

# NEWS & information

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Sidney A. McPhee

*Welcome to the  
Fall 2016 Semester!*



As always, I appreciate all you do to support the goals and objectives of our great University.

In this newsletter, I want to highlight just a few achievements from this past year and provide some information on some of our plans for the future.

I welcome your feedback and comments. Please contact me at [Sidney.McPhee@mtsu.edu](mailto:Sidney.McPhee@mtsu.edu).

I also invite you to check out my new blog, available at [www.mtsu.edu/President](http://www.mtsu.edu/President), for updates and information from my office.

True Blue!

DR. SIDNEY A. MCPHEE

### A NEW FOCUS

I wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with several updates regarding MTSU's work in preparing for the implementation of the recently authorized FOCUS Act by the Tennessee General Assembly and signed by Gov. Bill Haslam.



TENNESSEE BOARD OF REGENTS  
STATE UNIVERSITY & COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM OF TENNESSEE

As you know, in December 2015, Gov. Haslam announced the next step in his "Drive to 55" education initiative intended to raise the number of Tennesseans possessing secondary degrees to 55% in order

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### STUDENT SUCCESS

In recent years, MTSU's focus has been squarely on student success—meaning helping students overcome obstacles, stay enrolled in classes, and earn college degrees. Those goals are in perfect alignment with the state's formula for funding that emphasizes graduation over sheer enrollment and with Gov. Bill Haslam's Drive for 55 initiative aimed at increasing the number of Tennesseans with degrees to 55 percent.



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**Tutoring opportunities can be found all over campus, and an ambitious new tutoring space in Walker Library is available.**

**Student Success** *continued from page 1*

In 2013, I announced a major initiative—the MTSU Quest for Student Success—designed to ensure that every student who comes to MTSU with the drive to achieve would be met with the best instruction from excellent professors who care for their success. As part of the Quest, University faculty and staff members provide extra support and assistance when our students encounter unexpected difficulties or when roadblocks arise that negatively affect their persistence toward graduation.

The data bears out that we are excelling in the areas of retention and graduation in the past few years. Here are eleven fresh updates on our student success efforts.

**1 REBOUND**, our homegrown intervention for freshman students who achieved below a 2.0 grade point average their first semester, received a Models of Excellence award from a national organization (University Business). The program was also exclusively featured in an article published by *Academic Impressions*, a leading news source for higher education, with a subscriber base of 60,000.

- 2 The Scholars Academy** continues its history of outstanding successes in serving at-risk students. The program has grown from an initial 30 students to 113 in 2014 and then 168 in 2015. In fall 2016, we are on track to enroll at least 350 students. A total of 85 percent of the students that started in the fall 2014 cohort were retained to fall 2015. This compares to an overall freshmen retention rate of 73 percent.
- 3 Free tutoring** was offered for 187 courses for fall 2015, representing 24 disciplines. In this past semester alone, students spent 7,089 hours in tutoring! A recent internal study shows: Students that received tutoring were retained at 14 percentage points higher (77.78 percent) than those in the comparative group that did not receive tutoring (63.89 percent); juniors that received tutoring were retained at 100 percent, which is 41 percentage points higher than those in the comparative group who did not and retained at 58.93 percent; and the 79.17 percent retention rate for sophomores that received tutoring was nearly 10 percentage points

higher than those that received no tutoring and had a retention rate of 69.79 percent.

- 4** Through the work of faculty and staff from across campus, a total of **30 Raider Learning Communities were offered** for fall 2015. A careful assessment was made of RLC outcomes by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Policy and Research. Among the findings, there was a 3.3 percentage increase in persistence for RLC participants as compared to non-participants.
- 5** We continue to make **great progress in improving success rates for new freshmen**. In fall 2013, freshman retention was 68.2 percent. In fall 2014, the freshmen retention rate increased to 70.2 percentage. And, in fall 2015, MTSU's retention rate for new freshmen, 73.2 percent, reached the highest level in at least the past 15 years. The improvement in freshman retention between fall 2014 and fall 2015, 3.0 percentage points, was the largest one-year increase observed at MTSU in at least the past 15 years.
- 6** In October 2015, **MTSU was presented with the Data Driven Impact Award by the Education Advisory Board**, a consulting group specializing in student success. MTSU was one of three universities to receive an award. In MTSU's case, the award was in recognition of the University's use of data to inform decisions that improve the success of students. Considerable progress continues to be made in implementing and applying technology to support our emphasis on advising. In October 2014, MTSU launched the EAB SSC predictive analytics system. Soon thereafter, MTSU became recognized as a national leader in utilization of the system. On March 10, 2016, the advising platform was significantly upgraded to SSC Campus. Advisors quickly began applying new features in the system to serve all students, but especially

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# ADMISSIONS

**We are working very hard every day to recruit the best and the brightest students to enroll at MTSU!**

## True Blue Tour

As the University welcomes students to campus for a successful Fall 2016, the admissions department is already looking forward to Fall 2017. The recruitment staff are on the road meeting with students in their communities. The annual True Blue Tour will highlight these fall recruitment activities. This year's tour boasts 11 stops, an increase from last year, to include a visit to Louisville, Kentucky. University administrators, deans, student services staff, and student leaders, as well as area alumni, will be joining me to welcome prospective students and share information about the admissions process, financial aid, scholarships, and new academic programs. Students will have the opportunity to learn more about what it means to be **True Blue!**

### Fall 2016 True Blue Tour Schedule

Tues., Oct. 4: Chattanooga
Wed., Oct. 5: Atlanta, Georgia
Tues., Oct. 11: Huntsville, Alabama
Tues., Oct. 18: Johnson City
Wed., Oct. 19: Knoxville
Wed., Oct. 26: Williamson County
Tues., Nov. 1: Nashville
Wed., Nov. 9: Memphis
Thurs., Nov. 10: Jackson
Tues., Nov. 15: Bowling Green, Kentucky
Wed., Nov. 16: Louisville, Kentucky

Tour stops in Georgia, Alabama, and Kentucky will emphasize opportunities for out-of-state students to qualify for in-state tuition rate through participation in the Academic Common Market or the Regional Scholars program. Students who live in participating states and plan to pursue academic majors not offered in their home states, or students whose high schools are in a county

within a 250-mile radius of MTSU and achieve qualifying college placement scores can be eligible to receive tuition savings.

## Campus Tour Experience

As each academic year begins and we welcome our newest class of students, we also take time to review what worked well for our successful recruitment cycle. Surveys show that the most influential recruitment activity impacting a student's enrollment decision is the campus visit. Since the start of Fall 2015, more than 15,000 students and guests have come through the admissions campus tour program. That is a remarkable increase of more than 1,000 prospective students and 2,000 additional guests visiting campus compared to the previous year. In order to make the visit more meaningful, the admissions department is enhancing its tour program to create a Tour Experience for each student visiting the University. Upgraded multimedia presentations, along with hands-on exploration, social media integration, and student-led walk-in tours, will better enable prospective students and guests to take a closer look at MTSU.



**Students congregate around the iconic Kirksey Old Main building, one of the original four structures on campus.**

## New Director

It is my pleasure to “welcome home” **Linda Olsen** ('98) to serve as the undergraduate director of admissions and recruitment. She brings a background in high school counseling and college admissions and student services administration. Linda comes to MTSU from Eastern Florida State College after serving as director of admissions and advising for the past eight years. A doctoral candidate with the University of Central Florida, she

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**Friends Fady Abdelnour, left, 18, and Mary Sadek, right, 19, both of Nashville and Glenclyff High School graduates, visit with Linda Olsen, the new director of undergraduate recruitment at MTSU during CUSTOMS freshman orientation June 1 in Tucker Theatre.**

# BUDGET AND SALARY OVERVIEW FALL 2016

The final state budget as proposed by Gov. Haslam and approved by the state legislature included a reduction of \$1 million in state funding for MTSU under THEC's Outcomes Based Funding Formula.

That decrease, however, was offset by an increase of \$4.7 million in enhancement funds. While I am pleased the net result mitigates the



decline in formula funding, the reality is that we still needed every penny of those enhancement funds to help move our programs and facilities forward. Now, because of the shortfall in one bucket, we will have less in the other.

