

Dr. Sidney A. McPhee

January 16, 2014



WELCOME TO THE SPRING 2014 SEMESTER!

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. I would like to thank each of you for your commitment to MTSU, and I look forward to working with you in 2014.

The beginning of a new calendar year is a time to reflect on the many accomplishments of 2013, and to look ahead to the many opportunities that lie ahead. I trust you will continue to find this newsletter informative and useful.

As always, I welcome your feedback. Please send comments to Sidney. McPhee@mtsu.edu. I also invite you to check out “The President’s Post” at www.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!**

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THE QUEST FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Higher education is just the latest arena facing a series of disruptive forces that could, on the one hand, lead to great innovation and transformation or, on the other, lead to significant losses in enrollment, funding, and cultural influence. A recent issue of the Chronicle of Higher Education said there is a growing call for innovation that supports greater student success.

Nothing is more important than ensuring the academic success of students. MTSU’s faculty and administration have come together to respond to these challenges by putting ourselves under a microscope as we attempt to better understand why some students succeed and what barriers to success get in the way of those who struggle.

Even with statewide and national accolades for its efficiency in creating college graduates, MTSU’s continued success depends on its ability to help students earn college degrees. These students are our responsibility, and we must discover and develop new and innovative ways to help them be successful, instead of whining about who they are. At MTSU, from a staff and faculty

perspective, we simply must maintain and grow our student-centered culture. **If students become an interruption in your day, you’re in the wrong business.**

MTSU already has changed some administrative processes and policies that created roadblocks for students. One of these changes allows students to register or reenroll with an account balance of \$200 or less. Previously, there was an across-the-board ban on registration for students owing as little as \$5 to the University! Additionally, a campus-wide task force’s discovery of an almost 40 percent failure or withdrawal rate in some general education courses—despite solid high school GPAs and ACT scores—has led to the redesign of seven courses in the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

We’ve also reviewed our recruitment and enrollment strategies, resulting in a two percent increase in this year’s freshman class. This 2013–14 freshman class also

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THE QUEST FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

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showed an increase in composite ACT scores and high school GPAs over the previous year. We've expanded scholarship funds for groups that have traditionally been under-supported, and we've gone to the Tennessee Board of Regents to request policy changes to allow more flexibility in registration and payment policies.

Additionally, we've surveyed students who failed to reenroll and analyzed their responses regarding factors that prevented their persistence. We've significantly expanded our Institutional Effectiveness, Planning, and Research group to provide better data about student retention, graduation, and success. Every academic college and every administrative division has conducted an internal review and participated in a series of hearings to outline new plans to help more students achieve success in the classroom and to graduate. We've begun to review grade distribution reports to better understand those courses that seem to have exceptionally large numbers of students not achieving the grade of C or better, so that we can consider curricular innovations to improve learning. We've also analyzed the first data sets coming out of the new funding formula under the Complete College Tennessee Act to see where our strengths lie and where we have opportunities to make improvements that may enhance our funding.

Last, we will be opening a one-stop shop for student enrollment services this spring. We have begun posting midterm grades for the first time in many years, giving students additional feedback to help them improve where their performance is lacking. A consolidated tutoring center is also being developed to provide support for students in all majors.

I recently announced a major initiative—the MTSU Quest for Student Success—that will integrate these efforts into a single coherent approach for the future. The plan, advanced by Provost Brad Bartel and endorsed by me, is designed to make sure that every student who comes to MTSU with the drive to achieve will be met with the best instruction from excellent

professors who care about their success.

The Quest for Success lays out our ambitious vision to innovate for increased student success in three key areas:

- Recruiting students who value academic success
- Enhancing the academic experience for students by implementing innovation in curriculum across all disciplines and underscoring the role of quality advising in student success
- Championing enhancements in administrative processes and eliminating barriers to student success

MTSU's Department of Physics and Astronomy is a great example of the work we are already doing to promote and improve student success, retention, and graduation. The department has implemented more student-friendly teaching practices for introductory courses and is using high-achieving undergrads as learning assistants for classmates in those courses. The department's reward—in addition to fewer failing grades, more physics and astronomy majors, and more graduates—was a \$20,000 check as the first recipient of the President's Award for Exceptional Departmental Initiatives for Student Academic Success, given last fall.

This is our time for transformation—our time to seize the opportunity to innovate, transform, and lead the way in creating a new model for higher education. Instead of spinning our wheels focusing on the many external factors affecting higher education that are beyond our capacity to control, MTSU is turning its energies and talents toward tackling the internal factors over which we have direct influence and which we know can positively affect student learning.

Read more about the plan here: <http://mtsunews.com/mtsu-student-success-reforms>.



Mike Boyle



Vincent Windrow

Two experienced MTSU administrators will oversee these reforms. Mike Boyle, dean of the University College, will serve as interim vice provost for student success. Vincent Windrow, director of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs, will be interim assistant vice provost for student success. Together, Boyle and Windrow will work with the provost and me to evaluate every division, office, department, school, and college for measurable support for retention and graduation efforts.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

MTSU is an exciting place to work and study, largely because so many renovations and new buildings are underway, taking shape, or opening for use. Here is the latest on recent and current projects.



