

Dr. Sidney A. McPhee

August 24, 2012



WELCOME TO THE FALL 2012 SEMESTER!

I always look forward to providing you with an update on our 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 believe these are exciting and very important times for Middle Tennessee State University.

Not only because we have celebrated an important

milestone – our 100th anniversary.

Not only because we have opened wonderful new facilities that will enable us to better serve our students—and the entire state.

And not only because we have been and continue to be careful stewards of the University's resources.

But also because we enter our second century with a clear mission: to increase

our already considerable commitment to student success and, in doing so, help provide even more college graduates for Tennessee's workforce.

As always, I appreciate the good work each of you do as employees of this fine university. I hope you have a productive new academic year. And please feel free to send me comments or feedback on this edition of my newsletter.

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I AM *true*
BLUE

CENTENNIAL RECAP



For many in the University community, the past year will be remembered as one of the most important in our history. We celebrated **100 years of exceptional service to the state of Tennessee**. When we began our festivities last September with the sold-out Blue Tie Gala, few could have imagined that the year would become such an exciting and reflective time. Highlights show the variety of celebratory, educational, and community-building events marking this special year:

- **“A Centennial Homecoming: Look to the Future, Remember the Past”** was an outstanding celebration of our traditions of excellence and demonstration of True Blue pride.
- An unusually thought-provoking group of **speakers** visited MTSU during the centennial year, including retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Oscar-winning actress Marlee Matlin, noted author and war correspondent Sebastian Junger, and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Leonard Pitts.

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Student Success

As we embark on our second century, we are well positioned to build on our success and cement our reputation as *Tennessee's Best* comprehensive university.

But there is much more to do if we are to reach our full potential.

As you well know, the state's funding formula for universities has changed. With the passage of the Complete College Tennessee Act, our state appropriation is now based on retention and graduation rates, not enrollment.

This change has prompted MTSU, as well as all of the state's public institutions of higher education, to rethink our operations and structure.

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Student Success *continued from page 1*

The funding formula makes it more important than ever for us to focus on attracting more students who are best equipped for college and are most likely to graduate.

And it becomes critical that we continue to develop effective support systems that will help all our students succeed.

It is also time for us to again take a strong, careful look at the size of our institution and to consider the following questions and issues:

- What should be our maximum enrollment?
- How does that number balance with our resources and standards?

Last academic year, I asked for the development of a plan that would allow for enrollment growth in a deliberate and economically viable way.

The Strategic Plan for Enrollment Management, currently in draft form, is now before the Faculty Senate and others for feedback.

It addresses several critical questions, among them:

- Should we slow the growth of our freshman class?
- Can we better target high-achievers by slightly raising academic standards for guaranteed undergraduate admission?
- Should we continue to increase the number of graduate students, who earn their diplomas more quickly and reliably than undergraduates?
- Should we continue to aggressively pursue increasing the enrollment of more international students, a high-achieving group, whose members generally complete their degrees on time?
- And should we continue to increase our recruitment efforts and scholarship dollars for transfer students, who have survived the so-called dropout years of early college?

In 1993, a noted scholar of higher education administration, Vincent Tinto, said universities must do more than recruit solid students—they must also build a culture that enables them to succeed.

Tinto put forward three very simple principles of “effective retention” and they are:

- Put student welfare ahead of other institutional goals. In other words, work first to take care of students and, most likely, most everything else will follow suit.
- Create and maintain retention tools and practices that help all students, not just some of them.
- AND build a sense of community and common values, which helps to build connection and belonging by students to the university.

IT BECOMES CRITICAL THAT WE CONTINUE TO DEVELOP EFFECTIVE SUPPORT SYSTEMS THAT WILL HELP ALL OUR STUDENTS SUCCEED.

I want to spend a minute on that third point—**building a sense of community and common values for the institution.**

A fascinating 2005 study by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities on best practices in student retention revealed several points that are worthy of reflection.

The successful universities profiled in the study worked to create a pervasive attitude that all students can succeed, reinforced by a wider culture of student engagement, on multiple levels.

They were not content to rest on past success.

