

NEWS & information

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Sidney A. McPhee



*Welcome to the
Spring 2017 Semester!*

I hope you and your family enjoyed a wonderful holiday break, and I look forward to working with you in 2017.

The beginning of each semester is a good time to reflect on recent accomplishments at MTSU and to look ahead to the many opportunities in our future. As such, I trust you continue to find this newsletter informative and useful.

I also welcome your feedback! Please send comments to Sidney.McPhee@mtsu.edu. I invite you to check out The President's Post at mtsu.edu/President for updates and information from my office, or look for them on the MTSU home page. You can also follow me on Twitter: [@PresidentMcPhee](https://twitter.com/PresidentMcPhee).

Thank you for all you do to support the goals and objectives of this great University.

True Blue!

DR. SIDNEY A. MCPHEE

A NEW FOCUS

Our FOCUS Act Transition Team continues its work reviewing Tennessee Board of Regents and MTSU policies and guidelines in preparation for the transition to an institutional board of trustees. As of the end of November, approximately 75 percent have been reviewed, and the campus has been kept apprised of its work via email.



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STUDENT SUCCESS

Our collective Quest for Student Success efforts are designed to ensure that every student who comes to MTSU with the drive to achieve is met with the best instruction from excellent professors who care for their success, and provide extra support and assistance when our students encounter unexpected difficulties or when roadblocks arise that negatively affect their persistence toward graduation.



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A New FOCUS continued from page 1

This campus FOCUS Act Transition Team, divisional working groups, and subcommittees are working extremely hard to review all MTSU policies and TBR policies and guidelines to determine which ones will be applicable subsequent to the transition to a local board of trustees.

On Nov. 21, alongside MTSU's executive team, I met with TBR Chancellor David Gregory, Vice Chancellor Wendy Thompson, and other TBR administrators for our annual institutional briefing. Preparation for and implementation of the FOCUS Act was the central discussion topic.

In October, Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam announced the eight nominees to the newly created MTSU local governing board, a result of his FOCUS Act passed by the legislature in 2016 to give the former TBR universities increased autonomy. The move is aimed to support student success as the state continues its initiative to have 55 percent of Tennesseans with a degree or credential by 2025. It is anticipated that the trustees will be confirmed by the General Assembly in January or February with the first called meeting of the MTSU Board to occur in April 2017.

I am thrilled and very excited by the nominees put forth by Gov. Haslam for the Board of Trustees for Middle Tennessee State University. I am very familiar with our nominees, and know well the broad range of experience and expertise they can offer our University. We are honored that these outstanding citizens have allowed the governor to put their names forward for service to our University and the communities we serve.

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 toward our mission of ensuring student success and providing more graduates for the state's workforce.

Here is a brief look at the nominees to the new MTSU board.



W. Andrew "Andy" Adams is the former chairman and CEO of National Healthcare Corp. and previous CEO of both National Health Investors

Inc. and National Health Realty Inc. He serves on the board of directors at Lipscomb University, SunTrust Bank, and Boy Scouts of America. Adams holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Business Administration, both from MTSU.



J.B. Baker is CEO and owner of Sprint Logistics. He attended Martin Junior College and graduated from MTSU. He is the former owner and chairman of the

board for Volunteer Express and Associated Companies, having worked at the business for 30 years. He has served on a number of professional and civic boards, including Martin Methodist College, Goodwill Industries, Saint Thomas Hospital Health Services Fund, and the Nashville Symphony.



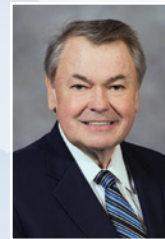
Pete Delay leads the Nashville office of Forterra Building Products and was most recently president and owner of Sherman-Dixie Concrete Industries Inc.

He previously served on the board of trustees of the University of the South and as chairman of the Montgomery Bell Academy Annual Fund.



Darrell Freeman Sr. is the executive chairman of Zycron Inc., an information technology services and solutions firm based in Nashville. He served on the

Tennessee Board of Regents, as well as a number of boards and committees in middle Tennessee. Freeman holds bachelor's and master's degrees from MTSU.



Joey A. Jacobs is the chairman and CEO of Acadia Healthcare Co. With prior postings in Hospital Corporation of America's Tennessee Division and Psychiatric Solutions Inc., he was awarded

MTSU's Jennings A. Jones Champion of Free Enterprise Award in 2013. Jacobs serves on the board of the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. He received his bachelor's degree from MTSU.



Christine Karbowiak is executive vice president, chief administrative officer, and chief risk officer of Bridgestone Americas Inc. She is active in community

organizations and has served on the boards of the Tennessee State Museum Foundation, Japan America Society of Tennessee, Tennessee Business Roundtable, and Franklin American Music City Bowl. She holds bachelor's, master's, and law degrees from the University of Illinois.



Stephen B. Smith is chair of the board of Haury and Smith Contractors Inc. He has served on the board of the Metropolitan Nashville Planning

Commission and the Regional

Transit Authority and chaired the board of directors of Metropolitan Nashville Parks and Recreation. Smith graduated from MTSU and was awarded the Jennings Jones Champion of Free Enterprise Award in 2010.



Pamela J. Wright is the founder of Wright Travel. She was an employee of the

State of Tennessee in the Department of Corrections before opening her first travel agency. The agency has since grown to 28 offices spanning seven states. She holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from MTSU.

Faculty and Student Representatives



In addition to the nominees by the governor, MTSU's Faculty Senate chose **Tony**

Johnston, a professor in the School of Agribusiness and Agriscience in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, as the first faculty representative of the Board of Trustees. The MTSU Board will determine a process for the selection of a non-voting student representative. [MTSU](#)

BUDGET

Our overall enrollment for Fall 2016 was relatively flat compared to the previous year, which reflected our hard work to hold steady in the second year of the Tennessee Promise, a last-dollar scholarship program that covers tuition and fees for high school seniors wishing to enroll in the state's community and technical colleges. I was encouraged to see we had almost a 2.5 percent increase in domestic freshmen this fall and an uptick of more than 5.25 percent in new graduate students.

We received an increase of more than \$3.7 million in state appropriations, which is based on outcomes formula adjustments and new funds for outcomes improvement. That new money, coupled with about \$2.48 million resulting from tuition increases, helped offset the \$1.5 million reduction that came as a result of our .98 percent decrease in full-time equivalency. These new funds were allocated to pay for:



- A 1 percent pool salary increase fully funded by MTSU
- Faculty promotions
- Increased cost of software maintenance agreements
- Cost increases in utilities and in operations and maintenance
- Scholarships, tuition discounts, employee fee waivers and dependent discounts, and graduate assistant fee waivers
- Funding for college deans' requests for continuing improvements on the MTSU Quest for Student Success initiatives
- Funding for three critical faculty positions
- Funding for personal computer replacement for faculty
- Supplemental Instruction

Looking toward Fiscal Year 2017–18, MTSU's share of the THEC outcomes formula adjustment will be a decrease of \$1,907,300. THEC voted at its November meeting to propose new state funding totaling \$48 million for the higher education formula institutions. MTSU's share of the proposed new funding will be \$4,581,900. Thus, **MTSU's state funding could actually increase by \$2,674,600.**

The commission also voted to recommend **\$12.22 million in capital maintenance funds** for MTSU projects, including alarm system updates, piping and manhole replacement, roof replacements, Keathley University Center mechanical and HVAC upgrades, elevator modernizations, domestic water-sewer system updates, Miller Education Center roof replacement, and Stark Ag Center mechanical updates. No MTSU capital project was proposed for new capital outlay funding for 2017–18.