Science Building

Construction on MTSU's new \$147 million Science Building, which began in May 2012, remains on schedule, with move-in set for summer and fall 2014 and classes opening in spring 2015.

Student Services and Admissions Center

Construction remains on schedule for the new Student Services and Admissions Center east of the new

Student Union and adjacent to Campus Recreation. The new \$16 million building will relocate all functions related to Admissions, Records and Enrollment, Financial Aid, Scheduling, the Bursar's Office, and also house the new **MT One Stop** to the new center of campus. It will serve as a starting point for campus tours and as the primary visitors' center for prospective students and their families. The building includes a bridge from the new student parking garage through the Student Services and Admissions Center and extending across Blue Raider Drive to the second-floor ballroom level of the Student Union. Construction began in spring 2012 and is scheduled to be completed for move-in during spring and summer 2014. The building and the reconstruction of our service model for enrollment management will completely change the way students experience the University, significantly decrease frustration, and increase students' ability to successfully continue toward graduation.



Football Field Turf Replacement

The replacement of the field turf will begin this month and will be completed this summer.

Parking and Transportation

The widening of the Champion Way entrance to campus, the widening of Lightning Way, and the addition of a third rotary at the intersection of Champion and Lightning Way will complete major entrance and primary roadway improvements. All improvements are designed to improve traffic flow in and out of campus, improve shuttle bus schedules, provide bike lanes around the campus academic core, and improve pedestrian safety with enhanced crosswalks and lighting. Champion Way and the rotary are scheduled for completion in late spring 2014, and Lightning Way is scheduled for completion in fall 2014.

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MURPHY CENTER RENOVATION

The original four buildings of Middle Tennessee Normal School are still in use after 100 years. But, for many, Murphy Center may hold more memories than any other building on campus. Now in its fifth decade as a multipurpose arena, efforts are under way to renovate it and ensure that it continues to be a vibrant part of campus life.

The renovations, which began earlier this month, include updated bathrooms and concessions, a new HVAC system, new arena lighting, and a new roof. The project is expected to be completed before the start of the 2014–2015 basketball season.

As with every construction project of this magnitude, there will be disruptions and complications for visitors, fans, and tenants. The project will be broken up into four stages, with each corner of the arena worked on one phase at a time. Temporary walls will be put up during the process that will limit foot traffic in certain areas. We appreciate your patience with this important renovation!



CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

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Cope Administration Building

A \$3 million renovation project inside Cope Administration Building will begin this summer after designated offices relocate to the new Student Services and Admissions Center. Among the changes will be the relocation of the President's Office from the first floor to the second floor, and the Provost's Office moving into the vacated space. The Business Office will be relocated to both sides of the first floor, and improvements will also be made to restrooms, lighting, and signage. The relocation of Financial Aid to the Student Services and Admissions Center will also allow Information Technology Division offices to expand on the second floor.



McFarland Building Renovation

Once the Student Services and Admissions Center is opened in fall 2014, the Photography Department, now located north of the new Science Building, will move to the McFarland Building following a \$2 million renovation. The old Photography Building will then be razed.

LRC 101: College of Education Professional Development Center

Construction is scheduled to begin next month and be completed this summer on a new development center that will allow the College of Education to host up to 150 K-12 teachers in a comfortable, professional setting where they can focus on the newest methodologies and standards in teaching.



Bell Street Center Renovation

The design of a \$6 million building renovation is underway. Future occupants include Graduate Business Studies for the Jennings A. Jones College of Business; the University College; the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Planning, and Research; the Tennessee STEM Education Center; the Aquatic Therapy Center in the Health and Human Performance Department; the Center for Counseling and Psych Services; and general classroom and training space. Construction will begin by fall 2014, and move in is expected by summer 2015.

Flight Simulator Building

Design is underway for a \$700,000 flight simulator building at the Murfreesboro Airport. The building will support the Aerospace Department's flight training coursework.

Open for business
Monday, Feb. 3

BLUE



print

SOLUTIONS

Located in the Student Union Building



Contact
Ed Arning
Director of Printing Services
615-898-5381
Ed.Arning@mtsu.edu

With the opening this semester of the University's first retail printing center, BLUE *print* Solutions, MTSU brings state-of-the-art printing capabilities to campus.

The name is quite intentional: the printing center will do more than simply fulfill customer orders. The idea is to also provide creative solutions for a wide variety of graphic arts projects.

Combined with significant upgrades in equipment at the existing Greenland Drive print shop, MTSU has now added color printing options to its black-and-white printing choices. All services are offered at highly competitive prices.

Much like its commercial counterparts, BLUE *print* Solutions offers an array of auxiliary services ranging from publication binding, large-format posters, passport photos, and the like.

BLUE *print* Solutions is focused on meeting the needs of students first and foremost, but it will also cater to the needs of faculty, staff, and the administration. It will also serve alumni and the general public.

