

—OUTCOMES—

Keeping the Faith

From poverty, foster care, substance abuse, and more, CBHS graduates like Monty Burks ('06, '08) rose above their backgrounds to achieve success

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY

To advance confidently in the
direction of your own dream and to
endeavor to live a life that only you
can imagine you will find
uncommon success in common
hour.

"Disaster" = "Opportunity"

- (1) THINK IT! (inspiration)
- (2) SEE IT! (project planning)
- (3) DO IT! (project execution)

- Thoreau

"When you got something
to prove, there's nothing
better than a challenge"

- Terry Bradshaw

Dalton Frantz
2-4-17

- 2 BIGGEST
- ① CONVINCING
Be 'Better'
- ② UNDERSTANDING
YOU FIT

Nothing In
Take Place
will not; not
UNSUCCESSFUL
Genius will n
A Proverb. Educ
Is Full of
Persistence ?
Are Omnipotent.
Has solved ?
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Best moments of your
your darkest hour. Will
ough? Can you count on
and can others count on you?
anything you rely on was taken
you and you had to stand alone
front of the world and define
yourself what would you say?
Jimmy Kimmel 2016

is not courageous
the risks will accomplish
life - Muhammad Ali
BS 2016
Don't be afraid to go
to have persistence is
key
- Dale Smith
I AM NOT WHAT YOU THINK I AM.
YOU ARE WHAT YOU THINK I AM.
YOU ARE NOT WHAT I THINK YOU ARE.
I AM WHAT I THINK YOU ARE!

The Willingness to LISTEN
is the FOUNDATION of UNDERSTANDING.

Don't wish it was easier,
Wish you were better!

Jim Rohn
Every idea has an equal & opposite counter-idea.
NO. IT DOESN'T!

"Greatness is not a function
of circumstance. Greatness, it
turns out, is largely a matter
of conscious choice and discipline."
- Jim Collins

Daniel L. (M.S. 2013)

Let today's
opportunities become
tomorrow's what ifs."
Pat Flynn
r. Don Roy

MIDDLE TENNESSEE

STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

OUTCOMES

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I AM *true* **BLUE**

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Letter from the Dean

Staying Focused on New and Better Outcomes



Dean Terry Whiteside

A common theme binds the six educational departments—Criminal Justice Administration, Human Sciences, Health and Human Performance, Nursing, Psychology, and Social Work—that comprise MTSU’s College of Behavioral and Health Sciences. It’s that the study, research, training, and practice that happens in these disciplines eventually results in healthier people and healthier communities.

A common theme also binds the prospective CBHS students that I speak to on an almost daily basis. That is their desire to help others.

Our degree areas speak to such personal objectives. The practitioners and professionals that we prepare and send out into the world have to be ready to face society’s “intractables.” As such, our faculty and alumni alike are always honing their skills and searching for ways to keep our population healthier with greater access to active lifestyles, exploring ways to expand our criminal rehabilitation efforts and reduce recidivism, and dealing with evolving social constructs.

A key to these efforts is the College’s strong focus on applied research—whether it’s the simulation labs in Nursing or nerve therapy in Health and Human Performance—to better prepare students and always with the hope of better outcomes. As but one example of better outcomes, there is nothing more rewarding than seeing young adults with spinal injuries, unable to walk, utilize the technology of our underwater treadmill to rebuild their bodies in a way far beyond the usual applications in sports training for able and mobile athletes.

This vision for our College is a shared vision. But our success depends greatly on our ability to build strong reciprocal relationships with our alumni, the community, and corporate partners. These relationships expand academic enrichment for our students and speak to our University’s collective focus on retention and graduation as well. At the same time, we can continue to share our intellectual capacity with the local and global community to address today’s challenges as we all continue to focus on better outcomes for tomorrow.

indirect paths
indirect paths

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From poverty, foster care,
substance abuse, and more,
these CBHS graduates rose
above their backgrounds to
achieve success

by Bea Perdue



Keeping the Faith

Criminal Justice Administration major “Monty” Burks ('06, '08) is director of Faith-Based Initiatives/Division of Substance Abuse at the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Burks’ statewide leadership in this area stems from his own difficult experience within it. His father passed away in 1997, leaving what Burks described as a tremendous void in his life. He said he endured a period of replacing his father’s guidance and reasoning with a “party” lifestyle that led him into a life of addiction and a three-year personal and financial spiral. Having lost everything and left with hurt, despair, pain, and isolation, Burks said he was blessed to have someone introduce him to a church support group where things began to get better. He ended up re-enrolling in classes at MTSU and specifically in Criminal Justice courses taught by Dr. Lance Selva and the late Dr. Dennis Powell, who reinforced to Burks daily—both inside and outside of class—that it didn’t matter where you were currently in life, or where you had been, what mattered most was having the desire to get somewhere new and the willingness to work to get there. Today, Burks, who holds a master’s in Criminal Justice Administration from MTSU and a doctorate in Theology from Heritage International Bible College and Seminary, works with churches and social systems statewide on more effective treatment and recovery options for people battling substance abuse issues. He has also achieved significant employment gains aimed at curbing the stigma associated with people with criminal records applying for jobs. A former Mixed Martial Arts fighter, who previously won one of the state of Tennessee’s first-ever sanctioned MMA titles at MTSU’s Murphy Center, Burks said he is intent on showing others that you can fall, but there is nothing to stop you from getting back up, as well as being one of the people they can count on.

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS ISN'T ALWAYS a straight line. The following CBHS alums (and one student) are stellar examples of people who found their academic, professional, and personal success by overcoming difficult obstacles and challenging situations. With assistance, encouragement, coaching, and inspiration—much of which came from within the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences—these individuals created new and better outcomes both for themselves and for others.

Food for Thought

Nutrition and Food Science student Nicholas Rush, an undergraduate who is also a Pam Wright Scholar in the college and a Dietetics program nutrition mentor, was a real estate agent from Memphis—and a very successful one at that. The problem was that Rush knew real estate didn't speak to his true passion. Over the years, he had developed a very strong interest in the role of food and nutrition in personal and community well-being. Though friends and family insisted that he was “out of his mind,” Rush made the monumental and brave decision to enter college and follow his muse. Today, he is one of three first-ever juniors in MTSU's Dietetics program to be named a nutrition mentor. The group provides nutrition education and programming for MTSU at the Campus Recreation Center. Follow @nickfoodhealth on Twitter to see what this nutrition enthusiast is doing to try to make a difference in the world.