The Tennessee Board of Regents increased our tuition by 2.6 percent this fall. Again, while we welcome the increase in revenue, it, too, will fall short in covering our increasing costs.

For the first time, the salary increases proposed by the governor for state employees did not include higher education. While we are all state employees, we at the colleges and universities did not receive funding to pay for the 3 to 4 percent pay increase proposed for those working in other areas of the government.

The state, however, is allowing higher education institutions to use funds from appropriations for increases. But that's the same money that we need to cover inflationary costs, repair and purchase crucial computers and technology, and perform long-overdue maintenance on our aging infrastructure.

Also, we are left on our own to determine how to meet the new Fair Labor Standards Act provisions that go into effect Dec. 1. We anticipate a

significant number of administrative positions at the University will become non-exempt positions, which will require those individuals to report hours worked. This change will have a significant impact on the University's budget as well.

So, again, we are faced with hard choices. As such, I intend to seek approval from the TBR in September to raise the salaries of faculty identified in the salary survey as being below the established pay range to the minimum of their range.

Any remaining monies that we can devote to pay increases will be used in a small cost-of-living increase for all unrestricted

and restricted regular full-time and part-time benefit-eligible employees and participants in the post-retirement service program on the payroll as of June 30, 2016.

Each eligible employee will receive a minimum of a 1 percent pay increase of their salary. The final percentage increase will not be determined until our fall enrollment figures are known. Unfortunately, this increase will not apply to adjunct faculty, temporary employees, graduate assistants, or student workers.

If grant funding is available, increases for grant employees will be charged to the appropriate grant, and increases for auxiliary employees will be funded from auxiliary revenues.

If approved by TBR, all increases will be effective Oct. 1, 2016.

The state again provided funding to match eligible employees' deferrals in the 401(k) plan, which may be between \$20 and \$50 per month, and for longevity payments at \$100 per year of creditable service up to a maximum number of 30 years.

Another bright spot in the state budget was the \$6.7 million in

capital maintenance funds for MTSU. Improvements include Saunders Fine Arts Building HVAC updates, energy recovery boiler repair, electrical updates, building automation system control panel replacements, and

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*I'm pleased that we have been given funding to make our building more serviceable.*

—MTSU President Sidney McPhee

”

exterior repairs to several buildings. I'm pleased that we have been given funding to make our building more serviceable.



**Admissions** continued from page 3

has returned to Tennessee to support the enrollment and student growth of her alma mater. Leading an outstanding team of energetic recruitment staff, she stands ready to guide students through the admissions process toward successful degree completion.

## Blue Bag Campaign

Students have reported feeling welcomed when visiting MTSU. In an effort to expand this sense of belonging, the admissions department is launching the True Blue Bag Campaign. Every campus visitor will be given a distinguishable blue bag upon check-in for their campus tour. With these bags, our campus visitors will be very visible, not only in tour groups, but also as they explore the campus on their own time.

Please take the time to greet our guests when you notice the True Blue Bags. Welcome them to our beautiful campus and share why you are proud to be True Blue!

Fall Preview Days are scheduled for upcoming Saturdays on Sept. 24 and Nov. 5. Each day begins at 8 a.m. in the Student Union Building. [MTSU](#)



Students tour campus near the new Student Union building.

**Student Success** continued from page 2

at-risk students. Many faculty have been introduced to the system, with a goal to ensure that all faculty have access and understand basic features by the close of the 2016–17 academic year. In August 2016, phase II of the system will be implemented, which places all advisors and students on a common scheduling system. And work is underway for launch of phase III of the system in January 2017, when tutoring will become an integrated part of the platform.

- 7 MTSU continues to receive national attention for its student success efforts.** In recent weeks and months, articles about MTSU's Quest for Student Success have appeared in *USA Today*, *EDUCAUSE*, *Inside Higher Education*, *Academic Impressions*, *Education Dive*, *NerdWallet*, and *eCampus News*.
- 8** Because of student success accomplishments, **MTSU representatives have been invited to present at or participate in professional conferences**, including SXSWedu, Austin, Texas, March 2016; iPASS2 at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, June 2016; ACT Enrollment Planners Conference, Chicago, July 2016; at the invitation of the Lumina Foundation, Indianapolis, December 2015; as a panelist at
- 9 MTSU has been selected as one of five institutions to be profiled by Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) for best practices** in implementing student success programs. A film producer and crew spent two days on the MTSU campus in April 2016 interviewing more than a dozen administrators, faculty, and staff for the project. In another project, APLU also selected MTSU as one of a select number of institutions to be featured as a National Case Study for Effective Use of Data to Improve Student Outcomes.
- 10** In the past six months, **MTSU has been visited by representatives from six colleges and universities interested in best practices in implementing student success programs.**
- 11** Through the work of faculty and other University leaders, a total of **21 sections of Supplemental Instruction (SI) courses will be piloted in fall 2016.** Supplemental Instruction is a leading educational best practice that provides students with additional support, typically in courses where many students experience difficulties. [MTSU](#)

*EDUCAUSE*, sponsored by the Gates Foundation, Indianapolis, October 2015; and at the invitation of the Gates Foundation, Seattle, September 2015.

GRADUATE  
IN **4** AND  
GET **MORE**

MIDDLE TENNESSEE  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
[MTSU.edu/apply](http://MTSU.edu/apply)

Hope Scholarship Increase

Guaranteed Scholarships for Transfers

Finish Line Scholarship

I AM trueBLUE

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

There are so many wonderful and impactful developments occurring in our academic community that I could not possibly cover them all in the pages of this newsletter. The following, then, offers but a small snapshot of the kinds of transformative efforts occurring in our colleges and academic units across campus. **True Blue!**

### Solid Leadership

**Dr. Brad Bartel** stepped down as University Provost in May 2016 and will return to his first love—teaching and mentoring students. Dr. Bartel's efforts in enhancing student success and innovation in curriculum were significant during his tenure as provost. Let



**Brad Bartel**

me again offer my sincere and deep appreciation and thanks to Dr. Bartel for his many contributions, specifically his leadership in the creation and establishment of the University's guiding initiative, the Quest for Student Success. Thanks to the proactive and innovative work done by the faculty and administrators under Dr. Bartel's guidance, our Quest efforts to improve curriculum, enhance student retention, and strengthen academic advising have been successful and garnered national praise and recognition.

**Dr. Mark Byrnes**, dean of MTSU's College of Liberal Arts since June 2010, is now serving as the University's interim provost.

Dr. Byrnes, a nationally recognized expert on the American presidency and Tennessee politics,

has taught political science at MTSU since 1991 and was associate dean of liberal arts from 2006 to 2009. A 1983 graduate of MTSU who earned his master's and doctoral degrees at Vanderbilt University, Dr. Byrnes also was the recipient of one of the MTSU Foundation's 2010 Public Service Awards. Dr. Byrnes, a native



**Mark Byrnes**

of Murfreesboro and a graduate of Riverdale High School, also has served as chairman and vice chairman of the Rutherford County School Board.

Based on Dr. Byrnes' recommendation, I appointed **Dr. Karen Petersen** as interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Dr. Petersen, a professor of political science specializing in international relations, served as the college's assistant dean from 2010 to 2013 and has been associate dean since January 2014.



**Karen Petersen**

### Awards

MTSU faculty and staff received 91 new awards and contracts during FY16 to support research, public service, and instructional activities. During FY16, the University had 224 active grants and contracts with a total sponsored programs portfolio value of \$40,213,452. The following are just two examples of our many our research and intellectual property development highlights in the current year.

- **Melissa P. Towe**, TRIO Student Support Services: U.S. Dept. of Education, \$247,584, "Student Support Services at Middle Tennessee State University." This one-year award will fund the continued operations of MTSU's successful



**Melissa Towe**

TRIO Student Support Services. This is the 15th year that this program has empowered first-generation, income-eligible students to succeed. The funding makes possible services including personal and academic counseling, tutoring, workshops, and cultural events. This is Dr. Towe's first award at MTSU, and the successful grant proposal received a perfect score from Department of Education reviewers.