BLUE *print* Solutions will also greatly enhance MTSU's relationship with Apple Inc.—there will be an Apple retail presence in the new facility.

BLUE *print* Solutions is located in the Student Union and will operate seven days a week with both day and nights shifts.

TOBACCO FREE

It is important for members of our campus community to understand that **compliance with our tobacco-free policy is not optional.** There are consequences for violating this policy. Students in violation will be referred to Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services. Disciplinary sanctions will range from warnings or reprimands to suspension or expulsion for the most egregious instances of noncompliance. Faculty and staff who fail to comply will be reported to their supervisors for discipline. Consequences ranging from warnings to unsatisfactory job performance ratings (which will result in denial of any across-the-board salary increase) will be imposed.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Fiscal year 2014–15 will be the first year of full implementation of the state’s outcomes-based funding formula as called for in the Complete College Tennessee Act. Under the act, productivity rather than enrollment drives state funding distribution.

MTSU’s 2014–2015 outcomes formula adjustment will be a state funding increase of \$1.252 million. Additionally, THEC voted at its November meeting to propose new state funding totaling \$29.6 million for the higher education formula institutions. MTSU’s share of the proposed new funding will be \$2.961 million. Thus, **MTSU’s state funding could actually increase by \$4.213 million.**

The commission also voted to recommend **\$8.69 million in capital maintenance funds** for MTSU projects, which include absorption chiller/tower replacement, electrical updates and exterior repairs to several buildings, Bell Street building and central plant HVAC and control updates, campus-wide domestic water-sewer systems updates, Peck Hall HVAC updates, Jones Hall plumbing updates, and campus stormwater plans. No MTSU capital project was proposed for new capital outlay funding for 2014–15.

THEC’s recommendations have been submitted to the Department of Finance and Administration for consideration in the proposed state budget that Governor Bill Haslam will be submitting to the state legislature in the coming weeks. At that point, we will have more information regarding our likely 2014–15 state appropriations.

MT free POLICY SPECIFICS

- The policy restricts the use of all forms of tobacco products including, but not limited to, cigarettes, pipes, cigars, chewing tobacco, and snuff, as well as smokeless electronic cigarettes and other similar devices.
- It allows the use of tobacco products in private vehicles on campus.
- You can be referred to Student Affairs (students) or face progressive disciplinary actions (staff) for using tobacco on campus.
- Tennessee law already prohibits smoking in buildings owned or operated by the state, includes any University-owned or leased facilities, vehicles, and athletic venues.
- For policies and cessation information visit www.mtsu.edu/tobaccofree/.

SMOKING CESSATION RESOURCES

- On Campus Resources**
 - Prescriptions for cessation support medications available from physicians in Health Services
 - Over-the-counter nicotine replacement options (nicotine patches, gum, etc.) sold in Campus Pharmacy at cost
 - Free tobacco quit kits available in Health Services
 - Promotion containing self-assessments and cessation strategies
- Telephone-based Resources**
 - Free telephonic coaching available by calling 1-800-QUIT-NOW
 - Employees enrolled in the Partnership PPO health insurance program may also utilize telephone-based health coaches
- Internet-based Resources**
 - Free seven-part cessation module available at www.ffsonline.org
 - Veterans may also utilize the cessation site www.ucanquit2.org

MIDDLE
TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY

EEO/AA

BUCHANAN FELLOWS INCREASE IN QUALITY

The Buchanan Fellowship fall 2014 class should be the strongest entering class since the prestigious scholarship program began in 2006.

The Buchanan Fellowship, the highest award given to students entering the University Honors College, had 166 applications from ten different states, and the average ACT score of the applicants was 30.75. Applications for next fall’s class were up 43 percent over last year.

Limited to 20 students per year, the Buchanan Fellowship is named in honor of MTSU’s Nobel Prize–winning alumnus, Dr. James M. Buchanan. To be a candidate for the Buchanan Fellowship, entering students must have a minimum 3.5 GPA and a composite ACT score of at least 29.

John Vile, dean of the Honors College, and I are delighted with the breadth and quality of the candidates for the 2014 class. The many things that have happened this past year, like the \$2.5 million bequest from the Buchanan estate, being named one of the “Top Producers” for U.S. Fulbright Scholars, and the many special benefits and experiences associated with this award, have significantly increased interest in MTSU among more and more of the brightest students across the country.



John Vile, Dean, Honors College, and Katiana Nicholson.

UPDATES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Not a day goes by that I do not hear about or encounter something great, valuable, or noteworthy about our great University and its faculty and students. Here are some recent examples.



Ford Honored for Career Achievement

The MTSU Foundation celebrated 17 faculty members for their outstanding work and service to the University and community with special awards at the Fall Faculty Meeting in August. A highlight was the Career Achievement Award presented to Dr. William F. “Bill” Ford, professor of economics and finance and holder of the Weatherford Chair of Excellence in Finance in the Jones College of Business. The 12th honoree to receive the award, the 77-year-old Ford thanked the selection committee for an honor he never thought he’d receive.