Solid Reinforcement

Criminal Justice Administration graduate Charity Harris ('15), a first-generation college student in her family, packed a suitcase and took a Greyhound bus from her home in what she described as a “very rough” side of Memphis to Murfreesboro to enroll at MTSU. A chance meeting with the CBHS development officer led to an introduction to CBHS Advising Manager Brelinda Johnson and Harris became a student worker in the dean's suite, with Dean Terry Whiteside often introducing her as his “personal bodyguard.” Harris was especially inspired during her time at MTSU by professors Dennis Powell (now deceased) and Lance Selva. “For the first time in my life, I was told—and I believed—that I could imagine and work toward being a success, rather than just settle for little or nothing,” Harris said. She recently began her professional career in law enforcement at the Rutherford County Correctional Work Center. Her ultimate goal, Harris said, is to become a U.S. marshal. Harris loves sharing how CBHS administrators changed her life by providing coaching, counsel, and advice on everything from career choices to how to dress and communicate professionally. In fact, Harris is so attached to the work of the college that she continues working part-time in the CBHS Advising Office.



A portrait of Miccah DeFriez, a woman with long reddish-brown hair and blue eyes, wearing a purple blazer over a black top. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred indoor setting with warm lighting. A dashed white line is visible in the upper right corner of the image.

Better by Design

Interior Design graduate Miccah DeFriez ('09) obtained her degree at MTSU as a nontraditional student. Today, as a certified kitchen and bath designer at Nashville's MarKraft Cabinets, DeFriez gets to do a job she loves and uses her talent and skill to make people happy. Along her journey—from the pain associated with a period of time in foster care as a youth, to her eventual family reconciliation, and eventually including a period of time as an ice cream truck business owner in Colorado!—DeFriez credits not just the power of education with making such an ongoing difference in her life, but specifically people like now retired professor Sharon Coleman “who see something in you that you haven't yet found in yourself that makes all the difference.” DeFriez also credits much of her development to MTSU administrators Laura Clippard (then in Student Support Services) and Kathy Kano (in Student Affairs), whom she worked with as a student worker while getting her degree. Today, a wife and mother of two children, DeFriez, who specializes in color, lighting, and creating smart, efficient spaces, is determined to use her gifts and experience to make a difference in the lives of others. In addition to helping clients take the stress out of the construction and remodeling process, she makes time to explore ways to expand housing for underserved and homeless populations.

The Noblest Profession

Nursing graduate Anthony “Tony” Wulff ('17) said that despite all the seeming financial advantages and unwavering family support that he had as a young student, entering the University of Wisconsin right out of high school did not prove to be a successful endeavor for him. His mother, Sue Wulff, said she feels that her son just didn't have the emotional maturity needed, much less the vaguest idea of what he was working toward, to be successful as a young college student. A visit to a friend who lived in Murfreesboro led Wulff to relocate to middle Tennessee and to enroll at MTSU. He earned his first degree in Foreign Languages. However, his real passion began to emerge as the result of a part-time emergency services job. Wulff later gained his EMT certification and set his heart, mind, and study habits on being one of the elite 64 individuals to be selected from the hundreds of applications made each semester to the CBHS School of Nursing as a new Nursing student. He was selected. In nursing, Wulff found direction and meaning for his life. In February 2017, he accepted a position in the Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital's Emergency Department nurse residency program. “I'm beyond thrilled to get my career start in the field of medicine I'm most passionate about,” he said. Wulff also has begun early on in life in his efforts to give back to MTSU—an example set by his grandfather, which continues today through the Bruning Family Foundation. Wulff introduced Bea Perdue, CBHS development officer, to his mother Sue and created an opportunity for CBHS to submit a proposal to establish the Wulff Family Endowed Support Fund in the School of Nursing.





A Class Act

Always a teacher at heart, MTSU's Gloria Bonner officially retired from her alma mater in March, departing as assistant to the president in the Office of University Community Relations. With 44 years in education, 32 of which were spent in academic and administrative roles at MTSU, Bonner wrapped up an extraordinary career by leaving a legacy of leadership, mentorship, passion, and service that few can match. Bonner was the first African-American dean of an academic unit at MTSU when she served as dean of MTSU's former College of Education and Behavioral Science. She was recognized throughout her career as a strong advocate for high academic standards at the University, state, regional, and national levels.

<http://mtsunews.com/gloria-bonner-to-retire>



"Perfect" Faculty Member

Professor Barbara Turnage (Social Work) is the 2017 honoree of the John Pleas Faculty Award, presented annually during Black History Month to a black faculty member who has demonstrated excellence in teaching, research, and service. It is named for John Pleas, MTSU professor emeritus of Psychology.

Turnage has built a social work career that included providing social services for people with impaired and/or aging parents, new mothers, and families with physical and mental health needs. She also has counseled methadone clients and individuals who were at risk of harming themselves or others. This practical experience has informed her teaching, mentoring, and research.

"From the college perspective, you're the perfect faculty member," said Harold Whiteside, dean of the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences.

mtsunews.com/2017-pleas-award-winner



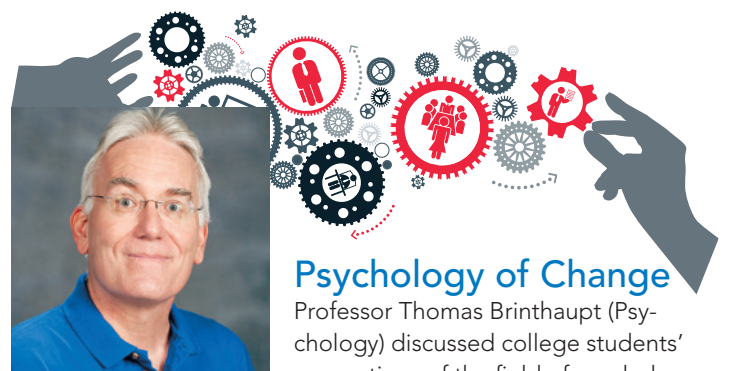
An Expert View

One of the nation's foremost experts on schizophrenia, Thomas R. Kwapil, shared his expertise at the Middle Tennessee Psychological Association Spring 2016 meeting at MTSU.

Kwapil's expertise includes the developmental vulnerability for schizophrenia, which is called schizotypy. This is a theory that schizophrenia has a continuum that ranges from socially manageable and even useful behavior, such as that found in some very creative people, to psychologically destructive behavior.