- **Song Cui**, School of AgriBusiness and AgriScience: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), \$714,023, "Integrating Agricultural Remote Sensing, Landscape Flux Measurements, and Agroecosystem Modeling in Research and Teaching across Different Institutions in the Southern US." Doug Campbell, operations manager for MTSU's Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Operations program, is the co-Principal Investigator. This is the second USDA award for Dr. Cui and MTSU under our 2014 designation as a Non Land Grant College of Agriculture (NLGCA). This collaboration with Texas A&M University is part of MTSU's growing research in precision agriculture. The interdisciplinary project integrates remote sensing, landscape flux measurements, and modeling in agro-ecological curriculum and research.



**Song Cui**



## Dual Enrollment

The University's dual enrollment program allows high school students, who meet MTSU's admissions criteria and gain approvals from their guidance counselors, to take college classes before they graduate, thus earning high school and college credits at the same time. Classes are offered online and this past year began being offered at schools in Rutherford and Williamson counties.

- 564 students enrolled in 653 unique classes for fall 2015
- 558 students enrolled in 798 unique classes for spring 2016
- 62 classes at 10 different high schools in Rutherford and Williamson County in 2015–16
- Enrollment goal of 500 students exceeded

Starting this fall, area homeschooled high school students will have a chance to earn college credits and “get a slice of MTSU” by taking classes at the University College's new Dual Enrollment Center in the Andrew



**Andrew Woodfin Miller, Sr.  
Education Center**

Woodfin Miller Sr. Education Center on Bell Street. Classes that will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays for fall semester include introductory college courses in psychology, music, and communication.

## Academic Common Market

As of July 18, 203 out-of-state applications to attend MTSU through the Academic Common Market have been received. **This is a 54 percent increase over last year at this time.**

Of those, 164 applicants have been approved by their home states to participate in the Academic Common Market by the same date. **This is an increase of 42 percent compared to last year at this time.**

These increases are due to the increasing widespread reputation of our unique academic programs and also to the successful out-of-state True Blue tour recruiting events held last fall.

## Academic Programs

We have continued to update and expand our academic program offerings.

This fall we are starting a new Master of Library Science degree—the only such degree in the Board of Regents system.

This fall we are elevating our successful Journalism and Animation programs from concentrations within Mass Communication to stand-alone bachelor's degrees.

During the past year, we also elevated the Actuarial Science concentration in Mathematics to a stand-alone major. The program is the only one of its kind in Tennessee, preparing our students for what many recognize as one of the best jobs in America and that *Time* magazine calls one of the highest-paying jobs in America.

We also created new academic minors in Musical Theater Performance, Corporate Communication, and Arabic.

Looking forward, we continue to seek opportunities to develop unique programs to meet the needs and interests of Tennesseans.

In September, the Tennessee Board of Regents will vote on our proposal to establish B.A. and B.S. degrees in Religious Studies. If approved, we will be the only TBR university to offer this major.

We have received approval of our Letter of Application to establish a new bachelor's degree with a major in Dance. This will be one of only two dance majors in the state.

We also had our Letter of Application approved to establish a new bachelor's degree in Fermentation Science, which will build on the resources of our

School of Agribusiness and Agriscience in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

We are awaiting approval of our Letter of Application to establish new interdisciplinary B.A. and B.S. degrees in Africana Studies. Again, this will be a unique degree among TBR universities.

## SACSCOC Visit

MTSU completed a successful on-site reaccreditation review by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).



In particular, I want to acknowledge the outstanding work of the dedicated team members for their many hours of preparation for this review.

The SACSCOC review to consider reaffirmation of our accreditation represents a critical benchmark in the life of this university, as it independently validates every 10 years that our University is providing a high-quality academic experience for our students that meets the most rigorous standards.

As part of this process, the SACSCOC on-site committee reviewed our next proposed Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)—MT Engage, which will enhance the educational experience of students throughout our academic colleges and programs.

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## The Blue Raider basketball team's stunning upset over Michigan State in the 2016 NCAA Tournament attracted global attention to the University

### ONE SHINING MOMENT

Our University received untold attention around the nation during March Madness when the 15th-seeded Blue Raider men's basketball team scored its stunning upset, 90-81, over No. 2 seed Michigan State in an NCAA Tournament bracket-buster. The resulting media and social media spotlight on MTSU and our community was priceless.

It seemed like almost everyone, everywhere, was **True Blue**, if only for a few moments.

- ★ **Social reach** tracked by MTSU's Division of Marketing and Communications **hit an all-time high of 167,025,273 people** during March 18–21.
- ★ **#MTSU was the No. 1 trending topic on Twitter** leading up to the final seconds of the win over the Spartans.
- ★ **There were 60,000-plus mentions about MTSU in three days, 300 percent more than the University's monthly average of 15,000 mentions.**
- ★ **MTSU's win was tweeted by such notable influencers as Magic Johnson (2.9M reach); ESPN (25.7M); Wall Street Journal (10.3M); Sports Illustrated (1.4M); MLB pitcher and Murfreesboro native David Price (1.3M); Getty Images Sport (978K); Dick Vitale (822K); Yahoo! Sports (381K); and the Denver Broncos (294K).**
- ★ **MTSU's brand reach on social media extended worldwide as a result of the game** to areas where it doesn't usually register, like Liechtenstein, Kenya, Norway, Andorra, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Vitale, the iconic ESPN basketball analyst who had picked Michigan State to win it all, called it "one of the all-time shockers." **The game also was deemed the biggest upset in tournament history by the likes of Sports Illustrated and USA Today.**

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*The 15th-seeded MTSU Blue Raiders basketball team, led by coach Kermit Davis, defeated the No. 2 seed Michigan State Spartans 90-81 in the first round of the men's NCAA basketball tournament.*



*The Lady Raiders and head coach Rick Insell headed back to the NCAA Tournament for the 18th time this year.*



**COLLEGE BASKETBALL** **USA TODAY SPORTS**

### Mayhem rules early in tournament

Middle Tennessee delivers latest NCAA stunner

It's the same old story: The Blue Raiders of Middle Tennessee State University have once again delivered a stunning upset victory in the NCAA tournament. This time, they defeated the 10th-ranked Michigan State Spartans in a thrilling game that was filled with excitement and drama.

The game was a true showcase of college basketball, with both teams displaying exceptional skill and teamwork. Middle Tennessee's defense was particularly impressive, as they managed to keep Michigan State's offense in check throughout the game.

The victory is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Blue Raider coaching staff and players. It also highlights the program's consistent success in the NCAA tournament, as they have now secured their spot in the Big Dance for the fourth year in a row.

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INSIDE: Florida State shouldn't overlook MTSU women

SATURDAY 03.19.16

**dni**

# RAIDED

**MTSU SHOCKS MICHIGAN STATE IN NCAA TOURNAMENT**

Read about MTSU's major upset of Michigan State on page 5k and visit [dni.com](http://dni.com)

**WORE BLUE INSIDE**

**Lansing State Journal**

MIDDLE TENNESSEE 90, MICHIGAN STATE 81

## STATE OF SHOCK

This seems like it's fake — No. 2-seeded MSU ousted in NCAA opener

It's a scene that defies belief. The No. 2 seed in the NCAA tournament, Michigan State, has been eliminated in the first round by a 90-81 victory by Middle Tennessee State University. The game was a true showcase of college basketball, with both teams displaying exceptional skill and teamwork.

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**C-USA**  
MIDDLE TENNESSEE **MT**

**ESPN 2**

I AM *true* **BLUE**



**Blue Raider senior guard Perrin Buford, who predicted MTSU's historic NCAA tournament win over Michigan State in St. Louis, scores a basket during the game.**



**Blue Raider forward Reggie Upshaw dunks during MTSU's historic NCAA tournament win over Michigan State in St. Louis.**

### At a Glance

- **MTSU** is one of the few universities nationally with a 100 percent graduation rate for both basketball programs.
- The **Blue Raiders men's basketball team** earned its second invitation to the Big Dance in the past four years.
- **MTSU** also became only the second school in C-USA history to have its men's and women's basketball teams win the championship in the same year.
- **MTSU** was one of just 10 Division I programs nationally to have both its men's and women's basketball teams selected for the NCAA tournament and have its football squad play in a bowl game in the same academic year. On Christmas Eve 2015, the Blue Raider football team capped off another strong season with a trip to Nassau in the Bahamas for the 2015 Popeyes Bahamas Bowl (the only college football bowl game played internationally).