Recently, we have initiated some programs to help improve student success on our campus. For example:

- We started an Academic Alert program, which allows faculty to communicate directly with students about classroom performance and follow up on concerns. Last year, more than 27,000 early alerts were entered in this digital system.
- We have assigned all incoming students with Academic Counselors, in addition to their standard academic advisors. While advisors change each time a student changes majors, the student’s Academic Counselor is the one person they can turn to for help—from enrollment through graduation—regardless of what they study.
 - AND...We are now deploying admissions advisors to major feeder community colleges in the region. Through this program, prospective transfer students have access—on their own campus—to MTSU staff through regularly maintained office hours at the community college.

These are just three of the many ideas that are in place or being developed that focus upon student success.

Through these and other retention efforts, we hope to improve student performance and scholarship and target resources to students when they most need them.

But there is so much more to do...

- If we sit on our hands and do nothing, we may fail to seize an opportunity that could define our second century.
- Students will remember those faculty and staff members who challenged them the most, not the least.
- They will remember the people who reached out, who connected with them.

That is why I ask **each of you** to remember that no matter what you do, as a member of the faculty, staff or administration, all of us have a responsibility for student success.

Together, we make student success possible at Middle Tennessee State University.

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Toward the end of our Centennial Celebration, we began to look to the future. In April, we held perhaps the most significant event of the year when we announced an \$80 million fundraising effort: the Centennial Campaign. This effort, the largest in the University's history, will help transform our institution, address strategic needs across all areas of our enterprise, and positively affect the entire MTSU family.

More importantly, the Centennial Campaign will ensure the University's place among the nation's top comprehensive universities, further raise our visibility nationally and internationally, and maintain MTSU's legacy and heritage as a center of higher education excellence for the future.

This campaign has four distinct priorities, remarkable in their own right and vital to our success as an institution:

Andrew W. "Woody" Miller and President McPhee



- maintaining an exceptional student body**
- assuring the highest quality faculty and staff**
- fostering an innovative learning environment**
- competing at the highest levels athletically**

The focus of each priority is to enhance the quality of education and assure the success of each of our students, faculty, and alumni—things that most directly affect the overall quality of the University. Already, alumni and friends are responding to the campaign. We already have more than \$55 million pledged, and because of our early success, the original campaign goal of \$61 million was increased to \$80 million.

The highlight of the campaign to date was the announcement in April of a \$10

million commitment from 1966 MTSU grad **Andrew W. "Woody" Miller**. It is the largest gift from an alumnus in the University's history. That tremendous pledge, coupled with the with more than \$8 million in private support raised last year (which once again exceeded our national peers by more than 40 percent), places us in a strong position moving forward. But there is much remaining to do if we are to truly fulfill our potential.

In last year's newsletter I wrote, "I hope you share my belief that development is not the sole responsibility of the Development Office." The initial and ongoing success of the Centennial Campaign is proof of that. **Gifts come to us because of the relationships we build with each and every member of the University community.**

NEW DEANS AND CHAIRS

We enter the new semester with new leadership in many of our academic units. I would like to welcome and thank our new deans and chairs.

NEW DEANS

Bonnie Allen, James E. Walker Library

Robert U. "Bud" Fischer Jr., College of Basic and Applied Sciences

Zeny Sarabia Panol, associate dean, College of Mass Communication (was interim)

NEW CHAIRS

James Beeby, chair, History

Lynn Boyd, chair, Biology

Kathleen Burriss, interim chair, Elementary and Special Education

William Crabtree, interim chair, Recording Industry

Ron Ferrara, interim chair, Aerospace

Chrisila Pettey, chair, Computer Science (was interim)

Greg Schmidt, interim chair, Psychology

G. Robert "Smitty" Smith Jr., chair, Accounting

Greg Van Patten, chair, Chemistry



**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY.

NEW STUDENT UNION BUILDING



The shiny new pearl of MTSU's campus is the \$65 million, nearly 211,000-square-foot new Student Union building. The new facility includes the following:

FIRST FLOOR

- a new campus bookstore
- six new food-service offerings
- a 640-seat food court and a 102-seat casual restaurant (two separate facilities)
- a game room
- a copy center (opening January 2013), lounge areas, and email check stations

SECOND FLOOR

- an 840-seat ballroom with a green room and two dressing rooms
- an 84-seat parliamentary room and 95-seat video theater
- a formal meeting and dining area
- a collaborative computer center
- two large, two medium, and three small conference rooms
- three small seminar rooms
- lounge spaces that include collaborative technology, email check stations, flat screen TVs, a fireplace, and seminar rooms

THIRD FLOOR

- offices for the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership, Student Organizations, Student Government, and Student Unions and Programming
- two small seminar rooms
- a television lounge and other lounge spaces that include collaborative technology

Here are some more highlights and additional information:

- The new facility has not been named for anyone; it will be called the MTSU Student Union.