THEC's recommendations have been submitted to the Department of Finance and Administration for consideration in the proposed state budget that Gov. Haslam will be submitting to the state legislature in the coming weeks. At that point, we will have more information regarding our likely 2017–18 state appropriation. [MTSU](#)

MTSU Ranked Among Top Schools Nationally for Entrepreneurship Offerings

Middle Tennessee State University is ranked among the nation's top 50 schools for its support of aspiring entrepreneurs, according to a new report released by LendEDU, an online marketplace for student loans and student loan refinance.

MTSU is ranked No. 17 in the "Top Colleges for Aspiring Entrepreneurs Report" by LendEDU.com, which crafted its rankings by looking at more than 100 colleges offering entrepreneurship courses and programs to undergraduates.

Joined by Belmont University (No. 30) as the only Tennessee universities on the list, MTSU also outranked schools such as Penn State, Duke, USC, Ohio State and Johns Hopkins.



We are excelling in the areas of retention and graduation over the past few years. Here are the latest updates on our student success efforts.

- Our full-time freshman retention rate increased to **76.1 percent** for the Fall 2016 semester, up from 68.7 percent for Fall 2013. This increase of nearly 11 percent over the past three years is the fastest rate of increase in the history of the institution. This also represents the highest freshman retention rate in the history of MTSU, based on available data.
- The new transfer student retention rate rose to **73.8 percent**, an increase of 4.7 percent in the same three-year period.
- Our sophomore retention rate increased to **80.6 percent**, up 3.1 percent between the Fall 2013 and Fall 2016 semesters.
- The percentage of freshmen completing at least 30 hours during their first two semesters of study increased to **50.4 percent** during the 2015–16 academic year. Just two years prior, only 42 percent

of freshmen completed at least 30 hours. This means that **more freshmen are on track to finish their degrees in four years**, an accomplishment in sync with both state and national initiatives.

- In summer 2016, a record **312 new students** participated in the Scholars Academy, a two-week summer bridge, early-arrival program designed to enhance the success of at-risk students. One in every 10 MTSU new freshmen, therefore, participated in the Scholars Academy support program. The average retention rate for students who went through the Scholars Academy is **83 percent**, well above that for other students. In addition, 54 percent of students in the Scholars Academy completed at least 30 hours in their first year of study, a rate that surpasses that of other students.
- Free tutoring was available during the Fall 2016 semester for more than **200 courses**, a new record level of support at MTSU. More importantly, more students are going for tutoring and spending more hours in tutoring sessions, while tutoring usage already has surpassed that of all last year. The total number of tutoring sessions increased by **20 percent** for Fall 2016 compared to Fall 2015. The number of hours spent by students in tutoring sessions increased by **23 percent** from Fall 2015 to Fall 2016.
- MTSU was invited to join 44 other leading universities from across the country to participate in the Re-Imagining the First Year (RFY) initiative last semester. This initiative, sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, seeks to increase student success rates by focusing on improving the first-year experience for students. MTSU's participation in RFY was made possible by a special invitation from AASCU.

...fastest rate of retention increase in our history.



infographic: Kathy Bowlin

- A Supplemental Instruction (SI) pilot program was implemented starting with the Fall 2016 semester. The program provides students enrolled in some of MTSU's most challenging courses with additional instructional support. MTSU's SI kickoff, like so many initiatives at the University, was "big," involving 21 course sections, across three colleges, and serving more than **1,500 students**. The program is already showing very promising results and has the support of our faculty and students.

- After receiving requests from students and others, our Office of Student Success started offering tutoring in Study Skills and Learning Strategies during the Fall 2016 semester. Early results show that Study Skills tutoring has a significant and positive impact on students who went for Study Skills tutoring compared to a matched sample of those who did not.

- MTSU launched the SSC Campus student information and analytics system, which is an important tool used by multiple campus partners in their work with current MTSU students, in March 2016. The very successful launch of this powerful technology platform, developed and supported by the Education Advisory Board (EAB), represents the culmination of many months of ongoing planning and coordinated efforts across multiple University divisions. For an introduction to SSC Campus, contact Brian Hinote in the MTSU Office of Student Success at brian.hinote@mtsu.edu.

- MTSU continues to be studied by other entities with an interest in learning more about the Quest for Student Success. Visits have been made by representatives from the Lumina Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Community College Resource Center at Columbia University. [MTSU](http://mtsu.com)



Above: Noyce Scholarship recipient Alex Murphy tutoring math students Lisa Mancini (sophomore), Carly Loggins (sophomore), and Caitlin White (junior).



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!**

Below: Sociology and Anthropology faculty Brian Hinote consults with a student.



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Too many stories, too few pages! Each of the colleges and academic units at MTSU maintains a high level of activity and produces news worth crowing about. I simply do not have enough space in this newsletter to write about all the accolades and achievements occurring on a daily basis at our University. Here, then, I offer up just one example from each college (and the library) of the remarkable work we are performing on the campus of MTSU. **True Blue!**

College of Education

The College of Education has a positive impact on communities and economies across Tennessee through teacher training and re-training. The Center for Educational Media (CEM) has created a niche for itself as a provider of free content that can be used by any teacher in the state as part of their annual required hours of professional development. The center also plans and hosts seminars, operates Channel 9 (the Education Resource Channel at MTSU, which provides programming to communities in six Tennessee counties), and continuously seeks new educational content. The close-knit staff behind these high levels of activity manages a full video production studio, as well as a new seminar space with full video capabilities housed in the LRC.



Out of the Blue is produced through a partnership of the Division of Marketing and Communications and the Center for Educational Media.

Center for Educational Media (CEM) by the Numbers

Four prestigious national Telly awards for videos produced by AVS

Recently upgraded AVS infrastructure to fully high-definition capability

17.3% more videos produced year-over-year (2015-16)

Thousands of K-12 teachers and students from over 100 Tennessee school districts participating in CEM broadcasts or webcasts during the past few years

Over 18 years of producing K-12 educational programming

Manages ERC@MT, the public access channel providing educational and community programming to middle Tennessee schools and communities

Manages more than \$3.1 million in satellite, television, and webcasting equipment, most of it housed in the LRC; MTSU is the only Tennessee university with a statewide and nationwide satellite and webcasting network

865 users across the state from Jan. 1 to mid-May 2016

Recently worked with College of Education staff to produce videos for the culmination of a \$1.3 million National Science Foundation grant's finale gala

More than 200 professional development videos available online

CEM's Audio Visual Services division provides audio visual equipment to the entire MTSU campus and partners with the Division of Marketing and Communications to produce the award-winning *Out of the Blue* TV program

Honors College

MTSU's Student Government Association (SGA) is essentially the "voice" of every student on campus. This year, many of the leaders of the SGA came from the Honors College. In all, seven SGA leaders elected by the student body for the 2016

school year are enrolled in MTSU's Honors program. They include Madison Tracy, president; Connor McDonald, vice president; and Macie Mussleman, Nicholas Lembo, Monica Haun, Peyton Tracy, and Abigail Tracy, senators at large.