Athletics continued from page 8

The Spartans were favored by oddsmakers to win the national title, and MTSU was a 16- to 17-point underdog going into the game. Seven other No. 15 teams had registered wins over No. 2 seeds, but none beat a No. 2 that was so highly regarded. All five Middle Tennessee starters scored in double figures: Reggie Upshaw (21 points), Giddy Potts (19), Darnell Harris (15), Perrin Buford (15) and Jaqawn Raymond (11).

In interviews beamed around the world in the afterglow of the upset, Coach Kermit Davis became an instant media superstar and talked about the importance that the win had in bolstering MTSU's brand. He anticipated that a lingering benefit of the victory would be increased visibility of the University not just on athletics, but also academics.

This group of student-athletes also put MTSU on an exclusive list of only seven programs to win an NCAA Tournament game AND boast an NCAA graduation rate of 100 percent. Additionally, the Blue Raiders have the most wins (123) of any Division I school in the state of Tennessee the past five years and have captured five conference titles in the past seven seasons.

Coach Davis likened athletics to being "the front porch of the University" and expressed hopes that the student-athlete success on the court "puts a brighter bulb over the door and shines some attention on our faculty, our academic programs, and our students."

The University's marketing team produced new TV commercials, secured air time during the NCAA second round across Tennessee, and upped advertising on social media and electronic billboards as part of MTSU's Take a Closer Look campaign. The latter encourages students and parents to dig deeper into the University's many academic attributes.

One of MTSU's newly added catch phrases became: "Our team may have

busted your tournament bracket. But that's not the first time Middle Tennessee State University exceeded expectations."

Coach Davis said he enjoys helping spread the True Blue message, including to students or parents who may not have ever considered MTSU. And I'm happy to say he recently signed an eight-year contract extension through 2023–24.

It's impossible to put a price tag on the extensive exposure on varied platforms that the historic NCAA victory brought to the University.

## Blue Raider Duo Makes Olympics

Former Middle Tennessee standout **John Ampomah** and current Blue Raider runner **Janet Amponsah** qualified for the Olympic games in Rio for their native Ghana after hitting the IAAF qualifying standards at the Soga-Nana Memorial meet.



**Ampomah**, who finished third at the 2016 NCAA Outdoor Championships

in the javelin and second at the Senior African Championships, broke his own national record with a throw of 83.09 meters (272-7) at Cape Coast Stadium. **Amponsah**, who is labeled the Ghanaian sprint queen, qualified in the 200 meters after running a personal-best 22.99 seconds. Amponsah was also the anchor leg in Ghana's 4 × 100-meter relay, which qualified for Rio in a national-record 42.67 seconds.

## Men's Track Finishes 18th in Nation

The Middle Tennessee men's outdoor track team capped off an exciting season by finishing 18th nationally. The Blue Raiders' 18th-place finish was the second-highest outdoor finish in program history behind the 2003 squad's 17th-place finish.

## Other Highlights

- During the Spring 2016 semester, 12 of 15 teams had a semester team grade point average of 3.0 or higher; 90 student-athletes made the Dean's List (3.5+ GPA), and 30 had a perfect 4.0. Overall, 174 of 304 student-athletes had a 3.0 or higher (57%).
- Outfielder **Blake Benefield**, named to the Louisville Slugger All-American Baseball team, became just the fifth freshman All-American in program history and 16th player overall.
- Former Blue Raider golfer **Kent Bulle** (2006–10), who plays on the Web.com Tour, saw a dream come true as he qualified for the 2016 U.S. Open at Oakmont. He is only the second Blue Raider to ever play in the U.S. Open.
- For the second consecutive year, Middle Tennessee men's tennis has notched the No. 25 recruiting class in the country, according to [tennisrecruiting.net](http://tennisrecruiting.net). **Max Rauch**, **Tom Moonen** and **Nicolas Buitrago** all join the team this fall.
- **Eliud Rutto** was named Conference USA Male Track Athlete of the Year, and fellow junior **Elizabeth Dadzie** was voted C-USA Field Athlete of the Year by conference coaches.
- The MTSU women's golf team won its second straight Conference USA tournament, and **Chris Adams** was tabbed the C-USA Coach of the Year.
- Pitcher **Kelci Cheney**, an Exercise Science major with a 3.74 GPA, was named to the 2016 Conference USA Softball All-Academic Team in May.
- The baseball team (3.329 GPA) and men's tennis team (3.385) each repeated as C-USA Sport Academic Award winners for 2015–16 year.
- The Tennessee Sports Writers Association voted MTSU guard **Brea Edwards** their women's basketball Player of the Year.
- Blue Raider soccer standout **Kelsey Brouwer** was MTSU's nominee for the NCAA Woman of the Year award. [mtsu.com](http://mtsu.com)



**Blake Benefield**



**Janet Amponsah**



**Atsu Nyamadi**



**John Ampomah**



**Kent Bulle**



**Eliud Rutto (out front)**



**Elizabeth Dadzie**



**Brea Edwards**



**Coach Chris Adams**



**Kelci Cheney**



**Kelsey Brouwer**



## Hollywood and the ESPYS

MTSU and our men's basketball team got even more exposure this summer when the NCAA Tournament upset was nominated for the ESPY Awards for Biggest Upset in the sports world.



Coach Kermit Davis and student-athletes represented us with red-carpet treatment in Los Angeles last month, rubbing elbows with some of the best athletes in the world at ESPN's annual awards show telecast nationally on ABC.

Although the Blue Raiders suffered their own upset to Holly Holm's UFC victory over Rhonda Rousey, it was yet another opportunity for regional and national attention on our athletics program and University.

## Model Program

The MTSU women's basketball team and Coach Rick Insell also earned their own headlines this March, continuing their impressive run as a powerhouse NCAA program. The Lady Raiders played in their 18th NCAA Tournament and won their second C-USA title in just their third season in the conference.

In his tenure as the coach of the Lady Raiders, Insell has won 20-plus games in each of his 11 seasons at the helm. His program's .770 winning percentage over the last five years ranks 15th nationally.

Insell is listed ninth on the Division I all-time winningest coach list (by percentage) at .766, ranking him seventh for Division I active coaches.

to meet future workforce demands. The six state universities that have historically operated under the auspices of the



Tennessee Board of Regents—a group that includes MTSU—were removed from direct control of the TBR. New governing boards specific to each university will now

be created or appointed and will have local control over institutional operations such as tuition rates.

On June 29, I attended an informative meeting of the FOCUS Act Transition Task Force, chaired by the governor, where he presented the timeline for implementation of the new governance structure. Here is a summary:

**Late September 2016:** The governor plans to announce his appointments to the six boards of trustees for the former TBR universities (MTSU, Austin Peay, East Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee State, and Tennessee Tech);

**Fall 2016:** Faculty Senates at MTSU and the five other former TBR universities will be asked to develop processes for selection of faculty members for the boards;

**October 2016:** MTSU and the five other former TBR institutions transmit Substantive Change Review proposals to our accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The body requires such notification when there is a significant modification or expansion in the nature and scope of an accredited institution;

**February–March 2017:** The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) presents and reviews appropriation, capital, and tuition recommendations to legislative committees.

Also, during this time period, THEC will work with the UT and TBR boards, as well as the six boards that are forming, to understand campus revenue needs and prepare binding tuition recommendations;

**Late March 2017:** The state will offer professional development sessions for the members of the six new boards of trustees;

**April 2017:** The six new boards of trustees will meet for the first time.

With regards to our internal preparation for the new governance changes, our campus FOCUS Act Implementation Transition Team, divisional working groups, and subcommittees have been busy reviewing MTSU policies and TBR policies and guidelines to determine which ones will be applicable subsequent to the transition to a local board of trustees. As revisions are proposed by the MTSU Transition Team, they will be posted on a new FOCUS Policy webpage. As with our current policy review process, policies reviewed by the FOCUS Act Transition Team will be emailed to the campus for review. This began July 15. The normal 30-day comment period will be expanded in order to provide faculty with adequate time for review upon their return to the campus. Thus, any policies put out for review prior to August 26 will have a comment deadline of September 25. Thereafter, it will revert to the standard 30-day period.

Finally, in early June, several MTSU administrators joined me in a meeting with Dr. Russ Deaton, THEC’s acting executive director. I was pleased to review THEC’s priorities during this transition and its commitment to a smooth changeover.