- An official **grand opening celebration** is being planned for mid-September. More information will be coming about that event so you can plan to join us.
- As KUC offices move into the Student Union, other Student Affairs offices will relocate to the KUC. Veterans Affairs will move from Cope to KUC 124/128, and Student Support Services will move from Midgett to KUC 308. Judicial Affairs will move from KUC 128 to KUC 208. Counseling will expand from KUC 329 into KUC 326, and the Career Development Center will expand from KUC 328 into KUC 329.
- Dunkin' Donuts, Panda Express, and Popeye's will be the food service brands in the MTSU Student Union. There will also be a hot dog service; Mexican food; a place for soups, salads, and baked potatoes; a casual dining restaurant; and a Provisions on Demand (POD) store.

The KUC Grill will continue! In fact, all current food service venues (KUC, Cyber Café, JUB RaiderZone, and McCallie Dining Hall) will remain open and operating. MT Dining looks forward to serving you in all of its locations.

The building will be open
Monday–Thursday, 6 a.m. to midnight
Friday, 6 a.m. to 1 a.m.
Saturday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Sunday, noon to midnight

To reserve space in the MTSU Student Union, please contact Cynthia Stone at 898-2591 or Cynthia.Stone@mtsu.edu. Campus entities (students, departments, faculty, staff, etc.) will need to fill out an **Application for Use of Facilities** form. For most meeting rooms and small events in the MTSU Student Union, there is no charge for students and staff.

CENTENNIAL RECAP

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- Alumni Reunion weekend was launched in April and included a wide range of open houses and special presentations in our colleges.
- At the spring graduation ceremony, we celebrated the awarding of our 100,000th undergraduate degree.
- On the day before our 100th birthday, we dedicated our new Education Building.
- MTSU's heritage is deeply rooted in its founding as a Normal School established to teach teachers. How fitting that we began the year with the dedication of a state-of-the-art facility for the College of Education! Also exciting (and appropriate!) is the college's newest doctoral program, the first of its kind in Tennessee: the Doctor of Education degree in Assessment, Learning, and School Improvement. With the approval of this program, along with three new science Ph.D.'s, MTSU is becoming an emerging leader in graduate education in Tennessee.
- Also, I cannot omit from my account of our centennial year the groundbreaking in May for our \$147 million **Science Building**. This 250,000-square-foot facility, to be ready in time for the 2015 spring semester, represents one of the most significant investments made toward the enhancement of science and technology education in Tennessee. We are grateful to Gov. Bill Haslam, our local delegation in the Tennessee General Assembly, and all our friends and supporters who made this ambitious project a reality.

BUDGET

The final approved state budget included an additional higher education state-funding **reduction of 2.1 percent** and some enhancement funds to cover improvements under the THEC **Outcomes-based Funding Formula**. This combination of incremental increase and reduction resulted in only a small budget increase for MTSU.

The new budget for this fiscal year **included a 2.5 percent cost of living allowance (COLA)** salary increase for state employees. As in previous years, the state appropriation did not fully fund higher education's increase, and institutions were required to fund a portion of their salary increase.

The new budget also included **capital maintenance funds** totaling \$5,320,000 for MTSU in addition to the \$147 million for the new science building. Projects funded include Walker Library roof replacement, Murphy Center HVAC updates, Underground Electrical update phase 2, and water and sewer system updates.

Over the summer, TBR approved a **6.8 percent tuition increase** for MTSU. New funds from this increase will replace part of the reduced state appropriations, cover some inflationary cost, cover our portion of the state 2.5 percent salary increase, fund a TBR Business Intelligence Strategy, and provide money for new tenure track faculty positions.



At the spring graduation ceremony, we celebrated the awarding of our 100,000th undergraduate degree.

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION

MTSU is an exciting place to work and study in large part because so many renovations and new buildings are underway, taking shape, or opening for use! Here are some highlights of recent and current projects.

Jeff Hendrix Stadium Club.