Centennial Campaign Continues Momentum

MTSU announced in August that it recorded the second-largest fundraising total in its history during the 2012–13 fiscal year, bringing in almost \$14 million in gifts from more than 9,000 donors. The total from the University’s last fiscal year, which ended June 30, has helped MTSU pass the 85 percent mark toward its \$80 million Centennial Campaign. That effort stood in August at more than \$70 million, with 17,721 donors. MTSU had its highest annual total of alumni gifts in 2012–13, recording 5,287 separate donations.

For more campus news, visit
<http://mtsunews.com>

MTSU Named among Southeast’s Best

MTSU was selected as one of the “Best in the Southeast” by the Princeton Review on its 2014 list of the nation’s top colleges. Editors of the list, which recognized 138 institutions in the 12-state southeast region, called MTSU “a growing school on the rise, [where] you get a quality education and you aren’t in crippling debt afterward.” The Review, an education services company known for test prep programs and college guides, said MTSU’s faculty members “work hard to ensure equal opportunities for students who want to learn.”



Opening of Two Student Garages Cheered

With a swipe of his University ID on Aug. 8, 2013, Student Government Association president James Lee watched the mechanical arm-gate smoothly rise, allowing him to drive his black sports coupe ahead to officially open one of two new student parking garages. Students paid for the

\$23.5 million garages through fees instituted a few years ago. Built by Messer Construction, the four-deck structures have added almost 1,000 net parking spaces to a growing campus that for years needed adequate parking near the campus core.

MTSU Enrolls Largest Freshman Class in TBR

MTSU welcomed the largest class of new freshmen and the largest population of new transfer students among the six universities in the TBR system in fall 2013. The new freshman population increased by almost two percent over last year, growing to 3,179 as of the 14th day of classes, the date TBR uses as the system’s enrollment snapshot.

True Blue Tour Sets Attendance Record

Middle Tennessee State University’s top administrators and deans met with record numbers of prospective students in six Tennessee cities in September and October as part of the University’s annual True Blue Tour. Organized by the Admissions Office, student receptions were held in Chattanooga, Johnson City, Knoxville, Nashville, Memphis, and Jackson.



Record Attendance at Tucker Theatre for *Les Misérables*

The MTSU Arts production of the Oscar- and Tony-winning musical *Les Misérables* drew four consecutive sellouts of Tucker Theatre, setting a record. The music and theatre programs in the College of Liberal Arts produced the show, which ran Sept. 19–22.

MTSU Employees Pledge Record Amount to Charities

University employees showed their True Blue spirit in a big way for the 2013 Employee Charitable Giving Campaign. The campaign, which was part of the overall TBR theme “Timeless Value in Giving,” smashed its goal of \$115,000 with a record grand total of \$128,099.50 (or 111.4 percent of the goal).

Music Legend Gibb Wows Tucker Crowd

Music icon Barry Gibb traced the genealogy of the Bee Gees classic “How Can You Mend a Broken Heart?” for more than 900 fans and friends at Tucker Theatre in late October. The audience, which almost filled the 1,000-seat venue, gave Gibb several standing ovations during the evening. Gibb was also named the Inaugural Fellow of the Center for Popular Music.

State Supreme Court Comes to Campus for SCALES

The Tennessee Supreme Court met Oct. 1 at MTSU to hear three appeals as part of its Supreme Court Advancing Legal Education for Students program (SCALES). The session, the first held on campus for MTSU students, was sponsored by the University’s American Democracy Project.

Mass Comm Students Show Skills at Freedom Sings



MTSU students worked behind the scenes at the Newseum Institute’s “Freedom Sings” event at Nashville’s Bluebird Café in October. Ken Paulson, dean of the College of Mass Communication and president of the Newseum Institute’s First Amendment Center, said the experience is precisely why the

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Mechatronics Program Lands Approval

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission granted MTSU’s request to create a mechatronics engineering program. Offered with the support of local industries, including Nissan and Bridgestone, the bachelor’s degree program makes MTSU a full-fledged engineering school.



MTSU Freshmen Volunteers Beat Goal for Day of Service

MTSU freshmen paused from their first-year college instruction to give back to the community in a big way. The Freshmen Day of Service took place Sept. 13 in the Student Union Ballroom. Students assembled snack packs to be delivered to local schools to encourage healthy eating among children involved in after-school programs. The goal was 2,017 snack packs because 2017 is the year most of this year’s freshmen will graduate. They easily surpassed their goal with 2,513 packs.

Student Selected for State Veterans Task Force

MTSU junior Sean Martin was appointed by Gov. Bill Haslam to the state’s new Veterans Education Task Force. Martin, the only student on the task force, served in the Marine Corps from 2005 to 2009 and was a police transition team advisor for Iraqi police departments in the al-Anbar region from March through October 2008.



The cover story of the latest edition of the award-winning *MTSU Magazine*, which will reach subscribers by the end of January, profiles MTSU's role as a leader in the positive reform of teacher training in Tennessee.