All of these students have since invested significant time and effort into their respective roles on the SGA (some while acquiring more than 20 hours of Honors academic credits).



Madison Tracy



Connor McDonald



Macie Mussleman



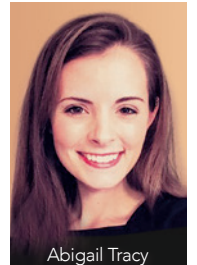
Nicholas Lembo



Monica Haun



Peyton Tracy



Abigail Tracy

Liberal Arts

Hugh Berryman, Sociology and Anthropology, assisted by **Shannon Hodge** and **Derek Frisby**, is leading a team of scientists who are working with the U.S. Army to identify the remains of American soldiers who perished during the Mexican-American War in the battle of Monterey (1846). The Mexican-American War Dead project is funded with a \$54,000 grant from the Tennessee Wars Commission.

College of Basic and Applied Sciences

MTSU's forthcoming—and forward-thinking—Fermentation Science degree program, scheduled to launch in 2017, comes as a result of MTSU's response to game-changing trends redefining the multi-billion-dollar fermentation industry across the country—specifically the brewing industry highlighted by craft beers and small-batch brewing. Importantly, though, this new degree proposal is not simply about brewing

beer and distilling spirits. The full scope for the new degree has grown beyond just fermenting hops and barley—key ingredients in brewing beer—to any and all fermented foods and beverages such as yogurt.

According to published reports, 53 percent of U.S. customers are seeking bolder flavors in their foods—and foods with nutritional and long-term health

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MTSU Forensics Professor Hugh Berryman speaks to media Wednesday, Sept. 28, during a press conference at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware about the return of soldier remains from the Mexican-American War. Standing behind him are U.S. Rep. Diane Black and MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee.



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value—and that demand is being met by fermented foods. Food fermentation is also the only food preservation technique that does not require the input of energy to accomplish, making it a critical new tool at a time when increased global demands for energy and land use for food production are concerns.

The new program is just the latest example of the many ways MTSU closely aligns with Tennessee’s workforce development agenda. Graduates of the program will have the opportunity to work in a variety of positions for major manufacturers operating in middle Tennessee, including General Mills (home of the largest manufacturer of yogurt in the nation in Yoplaik), Kroger (Dairy Division), Brown-Forman (Jack Daniel’s), and Diageo (George Dickel), as well as an ever-increasing number of locally owned and operated fermented food producers.

College of Business

The Jennings A. Jones College of Business 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. 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 Accreditation. There are only 183 institutions worldwide—including the Jones College at MTSU—that maintain an additional specialized AACSB Accreditation for their accounting programs.



College of Graduate Studies

Following a national search, David Butler was named vice provost for research and the dean of the College of Graduate Studies. Butler comes from the University of Southern Mississippi, where he has served as chair of the Department of Political Science and director of the doctoral program in International Development. Nearly \$2.8 million in funding has been awarded to 14 Butler-led and involved projects since 2002.



David Butler

University College

Richard “Rick” Sluder, who joined MTSU as vice provost for student success in September 2014 and who served as the chief administrator leading MTSU’s Quest for Student Success, will now also serve as dean of



Rick Sluder

University College. In this additional role, he will oversee work with students undecided on majors, as well as adult degree completion, online learning, and academic outreach to high school students. Under Sluder’s leadership, MTSU saw record increases this fall in its retention rates and other key student success measures. (See Data on page 4.)

College of Media and Entertainment

In September 2016, in a ceremony at the Country Music Hall of Fame’s Ford Theater in downtown Nashville, MTSU announced a partnership with *Music City Roots* and a retooling of the University’s radio station, WMOT, to broadcast the burgeoning, singer/songwriter-friendly Americana format. The transition makes



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Walker Library

Walker Library created the Makerspace—equipped with several 3D filament printers, a 3D resin printer, a laser etcher, CNC machine, a vinyl cutter, virtual reality kits, and kits full of parts that can be used to build just about anything one can imagine. Thanks to the Walker Library, creative technology previously only available on campus to Art or Engineering Technology students is now accessible to any MTSU student, staff, or faculty member who takes the time to go through the training to operate the machines—training is free of charge by appointment in the Makerspace.

Research libraries with a makerspace learning area have found them to be instrumental in support of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) initiatives.



A few examples of projects that can be completed in the Makerspace.

MAKERSPACE GRAND OPENING

February 1, 2017
2:00 p.m.
Walker Library
Come explore!!

WMOT (89.5 FM) the region's only station devoted to the unique amalgam of bluegrass, folk, gospel, soul, country, and blues music defined in the music industry as Americana.

The timing for the format change appears ideal, too. As a format, Americana music is on the rise. To wit, the industry bible *Billboard* magazine recently added an Americana section to its weekly chart listings.

WMOT continues to be a resource for MTSU students interested in learning marketable skills, including engineering, programming, audio editing, and narration. The unique partnership with *Music City Roots* now enables MTSU to continue to mentor and train students at MTSU for careers in journalism, the recording industry, radio, and television.

College of Behavioral Health Sciences

A seven-figure financial gift from local real estate developer John Floyd promises to boost the professional prospects of students preparing to graduate from MTSU. Floyd has pledged \$1 million to help launch the **Center for Student Coaching and Success (CSCS)** at MTSU, which is housed in the new Andrew Woodfin Miller Sr. Education Center on Bell Street. Half of that pledge has already been delivered to the University. Facilitated by Health and Human Performance professor and CSCS director Colby Jubenville, Floyd's gift focuses on helping soon-to-be graduates make a successful transition from college classes to gainful employment. "Students make a commitment to higher education by investing their time, money and energy with the belief that we have the people and resources to help them become



John Floyd

gainfully employed," Jubenville said. "This center was built to do just that."

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

Visit the Center for Student Coaching and Success website at mtsu.edu/cbhssuccess for more information.