I believe this new proposal advanced by the governor and the corresponding new level of independence for the former TBR universities is truly bold and potentially transformational for MTSU. I look forward to learning and exploring the opportunities it could provide towards our mission of ensuring student success and providing more graduates for the state’s workforce. [MTSU](#)

### Proposed Rollout of Tennessee’s FOCUS Act



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**2016 LATE SEPTEMBER**

The governor plans to announce his appointments to the six boards of trustees for the former TBR universities (MTSU, Austin Peay, East Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee State, and Tennessee Tech);

**FALL**

Faculty Senates at MTSU and the five other former TBR universities will be asked to develop processes for selection of faculty members for the boards;

**OCTOBER**



The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) presents and reviews appropriation, capital, and tuition recommendations to legislative committees. Also, during this time period, THEC will work with the UT and TBR boards, as well as six boards that are forming, to understand campus revenue needs and prepare binding tuition recommendations;

**2017 FEBRUARY–MARCH**

**LATE MARCH**

**APRIL**

The six new boards of trustees will meet for the first time.

# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

**MTSU continues to be an exciting place to work and study, in large part because of so many renovations and the new buildings underway or opening for use. Here is a brief update on recent and current projects.**

## Master Plan

The MTSU Master Plan was reviewed and approved on Aug. 11 by the State Building Commission. The plan features proposed new facilities for Behavioral and Health Sciences, Math and Computer Science, Liberal Arts, the School of Music, Engineering Technology and Concrete Industry Management, and new student housing in the future, as well as other MTSU Athletics and support facilities. In addition, new parking decks are planned on the perimeter of campus along with infrastructure improvements to support the growth of the campus.

## Academic Building for the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences

On July 14, the State Building Commission approved full planning of the proposed Academic Building for the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences. Funding in the amount of \$1.6 million was approved to complete the design and bid-ready documents, and preparations are underway to begin the design work. Construction funding is listed as a priority project on TBR's capital outlay funding request and is anticipated to move up in priority in the next state legislative session.

## Davis Science and Wisner-Patten Science Renovations

Project completion is planned by late fall for this crucial renovation project, costing approximately \$20 million in state money already allocated during the construction of our new \$147 million Science Building project. A new connector between the Davis Science Building and Wisner-Patten Science Hall—the Strobel Lobby—will create

a central entrance for both buildings and will provide ADA accessibility within both buildings. Occupants of the buildings will include College of Basic and Applied Sciences new academic advising offices, Geosciences, and new Mechatronics Lab in Davis Science, and Physics, Anthropology, and Forensic Science in Wisner-Patten. Wisner-Patten building construction is approximately 95 percent complete, and Davis Science is approximately 85 percent complete. Equipment and furnishings will be installed through the end of the summer and fall, and the new and returning occupants will move in late fall and over the holiday break before the spring 2017 semester.

## Capital Maintenance

A five-year project to provide an underground electric distribution system is now installed throughout the campus, and the long-range project is substantially complete. The improved system created an additional electrical feed into the campus, removed overhead lines, and installed the electrical distribution in underground conduit duct banks. With the addition of a second Murfreesboro Electric Department substation, the campus is well prepared for current loads as well as future growth, and the system protects the grid from weather-related problems. Major maintenance projects to replace major steam and condensate lines, upgrades of elevators in Corlew, and replacement of an old chiller giving full chilling capacity for the campus all were completed this summer. New maintenance projects totaling \$6.73 million in state capital funding were approved by the State Building Commission for fiscal year 2016–17. These projects include repairs to building exteriors, electrical equipment replacements and upgrades, Saunders Fine Arts HVAC connection to the Central Plant and window replacements, boiler replacements, and energy controls improvements.

## Miller Education Center Renovation

The renovation of the Miller Education Center (MEC), formerly the Bell Street Center, opened for the start of last semester. The center is an approximately two-minute drive from the edge of campus, located at the intersection of Greenland Drive, Highland Avenue, and Bell Street. New occupants include the Jennings A. Jones College of Business Center for Executive Education, the University



**Miller Education Center**

College, the Center for Counseling and Psychological Services, and the Center for Chinese Music and Culture. The Chinese cultural center is the result of a \$1 million grant provided by Hanban Confucius Institute in Beijing, an organization sponsored by China's education ministry that oversees more than 440 institutes in 120 countries. In collaboration with our sister university, Hangzhou, the new center will promote music as a vital element in education and understanding of Chinese people and culture.



**Center for Chinese Music and Culture ribbon cutting.**

## ADVANCEMENT

The University's advancement efforts continue to bring valuable resources to campus, impacting all areas of the University.

On May 1, MTSU welcomed **Paula Mansfield** as the new director of partnerships and strategic planning.



**Paula Mansfield**

This newly established position will provide leadership in proactively securing and managing corporate and business relationships for the University, providing a central point of contact and access for key partners. Initially identified as a long-term institutional need during our Positioning for the Future initiative, the director of partnerships and strategic planning will seek to foster mutually beneficial relationships with the area's leading employers by enhancing employment and experiential learning opportunities for our students, marketing our research capabilities, and identifying and pursuing workforce educational needs and programs.

Earlier this year, I was proud to make the announcement that the University had raised more than \$105

million in the Centennial Campaign, surpassing the \$80 million goal set when the effort was announced in

2012. In fact, the \$105,465,308 raised during the campaign, which concluded Dec. 31, 2015, represents the largest fundraising effort in University history. The fact that we met—and exceeded—our goal speaks to the commitment of the campaign's volunteer leadership, the passion of our alumni, and the vision we set forward for the future of our great University.

Gov. Haslam praised the University in video remarks played at the February announcement, noting that the momentum from this campaign will guarantee the continued growth

and success for MTSU and help assure that MTSU will continue to prosper as a nationally acclaimed, comprehensive university.

In all, the \$105 million was the result of more than 111,000 separate gifts from 23,276 different donors.

YOUR GIFT  
*true*  
**IMPACT**



**Delivering a speech at the conclusion of our \$105 million Centennial Campaign earlier this year.**



**Campaign co-chair Pam Wright.**



**Vice President for University Advancement Joe Bales.**



# GRADUATE STUDIES UPDATE

MTSU is continuing to evolve into a powerhouse in graduate education and a burgeoning research institution with the promise of significant results now and in the near future.

At the Spring 2016 commencement, in a first-ever special graduation ceremony for graduate students, 349 students were presented with graduate degrees, including 316 master's candidates, 16 education-specialist degree candidates, and 17 doctoral candidates. Four graduate students also received graduate certificates. Paired with that, we also witnessed an increase in the number of students accepted into graduate programs for spring 2016.

The College of Graduate Studies experienced several other significant successes in the past year. Here are just a few examples.

- Collectively, our doctoral programs graduated a record number in summer 2016 with 35 graduates. Ten of these are our first Ed.D. graduates in Assessment, Learning, and School Improvement.
- The success of the Ph.D. program in English is evidenced by the fact that 12 recent graduates are all employed in faculty positions.

- We have a Fulbright Scholar entering the Recording Arts and Technologies M.F.A. program.
- M.S. in Professional Science programs continue to be considered a national model of how to successfully create and operate such a program (we achieved national recognition and a successful external review in 2016).
- We are building upon the success of Computer and Information Systems, Computer Science, Computational Science, and the M.S. in professional Science programs in general, working on the creation of a new Data Science concentration for the Professional Science M.S. to fill the growing need for computer and information science skills in the middle Tennessee area.
- We are experiencing a resurgence in the creation of Education cohorts throughout middle Tennessee (five to nine new cohorts in development).
- Our Regional Scholars program is already impacting enrollment, with more than 30 new eligible out-of-state students within 250 miles of the MTSU campus enrolled in graduate studies.

*True Blue!*



*Images captured at recent graduate commencement ceremonies in Murphy Center on the campus of MTSU.*

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**MTSU has strengthened its international initiatives both on campus and around the world. Those efforts boost student success through creating opportunities for travel, exposure to culture, and research opportunities.**

Our most recent international outreach has included:

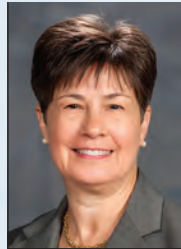
- For the second consecutive year MTSU professors taught at our partner university in China, Guangxi University (Nanning, China), in our support of the MTSU-GXU established 2+2 program. The faculty included Dr. Raholanda White (Marketing), who spent 2015 in Nanning and was invited back; Dr. Thomas Tang (Management); and Professor Lara Daniel (Accounting).



