

# NEWS & information

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Sidney A. McPhee



*Welcome to the  
Spring 2018 Semester!*

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

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

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

I also invite you to visit my blog at [mtsu.edu/President](http://mtsu.edu/President) for updates and information from my office.

**True Blue!**

DR. SIDNEY A. MCPHEE

### RAIDER RELIEF

MTSU leaders deliver needed supplies to a former basketball player's family in Puerto Rico

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### TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Much has been happening on the MTSU technology front—get the updates

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### ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

A small snapshot of the kinds of transformative efforts occurring in our colleges and academic units across campus

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## RAIDER RELIEF

In just one moment on Nov. 16, 2017, when Luz Cortes hugged her son, former MTSU basketball star Raymond Cintron, the reason for Raider Relief was clear.

“That moment was when we realized what we did—all the fundraising, the donations, the flight here—was helping Raymond’s family survive,” said Darrell Freeman, vice chair of Middle Tennessee State University’s Board of Trustees and an MTSU alumnus. “And they were so very happy, so very grateful, for our True Blue family.”

Raider Relief, launched by Freeman, MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee, and men’s basketball coach Kermit Davis, raised money and supplies for Cintron’s extended family last November. Cintron, a star guard for the Blue Raiders in 2011–13, has been displaced to the Orlando area by the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, a Category 4 storm that devastated Puerto Rico in September 2017.

His family remains on the island, and they were in dire need of medicine, food, and generators, all of which were stuffed into Freeman’s aircraft.

With the help of the Puerto Rico Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, MTSU’s partner with its Department of Aerospace, Cintron’s family got the aid they desperately needed. Freeman flew Cintron, McPhee, and University pilot Terry Dorris, who served as co-pilot, on the seven-hour journey.

“It means everything to me,” Cintron said. “This is something very, very special. This will remain in our hearts for the rest of our lives.”

McPhee credited the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) volunteers for making the final stages of Raider Relief possible. CAP is the volunteer civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force.

“Our CAP partners overcame an island-wide power outage to assemble here, with volunteers and trucks, and get this aid to Raymond’s family,” McPhee said. “Without Trustee Freeman’s plane and the Civil Air Patrol, none of this would have happened.”

Col. Carlos Fernandez, commander of CAP’s Puerto Rico Wing, said his volunteers were happy to assist with Raider Relief.

“We’re in the business of helping people,” he said. “This is what we do.”



Top: Former MTSU basketball player Raymond Cintron and his mother, Luz Cortes, share a hug Nov. 15 in Puerto Rico after the arrival of the MTSU Raider Relief team that brought needed supplies for Cintron’s extended family.

Above: MTSU Board of Trustees Vice Chair Darrell Freeman with cadets from the Puerto Rico Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, who helped distribute the supplies.



## ADMISSIONS

**The 2017 True Blue Tour was another success!** Although there may have been fewer people on a few stops, overall, we had an increase in attendees for the student and counselor receptions. Also, the quality of prospective students attending increased. Many of our TBT guests have since come to Murfreesboro for a campus tour and/or Preview Day since we saw them in their hometowns.

Our recruiters have been traveling throughout the state of Tennessee and out-of-state areas in this effort. Admissions staff traveled more than 64,000 miles to share opportunities at MTSU with prospective students and their families throughout Tennessee,

Alabama, Georgia, and Kentucky. University department representatives, advisors, deans, administrators, and student leaders are on hand at these tour stops to present information about admissions, scholarships, financial aid, and academic programs.

The Freshmen Guaranteed Scholarship deadline was Dec. 1. This year we saw an increase in the number of applicants submitting documentation for this opportunity. Scholarship notices were sent out before the winter break. Everyone in admissions is now working hard to help students complete the admissions process and prepare to enroll with us here at MTSU!



## TRUE BLUE CELEBRATION

A diverse crowd of roughly 250 attendees joined together Monday night, Jan. 15, at a University-sponsored celebration and candlelight vigil inside Tucker Theatre in observance of the federal holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the slain civil rights leader.

Hosted by Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity (of which King was a member), the event was highlighted by featured speaker Phil Darius Wallace, an actor and writer from Memphis, the city where King was struck down by a sniper's bullet on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel 50 years ago during his visit in support of a sanitation workers' strike there.

Known for his one-man shows about the lives of King, Malcolm X, and Frederick Douglass, Wallace took the audience on a journey through critical turning points in King's life—becoming an ordained minister at age 19; leading the 381-day, Rosa Parks-inspired Montgomery Bus Boycott; giving the prescient "Mountaintop" speech in Memphis the night before his death.

