Reading the Media of Gender”

Hooded by: Marion Hollings
**Human Performance**

**James Lee Farnsworth II**  
B.A., University of North Carolina–Wilmington  
M.S., Ohio University  
Dissertation: “Improving Patient Reported Measures for Knee Function”  
Hooded by: Minsoo Kang

**Junbae Mun**  
B.A., Korea Military Academy  
M.S., East Carolina University  
Hooded by: Norman Weatherby

**Kristin Lynn Phillips**  
B.S., University of Illinois  
M.Ed., Auburn University  
Dissertation: “A Zero-Hour Physical Activity Program’s Benefit on Academic Achievement in Elementary-Aged School Children”  
Hooded by: Vaughn Barry

**Veronika Pribylsavksa**  
B.S., Murray State University  
M.S., University of North Alabama  
Hooded by: Vaughn Barry

**Eric Michael Scudamore**  
B.S.Ed., University of Alabama  
M.S., University of North Alabama  
Hooded by: Sandy Stevens

**Shayna L. Smith**  
M.S., University of Tennessee–Martin  
B.S., University of Tennessee–Martin  
Hooded by: Norman Weatherby

**Literacy Studies**

**Karen Nourse Reed**  
B.A., James Madison University  
M.S., Radford University  
M.L.I.S., University of North Carolina–Greensboro  
Dissertation: “Empowering School Librarians to Be Literacy Instruction Leaders through Professional Development”  
Hooded by: Eric Oslund

**Mathematics and Science Education**

**Patrick E. Phoebus**  
B.S., University of Arizona  
M.Ed., Tennessee State University  
Dissertation: “Ecological Literacy, Urban Green Space, and Mobile Technology: Exploring the Impacts of an Arboretum Curriculum Designed for Undergraduate Biology Courses”  
Hooded by: Michael Rutledge

**Samantha A. Stevens**  
B.S., Sewanee–University of the South  
Ed.S., Tennessee Technological University  
M.Ed., Middle Tennessee State University  
Dissertation: “The Effects of the THINK Interaction Framework as an Intervention to Support Students’ Engagement in Mathematical Discourse and Movement Toward Mathematical Proficiency”  
Hooded by: Sarah Bleiler-Baxter

**Derek K. Smith**  
B.S., Manhattan College  
M.S., University of Tennessee  
Ed.S., Florida State University  
Dissertation: “An Examination of Resources that Impact the Learning Experience of Underprepared Community College Students in a Redesigned Co-Requisite Statistics Course”  
Hooded by: Michaele Chappell
Molecular Biosciences

Nicholas B. Chamberlain
B.S., Middle Tennessee State University
Hooded by: Rebecca Seipelt-Thiemann

Public History

Virginia Foster Cannon
B.A., Harvard University
M.A., Vanderbilt University
M.B.A., Columbia College of Columbia University
Dissertation: “An Exploration of Tennessee’s Historic Hotels as Cultural Heritage Tourism Assets”
Hooded by: Carroll Van West

