



Welcome back to campus and to the start of the Spring 2004 semester. I hope that you and your family had a happy, peaceful, and restful holiday. As we begin the second half of the 2003-04 academic year, I know that we will continue our efforts and commitments to move the University forward using the Academic Master Plan as our guide.

We have accomplished much during the Fall 2003 semester and we are looking forward to opportunities and challenges this new semester. I have great confidence in the dedicated faculty, staff, and administrators who are responsible for making this institution what it is today. I am grateful and continue to be excited about the future.

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## **News and Information**

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### **Tennessee Board of Regents December 2003 Meeting**

On December 3-5, 2003, the University hosted the Winter Quarterly meeting of the Board of Regents. Each institution in the system hosts a board meeting every five years. From all accounts, the meeting was a huge success. I want to extend special thanks to the many faculty, staff, students, and administrators who spent countless hours in planning and then hosting more than 200 guests attending the meeting.

The planning committee chaired by Kimberly Edgar and John Cothorn provided excellent leadership. Our university student orchestra and equestrian team along with the staff at the "Tennessee" Miller Coliseum displayed exceptional talent during the Thursday evening event.



Thanks to all who assisted in making the Board Meeting a great success.

## Spring 2004 Enrollment Projections

The University's Enrollment Management Plan with a focus on slowing the growth of student enrollment because of budget constraints is being fully implemented. The preliminary enrollment headcount for this semester is approximately 19,500 – about 100 fewer students than Spring 2003. We will continue to manage our enrollment growth consistent with available resources.



## New Admissions Standards

As part of the University's Enrollment Management Plan, the Board of Regents approved at its September 2003 meeting new higher admissions standards for our entering freshman.

Old Standards	New Approved Standards
ACT: 20	ACT: 22
GPA: 2.8	GPA: 3.0
High school units: 14	High school units: 14

The new admissions standards will be effective for Fall 2004 entering freshmen. I wish to thank Dr. Bob Glenn, vice provost for enrollment management, and Dr. Sherian Huddleston, assistant vice provost for enrollment management, and the Admissions staff for their excellent work in managing our enrollment.

## Budget Update

Compared to last year at this time, the budget outlook is relatively positive. Last year we were faced with reductions of \$4.5 million in the current year and \$9 million for 2003-04.

At this time, there are no plans from the Governor's office for current year reductions in our budget. We were informed prior to the end of last semester to prepare for a 5% permanent reduction to the 2004-05 budget year that begins July 1, 2004. Five percent of our base budget is approximately \$4.6 million. While we have had some preliminary discussions about the budget reductions, we are waiting for final instructions and guidelines from the TBR Central Office.

I want to assure you that we continue to try to minimize the impact of any budget reductions on academic areas.

## Tennessee Lottery

Last fall, I appointed a task force headed by Professor Bill Ford to study the impact of the lottery on our university and to make recommendations on how our scholarship program should be structured in light of the state lottery program. The primary objective of the task force was to recommend ways MTSU should maintain its competitive edge in recruiting high ability students.



Professor Ford's committee has completed its report with findings and recommendations. You may review this report at [http://www.mtsu.edu/newsletter/jan122004\[w\].pdf](http://www.mtsu.edu/newsletter/jan122004[w].pdf) for Adobe Acrobat format. I invite your comments and feedback.

## Special Faculty Highlights

Our university is very fortunate to have many faculty and staff who excel in their discipline. Because of space limitations in this newsletter, I cannot recognize all the deserving individuals who have received special recognitions for their work last year. I would like to recognize three faculty members, Professor Bill Ford, Professor Al DePrince, and Professor Kevin Smith.

Dr. Bill Ford, Jones College of Business and holder of the Weatherford Chair of Excellence, was awarded the Tennessee Board of Regents highest academic award for his achievement in teaching, research, and service during the Board meeting in December.

Dr. Al DePrince, professor of Economics and former director of the BERC, recently received the Adolph G. Abramson Award at the annual meeting of the National Association of Business Economics, recognizing the "best article" for the year ending last June as determined by the board of editors for *Business Economics*, the association's flagship publication.

Dr. Kevin Smith is a professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. He has served as principal investigator for several significant university/community partnership projects involving students throughout the State of Tennessee. Professor Smith is an excellent example of integrating academics with public service.

Please join me in congratulating each of these outstanding faculty members.



## Academic Programs

The 2003 calendar year resulted in significant progress in our efforts to add new academic programs.

You will recall that during the past 10-15 years the University was held back from getting new programs due to the Geier restrictions.

The following new programs were approved by TBR and THEC in 2003:

- Ph.D.s in Economics, English, and Human Performance
- Bachelor of Science in Concrete Industry Management
- Graduate certificates in
  - Dyslexic Studies
  - Nursing Informatics
- Degree concentrations in
  - Linguistics and Russian Studies
  - Secondary English Teacher Licensure
  - Genetics and Biotechnology
  - Physiology



In 2004, we plan to continue our aggressive approach in seeking additional new degree programs consistent with the University's Academic Master Plan and available resources.

New degree proposals that have been submitted or in the process of being submitted to TBR for consideration include:

- Ph.D. in Public History
- Bachelor's degree in Art History
- Ph.D. in Literacy with an interdisciplinary focus
- Masters degree in Nursing

## New Initiatives for 2004

A number of new and exciting initiatives are in the discussion and planning stages for this new year. Our biggest challenges in 2004 will be taking advantages of the many opportunities that lie ahead.

## Plans for Class Cancellations Due to Inclement Weather



In the event of inclement weather, information on school closing will be relayed to area radio and television stations. Information can also be accessed on the University Home Page and by calling the News and Public Affairs News Line.

If MTSU classes are canceled, the announcement will apply to all classes, credit and non-credit. Offices at MTSU will be considered open unless the announcement specifically says all offices will be closed.

If such a decision is made overnight, it should be announced by 6:00 a.m. the following morning.

### Radio Stations

WMOT-FM	89.5
WSM-FM	95.5
WSM-AM	650
WKDF-FM	103.3
WGFX-FM	104.5
WNRQ-FM	105.9
WLAC-AM	1510
WGNS-AM	1450

### Television Stations

WKRN-TV	Ch. 2
WSMV-TV	Ch. 4
WTVF-TV	Ch. 5
WZTV	Fox 17

### MTSU Home Page

Go to the MTSU home page and a message will be posted in the event of closings due to inclement weather. This page can be accessed at <http://www.mtsu.edu/>

### News Line

The News and Public Affairs News Line provides updated news about events on the MTSU campus. If there is a closing due to weather it will be available on the News Line. Because of a limited number of incoming lines and the potential of congestion that could cause delays in service, the News Line should be used only as a last resort to get information on school closings. The MTSU News Line can be accessed at 904-8215.

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I trust that you will continue to find this e-newsletter informative and useful. I welcome your feedback and comments. And as always, I appreciate all that you do to support the goals and objectives of this great public university. Please send your comments to [smcphee@mtsu.edu](mailto:smcphee@mtsu.edu).