College of Basic and Applied Sciences



MTSU has merged its signature concrete management program with its construction counterpart to form the **MTSU School of Concrete and Construction Management**. School Director Heather Brown formally announced the merger and name change to industry representatives Dec. 8 at Ascend Amphitheater's VIP Club in Nashville. MTSU has offered both the nationally recognized Concrete Industry Management degree program—the first of its kind in the country—and the highly successful residential/development and commercial construction program for more than 20 years. There are 310 students combined in the two majors. As of August, department data showed 8.4 jobs per each graduating MTSU concrete major, and average starting salaries during 2012–16 included nearly \$43,000 in Tennessee and almost \$51,000 out of state. [MTSU](http://mtsu.edu)

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CAMPUS SAFETY UPDATE

Our University Police officers have been hard at work implementing some new campus safety initiatives to help broaden and sustain a safe environment at MTSU. These efforts are assisted by other on-campus departments such as Campus Planning, Facilities, Student Affairs, and ITD. Some of the new or expanded services and developments include:

- Additional **walking patrols** by officers during the evening hours especially in the higher trafficked areas of campus
- Two additional **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)** officers who focus on positively interacting with students, patrolling residence halls, providing crime prevention programming on campus, and being available to help faculty, students, staff, and visitors with any concerns or issues
- Reintroduction of Emergency **Call Box/Call Stations** to be located in various areas around campus
- More exterior **surveillance cameras** around the Floyd Stadium/Murphy Center complex area, with more planned for the Womack Lane Apartments
- Replacement of security guards with **University Police Raider Patrol** to provide a bigger security presence, encourage more community engagement and cooperation, and emphasize consistent security processes and communication
- Emphasis and focus on more safety-conscious **educational programs** like Active Shooter Response training for student, staff, and faculty including redesigned Fact Cards and updated information on MTSU's Alert 4U website
- Hiring and implementation of a **sexual assault intervention liaison** to increase advocacy for victims of sexual or dating violence and to maximize the ability of victims to receive resources including support from campus or local police. [MTSU](#)



ADVANCEMENT

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

With the completion of our Centennial Campaign last year which raised more than \$105 million in gifts to MTSU, we achieved many of the milestones set for the University. However, we are continuing to garner support for many of our priorities, and we are working tirelessly to create a culture of philanthropy among alums of all ages.

One sterling example of that is **Chris Young**, the Murfreesboro native and former MTSU student, who last year revealed plans for the Chris Young Scholarship in Recording Industry—a scholarship for RI students at our University. Beginning in the fall of 2017, Young's donation through his Chris Young Foundation will allow MTSU's Department of Recording Industry to annually grant a scholarship for a rising junior or senior.

Young's career in country music took flight in 2006 when he won the television program *Nashville Star*, a singing competition that aired on the USA Network. He later signed with RCA Records Nashville and has since released four studio albums, including his latest effort, *A.M.*, last September. His hit songs include "Drinkin' Me Lonely," "You're Gonna Love Me," "Voices," "Gettin' You Home (The Black Dress Song)," "Tomorrow," "You," and "The Man I Want to Be." All went to No. 1 on the country music airplay charts.

At the time of the announcement of his most recent gift to MTSU, Young explained it's something he has wanted to do for years. "The passion that I had for the Recording Industry program and the passion the school shows for the program, it's just an amazing thing they do," he said.

For more information about Young's scholarship at MTSU, email Beverly



Chris Young

photo: Sheryl Nields

Keel, chair of the Department of Recording Industry at beverly.keel@mtsu.edu.

COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES UPDATE

Our College of Graduate Studies continues to develop and deliver programs and activities that are of interest and in demand throughout the middle Tennessee area.

CGS-sponsored activities:

- **GTA Teaching Certificate**—Eleven graduate students earned the certificate this fall through this program sponsored by CGS and the provost and offered by the



Learning, Teaching, and Innovative Technologies Center (LT&ITC).

- **Three Minute Thesis**—CGS held the first on-campus Three Minute Thesis (TMT) competition with several students participating in this excellent opportunity for them to develop rapid communication skills about the importance of their research. Liton Voumik (Ph.D. candidate, Economics), whose presentation addressed the effect of cultural diversity on economic development, was the competition winner.

- **Tuesdays at Ingram**—This student-focused series continued with events held throughout campus. Of note was this year's highly successful event which introduced the Walker Library, its staff, and resources to graduate students.

Program-specific activities:

Accelerated Bachelor's-to-Master's (ABM) programs



- The Leisure and Sport Management ABM program is both attracting top-quality undergraduates to MTSU and strengthening the master's program with these same high-achieving students.

- We added three new programs to the existing 11, with new ABMs in Exercise Science, Criminal Justice, and Recording Arts and Technologies.

Mathematics and Science Education Ph.D.

- Josh Reid (Biology Education), Derek Smith (Mathematics Education), and Lucy Watson (Mathematics Education) each earned a Graduate Research in Progress Award from the Mid-South Educational Research Association (MSERA). These students will be recognized at MSERA's annual conference and receive a monetary award.



Derek Smith

- Patrick Phoebus (Biology Education) received first place in the Science and Mathematics Teaching Technical Section at the Tennessee Academy of Science Annual Meeting on Nov. 22 at Austin Peay State University. His presentation was entitled "Exploring the Impact of an Arboretum Curriculum Designed for Undergraduate Biology Students."

Chemistry M.S.

- Our Department of Chemistry graduated more than twice the national average of M.S. students for an intentional master's program (12.2 versus 5.4 over the last five years).
- The Chemistry graduate program obtained more than \$4.1 million in external funding.

Professional Counseling M.Ed.

- Through the Center for Counseling and Psychological Services, this master's program offers individual counseling services to the MTSU community



and has greatly expanded its knowledge and experience in



working with the LGBTQ community through SafeZone certification and training for faculty and practicum students.

English graduate program

- Faculty and students published several books and presented at numerous conferences. Of particular note, Professor Claudia Barnett won the Andaluz Award Jury Prize at the Fusion Theatre and has had more than six productions of her plays, including one production here at MTSU in 2016.
- Doctoral candidate Heidi Blaisdell received the Outstanding Faculty of the Year award at Nashville State Community College this summer.
- The University Writing Center introduced a new literary magazine—*Off Center*.



Claudia Barnett

Actuarial Science master's program

- Students and alumni from this Professional Science M.S. concentration have passed many actuarial exams (including seven who have passed more than three), while 26 have achieved ASA, ACAS, FSA, or FCAS designations. [MTSU](http://mtsu.edu)



Student presentation in Dr. Abdul Khaliq's Mathematics of Pricing Theory classroom.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

MTSU has made an important transition: As of July 2016, we are no longer considered a PUI (Predominantly Undergraduate Institution) by the National Science Foundation. The qualification is based on the number of Ph.D. degrees conferred during the previous two years—an important indicator of the growth in our graduate education and sponsored programs.

Our faculty and staff, meanwhile, received 38 new awards during the first six months of FY17 for research, public service, and instructional activities, with a total new award value of \$9,666,722 (compared with \$7,353,570 for the same period in FY16). As of December 1, 2016, the University had 143 active awards with a total portfolio value of \$28,882,663 (compared with \$24,374,119 at the end of 2015).

Following are some highlights from among our new awards since July 1, 2016:

Robyn Ridgley, Elementary and Special Education, received a three-year award of \$4.5 million from the Tennessee Department of Education to provide early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities.



Joan McRae, Foreign Languages and Literatures, earned a three-year award of \$443,052 from the U.S. Department of Education to enhance the quality of foreign language instruction in high schools in our region by providing competitive fellowships to master's students in French, Spanish, or German at MTSU.