Lydia Bodine Simpson
B.A., University of Alabama–Birmingham
M.A., Middle Tennessee State University
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Idella Morgan Bass
Lindsey R. Beavers
Steven D. Blake
Callee A. Bondurant
Robert Benjamin Bowen
David William Bristow
Cindi G. Brown
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Blakley Marie Brunson Mathews
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Bridget E. Cadmus
Michael Christopher Caldwell
Matti C. Cantrell
Alec D. Carpenter
Gabrielle D. Cawthorne
Mirela Celebic
Kegaria Yvonne Cheairs-Bingham
Haley L. Clark
Donald L. Clay
Hannah P. Clendenning
DeShun O’Brian Coleman
Kelci Alexandria Connell
Samantha Lauren Cook
Stacey D. Creecy
Kendall Brooke Crowder
Lydia M. Curtis
Deven M. Cushing
Stormi Grace LeAnn Dalton
Kelsey Leighanne Davis
Sierra Nicole Davis
Stephanie Macayla Davis
Taylor Austin Day
Hannah Marie Demonbreun
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Raebin Danesha Dockery
Nicole Marie Domning
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Victoria Dugan
Camille L. Dunn
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Amanda Lynn Erath
Jennifer Lynn Ferrell
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Zach E. Garner
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Thomas Bryant Hailey
Nia Danielle Hammonds
Diamond Brianna Harden
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Lindsey Brooke Driver
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Jennifer Gayle Duncan
Michelle Marie Durante
Fatemeh Ebrahimii
Kaitlin Monique Elliott
Corey Evan Erickson
Debra Yvonne Farr
Meghan Murray Fenlaw
Mary Michelle Flake
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Johnesha K. Floyd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April Jamila Forkum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meredith R. Foster</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph C. Francisco</td>
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<td>Stephanie Lynn Franks</td>
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<td>Makayla N. Fryman</td>
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<td>Jovanny García</td>
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<td>Latesha Gardner</td>
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<td>Sarah Gatti</td>
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<td>Meagan Elizabeth Gentry</td>
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<td>Chelsea Nicole George Watkins</td>
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<td>Roger J. Giuntini</td>
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<td>Quinton Mitchell Groves</td>
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<td>Shane Hicks</td>
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<td>Joyell A. Hill</td>
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<td>Brandon A. Howell</td>
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<td>John Anthony Humphrey</td>
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<td>Shawanna Shoneace Hunter</td>
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<td>Roseanna Mae McCall</td>
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<td>Kenneth A. McCaskill IV</td>
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<td>Laportia N. McClain</td>
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<td>Kasey L. McClary</td>
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<td>Lesa McCravy</td>
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<td>Erica Chanel Moody</td>
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<td>Trushauna Danielle Morgan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ivie Elaine Mullican</td>
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<td>Adam Michael Mullis</td>
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<td>Brianna Aareile Nelson</td>
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<td>Danny Nguyen</td>
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<td>Kelsey D. Nowlin</td>
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<td>Chelsea K. Odom</td>
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<td>Christen Nicole Oeser</td>
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<td>Tywarren Darnarius Deshyn Ollie</td>
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<td>Travis Stewart Oneal</td>
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<td>Angelo J. Owens</td>
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<td>Tammy L. Parrott</td>
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<td>Miranda Lee Paschall</td>
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<td>Andrea Michelle Patton</td>
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<td>Ashley Lynn Pelikan</td>
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<td>Allyson E. Phillips</td>
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<td>Jessica Leigh Poe</td>
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<td>Justin M. Puckett</td>
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<td>Jennifer Marie Ragaglia</td>
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<td>Ashley Renee Randolph</td>
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<td>Veronica Camille Ratliff</td>
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<td>Margaret E. Reagan</td>
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<td>Nolan G. Ricke</td>
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<td>Elle Ashley Rieben</td>
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<td>Betty Anne Rinaud</td>
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<td>Carlyle Mingo Robinson Jr.</td>
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<td>Lisa Ranae Rogers</td>
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<td>Tyree J. Rumph</td>
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<td>Sarah Catherine Russell</td>
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<td>Rachel Kaye Savage</td>
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<td>Ashlea Sexton</td>
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<td>Connor G. Shepard</td>
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<td>Brad M. Shinkus</td>
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<td>Adriana Michelle Short</td>
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<td>Eric Richard Stockton</td>
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<td>Amanda Keri Strickland</td>
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<td>Brittany Janay Thomas</td>
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<td>Cynthia Renee Turnmire</td>
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<td>Heather E. Usack</td>
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<td>Heather Uselton</td>
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<td>Rudolph F. Valentino III</td>
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<td>Tyler M. Vineyard</td>
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<td>Brian Vogelsang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexis Z. Wafford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Katelyn Joy Waldon</td>
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<td>Jermel L. Walker</td>
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<td>Nekcho Seron Walker</td>
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<td>Charvarius D. Ward</td>
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<td>Trishia Marie Warrick</td>
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<td>Charlyn L. Watkins</td>
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<td>Cassandra Elaine Webb</td>
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<td>Angela Meriwether White</td>
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<td>Houston Leigh Whitehead</td>
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<td>Christopher Daniel Williams</td>
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<td>Douglas R. Williams</td>
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<td>Jacqueline Dale Williams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toriana Williams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachel Anne Willoughby</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laurie K. Winters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brenda Sue Wofford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hanna Cate Wolford</td>
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<td>Tranisha Monet Woods-Sweatt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raven Unique Wright</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah A. Wright</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shannon Ellen Yee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Marie Zaccarelli</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Honor Graduates