A Psychology professor at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, Kwapil delivered the keynote address in the State Farm Lecture Hall. Students from throughout the region presented their academic papers and posters and received educational and career advice from psychology professors at the gathering.

mtsunews.com/psychology-conference-2016



Psychology of Change

Professor Thomas Brinthaup (Psychology) discussed college students' perceptions of the field of psychology and those perceptions' impact on the profession during his recent radio interview with *MTSU On the Record*.

Brinthaup, joined by master's candidates Jennifer Hurst and Quinn Johnson, conducted a study of stereotypes about psychology, questioning both Psychology majors and college students who have chosen other majors.

Brinthaup, joined by master's candidates Jennifer Hurst and Quinn Johnson, conducted a study of stereotypes about psychology, questioning both Psychology majors and college students who have chosen other majors.

"Most of the information that they did get about the beliefs or stereotypes came from their peers, their classmates, or their friends, as opposed to their family members," said Brinthaup, who also serves as director of faculty development for MTSU's Learning, Teaching and Innovative Technologies Center.

mtsunews.com/brinthaup-on-the-record-aug2016

Cubicle of the Mind

by Vicky Travis



I/O Psychology is one of MTSU's signature programs, and the industry-focused Center for Organizational and Human Resource Effectiveness (COHRE) one of its most reputational centers

INDUSTRIAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL psychologists find themselves in great demand in a growing field—the science of the workplace. And yes, I/O grads, specifically MTSU I/O grads, are off to work as quickly as they can graduate.

While the mouthful of a title is still sometimes met with a “what’s that?” interrogation, graduates of MTSU’s I/O Psychology master’s and undergrad programs find jobs (and then promotions) in a myriad of workplaces from government to education to business. The master’s program at MTSU attracts top students from across the country and the world.

Through 2024, the Bureau of Labor Statistics expects employment of I/O psychologists to grow 19 percent.

Think about it. Since many of us spend at least 40 or more hours per week at workplaces (for 25 to 40 years of our lives, no less), the need for people who understand the science of the workplace—hiring, retaining, training, and more—will never go away.

“When you improve a workplace, you change hundreds of lives,” said Michael Hein, Psychology professor, business consultant, and winner of MTSU’s Career Achievement Award in Fall 2016 (see sidebar titled “A Just Reward”).

A Recipe For Student Success

As new hires in the early 1990s, Hein, wife Judith Van Hein, and another husband-wife faculty duo, Richard Moffett and Beverly Burke, elevated MTSU’s I/O program that already had a sound curriculum in place and was attracting students.

“We inherited that curriculum from people who did a lot of hard work,” said Hein, who emphasized that the breadth of the curriculum remains a magnet. “The four of us decided we wanted to create the best applied master’s I/O program in the country.”

Hein wrote the proposal for a stand-alone I/O Psychology major, making MTSU’s the

only undergraduate I/O program in the state. (Other universities may offer a concentration, but not a full undergrad major.)

Many I/O master’s programs have only one to three faculty members and some adjuncts, Hein said. Today, MTSU’s I/O program boasts six full-time faculty and requires master’s candidates to complete a thesis, a comprehensive exam, and an internship.

“Almost no other program requires all three,” Hein said. “And the fact that they’ve done all three makes a difference to employers.”

“Our graduates go into a job and start bringing value,” Moffett said. “The best seller for our program is our graduates. We have employers who tell us, ‘We hired so-and-so—could you give us another one of them?’ ”

“We know that these people are making a difference in the companies they are in,” added Hein, referencing a story he heard from two recent graduates who successfully steered their companies away from the Myers-Briggs test to a better assessment deemed more appropriate for hiring.

“That’s a major win,” he said, “when you see that we’re indirectly influencing companies to make better decisions.”

Real-World Experience For Students

A major milestone for the program was the creation of the Center for Organizational and Human Resource Effectiveness (COHRE) in 2004. The team’s timing in proposing the center couldn’t have been better as MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee was encouraging the development of signature programs from the colleges.

The faculty had been doing consulting work since 1992 through the continuing education department to support and train graduate students, but felt the need for a dedicated

The need for people who understand the science of the workplace—hiring, retaining, training, and more—will never go away

space and more control over working with clients, Moffett said.

So, the team proposed and won University funding to start up the center—a place that would give master’s candidates real-world education and help the community build better businesses and nonprofits.

Since then, COHRE’s client list has grown to include federal, state, and local government departments; school systems; medical companies; banks; and many different companies and nonprofits. The center, set up much like a typical consulting firm, is now self-sustaining with about 75 percent of its profits going to pay graduate students.

“We always involve students in the research, which feeds back into our teaching,” Hein said. “So, I stay current

partly from the research but also from the consulting.”

Another milestone happened in 2010, when the I/O faculty collaborated with the Department of Aerospace to create the NASA FOCUS (Flight Operations Center—Unified Simulation) Lab, where Aerospace students must communicate and solve problems to manage 80 simulated flights during a three-hour shift. Graduate assistants from I/O Psychology and Aerospace, along with faculty from both programs, are involved in the NASA-funded project.

For I/O Psychology master’s candidate Megan Wertheimer, this opportunity sealed her decision to come to MTSU.

As a Psychology major at Grand Valley State in Michigan, Wertheimer had narrowed her search for graduate schools using the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology database that ranks MTSU among the top programs. Impressed by coursework that includes outside clients, she applied.

“Then when I got the GA assistantship in the FOCUS Lab, and I knew I could work in simulations, that clinched the deal,” she said.

“Students get a lot of interactions with faculty from diverse backgrounds and do a deep dive into material and get lots of real-world experience,” said Dr. Mark Frame, a Psychology professor. “In academia, you measure success by the success of your students. . . . That’s a measure that Dr. Hein really prides himself on. The extent to which he focuses on student success and values the contributions they make, that’s really the key point for him.”

Hein consistently acknowledges the team effort that goes into growing the nationally recognized program. After all, it only makes sense that a group of industrial and organizational psychologists could create such teamwork and stability. [MTSU](#)

You measure success
by the success of
your students

I/O, I/O, it's off to work we go . . .



THE VALUE INDUSTRIAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS CAN BRING TO A COMPANY

was showcased by a group of MTSU master’s candidates as they blew away business master’s students to win a national competition in Fall 2016.