Saleh Sbenaty, Engineering Technology, is principal investigator (PI) for an umbrella agreement with Wirtgen American Inc., under which students in capstone courses each year will solve real-world problems for Wirtgen's North American maintenance training facility in Smyrna, Tennessee. The first project in Fall 2016 is to improve the design and performance of heavy-duty battery chargers for road construction equipment.



As of December 1, 2016, the University had 143 active awards with a total portfolio value of \$28,882,663.

Keying Ding and co-PIs **Adrienne Friedli**, **Scott Handy**, **Piotr Kaszynski**, **Tibor Koritsanszky**, and **Anatoliy Volkov**, Chemistry, received a highly competitive Major Research Instrument grant of \$299,999 from the National Science Foundation for the acquisition of a single-crystal X-ray diffractometer. This cutting-edge instrument characterizes the 3D structure of molecules and can be used in concert with computational predictive modeling. The instrument will be used for faculty research, as well as undergraduate and graduate student training.

Elliot Altman, Biology and Tennessee Center for Botanical Medicine Research, secured two research contracts with Greenway Herbal Products LLC totaling \$2.6 million. The projects will generate new plant extracts with superior bioactivities and conduct efficacy studies on compounds with potential to treat cancer or autoimmune diseases. **MTSU**



Over the last year, you helped make wonderful things happen at MTSU!

MTSU Friends and Alumni created **47** new scholarships

Special gifts allowed MTSU students to present at conferences or experience education abroad

Over **400** of our 2016 graduates gave to build the MTSU graduate student scholarship

Thoughtful gifts to the **Aspire to Teach Fund** in Education helped future teachers completed their year long residency (student teaching.)

Gifts to the **BRAA** provided more than **\$1.3 million** in support to **Blue Raider Athletics**, helping student-athletes succeed in the classroom and the community!

Thank you for being **trueBLUE**
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

CONSTRUCTION

I often say that MTSU is such an exciting place to study and work due to all of the campus construction projects and improvements that are ongoing or were recently completed. Here is a brief update on those recent and current projects.

Academic Building for 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. The SBC signed off on \$1.6 million to complete the design and bid-ready documents, plus appointed Bauer Askew Architecture as designer for the project.

The building will serve the Criminal Justice Administration, Psychology, and Social Work departments, with 14 classrooms, 19 labs, 63 faculty offices, an area for advising offices, and a dean's suite. The site is located east of the McFarland Building and will form the beginning of a new academic quadrangle and outdoor green space north of MTSU Boulevard and the Student Union.

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY.

**COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL
AND HEALTH SCIENCES**

Davis Science and Wisner-Patten Science Renovations



Renovations of Wisner-Patten and Davis Science buildings

UPDATE

Full renovations of Davis Science (75,500 gross square feet, constructed 1967) **and Wiser-Patten** (41,500 gross square feet, constructed 1932) **are now complete.** A new, central Strobel Lobby connects the two buildings and provides a direct path to the new Science Building for a new Science Corridor of Innovation comprising the three buildings—an important concept for the functional neighborhoods of the campus. ADA access was also part of the genesis of the building connector concept, with ramps leading from the central lobby up to Davis and down to two new elevators in Wiser-Patten.

Occupants of the buildings include:

- **Davis Science**—Geosciences, a Mechatronics Engineering lab, new Fermentation Science Lab, and new academic advising offices for the College of Basic and Applied Sciences
- **Wiser-Patten**—Physics and Astronomy, Anthropology, and Forensic Science

Equipment and furnishings were installed this fall, and the new and returning occupants moved in over the holiday break before the Spring 2017 semester.



Middle Tennessee Boulevard Widening

Road construction on Middle Tennessee Boulevard continues to progress on schedule. The roadway was redesigned to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety, with landscaped median and dedicated turn lanes, improved pedestrian walks and crossings, bike lanes, better 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 progressing along the northbound lanes and is nearing completion along the southbound lanes from Lytle Street to Greenland Drive. Work will remain focused along the southbound lanes throughout the spring of 2017, when work along the northbound lanes adjacent to campus will begin. Construction completion is expected by fall of 2018.

Pedestrians are encouraged to exercise extreme caution when driving or walking in proximity to the construction zone through the course of the entire project.

Parking and Transportation Projects

The next phase of Parking and Transportation projects will focus on pedestrian walkways and lighting in the core of campus. The designs include ADA walkway improvements from the Livestock Lot; a dedicated walkway from Blue Raider Drive connecting to the south side of the Media and Honors buildings; a new sidewalk and lighting on the north side of Alumni Drive; and a widened walk on Founders Lane. A widened sidewalk and additional lighting are planned from Business and Aerospace to the north side of KUC, with intersection improvements at Champion Way and Military Memorial. In addition, the Murphy Center lot will undergo resurfacing, along with new lighting and ADA parking improvements. The project is expected to bid in the spring, with construction beginning early summer.

Saunders Fine Arts HVAC Update

The second and final phase of the Saunders project consists of the removal of all window air conditioning units, replacement of the window systems in the building, and completion of the connection of the Saunders building to the campus central heat and cooling system. The work is planned to begin in early summer and to reach substantial completion by mid-August 2017. [MTSU](#)

STUDENT LIFE

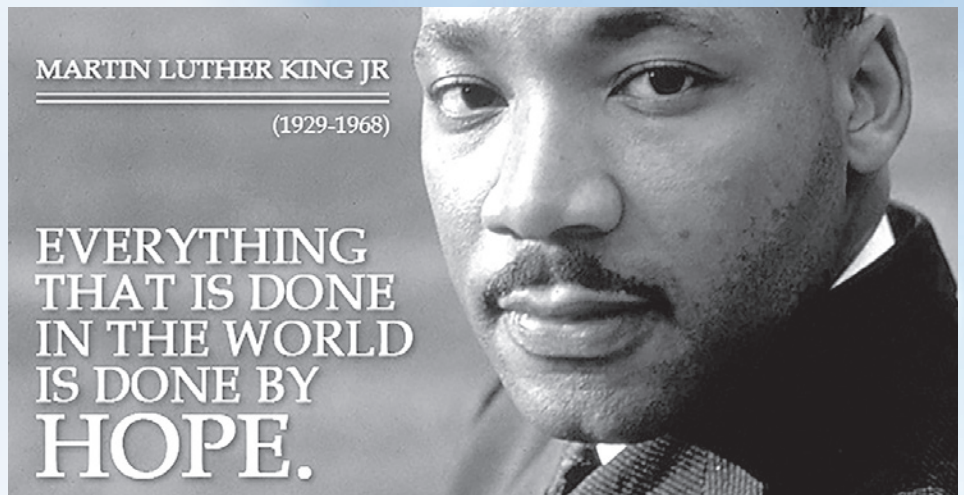
Students need to connect academically in the classroom and socially around campus to feel like they belong at MTSU. That's why all our students, especially freshmen, are consistently being asked to attend a variety of events and activities each semester.

Connection Point

The Connection Point program entered into its fourth year during Fall 2016 with opportunities to involve our freshman class with exciting, fun, and educational activities.