**CUM LAUDE (3.50–3.74 GPA)**

**COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES**
Juhaina Ibrahim Hamed Al Suqri
Mohammad Jassim Alharoon
Lena Mae Anderkin
Daniel Jacob Barnes
Jacqueline C. Barnes
Maegan Brooke Bowling
Kathryn S. Brittain
Joshua C. Carlson
Jessica Marie Dudley
Tabitha L. Fedock
Jonas Funderburk
Awad Talaat Ghobrial
Emma Dawn Gist
Zakary Jacob Green
Jordan A. Greeson
Ronald Austin Higdon
Alex Ryan Holley
Damon Hughes
Jordyn Leigh Hyden
Housam Jarmoukli
Christina Erin King
Andrew Nathaneal Leverette
Marvin Pruitt Marshall III
Marlene Elizabeth Masino
Lake Maxwell Middleton
Amgad Maged Louis Mikhaeil
Joshua Morris
John A. Mullins
Andrew Clark Nevins
Francisco Pezzimenti
Alexander Armstrong Pulido
David Garrison Rohrer
Lindsey Anne Rose
Nathan A. Rymer
Thomas James Shearon
Logan T. Smith
Hunter Allen Stevenson
Nathan Steyer
Briana Nicole Thomas
Juan F. Valenzuela
Davia Denise Watkins
Shelby Lynn Watkins
Peter Joseph Yasso
Jeffrey Alexander Yung

**COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES**
Callee A. Bondurant
Monica D. Cannon
Alec D. Carpenter
Kendra D. Cheek
Kayece Aleah Currin
Anna Davis-Keisling
Robin Nicole Fair
Kelsy Caitlin Fritts
Torri Rose Garcia
Kelley N. Greenall
Mary Elizabeth Hamilton
Matthew Chilson Mitchell Hasan
Olivia Danielle Home
Brielle Emile Jamar
Precious A. Jennings
Danielle Nicole Jewell
Desiree Denise Jones
Zachary R. Kennedy
Rachel Shearin Kinard
Alyssa N. Lyons
Brenna Kathleen Minyard
Laura Michelle Orozco
John Joseph Pagliarello Jr.
Grant Michael Patterson
Justin Melvis Pettigrew
Daisy Anne Shipley
Courtney Shires
Brooke Maria Thomas
Anna Michele Tullar
Alexis N. Wade
John R. Walden
Shelby M. Weeks
Lada Elizabeth Wike

**JENNINGS A. JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**
Karam Salim Azeez
Preslie L. Baker
James Thomas Cardwell
Russell S. Cook
James H. Dickerson
Ian R. Dinnwiddie
Rachel E. Eddings
Tarek Ammar Mohamed Rifat Haddad
Stephanie Ann Henry
Joseph T. Hickman
Haley Jordan Holt
Marcus William Hooper
William Leary Jackson
Kaylin Loraine Larimer
Travis L. Lytle Jr.
Mickey J. McGuire
James Michael O’Day
Nehal Dipakkumar Patel
Derrick Thomas Spears
Nico Marie Stadler
Laura Beth Stott
Che’ron Ariana Teague
Adam J. Thornburg
John S. Wahid