Wallace even added a sampling of the contrasting, biting rhetoric from fellow civil rights activist Malcolm X, who was assassinated three years before King and who, despite public tensions between them throughout their parallel social justice journeys, was someone who King had hoped to work with before he was struck down.

Dressed in suit and tie and using only a wooden chair on the Tucker stage as a prop, Wallace channeled King in reflecting on the constant threat of death shadowing the Baptist minister and his family.

Brian Marshall, historian for the local Alpha Phi Alpha chapter, opened the event by telling the audience that American society would, indeed, one day reach King's

"promised land." MTSU junior Ontario McGregor, president of the Alpha Phi Alpha's Kappa Xi chapter on campus, introduced a brief film segment about King's involvement with and induction into the nation's first intercollegiate black fraternity and how it shaped his life of leadership.

Also performing at the event was MTSU's Generation of Purpose gospel choir and Chandler Custer, a student at Austin Peay State University, who performed a violin tribute to King and his widow, the late Coretta Scott King.

Before offering a closing prayer and leading the crowd in reciting the True Blue Pledge, Dakota Logan, a pastor with the Point College Ministry of New Vision Baptist Church, challenged those in attendance to break out of their comfort zones moving forward and seek relationships with those of different races and cultures.

The event concluded with a candlelight ceremony where attendees formed a chain of unity around Tucker Theatre holding electronic, blue-flamed candles. MTSU student Erykah Carter sang music artist Andra Day's "Rise Up" before everyone joined in singing "We Shall Overcome."

Monday's event was sponsored by the MTSU Office of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs and the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership.



## 2018 Spring Events Calendar

Community awareness and support continue to grow for MTSU Arts events. The College of Liberal Arts invites you to join us this semester at the following MTSU Arts featured concerts, exhibits, and productions.

# MTSU Arts

ART • DANCE • MUSIC • THEATRE



For a full calendar of events or to learn how to become a member of the MTSU Arts Patron Society, please visit [mtsuarts.com](http://mtsuarts.com)

Department of Art and Todd Art Gallery present  
**Southern Graphics Council International Members Exhibit**  
Jan. 19–Feb. 8  
(opening reception: Jan. 20, 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.)  
Todd Art Gallery (Room 224A), Todd Hall  
Featuring 52 printmaking works from 51 North American and international artists

School of Music presents  
**MTSU Opera**  
*The Impresario*  
by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and  
*The Disappointment: or, The Force of Credulity*  
by Andrew Barton,  
orchestrated by Samuel Adler  
March 23–24, 7:30 p.m.  
Hinton Music Hall, Wright Music Building

Department of Theatre and Dance presents  
**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**  
April 5–7, 7:30 p.m. and April 8, 2:00 p.m.  
Tucker Theatre, Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building

MT Dance presents  
**Spring Dance Concert**  
April 19–21, 7:30 p.m.  
Tucker Theatre, Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building

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## STUDENT LIFE

The formula for student success involves more than just ensuring students make it to class, fulfill course obligations, and get consistent and proper academic advising on their journey toward a degree. After all, college life is more than just books and classrooms.

### Connection Point

The Connection Point program continues to be an effective initiative to engage our first-semester freshman students with exciting out-of-classroom involvement activities. Fall 2017 marked the beginning of the program's fifth year! More than 80 percent of our first-semester freshmen participated in the program during Fall 2017, which reflects an attendance increase. Large numbers of upper-class students also attended many of the events.



A new addition to the slate of programs included *Freedom Sings*, featuring musical artists performing popular songs that at different points in history were banned or censored due to

controversial social or political issues during the time of their release.

Connection Point Spring 2018 will include motivational speakers, free movies, sporting events, a free concert for students, and much more! Visit [mtsu.edu/connection](http://mtsu.edu/connection) for a complete list of events.

### Other Activities

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

groups. The fair will be held **Wednesday, Jan. 24 at 2:00–5:00 p.m.** in the Student Union Ballroom.

**Women's History Month:** Celebrated throughout March, the month of activities 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](http://mtsu.edu/jac).

**MT After Dark:** Come out and enjoy FREE first-run movies at this annual event, which takes place at the Premier 6 movie theater in Murfreesboro on **Thursday, March 22**. Doors open at 11:00 p.m., and movies start at midnight.

## HANDS ACROSS MTSU

Hundreds of students, faculty, staff, and alumni joined hands and formed a human chain across the campus of MTSU on Nov. 6 in a strong show of unity and as a demonstration of solidarity across a diverse campus

Participants linked hands for about 15 minutes in between classes. The event was one of several programs and activities on campus recently as an outgrowth of a meeting between President Sidney A. McPhee and the MTSU Intercultural and Diversity Affairs Advisory Board.

The event mirrored the 1986 Hands Across America event where Americans embraced each other in a human chain to show their support in the fight against hunger and homelessness.