The five second-year students won the Krannert School of Management Human Resources Case Competition Nov. 3 at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Chosen as finalists after submitting a solution to a human resources case sent to them, the team paid their own way to go to the finals, where each team had 60 minutes to prepare, 20 minutes

A Just Reward

A professor of Psychology in the Industrial/Organizational Psychology (I/O) program, Michael Hein is also director of MTSU's Center for Organizational and Human Resource Effectiveness (COHRE) that he helped establish.

25
50
100
Hein has served as director of MTSU's I/O Psychology master's program, taught graduate courses, and developed four graduate courses, a graduate lab, and a hybrid course. Over the past 25 years, he has supervised 50 completed theses and is currently serving on nine committees. He estimates that he has served on at least 100 thesis committees where he was not the chair.

His research interests include leadership, best use of training/practice time, the determinants of skilled task performance, and the development of expertise. An avid researcher and prolific author, Hein has published articles in leading journals in his areas of expertise, among them, the *Leadership Quarterly*, the *Journal of Personality*, *Group Dynamics*, the *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, and the *Journal of Creative Behavior*. In addition, he has co-authored book chapters in *The Biodata Handbook* and *Improving Organizational Performance with the Productivity Measurement and Enhancement System: An International Collaboration*, plus has made numerous presentations to regional, national, and international professional conventions and meetings.

Widely sought after as a consultant, Hein also has more than 25 years of experience working with clients in a variety of industries on projects regarding job analysis,



employee surveys, training needs analysis, on-boarding new employees, leadership development, performance appraisal, and organizational performance measurement. Some of his past clients include Toshiba, Jack Daniel's, and Kroll Background America.

A consistent grant award recipient over several years, Hein has most recently secured grants for A Catalyst to ADVANCE the Participation and Advancement of Women in Academic STEM Careers at MTSU (NSF-funded, \$15,000) and, in collaboration with his colleagues, Cen Li, John Wallin, and Qiang Wu, for MTSU Student Success: Improving Minority Student Success through Data Driven Comparative Analysis (Tennessee Board of Regents-funded, \$40,000).

\$15K
\$40K

For these and many other major contributions to his profession, graduate and undergraduate program development, and the stellar educational preparation of his students, Hein was selected as the University's sole recipient of the 2016 MTSU Career Achievement Award.

His Midwestern roots keep him from singing his own praises much. Even the words "was humbled" that appeared in a story about the award didn't sit quite right with him. "It sounds like I'm bragging about my humility," he said, eliciting a laugh at the irony.

to present, and 10 minutes to answer questions from a panel of HR experts from Amazon, Dell, and General Electric.

Team members were Kin Chan of Paya Besar Kedah Lunas, Malaysia; Katelyn Class of Oxford, Ohio; Jacqueline Masso of Peoria, Illinois; Hung Nguyen of Lawrenceville, Georgia; and Megan Wertheimer of Waterford, Michigan.

"We communicated the value we bring and the mindset that can bridge that gap between data and what we should actually do," Wertheimer said. "We came up with a really, really complex solution to this problem."

MTSU's team defeated finalists from Brigham Young University, the University of Minnesota, Penn State University, the University of Pittsburgh, and Purdue University. Their prize was a \$5,000 check to be split among the students.

"Our biggest moment of excitement was when we emailed our professors a photo of us with the check, then they printed it, put it on a wall, and took a picture of them posing, pointing at it," Wertheimer said. "We were excited to win but more excited that they were proud of us."



NEWS

from across the six helping disciplines that comprise the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences

Honoring a Trailblazer

With a flurry of Hollywood-style lighting and audio of Muhammad Ali stating “I AM the greatest,” Laila Ali took the stage as MTSU’s Black History Month and Women’s History Month keynote speaker in March. Ali, the youngest daughter of the late heavyweight boxing champion and humanitarian, spoke of the hardships created by her parents’ divorce when she was 8 years old, a stepfather she described as “mentally abusive,” and hanging out with the wrong people. She credited a three-month stint in a juvenile correctional program after a shoplifting arrest for turning her life around. Laila Ali was a world championship professional boxer from 1999 to 2007, retiring undefeated with 24 victories. A former president of the Women’s Sports Foundation, Ali promotes equality for women in professional sports, fitness, and wellness. As a business entrepreneur, Ali recently debuted a signature line of hairstyling tools with Helen of Troy hair care products. Her charitable endeavors include support for Feeding America, Peace 4 Kids, and the American Dental Association. The College of Behavioral and Health Sciences and the Department of Health and Human Performance co-sponsored Ali’s appearance along with the Black History Month Committee.



photo: Andy Heidt

Conference for All

The theme for the 2017 LGBT+ College Conference, sponsored by CBHS, was “All Identities—Removing Obstacles to Inclusion.” This year’s conference program April 6–8 explored how key facets of identity—gender, race, culture, ethnicity, age, social class, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression—play a significant role in how we experience the world. Eric Watson, a leader in developing partnerships between major corporations and minority business enterprises in three Southern states, delivered the awards dinner keynote address. As

president and chief executive officer of the Carolinas-Virginia Minority Development Council, Watson leads a nonprofit organization with more than 175 corporations and 430 certified minority business enterprises in North Carolina, South Carolina, and central Virginia as members. During the conference, MTSU doctoral candidate Tara Prairie presented her research into stigmas faced by the sexual and gender minority community in health care. In addition, original short films submitted from across the globe were screened and judged at a film festival on campus. Lastly, David Jay, founder of asexu-

ality.org, spoke at the conference about the history and politics of the asexual, grey-a, and demisexual communities. Conference sponsors included Nissan, First Tennessee Bank, the MTSU Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance, and the law firm of Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis LLP. Additional support came from Dell, Hilton Garden Inn, the U.S. Secret Service, the MTSU Distinguished Lecture Fund, and the College of Behavioral and Health Science departments of Psychology, Social Work, and Health and Human Performance.



photos: Kimi Conro

Wheelchair RUGBY

MTSU recently became only the third university in the country affiliated with a wheelchair rugby team. The team was founded after the extensive work of MTSU Exercise Science faculty advisor Gerald Christian, who also serves as team manager. The team competes as the QuadCrushers as part of the United States Quad Rugby Association, which has teams representing cities and states all across the country.

“We have really awesome disabled student services. The campus itself is very open-minded and handicap-friendly,” said Christian, who has been a quadriplegic since he was injured in a car wreck as a teenager. “We wouldn’t even have it if the school wasn’t as accessible or accommodating as they are.”