Located between the 30-yard lines of Floyd Stadium, the new club features a climate-controlled lounge and more than 550 outdoor chair-back seats. The project, which was formally dedicated on Aug. 20, is a result of a \$1 million private donation from the estate of long-time MTSU supporter Jeff Hendrix.

Learning Resource Center (LRC) Renovation.

This \$7.2 million renovation project in the heart of campus will provide new offices, classrooms, and labs for the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences, primarily the Department of Human Sciences. The building will reopen in January 2013. (LRC 221 is scheduled to open in spring 2013.)

Parking Garages.

Two parking structures (one near the Holmes Building and one near the as-yet-unbuilt Student Services Building) are under construction. They will provide 990 parking spaces (a net gain of 887). A second-level bridge will connect the Student Services garage to and through Student Services, over Blue Raider Drive, and into the Student Union at the ballroom level. The total cost of the garages is \$23.5 million.

Student Services Building.

Located next to the MTSU Student Union, this \$16 million building is to be occupied in fall 2014. It will be a one-stop area for students to conduct University business (Admissions, Financial Aid, Advising, and Bursar's Office).

Science Building.

The 250,000-square-foot structure, next to Walker Library, will house 36 teaching labs; four classrooms (150-, 75-, 60-, and 50-seat); 12 research suites (physiology, organismal, molecular, synthetic, analytical); 85 offices; one research space for integrated life sciences; one research space for computation; a greenhouse; a vivarium; graduate student spaces; and informal learning spaces. The total project cost is \$147 million.

Conference Center.

Designed as a flexible meeting, seminar, or special event venue (with a seating capacity of 32 for a seminar, 96 for dining, and 160 for lectures), this \$1 million project is scheduled for completion in fall 2013.

Widening and Improvements to Middle Tennessee Boulevard.

Bike lanes, wider lanes, a landscaped median, and traffic-calming features for pedestrian safety at intersections.

Ongoing Parking and Transportation Enhancements.

The new entrance and signal at Greenland Drive and Blue Raider Drive is open and fully operational. Improvements along MTSU Boulevard through the core of campus have improved shuttle bus efficiency and pedestrian safety. Sidewalks have been widened, and ADA access has been improved. The new rotary supports efficient traffic flow at the new intersection at Blue Raider Drive and Lightning Way. The next phase of construction in this area is in design and slated to start this fall. Turn lanes at Champion Way will be widened; Lightning Way will be widened to accommodate shuttle buses and bike lanes; and the addition of a new rotary at the intersection of Lightning Way and Champion Way will improve traffic flow into and out of campus.

Campus Lighting Enhancements.

Phase 1, in which we retrofitted and replaced existing lights with newer-technology fixtures and converted high-pressure sodium lamps to metal halide, is complete. Nighttime visibility and general campus illumination has been improved for better security. The replacement fixtures use roof-mounted optics and "dark sky" features con-

sistent with recommended best practices in energy and environmental design and corresponding State of Tennessee Sustainable Design Guidelines. Phase 2, still to come, will add new light fixtures to improve lighting consistency for better visibility and improved security.

Keathley University Center Renovation.

This \$2.3 million project will include the development of a new facility in the former Phillips Bookstore space to consolidate testing centers and also improve the Post Office space. It will accommodate Disabled Student Services testing, University Studies assessments, University College Distance Learning for online courses and correspondence exams, and Testing Services (licensure, certifications, ACT, GRE, LSAT, senior major field tests, etc.)

ADA Renovations and Elevator at Alumni Memorial Gym.

This project provided full accessibility to the gym level and classes on the lower floor.

Women's Practice Soccer Field.

A new practice field at the corner of Greenland and Blue Raider Drive will replace the former field adjacent to the women's softball field (The old field will become a parking lot.) The new field will be

completed this summer and ready for play in late fall 2012.

Concrete Industry Building. This \$11.2 million proposed building is in the design phase.

Student Housing. House #4 on Greek Row has been renovated and is scheduled to open in August under Housing management and will be occupied by Chi Omega. They join the Global Learning Community, which will continue to occupy House #7. Two more houses, #2 and #6, will be renovated during the 2012–2013 academic year and turned over to Housing for occupancy during 2013–2014.

1. Jeff Hendrix Stadium Club
2. Campus Lighting Enhancements
3. The new entrance and signal at Greenland Drive and Blue Raider Drive
4. Improvements along MTSU Boulevard through the core of campus.