As all of you know, MTSU's roots are in teacher training: Middle Tennessee Normal School opened in 1911 with a two-year program serving 125 students. But even as it has evolved into Middle Tennessee State University (with 24,000 students and 80 degree programs), its mission as a teacher-training institution and its commitment to serving a leadership role in improving the state's teacher workforce remains central to the University's identity.

Other articles in the newest edition of the magazine profile

- MTSU's six "first-gen" deans;
- student-athlete Ebony Rowe and her study of the physics of basketball; and
- news of some exciting, new nanotechnology research happening at MTSU.

Readers may also now download *MTSU Magazine* free on their iPads. The MTSU Mag app includes multimedia content built into every issue that isn't available in the print edition. Special iPad-only versions of *MTSU iMagazine*, published twice annually, are also available in the iTunes store.

Printed copies of *MTSU Magazine* are distributed twice annually to more than 105,000 alumni readers. Additional copies of the alumni-and-friends publication are distributed to interested stakeholders, including state lawmakers and members of the Tennessee Board of Regents. The magazine is also available online at www.mtsumagazine.com.

STUDENT LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

A college education is more than an accumulation of course credits. Students don't spend all their time in a classroom. College life is also about expanding your worldview through exposure to cultures, perspectives, and lives different than your own. There are many exciting updates to share regarding student life at MTSU.

connection point

- A significant portion of the fall semester was spent implementing the **Connection Point student involvement program**. The program is an effort to connect students to the University through extracurricular involvement, with the goal of improving retention and graduation. Over 2,700 first-time students participated in Connection Point, and over 2,100 first-time students attended at least one event during the fall semester. Over 1,100 first-time students attended four or more events during the fall semester. Connection Point is now being assessed for ways to improve the program to increase participation next fall. Student Affairs is collaborating with the Student Government Association to identify ways to expand the program to include upperclassmen and to possibly institute an incentive-based participation reward system.
- This spring, Student Affairs will continue to offer a wide range of **programs and activities** for engagement in the community. Please see the University Master Calendar for more information.

For information about campus events visit
www.mtsu.edu/calendar/

- Spring highlights include the **MTSU Habitat for Humanity House Build** from February 5 to April 12. This will be the fourth house built in Murfreesboro by MTSU students.
- March is **National Women's History Month** and will feature keynote speaker Soledad O'Brien, an award winning journalist and CNN news anchor, on March 26 at 7 p.m. in the Student Union ballroom.

UPDATES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

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college's Department of Electronic Media Communication is producing such successful students.



Ginseng Initiative Takes Root

MTSU's Ginseng Initiative to grow and harvest the plant at the University's Experiential Learning and Research Center in Lascassas will boost state revenue and potentially take years off the growing process. Joined by Senator Bill Ketrone of the Tennessee

General Assembly, who suggested the University grow ginseng at its 438-acre farm, I announced a research partnership Nov. 13 between a group led by Elliot Altman, director of the Tennessee Center for Botanical Medicine Research; Matthew Wade, Farm Laboratories director; and Warren Gill, director of the School of Agribusiness and Agriscience.

Nursing Professor Wins Top State Award

An MTSU nursing professor was the 2013 recipient of the Tennessee Nurses Association's Excellence in Nursing Education Award. Dr. Debra Rose Wilson received the honor at the group's annual convention in Murfreesboro. The award "recognizes outstanding performance in nursing education and nursing leadership, which improves the quality of nursing care, and professional and community service."



George Jones's Family Starts Scholarship Fund

The widow of country music icon George Jones announced that her family has established a scholarship fund at MTSU that they hope will become a living memorial to the late singer. Nancy Jones announced the creation of the fund Nov. 18 at a Nashville ceremony to unveil a monument to her husband of 30 years.



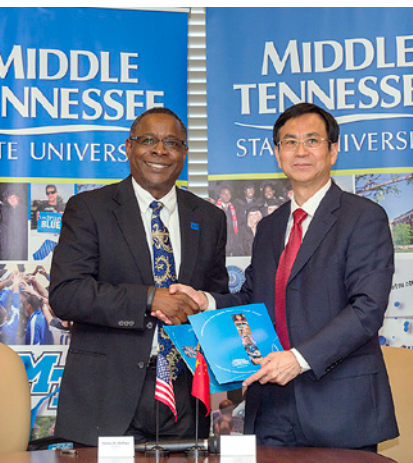
MTSU Collaborates with Alabama A&M

MTSU and Alabama A&M University signed a memorandum of understanding Dec. 13 that encourages greater collaboration on faculty and student scientific research in the areas of aerospace, agriscience, and engineering.

President Andrew Hugine Jr. and I signed the agreement following my visit as keynote speaker for the commencement ceremony at the historically black university.

Worldwide Reach

We have revitalized www.mtsu.edu. Enhancements include the creation of special pages devoted to our 100-plus programs of study, with embedded videos offering a visual glimpse of majors and colleges. The University will continue to make changes to the website throughout the 2013-14 academic year. Send feedback and suggestions to socialmedia@mtsu.edu.