- This year, we added a Student Employment Fair to the slate of programs to assist students in securing part-time jobs. Additionally, an interactive alcohol awareness workshop was offered for the first time to educate our freshmen on responsible behavior related to alcohol consumption, which was facilitated by our Fraternity and Sorority Life staff.
- Over 79 percent of our first-semester freshmen participated in the program during Fall 2016, which is almost a 10 percent increase compared to Fall 2015!
- Connection Point will continue into Spring 2017. Some of the highlights will include Black History Month programs, sporting events, community service activities, and a fun night of bowling and laser tag. A complete list of events can be accessed in early January at mtsu.edu/connection.



MTSU kicked off the year with a Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Vigil on Monday, Jan. 16, 2017, in the Student Union Ballroom.

Student Life

- **MLK Celebration:** We kicked off the year with a Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Vigil on Monday, Jan. 16, 2017, in the Student Union Ballroom. Speeches, musical performances, and a video



highlighting MLK's civil rights achievements were highlights of the evening, which concluded with a candlelight vigil. The event was sponsored by Intercultural and Diversity Affairs.


- **Student Organization Fair:** This expo will provide students with an opportunity to meet many of our 250-plus student organizations and learn how to get involved with one



or more of these groups. The event will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017 at 1–4 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom.

- **Women's History Month:** This month of activities throughout March always includes a well-known keynote speaker who inspires audience members to support worthwhile causes. An events calendar will be available by mid-February at mtsu.edu/jac.
- **The Big Event:** Students are offered the opportunity to go out into the Murfreesboro community on Saturday, April 8, 2017 to perform various community service projects. Approximately 300 students participated last year in this project, hosted by the Student Government Association. Details for this year's community service day can be found at mtsu.edu/sga starting in mid-March. [MTSU](http://mtsu)





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.

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**MIDDLE
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TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

I AM *true* **BLUE**

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

During the past few years, the University has increased our international undergraduate and graduate student enrollment, expanded study abroad opportunities, and developed more faculty and student exchanges.

MTSU has also sought out and signed numerous student exchange and research collaborations with international partners.

During the past few years, the University has increased our international undergraduate and graduate student enrollment, expanded study abroad opportunities, and developed more faculty and student exchanges.

As one example from 2016, MTSU and its United Kingdom partner institution, the University of Salford (salford.ac.uk), participated in a scholar-in-residency exchange program this past semester with Professor Kirsty Fairclough, Media and Cultural Studies, and Professor Tim France, Popular Music Performance, visiting MTSU in September. The College of Liberal Arts, the School of Music, and the College of Media and Entertainment served as hosts. In October, Professor Scott Boyd, Theatre and Dance, and Professor John Merchant, Audio Production, traveled to Salford.

In addition to the scholar-in-residency exchange program and an active student exchange, MTSU and Salford co-sponsored a *Mad Men* conference this past May on our campus and will co-host a Prince conference at Salford in May 2017. [MTSU](http://mtsu.com)



Education abroad in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico at the Mayan site of Chichen Itza



MTSU students study abroad in Cuba



MTSU students in Costa Rica (above), Japan (upper right), and Canada (lower right)

ACCREDITATION

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 institution is providing a high-quality academic experience for our students that meets the most rigorous standards.

SACSCOC

MTSU has been reaccredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, with the announcement made at the annual SACSCOC meeting in Atlanta in December.



We received reaccreditation after the Commission

on Colleges reviewed the University's Compliance Audit Report and its Quality Enhancement Plan, MT Engage. The review examined MTSU's academic programs, policies, and operating procedures against standards based on best practices in higher education. The University was found in compliance with both the audit standards and the QEP by the on-site peer review team that visited the campus as part of the two-year-long review process. A finding of compliance with every standard, including those related to the QEP, is rare among institutions that go through this review process. This accomplishment reaffirms the University's quality endeavors by its peers and recognizes its commitment to excellence.

MT Engage

Our new Quality Enhancement Plan, called MT Engage, launched in Fall 2016 with broad support from

University faculty, students, and administrators. I keynoted a kickoff celebration for those who contributed to the development of the QEP under the leadership of Dr. Dianna Rust and recognized the leadership of Dr. Mary Hoffschwelle in implementing the plan. Over 1,500 students enrolled in 98 MT Engage-designated classes taught by 59 faculty. These classes featured high-impact teaching practices, beyond-the-classroom experiences, and assignments that fostered integrative thinking and reflection that students saved in electronic portfolios.

Engagement was the buzz across campus during MT Engage Week, Sept. 19–23. The College of Basic and Applied Sciences held Science Café informal discussions, and Behavioral and Health Sciences hosted a symposium on gang violence reduction and a lecture for its American Society of Interior Designers student chapter. The College of Education promoted education beyond the classroom with



Engage Academically.
Learn Exponentially.
Showcase Yourself.

campus and community partners, and students learned about volunteer and paid employment opportunities from Facilities Services staff. The College of Liberal Arts hosted a foreign language film festival and a debate on the value of a college education. Media and Entertainment students performed at Engage-a-palooza and screened films at First Look 2016. Alumnae discussed how they bridged college to careers at a panel hosted by University College, while University Honors had Timothy Huebner speak about black constitutionalism. The Jennings A. Jones College of Business incorporated MT Engage into Donuts with the Dean, and Student Programming designated Bash the Rec as an MT Engage event. [MTSU](#)



University College

- MTSU's Applied Leadership program was developed in collaboration with Bridgestone to serve the needs of working adults. On Nov. 9 of this year, the program was named as one of six finalists for the Leadership Development Excellence category at the Corporate Learning Week in Dallas. The Applied Leadership program subsequently received first-place recognition at the Cubic Awards, a prestigious accomplishment because of the level of competition among several major corporate entities.



University College/ Jones College of Business

- The Applied Leadership Certificate Program was granted the Tennessee Alliance for Continuing Higher Education (TACHE) **Credit Program Award**. The purpose of this award is to recognize an institution who demonstrates outstanding and/or innovative credit programming. The program must reflect originality in approach, content, and delivery. [MTSU](#)

MTSU Ranked (Again!) in annual Top 25 Music Schools

Once again, MTSU's Department of Recording Industry is listed in *The Hollywood Reporter's* annual Top 25 Music Schools. The department comes in at No.18, ranked higher than Nashville's Belmont Curb School of Music, listed at No. 24.

Here are my top 10 recent athletic highlights achieved by MTSU student-athletes:

1 Blue Raiders Have Record Graduation Rate

Our NCAA Graduation Success Rate (GSR) matched the school record at 87 percent for the third straight year. That percentage is one point higher than the NCAA average as announced in November. The current GSR is a four-year measurement of freshmen and athletic transfers who entered MTSU between the Fall 2006 semester and the Spring 2009 semester. The Blue Raiders ranked third out of the 13 teams in Conference USA, trailing only Charlotte and Rice (who scored 92 and 91 percent, respectively). Six MT programs scored a perfect 100 percent (men's basketball, women's basketball, soccer, men's tennis, women's tennis, and volleyball). Of the four Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) programs in Tennessee, MT trailed only Vanderbilt's 93 percent.