MIDDLE
TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY

I AM
true
BLUE

Coming Soon:
New light post banners

Enrollment Figures to Be Released Soon

The University will release its student population numbers, known as our head count, for the 2012 fall semester after Sept. 7. However, in our week-to-week assessment of enrollment trends, we have been trending flat to below last year's record head count.



ATHLETICS

Here are some sports statistics worth crowing about!

1. During the spring 2012 semester, 12 of 17 teams had a team grade point average of 3.0 or higher.
2. Overall, 149 of 293 student-athletes had a 3.0 or higher GPA (49%).
3. Women's soccer had the highest team GPA: 3.49. Men's tennis had the highest men's team GPA: 3.22.
4. MTSU was one of eight Sun Belt institutions to place all their sports teams above 925 on the latest Academic Progress Rate (APR) report, released June 20 by the NCAA.
5. The Blue Raiders' lowest APR score was 960, which was tops in the SBC. Twelve of MTSU's 17 sports were 975 or higher, and six topped 990.
6. Two Middle Tennessee athletic programs (football and men's golf) earned Public Recognition Awards from the NCAA for earning APR scores in the top 10 percent. Our football and men's golf programs were recognized for the second straight year, and football was one of just 12 FBS programs so honored.
7. MTSU won the Sun Belt Conference All-Sports Trophy again—the eighth time since joining the league in 2001 (2001, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012). The Blue Raiders have won the trophy four years in a row. Middle Tennessee became just the third school in Sun Belt history to win the trophy eight times, and no school has won the award more since the Blue Raiders joined the league.
8. Middle Tennessee won or shared four Sun Belt Conference championships during the 2011–12 campaign.
9. Under head football coach Rick Stockstill, the Blue Raiders have played 18 nationally televised games in six years, which leads the Sun Belt Conference.
10. Four Middle Tennessee coaches earned Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year honors (Kermit Davis, Rick Insell, Chris Adams, and Jimmy Borendame).
11. Middle Tennessee athletics had nine nationally televised events during the 2011–12 season, along with 14 regional broadcasts and another 15 shown on ESPN3.com.
12. Men's basketball won the SBC regular season championship and earned a No. 1 seed at the league tournament.
13. Blue Raider men's basketball earned a bid to the NIT, where they picked up wins over Marshall at home and on the road against Tennessee. MT drew over 10,000 for its home NIT quarterfinal game against Minnesota.
14. Women's basketball won the SBC regular season championship and earned a No. 1 seed at the league tournament after a 16–0 league record. The Lady Raiders earned an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament, advancing to the field for the fourth straight year.
15. Women's indoor track won the Sun Belt Conference Championship held at Murphy Center
16. Men's tennis won its second straight Sun Belt Conference Championship and earned a trip to the NCAA Tournament. Head coach Jimmy Borendame was voted SBC Coach of the Year.
17. Men's golf earned an at-large bid to the NCAA Regionals, making the elite field for the fifth straight year.
18. MTSU had four All-Americans in 2011–12.
19. Nineteen student-athletes earned First-Team All-SBC honors.
20. Eight student-athletes earned all-region recognition.
21. Head women's basketball coach Rick Insell was inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, and Chris Mas-saro, director of athletics, was elected Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame president.
22. I continued serving my second term as the Sun Belt conference's representative on the 18-member NCAA Division I board of directors.
23. Jim McGuire, 49, is only the third MTSU baseball coach in nearly 40 years. He spent 20 years as an MTSU assistant/associate head coach. He replaces Steve Peterson, the program's all-time winningest coach, who recently retired.
24. Jeff Breeden is the new Blue Raider head softball coach. He previously spent nine years at Murfreesboro's Riverdale High School, where he guided his team to the 2009 state championship and as high as a No. 4 national ranking during the 2011 season.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

MTSU HAS WORKED TO STRENGTHEN ITS INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES ON CAMPUS AND ABROAD. Our academic master plan calls upon us to provide these opportunities so our students can learn to live and work within a global network. During the past decade, we have increased our international undergraduate and graduate enrollment, expanded our study-abroad opportunities, developed faculty and student exchanges, and sought research collaborations with international partners. Those efforts have resulted in many benefits for our students, faculty, and staff as well as the middle Tennessee region.

There are many exciting developments occurring in our international outreach efforts that I want the campus community to be aware of.