MTSU Strengthens Ties with Chinese University

Middle Tennessee State University and Guangxi University in Nanning, China, strengthened ties with an agreement to pursue cultural and academic exchanges. Guangxi University president Zhao Yanlin and I signed the memorandum of understanding Nov. 26 following a roundtable discussion.

I AM *true* **BLUE**

RECRUITING EFFORTS

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

- We have the names of more than **24,000 Tennessee freshmen prospects** in our database, which we have purchased from ACT and other vendors or culled from visits to our website and meetings with recruiters.
- Last semester, we mailed more than **29,000 individual visit and search pieces** to prospective students.
- During our **True Blue Tour** around the state, our admissions team hosted 616 students and 730 parents/guests—an **84.9 percent increase** over our 2012 tour.
- At our **counselor luncheons**, we hosted 262 high school and community college counselors—a **43.1 percent increase** over 2012.
- At our two **Fall Preview Day** events, we hosted 668 students and 986 parents/guests—a **125.6 percent increase** in students over 2012. (Note that we had one Preview Day in fall 2012 versus two in fall 2013.)
- At our three **True Blue Experience** events in the fall, we hosted 152 students and 188 parents/guests—a **seven percent increase** in students over 2012. (Beginning Fall 2013, True Blue Experience participants were capped to allow all students to be accommodated in a computer lab used to engage students in an on-line career discovery program.)
- Last fall, we hosted 4,481 prospective students and families for **tours**—a **24.2 percent total increase**, and a

40.7 percent increase in students alone over fall 2012.

- In total (counting tours, Preview Days, and True Blue Experience Days), we experienced a **39 percent increase in visitors** over 2012!

This coming spring, we have scheduled the following recruiting events:

- **Campus tours** every weekday at 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
- Friday, **January 31, 2014**—True Blue Experience
- Monday, **February 17, 2014**—Honors Open House and President's Reception
- Saturday, **March 22, 2014**—Preview Day
- **March/April, TBD**—Admitted Student Day
- **April, TBD**—True Blue Experience for Central Magnet School/middle Tennessee students
- Saturday, **June 7**—2014 Preview Day

True Blue Experience Day gives students and their guests a closer look at MTSU and focuses on helping prospective students choose a career path while learning about MTSU.

During **Preview Day**, MTSU rolls out the blue carpet and gives students and their guests an in-depth look at MTSU, allowing students to tour campus and housing facilities, meet with MTSU faculty and administrators, and learn about all aspects of MTSU.



TUITION DISCOUNT FOR YOUR CHILDREN



University Counsel Heidi Zimmerman (left) with son Carson Dorris and husband Fred Dies

Visit www.mtsu.edu/hrs/benefits/assist.php for more information on the tuition discount and other educational assistance benefits available to you as an MTSU employee.

During 2014, many of you with high school students will begin the lengthy but important process of selecting a college for your son or daughter to attend. Often, the first thought many students have is to leave home and go away to school. I want you to consider suggesting to your children that they look closely at MTSU before making that decision to move away.

There are many reasons it can be the most beneficial choice both for them and for you! First and foremost, I hope you feel as I do that MTSU provides a quality education in a great university community with people who truly care about their welfare. Also, as a full-time member of the faculty or staff, **your family is eligible for a 50**

percent discount on undergraduate tuition fees and mandatory student fees. Combined with the wealth of scholarships available (such as the Buchanan, National Merit, Presidential, and Academic Service scholarships) and the varied forms of financial aid MTSU makes available to thousands of students, the burden of paying for your child's college education can be significantly lightened by choosing MTSU. Finally, our campus has evolved greatly over the past decade. With so many new facilities, service clubs and extracurricular activities, **students at MTSU today never have to leave campus to keep busy and to have a great time.** Plus, they will be close enough to come home from time to time and get a helping hand.

Look closely at MTSU before making your college decision.

COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

The College of Graduate Studies has had an exciting launch to the 2013–2014 academic year. Dean Michael Allen has developed a three-year plan, **Advance Graduate Education**, laying out our strategy to increase students' opportunities and pathways to obtain graduate degrees.

Many are surprised to learn that **one out of five degrees awarded at MTSU is a graduate degree**. MTSU is committed to making students aware of the long-term value of graduate education and creating an atmosphere of pride in our high-quality graduate programs.

To that end, we are **focusing on our own MTSU family**. Since over 50 percent of our graduate students attended MTSU as undergraduates, we have stepped up our outreach to undergrads and alumni. Important efforts include our annual **Grad Fair in September** and partnering with several other campus groups to reinstitute the tradition of **Senior Day in November**. These events attracted hundreds of students, giving them the opportunity to learn firsthand about pursuing graduate studies and becoming active MTSU alumni.

- **The College of Graduate Studies Open House**, being held **April 10** in conjunction with Alumni Weekend, presents an excellent opportunity for students, alumni, faculty, and staff to learn about the over 100 graduate programs available at MTSU. Employees are eligible for one free class a semester whether it is graduate or undergraduate. For information on the open house, please go to mtsu.edu/graduate.
- Our newest degree, the **Master's in Management**, features an industry internship for students pursuing the supply-chain management concentration—a course of study that has been attractive to both industry and military personnel in the region. New concentrations in **Geosciences** and **Engineering Management** have been added to the **Master's in Professional Science** degree, and both have enjoyed robust enrollment.