Wheelchair rugby is considered one of the most physically demanding quadriplegic sports. Games are played inside on hardwood courts, and physical contact between wheelchairs is an essential part of the game. The QuadCrushers practice on auxiliary basketball courts in Murphy Center and the Campus Recreation Center.

In its first season, the MTSU-based team defeated the state of Indiana’s team 38-20 in the opening round of its inaugural tournament in Fort Wayne and later faced teams from Chicago, Detroit, and Texas.

The dream for Christian and those involved is to make MTSU’s wheelchair rugby team a club sport, allowing the program to officially represent MTSU at athletic events and showcase the University’s commitment to disabled students. Becoming an official club sport also could prompt other universities across the nation to start their own wheelchair rugby programs and leagues.

“It would be great to represent MTSU by competing across the nation,” Christian said. “We will see where it goes and how much student involvement we get.”

Christian began the process of developing a team by consulting with the director of adaptive athletics at the University of Houston, Michael Cottingham. Cottingham started the first wheelchair rugby teams at the Houston and the University of Phoenix. Christian eventually turned to Caleb Paschall, MTSU Campus Recreation’s adaptive recreation and exercise coordinator, who got the wheelchair program listed as an Adaptive Rec program.

The rec program is all-inclusive. Both disabled and non-disabled students are invited to come out to learn, watch, and even play.

A Golden Anniversary

The Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (SLPA) major and the Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic, both housed in the CBHS, provide the training ground for SLPA students. This year, the clinic is celebrating 50 years of serving the community. The clinic will also be moving from the second floor of the Boutwell Dramatic Arts building to newly renovated space on the bottom floor of Alumni Memorial Gym. Before graduating, enrolled students have worked in the clinic or an off-campus clinic situation for three semesters. The program serves approximately 25 families, consisting of 28 clients each fall and spring

semester and approximately 10 clients in the summer. Clients pay on a sliding scale based on income. The larger, updated clinic space—made possible by a \$279,067 grant from the Christy Houston Foundation—allows for an additional therapy room with each room having a dedicated observation space for supervisors, students, and parents. The clinic will be equipped with video and recording equipment. Students also now will have ample workspace to use when preparing lesson plans, meeting with supervisors, administering tests, and talking with parents. Construction has already begun, with move-in expected in the fall.

NEWS, continued on page 21

CLASS ACTS

from staff reports

Meet the inaugural class of the MTSU College of Behavioral and Health Sciences Hall of Fame

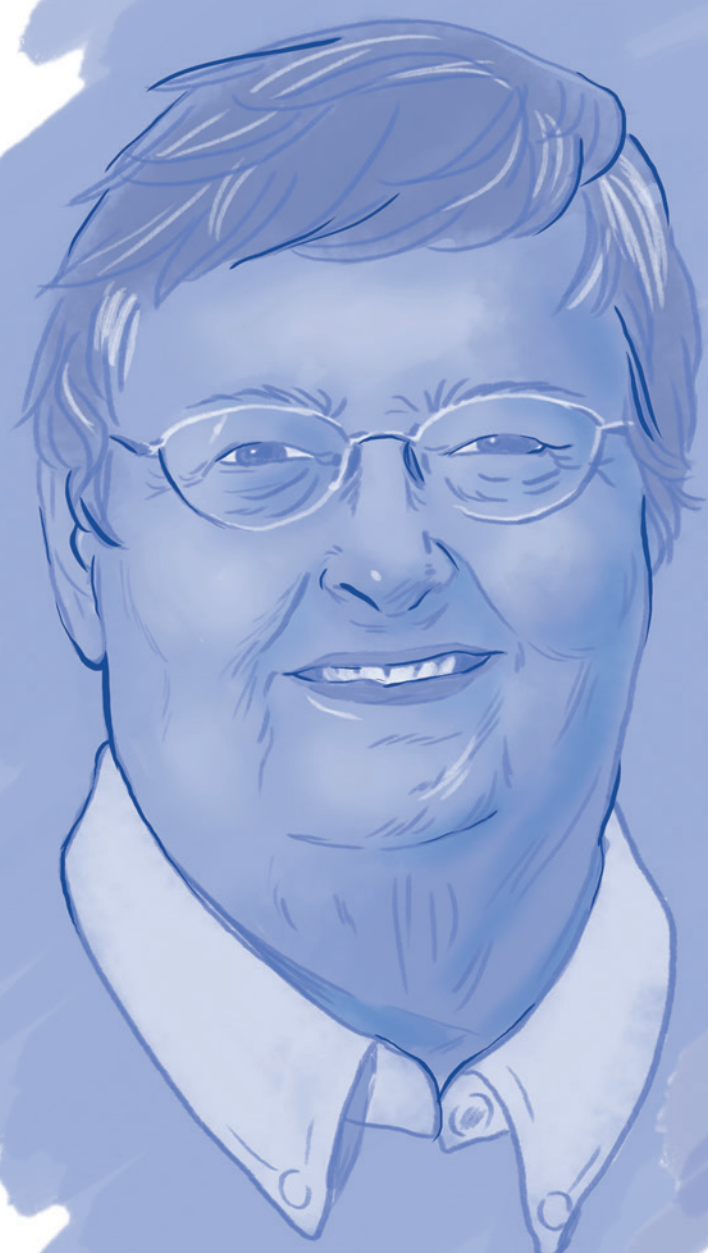
THE COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES' NEW HALL OF FAME WAS ESTABLISHED to recognize distinguished alumni, staff members, volunteers, and supporters who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in leadership, career achievement, and service to the University community. By honoring these positive role models, the college hopes to provide inspiration to the current crop of CBHS students on understanding the value of education, citizenship, and giving back. [Here are the inductees in the first class.](#)



DR. SCOTT COLCLOUGH ('86)

Health and Human Performance

Colclough, who recently retired as associate dean of CBHS, received his doctorate at MTSU in 1986. In 1998, he returned to MTSU and served the University and his discipline as an outstanding teacher, researcher, and contributor to local and national programs. After his tenure as chair of HHP, he became associate dean for what was then a brand-new college, providing leadership and counsel. CBHS Dean Terry Whiteside says "we could not have had the success we have had in this college without Dr. Colclough." Colclough spearheaded the college's effort to enter an exchange agreement with Ulsan Sports Science Secondary School, a new middle and high school in South Korea dedicated to the education and training of aspiring professional athletes.