The change in participation in study abroad

between 2010–2011 and 2011–2012 reflects a 14 percent increase and 32 percent increase, respectively, when nonacademic program participants are included.

Almost \$180,000 was awarded to 68 different faculty members—an average award of \$2,182—to **support internationalization efforts at MTSU**. Some faculty members received more than one award.

Ten students and two professors from MTSU went to Japan this summer to assist our sister school in Fukushima clean up and rebuild after last year's devastating earthquake and tsunami.

MTSU led a contingent of **Murfreesboro children and their parents to China** over the summer for a cultural exchange with sister schools Hangzhou Normal University in Hangzhou and Beijing.

The MTSU Schola Cantorum, led by conductor **Raphael Bundage**, performed at the Vatican, in Florence, and in Venice, and the MTSU

Wind Ensemble, conducted by **Reed Thomas**, presented concerts and seminars in Costa Rica, Panama, and China.

A seven-piece jazz combo led by director of jazz studies **Jamey Simmons** and a dance contingent headed by **Kim Nofsinger** presented concerts and seminars in Chinese cities, including Hangzhou and Beijing.

School of Music professor **Carol Nies** conducted a series of concerts and operas at the international Rome Festival in the Italian capital.

We established the **first international affiliate of MTSU's Alumni Association in Thailand**, home to about 500 of our graduates. Our alumni in Thailand have risen to become leaders of government and industry in that country, all the while holding on to their affection and ties to our University. More than 200 of our alums gathered in Bangkok to initiate the affiliate this spring and learn about what's new at MTSU.



THE CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

(CIMTSU) continues to expand its Chinese programming.

On-campus activities include daily Chinese classes, an after-school Chinese program, a day care center using Chinese programming, and a campus school Chinese program.

Off-campus activities include (among others) the Knox County Chinese program (where Radio Systems Corporation employees receive Chinese language and culture training) and the Bedford County Chinese program in a primary school.

Chinese performances to **enhance the campus cultural environment** have included the Hangzhou Normal University Performance Troupe and the Xiamen University Performance Troupe in 2010; the Binghamton University Performance Troupe in 2011; the Wubei University Performance Troupe in 2012; and the Confucius Institute New Year Celebration Performance in 2012. The Hangzhou Normal Troupe is scheduled to return in 2013.

The institute continues to help with **student exchanges** between Chinese universities and MTSU and arrange cultural visits to China.

Thirteen MTSU students have been sent to Chinese universities on Confucius Institute scholarships to study Chinese language and culture. One MTSU student received a teaching post in China on the recommendation of CIMTSU.

Six Chinese teachers have been sent to China to receive training in teaching Chinese (funded by Confucius Institute headquarters).

Several local educational institutions (including campus school) got a donation of **500 Chinese books** on the recommendation of CIMTSU.

In 2012, CIMTSU organized and cohosted **three delegations to visit China**: the MTSU Performance Delegation, the Tennessee Principal Delegation, and the High School Students Summer Camp. All three delegations were funded by Confucius Institute headquarters or Hangzhou Normal University.

I AM *true* BLUE™

WE ARE PLEDGED TO DEVELOP AND SUSTAIN A COMMUNITY DEVOTED TO LEARNING, GROWTH, AND SERVICE.

We hold these values dear, and there's a simple phrase that conveys them: "I am True Blue."

Each time we repeat these words, we express not only the ideals we wish to share with our students but also our commitment to the student-centered culture we are building on our campus.

New students at Convocation take the True Blue Pledge. It commits them to practice our core values of honesty and integrity; respect for diversity; engagement in the community; and committing to reason, not violence.

We have been overwhelmed by the passion and attachment that "True Blue" has received

on campus since it was introduced at last August's Convocation exercises.

The Student Government Association adopted it as its official motto and redesigned its seal to emphasize "True Blue." The pledge was incorporated into numerous student events, rallies, and other activities.

It has been well received not only by students and staff but also by our alumni and university supporters.

It was not intended to be a marketing slogan—and perhaps that is why it has resonated with some more deeply than just a phrase written for a billboard.

In short, **True Blue** stands for the very best of what Blue Raiders expect from one another. And it means that together, we are committed to the progress and success of our University.



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

PRIDE POINTS: MTSU programs, professors, and students continue to produce results and shine as examples of our University's impact on the region. Below are a few recent highlights.