Hands Across MTSU celebrated the University's strength through its diversity.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

February is **Black History Month** and March is **Women's History Month**.

The theme of this year's MTSU Black History Month is "African Americans in Times of War: Current-Day Warriors for Social Justice." This year's keynote speaker is **Eric Thomas**, a critically acclaimed author, speaker, educator,

and pastor. The speaker at the Unity Luncheon will be **Kevin Douglass Greene**, a great-great-grandson of Frederick Douglass. Visit [mtsu.edu/aahm](http://mtsu.edu/aahm) for more information.

MTSU's National Women's History Month programming recognizes, promotes, and celebrates women's

contributions and causes by providing education and entertainment from a feminist perspective that emphasizes cultural transformation to achieve social justice and women's empowerment. This year's keynote speaker is Emmy Award-winning screenwriter and director **Dee Rees**. Visit [mtsu.edu/jac/nwhm.php](http://mtsu.edu/jac/nwhm.php) for more information.

## TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Several important IT projects taking shape at MTSU truly highlight our collective focus on student success. Just a few examples include:

### PipelineMT Upgrade

PipelineMT, MTSU's portal, underwent a major upgrade and facelift in 2017, with work beginning in January and culminating in the final transition on Sept. 16. The underlying hardware and software were completely changed, along with the overall design and navigation within the portal. To streamline things, the RaiderNet identity was taken away. Tabs were replaced with a left-nav area, to maintain consistency with MTSU web page navigation. The same menu options that were formerly located on RaiderNet are still available but with less clicks. Targeted announcements were also rebuilt in the new PipelineMT, with a much easier administrative tool for those who post announcements. And the announcements can now have embedded formatting. Part of the PipelineMT project included changing the authentication method behind more than 40 systems, work that has taken months to complete and is still ongoing.

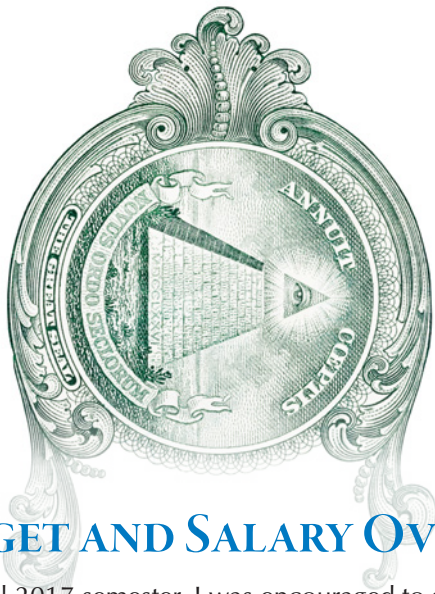
### Skype for Business

Over the past five years, ITD converted the campus telephone system from a traditional Avaya analog system to Microsoft Skype for Business, a state-of-the-art unified communications platform that integrates voice services with email, conferencing, and instant messaging. With more than 2,500 phones deployed, Skype for Business provides the campus community the latest in communications technology and reduces costs by using commodity hardware and delivering services over the same physical medium used to distribute network resources. Due to its software defined nature, Skype for Business ensures users continuously receive improvements and updates as communications technology changes.

### Banner Hardware Upgrade

ITD completed a major overhaul to the underlying infrastructure for MTSU's primary information system, Banner, last February. The new infrastructure improves scalability, while providing better resiliency and redundancy in the event of a catastrophic disruption.





## BUDGET AND SALARY OVERVIEW

For the Fall 2017 semester, I was encouraged to see we had a 3.87 percent increase in new freshmen, 4.99 percent rise in new transfers, 7.82 percent growth in new graduate students, and an uptick of 4.54 percent in new students overall.

Our total enrollment was relatively flat compared to the previous year, which reflected our hard work to hold steady in the third 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.

We received an increase of \$3.5 million in state appropriations, which is based on outcomes formula adjustments and new funds for higher education. That new money, coupled with about \$3.9 million resulting from tuition increases, helped offset the \$1.5 million reduction that came as a result of our 1.11 percent decrease in full-time equivalency. These new funds were allocated to pay for:

- A mandated 3% salary pool increase
- Faculty promotions
- Increased cost of software maintenance agreements
- Scholarships, tuition discounts, employee fee waivers and dependent discounts, and graduate assistant fee waivers
- Funding for new startup programs and continuing improvements on the MTSU Quest for Student Success initiatives

Looking toward the 2018–19 fiscal year, MTSU's share of the THEC outcomes formula adjustment will be a decrease of \$706,000. However, THEC voted at its November meeting to propose new state funding totaling \$55 million for the higher education formula institutions. If approved, MTSU's share of the proposed new funding would be \$5.2 million. Thus, MTSU's state funding could actually increase by \$4.5 million.