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**
Kayla Marie Ferrick
Jessica M. Holt
Courtney Brooke Jarrett
Jillian Nicole King
Meagan Renee McPeak
Courtney Paige Reeder
Victoria L. Taylor
Larissa Chantel Vanover

**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS**
Stephanie Marie August
Sarah Elizabeth Bolek
Sydney Michaela Brandon
Jordan Alyssa Brewington
Ethan Samuel Clark
Scotty Dale Colwell
Cyrus Anderson Dodd
Jordan Leigh Goen
Terry Lee Green II
Ovyinyechi A. Ibe
Haley N. Laney
Brandy Nina Montgomery
Savannah Roxanne Montgomery
Hajia Sophia Morgado
Paige Nichole Phillips
John William Reiter
Kevin Joshua Schieffer
Dilvin Tayip
Hailey Ann Vaughn
Kristen Danielle Williams
William Vincent York IV
COLLEGE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT
Angel Lynn Agee
James Patrick Austin
Miranda F. Bivens
Austin Charles Brown
Jessica H. Carmack
Payton Nicole Comerford
Desirae E. Cope
Cadicie Lynn Davis
Timothy Aaron French
Andrew Steven Gillihan
Mahkayla Alexandria Grogan
Joshua Blake Holliiday
Kelsey M. Hunt
Lacey Sinclair Kanipe
Jonathan Owen Newcomb
Ryan M. Nixon
Gerardo Enrique Palacios Escalante
Kevin Joshua Schieffer
Shaun Garrick Sexton
Julian David Shank
Michael Linn White

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
Blake Allen Adkins
Brandon K. Adkins
Jazmyn N. Bethel
Christina C. Bobo
Lucretia S. Brooks
Callie Elizabeth Buchanan
Michelle Marie Durante
Corey Evan Erickson
Kelly Campbell Glass
Mark Thomas Hill
Kyle Horna
Marina George Kasdallah
Daniel David LaDue
Francisco Magana
Mark McKeever
Gary J. McKinnon
Brian Allen Meade
Ian C. Mercer
Adam John Moritz
Kelsey D. Nowlin
Tammy L. Parrott
Betty Anne Rinaudo
Adriana Michelle Short
Heather Uselton
Christopher Daniel Williams
Jacqueline Dale Williams
Rachel Anne Willoughby

MAGNA CUM LAUDE (3.75–3.89 GPA)

COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES
Wafa Mohamed Hassan Al Ajmi
Rayyan Khalid Said Al Ghaithi
Abanoub S. Aziz
Ashton Lea Barrett
John Robert Blankenhorn
James Travis Chadwick
Hamza Chaudhary
Karisa Clark
Joseph D. D’Alessandro
Joshua Timothy Fast
Alex Jared Frey
Fady M. Girgis
Joshua D. Jensen
Tyler Scott Kennedy
Spenser Barry Lee
Alexis Brooke Perry
Hajaj Abdulwali Saleh
Caitlin Danielle Schipper
Je Suis’ A. Scott
Connor Blake Slane
Chase A. Smotherman
Yumeng Sun
Ryan Matthew Traversa
Hannah K. Wilson
Ethan W. Wright
Gregory Shane Wunner
Licheng Yu
Vincenzo P. Zocco
Matthew Cox
Bradley Winston Cunningham
Charles Brandon Dunlap
Jonathan Matthew Moore
Mackenzie Noel Oelrich
Amy Jean Ray
Kanan Ray

COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES
Shonna Rene Bolin
Blakley Marie Brunson Mathews
Victoria Dugan
Candy Michelle Fugate
Lindsay Marie Garnett
Taylor M. Harris
Hailey R. Herd
Alyssa Layne Johnson
Carrie Jones
Mariel Angele Kolody
Peyton Taylor Silon Leighton
Hannah McElroy
Courtney N. McGhee
Morgan Ashley Reavis
Hanna Adele Trotz
Kelsey Lynn Viertel
Chrstyn T. Waldron
Sherika S. Wilkes