- The **military** represents a growing market for our graduate programs. We have made strong inroads in our recruiting efforts with the military; many service members are interested in pursuing graduate studies in order to move up in rank and responsibility. It is our goal to establish **master's degree cohort programs** at nearby military installations to meet this growing need.
- In coordination with International Affairs, we now have an exclusive recruiter in **China**, Liu Xiao, who will work on recruiting for both undergraduate and graduate students. Our aim is to **increase to 15 percent** the total of our international graduate students, with a goal of 300 Chinese graduate students by 2016.

Further initiatives in the Graduate Studies plan include

- establishing new **Accelerated Bachelors-to-Masters (ABM)** programs, allowing high-ability students to complete their undergraduate and master's degrees in five years;
- establishing **new concentrations and specializations** within existing degree programs, recognizing the increased demand for cross-disciplinary graduate programs;
- focusing **marketing** efforts on programs having capacity for enrollment growth;
- increasing recruiting efforts aimed at regional **businesses and industry**;
- maximizing opportunities to encourage **current undergrads** to stay for graduate studies;
- contacting previous graduate students to discuss how MTSU can help them **finish their degrees**; and
- enhancing customer service to decrease time for **admissions decisions**.

All these efforts support our goal of branding **MTSU as the emerging leader in graduate education** in Tennessee.



The College of Graduate Studies partnered with several other campus groups to reinstitute the tradition of Senior Day in November.

ATHLETICS

MTSU became a full-fledged member of Conference USA last summer, following 13 years in the Sun Belt Conference. On September 21, the Blue Raiders enjoyed their first competition against a Conference USA opponent when the football team traveled to Florida Atlantic and defeated the Owls in overtime 42–35. I am very proud of the strong transition our teams, coaches, and staffers have made to this new level of competition!

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

- During the fall 2013 semester, **nine of 15 teams** had a semester GPA of 3.0 or higher; 85 student athletes made the Dean's List (3.5+ GPA); and 27 had a perfect 4.0. Overall, 165 of 312 student-athletes had a 3.0 or higher (53 percent).
- For the **fourth consecutive year**, all 17 of Middle Tennessee's athletic teams earned a multiyear Academic Progress Rate (APR) of over 930, according to the annual report released by the NCAA in June. Twelve of MTSU's 17 sports reached their highest APR average since scoring began in 2004–05. Two teams—men's golf and men's cross-country—received NCAA Public Recognition Awards based on their rank in the top 10 percent in each sport.
- On November 4, MT Athletics, Sinclair Broadcasting, MTSU's College of Mass Communication, and Nelligan Sports Marketing



T.T. Barber, shown here forcing a fumble against Navy, was named the Blue Raiders' MVP of the Armed Forces Bowl by members of the media.

announced a partnership to broadcast an **11-game local television package** consisting of one football game and 10 men's and women's basketball games. The entire 11-game production airs on MyTV 30 in Nashville, with the exception of one game that will be shown on CW 58. **Students in the Electronic Mass Communication department will once again produce and direct all the broadcasts.**

- Head track and field coach **Dean Hayes** recently received the United States Track and Field and Cross-Country Coaches Association's Jimmy Carnes Distinguished Service Award, which is presented to those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in their service to the association and to the sports of cross-country and track and field.

- The Blue Raider football squad went 6–2 in league play and tied for second in the C-USA East Division on its way to accepting a bid to the **Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl** against Navy. Seventeen student-athletes played in the game (in Fort Worth, Texas) with a degree in hand. That total tied for fifth most nationally.

- The Blue Raider women's basketball team hosted the number-four ranked University of Tennessee squad in November, drawing a **Murphy Center crowd of 11,227**—the second largest in history. In December, the Blue Raiders also drew 10,028 attendees to the Murfreesboro City Schools Education Day game against Kennesaw State.
- Conference USA announced the fall recipients of the league's **Spirit of Service Award**, and sophomore soccer goalkeeper **Kelsey Brouwer** was among the 16 honorees. Brouwer logged 42 hours of community service during the summer and fall semester, volunteering at Hobgood Elementary School and coaching a youth soccer team. Brouwer has also donated her time with Habitat for Humanity and Grace Works Food Bank and helped with wetland reserve cleanup at Garrison Creek. She has also worked with the Rutherford Country Special Olympics. The Franklin native maintains a 3.919 cumulative GPA while majoring in business and minoring in economics and finance. She was named to the Conference USA All-Academic second team this fall and helped the Blue Raiders pick up their 12th consecutive National Soccer Coaches Association of America Team Academic Award. Brouwer's high marks in the classroom helped MTSU post a 3.62 cumulative team GPA.



ESPN's Gameday was in town in the fall to interview Blue Raider freshman Steven Rhodes.