**Raholanda White**



**Thomas Tang**



**Lara Daniel**

- MTSU faculty led a record number 24 MTSU signature programs during the 2015–16 academic year including many new, first-year programs—one in Africa, Dr. Aliou Ly's History in Senegal, and one in the Middle East, Professor Ayaz Amed's Concrete Industry Management in the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. Additional first-year programs include Dr. Priya Ananth's MTSU in Japan, Dr. Lauren Rudd's Fashion in Italy, Dr. Sarah Bergemann and Dr. Vincent Cobb's Tropical Biology in Costa Rica, Dr. Richard Pace's Archaeological Field School in the Brazilian Amazon, Dr. Mark Doyle's MTSU in Scotland, Dr. Guangping Zheng and Dr. Kim Sokoya's International Management in China, Dr. John Bodle's Advertising, Public Relations and Tourism in Mexico, and Dr. James Chaney and Dr. Steve Morrison's Cuba in the 21st Century. These were offered in addition to longstanding MTSU signature programs in Argentina, Belize, Canada, Finland, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Mexico Singapore, Taiwan, and Vietnam.

### Strengthening Ties

My personal 2016 travels to China resulted in several important new agreements and exchanges.

As a result of my May 2016 trip:

- Hangzhou Normal University, already partners in the operation of MTSU's Confucius Institute, agreed to send graduate students to work at MTSU's new Center for Chinese Music and Culture. HNU faculty members will also regularly visit Murfreesboro to perform in Chinese

music ensembles organized by the center. HNU's Alibaba Business College and MTSU's Jones College of Business forged an exchange agreement.


- Plans were made for future student exchanges and joint faculty research efforts with Zhejiang University of Science and Technology that would boost international enrollment on the Murfreesboro campus.
- MTSU's research of traditional Chinese herbal remedies in modern medicine took center stage May 16 at an international conference in China where I was among the keynote speakers at the International Congress on Ethnopharmacology in Yulin.
- Guangxi University agreed to send 260 students to study at MTSU, almost doubling the goal set two years ago.

Next, my summer 2016 China trip was the continuation of a unique educational exchange organized by MTSU wherein several Rutherford County schoolchildren, parents, and teachers (28 in all) were welcomed to China for two weeks to visit classrooms, participate in enrichment activities, and go with Chinese families for home visits as part of the reciprocal exchange with Dongcheng Education Group of Hangzhou Normal University. Dongcheng oversees a network of magnet-style schools in Hangzhou. It is the third such trip led by my wife, retired Murfreesboro City Schools teacher Elizabeth McPhee, and me. Rutherford students visited China in 2012 and 2014, and Dongcheng students came to Murfreesboro in 2013 and 2015. During this trip, Elizabeth, aided by teachers in the delegation, conducted a joint class for Chinese and American students, then hosted a workshop for Chinese teachers. While there are many other cultural-exchange programs between nations, I think this program is one of the most unique and one of the most successful in the world.



**Speaking May 2016 at the 16th International Congress on Ethnopharmacology in Yulin, China.**





Nissan Smyrna plant manager Tim Fallon oversees three shifts (1,100 people) at the largest auto body assembly plant in the Americas. He credits his MBA from MTSU with sharpening his business acumen and opening doors in his career.

## ARE YOU READY FOR A LEADERSHIP ROLE?

An MTSU graduate degree can help. Below are three popular options.

### MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[MTSU.EDU/MBA](https://www.mtsu.edu/mba)

MTSU's Flex MBA allows you to **finish in 12 months** and offers a 100 percent online option. Network with business leaders, and attend career and professional development seminars. Global study abroad and accelerated cohort opportunities.

### MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

[MTSU.EDU/MPS](https://www.mtsu.edu/mps)

Designed for **working professionals**, this 33-hour graduate degree combines the social sciences and the professions and is delivered completely online. Concentrations available in Strategic Leadership, Human Resources Leadership, Training and Development.

### MASTER OF ARTS IN LIBERAL ARTS

[MTSU.EDU/MALA](https://www.mtsu.edu/mala)

This is a **30-hour customizable graduate degree** built around your goals and interests. Top-quality professors provide inspiring instruction. Enhance your writing and critical thinking skills. No GRE required.

0716-3065 / Middle Tennessee State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability. See our full policy at [www.mtsu.edu/titleix](http://www.mtsu.edu/titleix).

**MIDDLE  
TENNESSEE**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

I AM *true* **BLUE**

# PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

## Middle Tennessee Boulevard Widening

The Department of Transportation's ongoing construction project to widen and improve Middle Tennessee Boulevard is having a significant impact on the west side of campus.

The section of Middle Tennessee Boulevard along the campus edge, between East Main and Greenland Drive, is under construction to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety. The roadway will be a divided four-lane street with landscaped median and dedicated turn lanes, improved pedestrian walks and crossings, bike lanes, improved lighting, additional signalized crossings at Lytle and Division, and new underground utilities. Additional enhancements to the roadway will include campus monument entry walls and signage, pedestrian and vehicular improvements to the Faulkinberry intersection, and a new drop-off drive at Murphy Center.

Utility work is now progressing along the northbound lanes adjacent to the President's Residence and along the southbound lanes from Lytle Street to Greenland Drive. Work will remain focused along the southbound lanes until the summer of 2017, when work along northbound lanes adjacent to campus will begin. The 30-month construction duration is expected to be completed in fall of 2018.

Pedestrian safety is a paramount concern of the project team, and pedestrians crossing the road are encouraged to exercise extreme caution through the course of the entire construction period.

## Other Parking and Transportation Projects

The current phase of the Parking and Transportation project includes paving of MTSU Boulevard from Normal Way to Champion's Way, as well as the upgrading of the Tennessee Livestock Center parking lot. The paving of MTSU Boulevard is complete, and the street is in use. The Livestock parking lot was reconfigured and paved for better vehicular and pedestrian circulation, and is ready for the start of the fall semester. The lot was regraded to eliminate the water buildup on the south end, new base stone was installed, and new storm water drainage piping was installed. New lights fixtures are installed for better nighttime visibility in the area.

Ongoing Parking and Transportation projects include walkway improvements connecting from the Livestock Lot and from Blue Raider Drive to the south side of the Media and Honors buildings. We will also add walkways and lighting on the north side of Alumni Drive.



***The Department of Transportation's ongoing construction project to widen and improve Middle Tennessee Boulevard is having a significant impact on the west side of campus.***

# STUDENT LIFE

I often state that college life is more than just books and classrooms. The formula for student success involves more than just ensuring students make it to class, too.

We know that the first six weeks of the semester are critically important for student success. Students need to connect academically in the classroom, and they need to connect socially out-of-the-classroom in order to feel like they belong at MTSU. That's why all of our students, and especially freshmen, are being asked to attend a variety of events and activities by Sept. 8. Designated events are intended to cater to a variety of interests, and include such activities as Fight Song, Day of Service, It's About Time Academic Seminar, Crash the Commons, and Rep Your Roots Diversity Program.

During the 10 first-year CUSTOMS orientation sessions that have happened this summer, the staff from the Division of Student Affairs talked with students



about the Connection Point program and the importance of attending at least eight events by early September. In addition to meeting new people and having a great time, students will receive a nautically-inspired button designed especially for each event and the opportunity to win some great prizes.

Students are being asked to bring their MTSU Blue ID with them to the activities/events so Student Affairs staff can card swipe them in to the event. This will allow the staff to monitor our students' involvement to ensure they are connecting with our community. Students who don't seem to be successfully



connecting will be contacted by the staff to determine how we can assist them to become more involved in the campus. You can learn more about the Connection Point program and events at [mtsu.edu/connection](http://mtsu.edu/connection).



Our students, faculty, and staff also gathered as an academic community on Sunday, August 21, 2016, to mark MTSU's 16th University Convocation in Murphy Center.