JENNINGS A. JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Dara Abdulaziz Aziz
Jason Seth Barrett
Keith Lamont Bowman
Jason Lee Brown
Mitchell Wayne Butaud
Sara Elizabeth Cartwright
Beizar Abdi
Jonathan H. Barkmeier
Elizabeth M. Berms
Alexandra K. Bozeman
Bliss Noel Buehring
Charles F. Huffman
Hailey Nicole Richardson
Jessica G. Saad
Casey Macon Tate
Lauren Ashley Tootle
Zebulon A. Williams
COLLEGE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT
Rachel Shae Blackwell
Zachary Joseph Carpenter
Molli M. Carter
Logan B. Gunter
John Anthony Holeman
Katherine Paige Knell
Carter Eli McClanahan
Kiara LeAyn Dawn Moyer
Morgan Marie Murphy
Matthew Devin Posey
Alyssa Beth Stender
David S. Walsh
Austin T. Wiseman

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
Christopher David Archer
Meghan Murray Fenlaw
Lindsey P. Hale
Garrett R. Hedgepath
Jennie Michele Simmons
Cynthia Renee Turnmire
Trishia Marie Warrick

SUMMA CUM LAUDE (3.90–4.00 GPA)

COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES
Michael Brindle
Thomas Louis Brittingham Jr.
Febronia M. Dawoud
Whitney Pulley Esters
Sarah Virginia Keefe
Ben Hudson Massey
Michael Spencer Pollard
Mora S. Sedhom
Cherish Hope Strickland
Aimee Christine Wilson

JENNINGS A. JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Abdulrahman Ayidh Alharbi
Christopher Barry Bean
Michael David Bowen
Jesse Claxton
Miranda Shay Dotson
Lauren Anderson King
Ripole Po
Jordan Nicole Welborn
Zachary Rudolph Yarid

COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES
Re’Khel Love-Lasha Burke
Deven M. Cushing
Jenna M. Goodall
Melody Lashea Hicks
Robert Corbitt Huseth
Kaysi Michelle Paul
Holly Nicole Randolph
Allison Joyce Roberts
Lauren Taylor Shuler

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Jessica Joanne Freeman Martin
Ashlynne Leanne Merlo
Calla Faye Sharp

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
Avery McKenna Alsop
Katelyn Elizabeth Brooks
Carol E. Cowan
Jennifer M. Crow
William Borden Firth III
Kaylee Virginia Hamby
Emiliya Karen Mailyan
Carson Michael Turner
Lauren M. Williams
Miranda Rae Wood
Olivia D. Wright

COLLEGE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT
Charles Worth Bridgers IV
Alan Lee Goodwin
Barbara Ann Harmon
Rachel Alexandra Ingram
Samuel Monroe Lawson
Madeleine Lucille Luchsinger
Kelsey Breaann Massey
Christopher Busch Reisinger
Chandler A. Warrick

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
Teresa Lynne Berryessa
Jonina M. Clay
Carrie Duncan
Fatemeh Ebrahimi
Kaitlin Monique Elliott
Renee Elizabeth Helper
Trushauna Danielle Morgan
Ashlea Sexton
William Mark Stovall
Matthew Donald Tallent
Brittany Janay Thomas
Heather E. Usack
Brian Vogelsang
Angela Meriwether White
UNIVERSITY HONORS
Kathryn S. Brittain
Katherine E. Hitchcock

UNIVERSITY HONORS WITH DISTINCTION
Robin Nicole Fair
Jordan Leigh Goen
Kelsey Breanna Massey
Morgan Marie Murphy
Matthew Devin Posey
Calla Faye Sharp

ROTC Commissionees
Joseph Miles Bell
Richard Sean Boland
Randell B. Luangrath
Paul Robert Seaton
Parker Vegas
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Alma Mater

words and music by Charles Douglas Williams (B.M. ’54)

We sing thy praises faithful guide of youth;

Through all the ages affirmed and strong in truth.

Alma Mater Middle Tennessee

We proudly offer our hearts in loyalty.