- Volleyball's **Tyler Richardson** garnered AVCA Honorable Mention All-America honors at the annual AVCA Convention in December. Richardson was also named to the AVCA South All-Region team and the All-Conference USA First Team. Richardson ranked 12th nationally in hitting percentage at .414 in 2013.
- Freshman **Steven Rhodes** joined the football program following five years of service in the U.S. Marines last August. After he enrolled, the NCAA declared that he had only two years of eligibility and would have to sit out the 2013 season since he played recreational football as a Marine for two years. The story made the national news, which led quickly to an NCAA decision allowing Rhodes to play immediately (and maintain four years of eligibility). Rhodes played in all 13 games and had 10 tackles.
- **Men's golf** opened its season last fall at the Carpet Capital Collegiate, finishing ahead of preseason top-25 teams Texas, South Carolina, and North Florida. MTSU ended the fall season at the 2013 Warrior Princeville Makai Invitational in Hawaii, finishing ahead

of 15th-ranked Baylor and 42nd-ranked ETSU, tallying a 19-under score of 845, the fifth best 54-hole total in school history.

- **Avery George** of the women's golf team earned Conference USA Golfer of the Week honors on Oct. 9. George was the only player in the 90-person field at the Lady Pirate Intercollegiate to shoot under par, posting a winning score of 215 for one-under par at the 6,004-yard, par 72 Greenville Country Club course.
- The men's tennis team was ranked 50th in the nation in the preseason ITA poll announced Jan. 3. Sophomore **David Fox** was in both the national singles and doubles ranks as he prepares for his second season as a Blue Raider. A native of the United Kingdom, he is ranked 98th in the nation in singles competition and 22nd when teamed with fellow sophomore Victor Cornea in doubles.
- Ground was broken Oct. 28 on a new **indoor tennis facility** at Old

Fort Park that will greatly enhance MTSU's tennis program and provide greater opportunities for the burgeoning local tennis community. The \$3.7 million structure will feature eight indoor courts, an electronic scoreboard, a pro shop, locker rooms, a lounge area, and meeting area. The facility will be open to the general public and serve as the home of the Blue Raider men's and women's tennis programs. The project is part of the University's \$80 million Centennial Campaign announced in 2012. The state-of-the-art building is expected to be ready by fall 2014.

- Middle Tennessee was one of just **12 programs nationally** to go to a football bowl game and compete in both the men's and women's NCAA basketball tournaments during the 2013 calendar year. Joining the Blue Raiders were North Carolina, Duke, Louisville, Miami (Florida), Michigan, Michigan State, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Notre Dame, UCLA, and Syracuse.

Senior women's basketball standout Ebony Rowe was named the NCAA Women's Basketball Player of the Week on Dec. 3. She also reached 2,000 career points on Dec. 29 at Clemson, becoming just the second active NCAA player to have 2,000 points and 1,000 rebounds in a career.



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

New appointments

I am proud to announce several key additions and promotions.

COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Amy Sayward, interim associate dean

JENNINGS A. JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

David Foote, associate dean

Kim Sokoya, associate dean for Graduate and Executive Education

Lara Daniel, assistant dean for Assessment

Charlie Apigian, chair, Computer Information Systems

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Karen Petersen, associate dean

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

Peter Cunningham, administrative fellow, Academic Affairs



FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT



Buoyed by momentum from the Centennial Campaign and the University's second-best fundraising year ever in fiscal 2012–13, campus-wide fundraising during fall 2013 focused heavily on strengthening college-based development efforts.

Individual campaign case statements were written, in conjunction with each dean, outlining the remarkable opportunities and fundraising priorities of MTSU's six primary academic colleges, as well as Walker Library and the University Honors College. Campaign committees were established in two colleges and are being planned for 2014 in the remaining colleges.

Among the fundraising highlights of the fall semester were the construction of the first-ever **rappelling tower** for MTSU's storied ROTC program, the establishment of the **George Jones Scholarship** in memory of one of country music's greatest legends, and commitments that will establish several **endowed faculty positions**—all made possible through private philanthropic support!



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WINTER WEATHER DELAYS AND CANCELLATION POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, MTSU will disseminate closing plans through the following:

- Local radio and television stations
- MTSU's Critical Notification System (formerly known as Rave).
- The Alert Updates Web page at www.mtsu.edu/alertupdates
- A banner on the MTSU home page at www.mtsu.edu
- The MTSU hotline, (615) 898-2000.

If classes are canceled, it will be announced as soon as possible (but no later than two hours before the start of the first class on the following morning). Cancellation will apply to all classes, credit and noncredit. **Offices will be considered open unless the announcement specifically says they will be closed.**

Radio Stations

WMOT-FM 89.5

WQKQ-FM 92.1

WKDF-FM 103.3

WGFX-FM 104.5

WLAC-AM 1510

WGNS-AM 1450

Television Stations

WKRN-TV (Channel 2)

WSMV-TV (Channel 4)

WTVF-TV (Channel 5)

WETV (WGNS Channel 11)

WZTV (Channel 17)