MARGARET HALL ('72)

Nursing

There was no radiology program available when Hall attended MTSU. She majored in Biology and upon completing her degree entered Vanderbilt's Nuclear Medicine program. She graduated on a Friday; moved to Macon, Georgia, that Sunday; and began work the following Monday—beginning what would become a 28-year career at HCA-owned Coliseum Medical Center. Evolving from nurse to supervisor, Hall saw the evolution of her field from images on Polaroid film to CTs and MRIs. Hall retired in 2002 and moved back home to Eagleville, Tennessee, where she volunteers. She has established an endowed nursing scholarship at MTSU to honor her parents, serves on the CBHS Advisory Board, and has become an adopted alum of the college.

JIM HOLLAND ('72)

Psychology

In 1991 in Murfreesboro, Holland founded what became the Holland Group of Tennessee. By 2007, when he sold it, the \$120 million staffing, human resources, and process management firm had more than 50 locations in 10 states. Holland recently semi-unretired to serve as president of his family's new business, HG Staffing. A first-generation college graduate, Holland paid his tuition with money earned working on a Macon County farm. His commitment to MTSU and to the next generation is significant. Past president of the MTSU Foundation Board of Trustees, Holland is former chair of the MTSU College of Business Advisory Board and a current member of the CBHS Advisory Board.



CLASS

DR. FORREST TOMS ('74, '76)

Psychology

Toms, now a professor at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, North Carolina, previously taught at Saint Augustine's University in Raleigh and Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, both in North Carolina. His work has paid many dividends for communities, the students he teaches, N.C. A&T's Department of Leadership Studies, and the individuals he has trained and coached throughout the community. Even before entering the professorial ranks, Toms has had as his focus helping create new leaders—much like he says the mentors of his childhood in Shelby, N.C. helped him. As but one example, while working as a high school psychologist, Toms organized weekend basketball leagues for area children.

MARY SECREST ('74, '78)

Health and Human Performance

In 1970, "Beanie" Secrest broke the color barrier as the first African-American to play on Middle Tennessee State University's women's basketball team. Playing before Title IX, she did so without a scholarship and also with little fan support. Already inducted into the MTSU Sports Hall of Fame, Secrest is also a member of MTSU's 1911 Society, which celebrates individuals and families who have created gifts to the University through their estate plans. She has served three terms on the MTSU National Alumni Association Board of Directors and has been recognized as an Outstanding Alumna of the University. Secrest is currently a manager in the Office of Information Technology at Emory University in Atlanta.

ACTS



LYNDA WILLIAMS ('85, '93)

Criminal Justice Administration

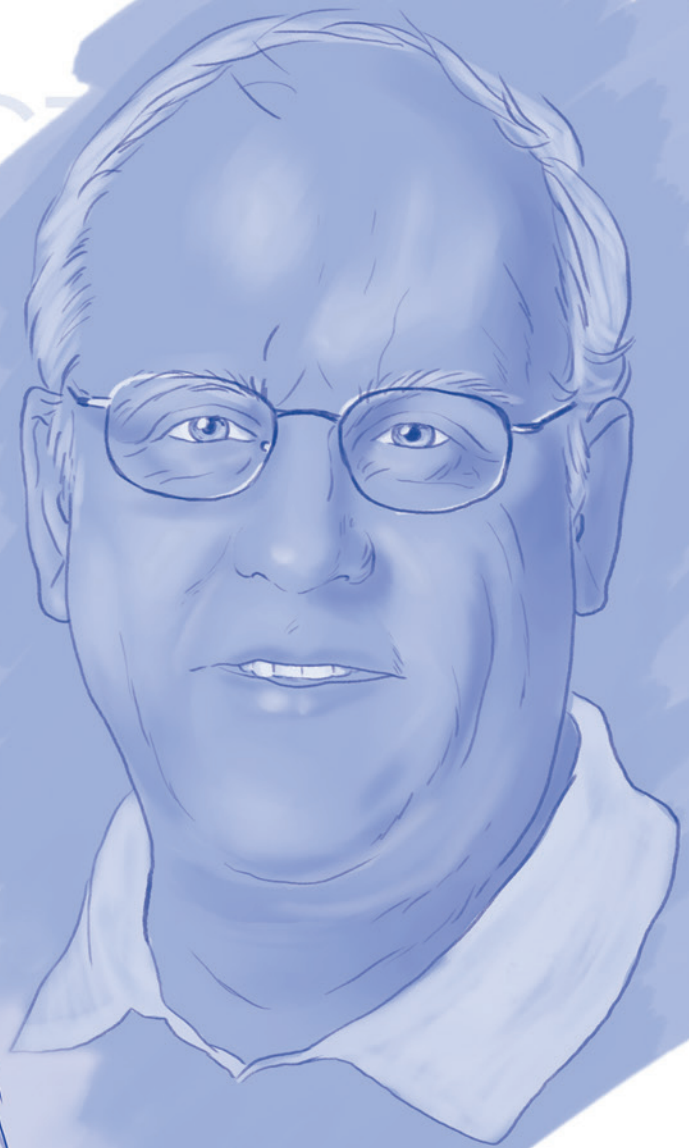
Williams began her career in the U.S. Secret Service as a uniformed division officer in 1998. Her record of service has included stints as special agent in the Washington, D.C. field office, a member of the Vice Presidential Protective Division, Secret Service country attaché in Africa with jurisdiction for 21 countries, in oversight of the 2010 FIFA World Cup, and as the Office of Congressional Affairs special agent in charge. In 2015, Williams was appointed deputy assistant director in the Senior Executive Service as chief security officer responsible for the security of all personnel, information, and physical premises of the Secret Service. A member of the Dennis Powell Scholarship Committee, Williams personally mentors several MTSU students.