Convocation keynote speaker was Rajiv Chandrasekaran, who along with Howard Schultz co-authored this year's reading selection, *For Love of Country: What Our Veterans Can Teach Us About Citizenship, Heroism, and Sacrifice*. These powerful, unforgettable stories demonstrate just how indebted we are to those who protect us and what they have to offer our nation when their military service is done. They recount how veterans make vital contributions upon returning home, drawing on their leadership skills and commitment to service: former soldiers who aid residents in rebuilding after natural disasters; a former infantry officer who leaves the Pentagon to teach in an inner-city neighborhood; a retired general leading efforts to improve treatments for brain-injured troops; and the spouse of a severely injured soldier assisting families in similar positions.

The President's Picnic, on the lawn between the Kennon Sports Hall of Fame and Floyd Stadium, followed Convocation. Mr. Chandrasekaran signed copies of his book, and food and game day activities were available for all.



**CUSTOMS helps new undergraduates feel comfortable at the University, prepares them for MTSU's educational opportunities, and starts their integration into the intellectual, cultural, and social environment of the institution.**

Led by QEP Committee Chair Dr. Dianna Rust, development of this QEP over the past two years and the successful kickoff required the teamwork, cooperation and commitment of a wide variety of faculty, staff, students, and University supporters throughout the community.



**Dianna Rust**

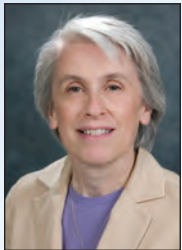
MT Engage builds on our previous QEP, the highly successful Experiential Learning Program, and complements our overall



Academic Master Plan and Quest for Student Success initiative by engaging our students from the moment they step foot on our campus and providing them

with the tools they need to not only be successful graduates, but also be successful citizens of their communities.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Rust as well as her Sub-Committee Chairs,



**Mary Hoffschwelle**

Michelle Boyer-Pennington (Psychology), Jason Vance (Walker Library), and Lara Daniel (Jones College of Business) for their leadership in formulating our next QEP and coordinating an impressive kickoff presentation, and let

us recognize the new director of MT Engage, Dr. Mary Hoffschwelle.

The commission makes its decision in December 2016.

## Red, White, and True Blue

MTSU officially named its new Veterans and Military Family Center for legendary country music entertainer Charlie Daniels and his wife, Hazel. I surprised the



**Charlie and Hazel Daniels**

couple with the honor at a private dinner at the President's Residence in April, where the music icon had presented an additional \$70,000 gift to the center from The Journey Home Project. The donation raised the total amount from the veterans support organization, founded by Daniels and his longtime manager David Corlew, to \$120,000. Our 2,600-square-foot center is the largest and most comprehensive veterans service center located on a Tennessee university campus.

## JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

The Jennings A. Jones College of Business at MTSU has maintained its business and accounting accreditations by AACSB International—the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Founded in 1916, AACSB International is the longest-serving global accrediting body for business schools that offer undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degrees in business and accounting. The five-year extension of accreditation means that Jones College will be reviewed again in early 2021. AACSB accreditation is the hallmark of excellence in business education and has been earned by less than 5 percent

of the world's business programs. Today, there are 761 business schools in 52 countries and territories that maintain AACSB business school accreditation. There are only 183 institutions worldwide, including our Jones College, that maintain an additional specialized AACSB accreditation for their accounting programs.

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

MTSU faculty and administrators worked for more than 40 years to gain approval for a doctoral program in the College of Education focused on the improvement of K–12 teaching and learning.

After many long hours and several iterations, TBR and THEC approved the first and only education doctorate in Assessment, Learning, and School Improvement during the summer of 2012. As a result of that vision and execution, the College of Education very proudly graduated in August 2016 its first 10 graduates from the new doctoral program. Education professionals from across the state and beyond have been making the commute to MTSU to take advantage of the program, which is unlike any other in the country. It has specifically attracted educators seeking to enhance their knowledge and careers while using what they've learned to make an immediate difference in the lives of K–12 students. Students and program faculty in our first cohort were engaged in



**College of Education**

**GUARANTEED ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS**

**DEADLINE DEC. 1**

[www.mtsu.edu/apply](http://www.mtsu.edu/apply)

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY**

AA/EEO/disability/vet

more than 150 projects that directly improved teaching and learning in schools and school districts across Tennessee. Their dissertation research focused on every aspect of the three pillars of the program, Assessment, Learning, and School Improvement. Many of these students have already received accolades locally and nationally through their research and presentations.

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

The U.S. Fulbright Committee awarded College of Liberal Arts student Dalton Lauderback (Global Studies and Political Science) a Fulbright scholarship. The U.S. State Department sponsors the Fulbright program to increase mutual understanding between people in the United States and other countries by placing U.S. students in other nations to teach or conduct research for eight to 10 months. Lauderback is the 14th MTSU student in the past seven years to be awarded a Fulbright fellowship. In 2012, MTSU was named a top-producing Fulbright institution by *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (MTSU was the only Tennessee institution on the list).



***Congratulating Dalton Lauderback on his Fulbright Scholarship.***

## COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

MTSU students are the beneficiaries of a new \$700,000 Department of Aerospace Flight Simulator Building dedicated May 5 at Murfreesboro Municipal Airport. The 3,600-gross-square-foot metal facility houses four flight simulators at MTSU's Flight Operations Center. Other features include a classroom, six briefing rooms, and infrastructure and support spaces. The simulators are used by all Professional Pilot students, from

early training through their transition to turbine-powered aircraft. Students began utilizing the new building in January when spring semester classes got underway.



***Flight simulator***

During MTSU's May 2016 commencement ceremony, 13 seniors became the first MTSU Mechatronics graduating class. Mechatronics is a multi-disciplinary field of engineering that includes a combination of systems—mechanical, electrical, telecommunications, control, and computer engineering. The program is based on a three-level international certification program created by Siemens, a German engineering company.

## WALKER LIBRARY

The James E. Walker Library (JEWL) sees the equivalent of the entire student body every three or four days, with an additional 1.1 million uses of the website. Each year, the library's instruction program teaches more than 300 classes to better prepare students for college-level research and use of information.

The most recent advances by the library include receipt of a \$28,000 grant from the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area to expand our digital humanities initiative in collaboration with the Center for Historic Preservation. This project will disseminate MTSU scholarship in a digital collection called *Trials, Triumphs and Transformations*.

The library continues to make MTSU scholarship more visible through its Digital Initiatives. Since the launch of JEWLScholar, the library's institutional repository, more than 4,300 articles and reports—including all MTSU dissertations—have been collected.

The library has also established and launched the MakerSpace as an expansion of the Digital Media Studio. This will be an interactive learning space for student to bring computer-aided design to reality and even augmented reality.

*continued on page 22* ▶

**Ascend**  
Federal Credit Union

**Peter Pan**

November 3–6, 2016

**MTSU**  
**Theatre and Dance**  
**2016–17**

## UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

MTSU, working with leading tire and rubber company Bridgestone Americas, has created an innovative leadership development program to



**Christine Karbowiak, chief administrative officer, Bridgestone Americas**

help people already in the workforce enhance their skills and even earn a degree. Coordinated through MTSU's University College, the new Applied Leadership certificate program launches this fall, with Bridgestone employees expected among the inaugural group of students. The program offers adult learners already on the job a chance to earn additional job certifications—and even a bachelor's degree—through online courses and short, intensive on-campus instruction in leadership theory, communication and problem-solving, leading teams, and leading people and managing change. Mike Krause, THEC executive director and former director of Drive to 55, Gov. Bill Haslam's initiative which seeks to equip 55 percent of Tennesseans with a college degree or certificate by 2025, hailed the agreement as "a model program for the rest of the state to emulate." MTSU boasts the largest adult degree program in the state.

## COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Two major financial gifts provided in the past year promise to transform the lives of students studying behavioral and health sciences at MTSU.

Alumna Pam Wright ('73) jumpstarted the college careers of 11 MTSU students when she announced a \$100,000 donation to the College of Behavioral



**Distinguished alumna Pam Wright ('73)**

and Health Sciences in October 2015. The money will fund the Wright Travel Leadership Scholarship Program, an endeavor designed to motivate students through strategic coaching, formal mentoring opportunities, and pathways to scholarship money upon completion of specific criteria. The other, from real estate developer John Floyd of Ole South Builders, which was facilitated by Health and Human Performance professor Colby Jubenville, will fund the new Center for Student Success and Coaching at MTSU to help students make the leap from college to career.