2 Football Accepts Bid to Hawai'i Bowl

The Blue Raider football squad went to its sixth bowl game in the Rick Stockstill era and third in the last four years when it faced the Hawai'i Rainbows in the 15th annual Hawai'i Bowl on Dec. 24. This marked the 10th bowl game in school history and sixth bowl game of the FBS era for MTSU.



Men's golf won the Invitational at The Ocean Course at the Kiawah Island Resort in South Carolina.



The Blue Raiders went to their third bowl game in the last four years and faced the Hawai'i Rainbows on Dec. 24.

3 Blue Raiders Upset Missouri in Football

The highlight of the MT football team's 2016 campaign was a 51-45 road upset win against Southeastern Conference foe Missouri. The Blue Raiders piled up 584 yards of total offense to notch just their fourth win vs. an SEC foe in 26 tries. In the game, senior tailback I'Tavius Mathers rushed for 215 yards on 28 carries, including a 71-yard touchdown.

4 Men's Golf Wins Tournament

The men's golf team opened up the 2016 fall season by winning the Invitational at The Ocean Course at the Kiawah Island Resort in South Carolina. The Blue Raiders shot an impressive 850 (tied for eighth-best 54-hole total in school history) on the par-72, 7,115-yard course to win by six strokes. The tournament victory was the first for second-year coach Brennan Webb.



5 Cross Country Shines at C-USA Championship

Both Blue Raider cross country teams finished second in the Conference USA Championships in Charlotte on Oct. 29. Freshman Jacob Choge continued to be the star for the No. 29-ranked men's team, winning the 8K race with a blistering time of 23 minutes, 54.2 seconds. Choge also was



Jacob Choge

named C-USA Freshman of the Meet. Four different Blue Raiders finished in the Top 10, with sophomore Kigen Chemadi fourth (24:11.1), Sampson Laari seventh (24:25.6), and Amos Cheruiyot 10th (24:46.7). Choge, Chemadi, and Laari earned First Team All-Conference honors. Cheruiyot and senior Hillary Rono were named Second Team All-Conference. Geoffry Cheruiyot ran 15th and was Third Team All-Conference. The team finished with 36 points, which is MT's best finish in the C-USA Championships, and went on to qualify for the NCAA nationals for the first time. The women's squad raced well, placing second in C-USA for the second year in a row, behind senior Hannah Maina who made First Team All-Conference.

6 Choge Named C-USA XC Athlete of the Year

The awards keep piling up for Blue Raider freshman Jacob Choge after being voted Conference USA Cross Country Athlete of the Year on Nov. 28. This was a first for the program since



joining the C-USA. Choge, a native of Kenya, won the C-USA Championship and led MT to a 28th-place finish at the NCAA Championships.

7 Soccer Academics Honored for 15th Straight Year

Women's soccer earned its 15th consecutive College Team Academic Award in 2016 with a team grade point average of 3.34, as announced by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America in early November. In order to qualify for the award, teams must carry a minimum GPA of 3.0 or higher for the entire academic year. The Blue Raiders have accomplished that feat in every year of head coach Aston Rhoden's tenure at MT.



8 Foti Named Head Coach of Greek National Team

MT assistant softball coach Tony Foti has been named by the Greek Softball Federation as the national team head coach for the European Championship and world championship qualifier. The tournament will be held in Italy June 25–July 1. Foti is currently in his fourth season with MTSU. He has over 35 years

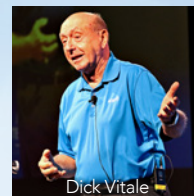


Tony Foti

of coaching experience, including 21 years of international experience and 20 years at the college level.

9 Vitale Speaks at Basketball Tip-off Luncheon

Dick Vitale, the hall of fame college basketball analyst for ESPN, was the keynote speaker for MT basketball's Auto Art Tip-Off Celebration in late October. Vitale also participated in the Murphy Madness public event during



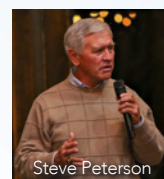
Dick Vitale

his Murfreesboro visit. Vitale raved about the direction the basketball program is heading. Under men's head coach Kermit Davis,

the program's all-time coaching leader in wins with 276, the Blue Raiders have won at least 24 games four out of the last five seasons—culminating in last year's 25-10 team that upset No. 2 seed Michigan State in the NCAA Tournament.

10 Fans Celebrate Peterson's Hall of Fame Announcement

On Dec. 3 at The Grove at Williamson Place, the MTSU Athletic Department and Blue Raider fans celebrated legendary baseball coach Steve Peterson's ABCA Hall of Fame announcement. Peterson was the head coach for 25 years with the MTSU program, becoming the all-time winningest coach in Blue Raider baseball history. Peterson retired from coaching in 2012 after amassing 791 wins in his prestigious career. [MTSU](#)



Steve Peterson

**OUR TOWN.
OUR TEAM.**

MT | **#TRUEBLUE**

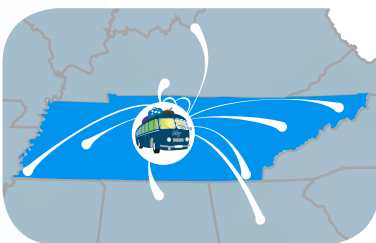
ADMISSIONS

Several bold admissions initiatives have been key to our ongoing efforts to both sustain our operations and fuel our plans for growth, all while maintaining strong support of the Governor's Drive to 55. Among these initiatives is the annual True Blue Tour, a wonderful opportunity for prospective students and their parents to hear firsthand from MTSU representatives in their own backyards, as well as get important information from counselors about admissions and financial aid. This is a prime opportunity to explain the unique educational experience MTSU offers.



Joining me on these recruitment tours to various locations throughout Tennessee (and even beyond the state's borders) are other top University administrators, deans from the University's eight academic colleges, the library services dean, and counselors from our Financial Aid and Admissions offices.

I am extremely proud to report that attendance for the recently concluded 2016 True Blue Tour increased more than 45 percent for students and nearly 100 percent for school counselors and community college staff! Those are remarkable percentage



increases nearly unheard of in college admissions circles. Thank you to all the staffers and participants who worked so hard on making the 2016 True Blue Tour the most successful one to date.

Updates for new programs, facilities, and scholarship information were presented at the True Blue Tour events, and scholarship drawings for incoming students were also held. Many of our guests commented on how much they enjoyed meeting the provost and deans. They were impressed that so many top University administrators took the time to travel in order to bring information closer to their home. Long days, late nights, bus travel, and box lunches for the MTSU entourage certainly resulted in positive responses, smiles, and excitement from school counselors, parents, and especially our future students. The opportunity to pull together as one True Blue Family to all take part in the recruitment efforts epitomizes the unity our University shares when building and supporting successful students and allowed us to stand by our words.