Student Achievement

Jordon Dotson, an upcoming junior double-majoring in chemistry and , an upcoming junior double-majoring in chemistry and mathematics, received one of approximately 275 Goldwater Fellowships for the study of science. This is the second year that MTSU has produced one or more Goldwater Fellows.

A record three students were awarded Fulbright Fellowships: **Daniel Gouger** (Biochemistry) received a grant to do research in Spain; **Anna Yacavone** (Global Studies) will be teaching in Laos; and **Adam Emerson** (Psychology and International Relations) will teach in Russia. This is the third successive year that two or more MTSU students have received such awards.

For the second time in six years, MTSU's Land Development/Residential Building Construction Management Team in Engineering Technology won the **National Association of Homebuilders Student Chapters Residential Construction Management Competition**.

Jeff Braun (Recording Industry) won Gold (first place) in the International Audio Engineering Society student recording competition at the AES convention in New York.

The **Wind Ensemble** and conductor **Reed Thomas** released a commercial recording on Naxos, the world's largest classical record label, bringing international recognition to our student musicians.

Matthew Hibdon (History) and **Jennifer Johnson** (Psychology) received two of twenty national Foundation Awards from Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society.

Taylor Bray, **Jeff Braun**, and **Grant Hartford** (all Recording Industry) won the first-place Grand Prize in the Fantastic Scholastic recording competition sponsored by Shure Microphones.

May graduate **Erica Doyle** (Electronic Media Communication) won second place in the magazine category at the 33rd College Television Awards presented by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in California. Erica produced and directed *Koure TV*, for student TV station MT10.

A record **40 students** defended honors theses in the spring of 2012.

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ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

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Collage, a Journal of Creative Expression, was one of seven literary magazines in the nation to receive the prestigious **Gold Crown Award** from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

Sidelines staff members **Todd Barnes, Becca Andrews, Will Trusler, Courtney Polívková,** and **Amanda Haggard** won awards in the Southeast Journalism Conference Convention's Best of the South Competition.

Recent graduate **Amy Parks** (Recording Industry) was awarded a prestigious internship by the Emmy Awards Foundation to work on postproduction for the Emmys and to help with electronic media communication. May graduate **Troy Berry** was awarded first place for Best College TV Sportscast, Program, or Story by the Tennessee Associated Press Broadcasters for his MTSU golfer package.

MTSU's **mock trial team** placed third in one of two equal divisions at the National Championship Tournament in Minneapolis. Over 600 teams competed throughout the year for only 24 championship berths.

Faculty Achievement

Katie Foss (School of Journalism) received the prestigious Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication 2012 James Carey Media Research Award.

Virginia (Ginny) Dansby (Educational Leadership) received the 2012 Humanistic Impact Award from the Association for Humanistic Counseling.

Anthony Farone (Biology) received over \$1 million in grant funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for his TRIAD project: "Reforming Graduate Education by Integrating Teaching, Research, and Industry Applications to Deepen Scientific Understanding." **Christopher Rob Herlihy** (Biology) received \$338,000 in NSF funding for research in integrating gene- and individual-level selection to understand the evolution of self-fertilization in flowering plants.

Robin Lee (Educational Leadership) won the 2011 President's Award for Outstanding Service from the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) and was voted ACES president-elect. The association is the national professional organization for counselor educators. These are great honors for Dr. Lee, and they also bring national attention to the MTSU professional counseling program.

Three School of Music faculty members received international recognition for research in American music when the second edition of the *Grove Dictionary of American Music*, published by Oxford University Press, solicited a combined sixteen articles from them, including two major articles on gospel music by **Stephen Shearon**, an article on hip-hop by **Felicia Miyakawa** and nine entries by **Cedric Dent** on black gospel music.

Dovie Kimmins (Mathematical Sciences) and **Jeremy Winters** (Elementary and Special Education) received two Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics professional development grants from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. The total of \$400,000 came from Race to the Top funds for Project EMPOWER and U C STEM. These projects targeted teachers in grades 2–6 and math and science teachers in grades 4–8 in selected Tennessee counties.

The **Pa's Fiddle Project**, created by **Dale Cockrell** (director, Center for Popular Music), is about the music in the *Little House* books by Laura Ingalls Wilder and has produced a songbook and several recordings. It was also the basis for a PBS special concert, *Pa's Fiddle: The Music of America*, which was broadcast nationally. Mass Communication students produced a documentary on the project called *The Making of Pa's Fiddle*.