Tennessee Highway Patrol extended its contract for a promotion process for sergeants and lieutenants through the Center for Organizational and Human Resources Effectiveness (COHRE), housed in CBHS, to include a selection process for cadets. To date, 12 graduate students have gained valuable applied experiences through the contract. The contract is for five years.

MTSU's School of Nursing recently received a \$15,000 Tennessee Promise of Nursing Grant Award for its project, Perioperative Internship for Graduate Baccalaureate Prepared Nurses. Funding for this program was contributed by several hospitals and health care agencies in Tennessee, as well as Johnson & Johnson and other national companies with an interest in supporting nursing education.



**Carter Smith**

Criminal Justice professor Carter F. Smith, who has studied gangs in the military for years,

has been nominated for a prestigious Frederic Milton Thrasher Award, established by the *Journal of Gang Research*, the official publication of the National Gang Crime Research Center in Chicago. The Thrasher Award is named in honor of Frederic Milton Thrasher, the 1927 author of the classic study of Chicago gangs, who generated the first social scientific analysis of gangs. Thrasher Awards are given to those who have made outstanding contributions in research, scholarship, service, leadership, and other accomplishments in dealing with the gang problem. Smith's 22-year Army career included a stint as criminal intelligence and anti-terrorism program Manager, chief of the gang suppression team, detachment sergeant, and special agent-in-charge for the U.S. Army Criminal Investigations Command (CID).

## COLLEGE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

MTSU's College of Media and Entertainment was named one of the top 30 programs of its kind in the United States via a survey by a popular news industry trade publication, Crain Communications' *NewsPro* magazine. MTSU was the only Tennessee university included on the list. The survey polled members of the Radio Television Digital News Association in November 2015 regarding their views on which schools do the best job of preparing students to work in the digital world.

The Commercial Songwriting program took center stage at ASCAP's private showcase for local music publishers. Publishing companies Sony/ATV, Warner Chapel, BMG, Sea-Gayle Music, Creative Nation, and Round Hill Music were on hand to listen to performances by songwriting students Nick Carpenter, Zach Russell, Kyle Crownover, and the group Maybe April, which includes MTSU's Katy Bishop and Kristen Castro along with Alaina Stacy. The Department of Recording Industry's Commercial Songwriting program is led by professor and hit songwriter Odie Blackmon.

Year three of MTSU's partnership with Bonnaroo again provided students

with a uniquely immersive experience that can't be found in any on-campus classroom. About 40 CME students produced multimedia content from the 2016 Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival, which featured artists including Pearl Jam, Miguel, and Chris Stapleton. The relationship provides the festival with quality production and content, while students gain the types of hands-on experiences that boost confidence and resumés.

MTSU's Department of Recording Industry is once again on an international list of acclaimed music industry schools touted by *The Hollywood Reporter*. The list also includes Juilliard, Berklee, the Seoul Institute for the Arts, and the Conservatoire de Paris. The department—plus its music business program—is No. 17 on the magazine's Top 25 Music Schools 2015 in the Dec. 2 edition.



MTSU students received 37 awards and two honorable mentions at the 2016 Tennessee Associated Press Broadcast and Media Editors College Contest on April 9. Held at the John Seigenthaler First Amendment Center in Nashville, the contest recognizes the best work in college journalism in the state of Tennessee. *Sidelines*, the college's student-run news outlet, won Best College Website despite stiff competition from Belmont, Vanderbilt and Lipscomb universities. Student reporter Erin Thomas walked away with two awards, one for Best Radio Newscast for her *Evening Drive* program and the other for Best Use of Sound for a Jazz Work-shop for WMOT, the college's NPR-affiliated radio station. Jackson Jones won Best Television Reporter for his work "Growing Fears" on the student-run television station MT10. [MTSU](http://www.mtsu.edu)



**About 40 CME students produced multimedia content from the 2016 Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival.**

## HONORS COLLEGE

- ★ 2015–16 marked the seventh consecutive year that one or more MTSU students were offered Fulbright Fellowships to teach or study abroad.
- ★ 2015–16 marked the sixth consecutive year that one or more MTSU students has received either a Goldwater Fellowship or a Goldwater Honorable Mention for excellence in sciences.
- ★ 2015–16 marked the fourth consecutive year in which an MTSU student has won one of 42 national Phi Kappa Phi Scholarships of \$5,000.
- ★ 2015–16 marked the third consecutive year in which an MTSU student has won a state-wide Harold Love Award for public service.
- ★ In 2015–16, a record number of 62 undergraduate students completed honors theses.

From May to June 2016, MTSU's Collin McDonald, an Aerospace Maintenance Management major from Carthage, took a cross-country flight in a single-engine plane that replicated the flight that Cal Rodgers first took from Long Island, New York to Long Beach, California, in 1911.



**Collin McDonald**

“Art teaches nothing,  
except the significance of life.”

—HENRY MILLER



PROUDLY PRESENTS

## MTSU Arts

ART • DANCE • MUSIC • THEATRE

MTSU Arts, presented by Ascend Federal Credit Union, ended the spring semester with the production of *West Side Story*, featuring performances by faculty and students in the Department of Theatre and Dance and the School of Music.

In addition, community awareness and support continues to expand as a total of more than \$22,000 was raised for the Art, Dance, Music, and Theatre disciplines within the college. The MTSU community can further support students in the performing and fine arts departments by joining the MTSU Arts Patron Society, which offers various opportunities to enjoy special events, exhibits and performances. To find out how to join, visit [mtsuarts.com](http://mtsuarts.com) and click on the Patron Society tab at left.

MTSU Arts will feature a variety of great shows, exhibits, and performances from our performing and fine arts departments this fall.

- **Sept. 11, 3 p.m.:** The School of Music presents the Keyboard Artist Series featuring MTSU faculty member Adam Clark and other distinguished guest artists in Wright Music’s Hinton Hall.
- **Sept. 15–Oct. 6:** The Todd Art Gallery presents *Politics, Persuasion, and Propaganda: Influence by Design*. Opening reception, Sept. 14, 5–7 p.m.
- **Nov. 3–5, 7:30 p.m.,** and **Nov. 6, 2 p.m.:** MTSU Theatre presents *Peter Pan* in Boutwell Dramatic Art’s Tucker Theatre.
- **Nov. 17–19, 7:30 p.m.:** MTSU Dance presents the Fall Dance Concert in Tucker Theatre.
- **Dec. 1, 7 p.m.:** *Jays of the Season* in Boutwell Dramatic Art’s Tucker Theatre starts off the holiday season with family-friendly performances by students and faculty. Sing along to some of your favorite songs.

For a full list of upcoming MTSU Arts shows, exhibits, and performances, visit the MTSU Arts calendar at [mtsuarts.com](http://mtsuarts.com).



Adam Clark

### Sept. 11 at 3 p.m.

The School of Music presents the Keyboard Artist Series featuring MTSU faculty member Adam Clark and other distinguished guest artists in Wright Music’s Hinton Hall.

**WALKING IN**  
The Legacy of Uncle Dave Macon  
**SUNLIGHT**  
September 27–30, 2016

Ascend Federal Credit Union PROUDLY PRESENTS  
MTSU Arts ART • DANCE • MUSIC • THEATRE  
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
I AM true BLUE

## The Bottom Line

Recently, graduates of the Department of Accounting in Jennings A. Jones College of Business ranked second highest in Tennessee in passing rates on the CPA exam, ahead of Vanderbilt and Belmont.

0716-3102 / Middle Tennessee State University does not discriminate against students, employees, or applicants for admission or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, age, status as a protected veteran, genetic information, or against any other legally protected class with respect to all employment, programs, and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries related to nondiscrimination policies for MTSU: Assistant to the President for Institutional Equity and Compliance. For additional information about these policies and the procedures for resolution, please contact Marian V. Wilson, Assistant to the President and Title IX Coordinator, Institutional Equity and Compliance, Middle Tennessee State University, Cope Administration Building 116, 1301 East Main Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37132; [Marian.Wilson@mtsu.edu](mailto:Marian.Wilson@mtsu.edu); or call (615) 898-2185. MTSU’s policy on nondiscrimination can be found at <http://www.mtsu.edu/titleix/>.