In other news, as the Spring 2017 semester begins, the recruitment staff is busy finalizing application decisions. Our transfer enrollment coordinators will soon be going out to the community college campuses to hold Paint the Campus Blue events. Information will be shared to help support a smooth transition from community college to MTSU. Future Raider events will also take place in communities across the state to welcome accepted students and their families, plus answer any questions to help finalize the decision to become a Blue Raider.

More prospective students will visit campus this semester and see for themselves what True Blue looks like up close. Spring Preview Day is scheduled for Saturday, March 18, and campus tours continue twice a day every weekday.

Other admissions-related highlights include:

- MTSU's dual enrollment initiative continues to expand to serve hundreds of Tennessee students. In the Fall 2014 semester, about 30 high school students were enrolled in MTSU dual enrollment courses. By Fall 2015, a total of 564 students were enrolled in MTSU dual enrollment courses, and for the Fall 2016 semester a record 674 high school students were dual enrolled at MTSU. Collaborations have been formed with 14 high schools, and work continues to increase the number of schools and students served.
- The Tennessee Reconnect and Graduate MT programs target students who left MTSU as either juniors or seniors. A coordinated outreach effort to encourage these students to return to MTSU has been implemented by University College staff. As a result, for the Fall 2016 semester there are 193 students who have returned to MTSU and are working to finish their undergraduate degrees. Between May 2015 and this past summer, a total of 186 returning students have finished their degrees through this effort. According to state officials, MTSU is a leader among Tennessee universities in the initiative to encourage returnees to complete their bachelor's degrees. [MTSU](#)





I am extremely proud to report that attendance for the recently concluded 2016 True Blue Tour **increased more than 45 percent for students** and *nearly 100 percent for school counselors and community college staff!*



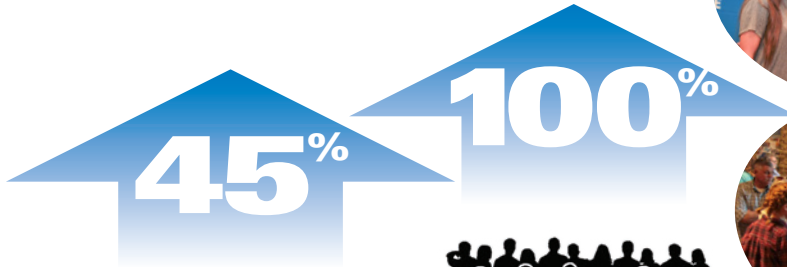
2015



2016
Students



2016
School Counselors
and Community
College Staff



true **BLUE** *tour*



PROUDLY PRESENTS

MTSU Arts

ART • DANCE • MUSIC • THEATRE

MTSU Arts, a program from our College of Liberal Arts, continues to provide Broadway-style entertainment on campus. Here is a look at the upcoming Spring 2017 events calendar.

The Department of Art and Todd Art Gallery present:

★ **"2nd Shoebox: An International Sculpture Exhibit"**

Jan. 19–Feb. 9

Todd Art Gallery, Todd Hall Building

★ **Opening Reception:**

Wednesday, Jan. 18, 5–7 p.m.

The School of Music and MTSU Opera Theater present:

★ **Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas***

Friday, March 31–Saturday, April 1

Hinton Music Hall, Wright Music Building

The Department of Theatre and Dance presents:

★ **A Streetcar Named Desire**

Thursday, April 6–Saturday, April 8, 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, April 9, 2 p.m.

Tucker Theatre, Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building

The MT Dance Program presents:

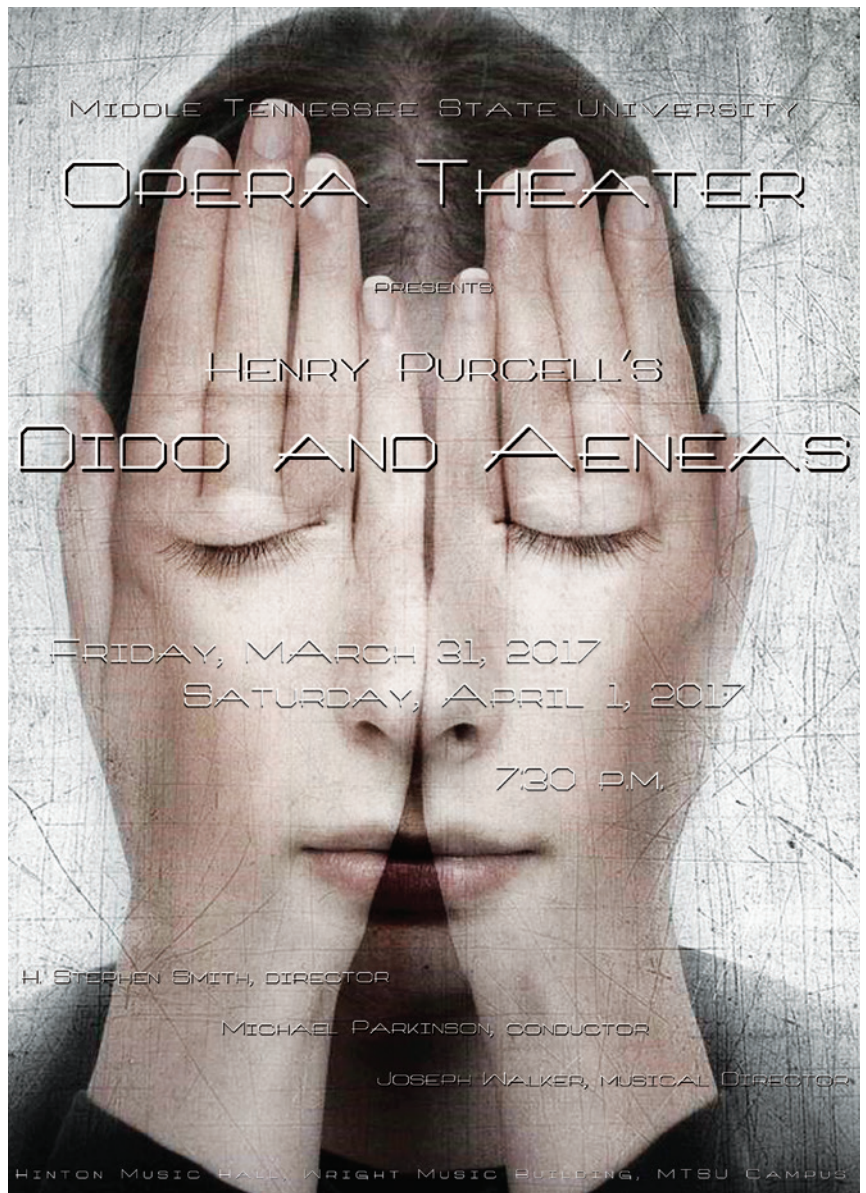
★ **Spring Dance Concert**

Thursday, April 20–Saturday, April 22, 7 p.m.

Tucker Theatre, Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building

For a full calendar of events or to learn how you can support MTSU Arts, please visit mtsuarts.com.

I encourage each of you to join the MTSU Arts Patron Society, which offers various opportunities to enjoy special events, exhibits, and performances. Please click on the Patron Society tab at left of the mtsuarts.com webpage to find out more.



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