CLASS ACTS

KENNETH WRIGHT ('84)

Health and Human Performance

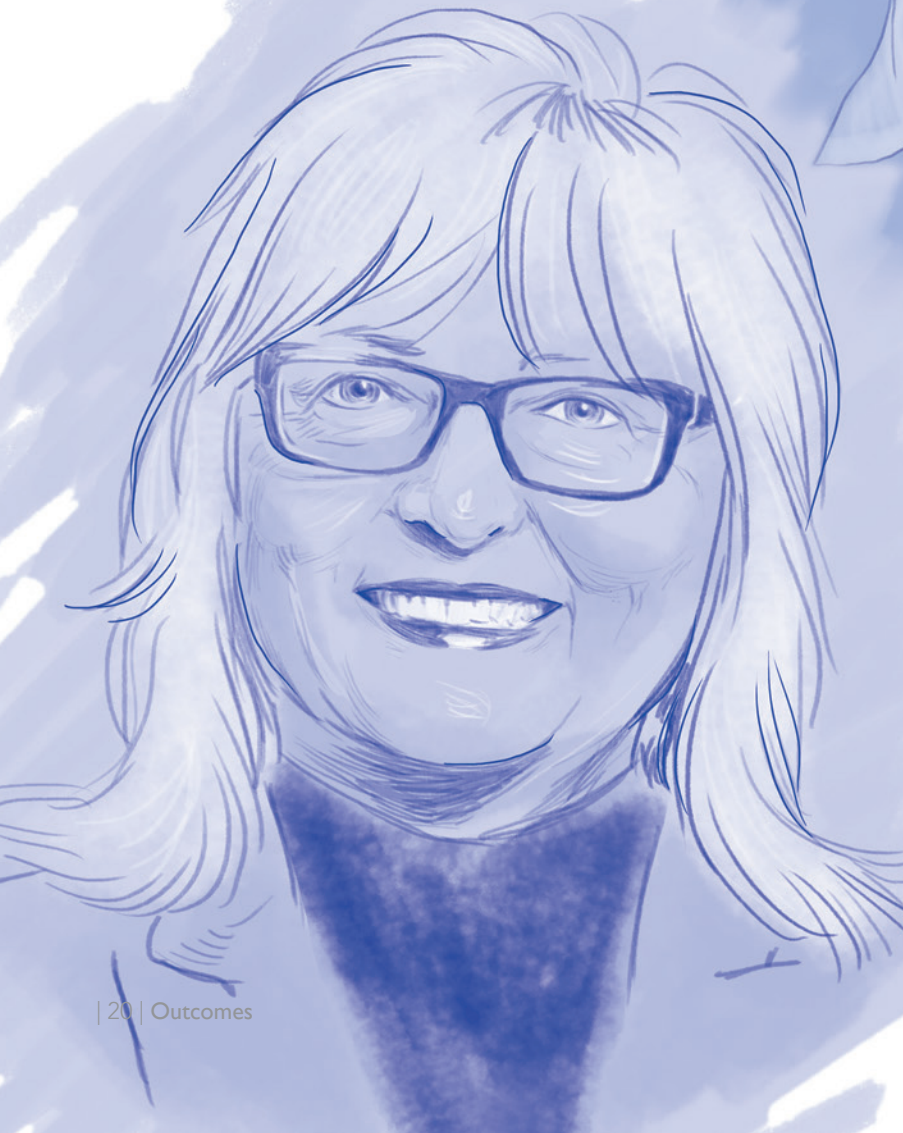
Wright, who received his doctorate at MTSU, is director of the Sports Business Management graduate program at the University of Alabama. A leader of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, the organization whose investigation led to cyclist Lance Armstrong being stripped of his seven Tour de France titles, Wright has been involved in three Olympic Games—London, Vancouver, and Salt Lake City—as a doping control officer. He is credited with helping standardize Olympic doping controls so athletes worldwide are held to the same standard. He has also worked with the U.S. Olympic Committee as an athletic trainer and educator. Wright's personal passion is helping to advance efforts to increase the physical activity and health of children.



PAM WRIGHT ('84)

Psychology

Widely considered one of Tennessee's top entrepreneurs, Wright—who spent years working in the field of social work—launched what became the largest travel agency in Tennessee, Wright Travel. She has since become one of the region's most impactful philanthropists. Wright has been especially generous to her alma mater. Just a few examples include her gift to create an endowed chair in entrepreneurship at MTSU and her \$100,000 donation to CBHS in October 2015 to fund the Wright Travel Leadership Scholarship Program, an endeavor designed to motivate students through strategic coaching and formal mentoring opportunities. Wright currently serves on MTSU's inaugural Board of Trustees. [MTSU](#)



One-Man Gang

For the third time in his career, an MTSU professor has won one of his profession's highest honors. Carter F. Smith, a lecturer in the Department of Criminal Justice Administration, received the Frederick Milton Thrasher Award from the *Journal of Gang Research* last August at the International Gang Specialist Training Conference in Chicago. The Thrasher Award was established in 1992 to honor and recognize superior scholarship, leadership, accomplishments, and service contributions in dealing with public safety issues like that posed by gangs. Smith, who had earned the honor twice before, is retired from the U.S. Army Criminal Investigations Command, where he established the Army's first gang and extremist investigations team. He also provided and directed the security of several U.S. Army bases, supervised multinational fraud and theft investigations, and conducted various criminal and cybercrime investigations in Germany, South Korea, Panama, and the U.S. Smith's areas of expertise include street gangs, military-trained gang members, gangs in the military, gangs in colleges and universities, organized crime, international and domestic terrorism, and employment in the criminal justice professions.



New Impacts

Professor Michael Sherr joined MTSU in 2016 as the new department head of Social Work after previous positions at UT-Chattanooga and Baylor. Sherr and his students, with a \$15,000 grant from the city of Murfreesboro, have been studying the concept of a centralized campus where social service agencies could establish satellite offices, creating a "one-stop" environment for many types of assistance. Coordinating with the Homeless Alliance of Rutherford County, the MTSU contingent hoped to present a proposal to the City Council this year. One graduate and two undergraduate students have been working with Sherr on the project.



Highlights from Human Sciences

Out of six awards presented at the **Nashville Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics** (NAND) meeting in February 2017, current MTSU students or program graduates won four. Honors went to senior Jill Mongene, Outstanding Dietetics Student; senior Kati Pittman, NAND Scholarship; Stephanie Chelton ('12), Young Dietitian of the Year; and Michelle Michael ('07), Outstanding Dietetics Educator.