The **School of Music** sent delegations to Italy, Costa Rica and Panama, and China this year. The MTSU Schola Cantorum, led by conductor **Raphael Bundage**, performed at the Vatican and in Florence and Venice. The MTSU Wind Ensemble and conductor **Reed Thomas** presented concerts and seminars in Costa Rica and Panama. A seven-piece jazz combo led by director of jazz studies **Jamey Simmons** and a dance contingent headed by **Kim Nofsinger** presented concerts and seminars in Chinese cities, including Hangzhou and Beijing. Music professor **Carol Nies** conducted a series of concerts and operas at the international Rome Festival in the Italian capital.

Program Achievement

MTSU was named a **sponsoring institution for Oak Ridge Associated Universities** (ORAU), which has a \$400 million budget for performing research, outreach, and training in cooperation with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and other sponsoring institutions. Top-tier sponsoring institutions include Duke, Georgia Tech, Johns Hopkins, Penn State, Purdue, Vanderbilt, and the University of Texas, among others.

MTSU received TBR and THEC approval for important new degree programs: an **Ed.D. in Assessment, Learning, and School Improvement** to begin in fall 2013, and a new **concentration in Geosciences** within the M.S.P.S. degree, which allows specializations in geographic information systems (GIS) and environmental geosystems.

MTSU's **Professional Counseling Program** received the 2011 Outstanding Master's Counselor Education Award from the Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision.

MTSU received the distinction of being the only institution of higher education in Tennessee to receive the **Adult Learner Friendly Institution** designation.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Student Achievement

The team of five MTSU upper-division Computer Science students—Jason Bandy, Matthew Houglum, Chris Johnson, Chelsea Rath, and Justin Tiffner—who gained significant attention for developing the MTSU application for both Android and Apple mobile platforms (that includes event calendars, campus maps, parking/bus routes, class schedules, and dining services) has remained busy at work on other projects. The team has since done the following

- Developed an application for Geosciences to use in the field for survey and study guides
- Began developing applications for Disability Services, homework, and study aids
- Made plans to develop additional applications for departments across the University
- Presented at the 41st annual Tennessee Higher Education Information Technology Conference (THEITS)
- Presented at the TBR Android Mobility workshop

Mobility Summit

Working with the TBR, MTSU will host its first annual **Mobility Summit, October 15–16, 2012**. The summit will provide the Tennessee educational community from pre-K through college opportunities to explore how mobile technologies can be developed, utilized, and maintained to enhance learning.

C@M – Cloud at Middle

MTSU has built a private internal cloud called C@M–Cloud at Middle. The cloud delivers virtual access to desktop and classroom applications. The University has also moved student email, its campus-wide scheduling application, its learning management system, and its web content management system to the cloud.

The benefits of C@M are vast:

- It provides the user a consistent look and feel, no matter where they are on campus.

- It increases the performance and power of the PC for a better user experience.
- It provides the University the ability to move applications from one classroom to another without physically going to the rooms.
- It provides the University the ability to install applications without interfering with class schedules.
- It makes applications available in a fraction of the time it currently takes for PCs that aren't virtualized.
- It diminishes wear and tear and down time of campus PCs.
- It minimizes the effect of malware on campus by isolating computer viruses to a virtual machine. (When the virtual machine is rebooted, the virus is deleted.)
- It extends PC life expectancy.

For the start of the fall, 2012 semester

- more than 200 applications will be virtualized,
- more than 550 desktops will be virtualized, and
- more than 50 employee desktops in ITD and Business/Finance will be virtualized

Digital Signage

The campus-wide digital signage system has made great strides over the past year. From an interactive Tennessee Teacher's Hall of Fame and MTSU Information Board in the College of Education building to 15 digital signs in the new Student Union, which include 6x10– and 20x3–foot video walls, we now have additional tools in place to capture the attention of faculty, staff, students, and visitors with the MTSU message.

These signs will help showcase MTSU's best activities, help people find their way around campus, and function as an additional way to communicate with the MTSU community and beyond (including emergency communications). As part of an overall messaging and marketing strategy, more interactive boards and information signs will pop up in other locations both on and off campus in the future.

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