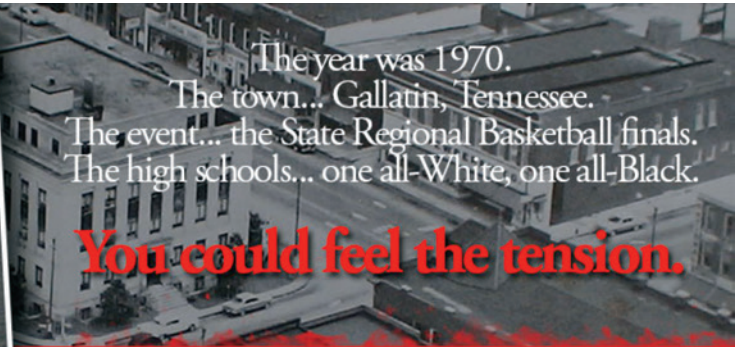
"The Garden Party, Celebration of the Domestic Arts: Floristry, Corsetry, and Quilting"—a juried design project from **Apparel, Textiles, and Design** professors Deborah Belcher, Gina Pisut, and Lauren Rudd—was accepted for presentation at the 108th Annual American Associations Family and Consumer Sciences National Conference and Expo in Dallas this June. The presentation (photographed here) was previously displayed at Historic Oakland's Mansion.

A Campus Leader

The latest book from MTSU associate professor and administrative fellow Brian Hinote is a good example of innovative MTSU scholarship that has powerful real-world applications in medicine, nursing, and the allied health professions. Titled *Social and Behavioral Science for Health Professionals*, the book focuses on the various ways that social and behavioral science perspectives intersect and inform health care delivery and policy, clinical practice, and the work of various health professions. It represents an important new resource for improving patient care.

Hinote also works in the Office of Student Success at MTSU, as a faculty member leading University-wide initiatives in education technology and supplemental instruction. These strategic initiatives are good examples of how MTSU is using cutting-edge methods and technology to promote student success throughout campus (with faculty, staff, and other colleagues). Hinote has also worked with the Underwater Treadmill Grant evaluating data.





The year was 1970.
The town... Gallatin, Tennessee.
The event... the State Regional Basketball finals.
The high schools... one all-White, one all-Black.

You could feel the tension.

And the town knew
the outcome was
NO SLAM DUNK.

High-Profile Alum

More Than Rivals, a book written by *New York Times* bestselling author Ken Abraham, is based on the true story of Bill Ligon and MTSU alum Eddie Sherlin (Health and Human Performance), whose secret friend-

ship spilled onto the court on February 28, 1970, in Springfield, Tennessee, following a district tournament championship game that united Gallatin in the midst of racial segregation. Ligon played for all-black

Union High and Sherlin played for all-white Gallatin High. The schools had not faced each other before the title game and never played again because the schools integrated in the fall of 1970.

morethanrivals-thebook.com



Interim Provost Mark Byrnes and Judge Barry Tidwell

photo: Andy Heidt

Court of Compassion

General Sessions Judge Barry Tidwell ('92), along with a team of others, recently started a Mental Health Court in Rutherford County to address defendants who are in the criminal justice system primarily due to mental health disorders. Tidwell presides over the court. The new court has partnered with the MTSU Department of Social Work, and specifically Professor Angela Pharris, who agreed to provide a master's candidate to intern with the Mental Health Court on a continuing basis. Other MTSU graduates also are part of the Mental Health Court team. "Currently, we have students who are working in the court program as student interns for Social Work," Pharris said. "They are on the front line of service provision for the court as it starts its initial dockets and begins the process of providing intervention and support to the clients."



Down on the Farm

In *Dirt Rich*, Psychology alum Leigh Funderburk and her husband Olin lay out a plan for a simple, sustainable lifestyle. The story highlights the journey the couple took from climbing down off of their corporate ladders to running a small farm . . . and how they found a more peaceful and joyful life by doing so. The couple's life work is Stoney Creek Farm, which they founded in 2005 outside Franklin, Tennessee. Realizing that they were fortunate to be raised in a farming environment, while most of North America is now at least three generations removed from farm life, the couple felt the desire to teach their community how to live a more sustainable existence. Nowadays, they serve the public with a summer U-Pick community garden, various size plot rentals, and continuing education events that focus on learning sustainable practices.

The Success Coach

A seven-figure financial gift from local real estate developer John Floyd promises to boost the professional prospects of students preparing to graduate from MTSU. Floyd has pledged \$1 million to help launch the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences Center for Student Coaching and Success (CSCS), which officially opened in February 2017 in MTSU's Miller Education Center on Bell Street to serve CBHS students.

CSCS director Colby Jubenville, a Health and Human Performance professor (and *Washington Times* blogger and author of the new book *Me: Selling Who You Are, What You Do, and Why You Matter to the World*), facilitated Floyd's gift that focuses on helping soon-to-be graduates make a successful transition from college classes to gainful employment.

"Students make a commitment to higher education by investing their time, money, and energy with the belief that we have the people and resources to help them become gainfully employed," Jubenville said. "This center was built to do just that."

Floyd, founder and owner of Ole South Properties, the state's largest independent homebuilder, said his gift represents the organic relationship between the University as an economic driver for the region and the success his company has enjoyed as a provider of affordable housing throughout middle Tennessee.

"It comes around," Floyd said. "I'm just reinvesting in the community. I've done extremely well in this community, and MTSU in many ways represents a lot of my success."

Through individual, peer, group, and online coaching sessions, the center will help students make the leap from college to career by developing their knowledge, skills, desire, confidence, likeability, and networks, allowing them, in Jubenville's words, to "win in the marketplace of ideas."



Feb. 21 opening ceremony for the Center for Student Coaching and Success. From left are Dr. Harold Whiteside, dean of the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences; retired MTSU faculty member Jon MacBeth; MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee; donors Gina Floyd and John Floyd; and Dr. Colby Jubenville, director of the new center.

The new center Jubenville leads as a result of Floyd's gift will focus on five areas to help students understand how to systematically bridge the gap from graduation to gainful employment:

- academic skills and critical thinking
- emotional intelligence
- personal branding
- persuasion
- career development

Floyd's gift "enables us to take students beyond traditional college education, to make them more impressive in job interviews, teach them how to market themselves and how to understand themselves and others, and to be more influential and persuasive," CBHS Dean Harold Whiteside said. "This takes student success beyond graduation."

Jubenville's approach reflects MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee's vision to help develop a new model for higher education. The center aligns perfectly with the MTSU Quest for Student Success—a plan McPhee launched in 2013 that emphasizes student retention and graduation in line with Gov. Bill Haslam's Drive for 55 initiative. The governor's goal is to increase the number of Tennesseans with degrees or postsecondary certification to 55 percent to meet the workforce demands of the coming decades.

More information: mtsu.edu/cbhssuccess MTSU

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