THEC's recommendations have been submitted to the Department of Finance and Administration for consideration in the proposed state budget that Gov. Bill Haslam will be submitting to the state legislature in the coming weeks. At that point, we will have more information regarding our likely 2018–19 state appropriations.



We are blessed with a robust Department of Printing Services on our campus that puts our University community first every day.

Have you tried our Printing Services or its Blue Print Solutions site in the Student Union? They are here to serve your needs on a wide range of printing-related services, from simple black-and-white and color copies to large-format mounted posters, yard signs, brochures, and booklets. Blue Print Solutions also provides passport photos, laminating, invitations, stickers, business cards, and a variety of binding options.

Blue Print offers on-campus delivery for faculty, and its friendly and helpful in-store staff can help you with your next presentation or promotional project. Personal projects are welcomed, too!

Online ordering is now replaced with the easy-to-use, tried-and-true email option. Simply email [blue.print@mtsu.edu](mailto:blue.print@mtsu.edu) with your order, attach any files on the project, supply your index number for invoicing, and tell them what you need and when.



# CAPITAL PROJECTS

Here is a brief update on recent, current, and possible future construction projects on our campus.

## Proposed New Buildings

MTSU has two new capital outlay projects proposed for funding in 2018–19. No. 1 on THEC’s capital project list is the new Academic Classroom Building (for the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences), which has a total project cost of \$39.6 million. No. 7 on the list is a new Applied Engineering Building (for the Department of Engineering Technology), with a \$54 million project cost. In order for us to receive funding for both buildings, the governor’s budget must include at least \$246.1 million for capital projects.

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

- Construction will move forward if approved as part of the Tennessee state budget.
- The building will provide consolidated functional areas to the Criminal Justice, Psychology, and Social Work departments, which offer highly related, integrative programs now located in multiple buildings across the campus. It will provide critically needed classrooms, offices, and labs.
- Estimated completion date is Fall 2020.

### Applied Engineering Building

- Project programming is complete.
- The building will house a new center for applied engineering programs located within the Science Corridor of Innovation. It will consolidate the undergraduate

and graduate programs of Engineering Technology and Mechatronics Engineering into the Department of Engineering Technology.

- The proposed location is the southern end of the East Quad. This location will group the proposed Applied Engineering Building near the new Science building to create an academic neighborhood focused on STEM and STEM disciplines.

The commission also voted to recommend \$8.2 million in capital maintenance funds for MTSU projects, which include Keathley University Center, Miller Education Center, and Maintenance Complex roof replacements; mechanical and electrical updates for data and communication centers; elevator modernization phase II; and several infrastructure projects.

### Peck Hall Courtyard and Stairwell Renovation

Peck Hall will undergo renovations to the courtyard, stairwells, and corridors as the budget allows. The estimated construction date is this summer.

### Middle Tennessee Boulevard Widening

Construction continues to progress on schedule and includes:

- Improved traffic flow and pedestrian safety
- Landscaped medians
- Dedicated turn lanes
- Improved pedestrian walks
- Bike lanes, lighting, underground utilities, and signalized crossings at Lytle and Division

- Pedestrian and vehicular improvements, now underway at the Faulkinberry intersection and the new drop-off drive at Murphy Center
- Scheduled completion for end of 2018

## Parking and Transportation

Upcoming parking and transportation improvements include new and improved pedestrian walkways in the core of campus, additional parking lots, and better lighting around campus.

- Construction beginning this summer
- New lighting in the Greenland Drive parking lot
- New sidewalks along Alumni Drive
- Improved pedestrian area north of the Learning Resource Center
- Improved ADA walkway to the Livestock Lot
- Wider sidewalks along Founders Lane

## Parking Services Facility

A new parking services facility is in the schematic design stage at this time. It will include:

- New parking offices and bus maintenance garage
- Around 14,000 total square footage
- Located on City View Drive between Alumni and Main
- Construction probably starting this August, with completion date of summer 2019



MIDDLE TENNESSEE  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC CLASSROOM BUILDING

MURFREESBORO TENNESSEE

**B A U E R A S K E W**  
*architecture . p l l c*



New Academic Building for College of  
Behavioral and Health Sciences

NEW CONSTRUCTION  
**ACADEMIC CLASSROOM BUILDING**  
MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE



Parking Services Facility





Engage Academically.  
Learn Exponentially.  
Showcase Yourself.

## QEP Update

MT Engage, the University's Quality Enhancement Plan for 2016–21, has reached several milestones midway through its second year.

- Our first annual MT Engage Sophomore Scholarship competition begins this semester, opening up Jan. 15. Qualifying sophomores who have taken at least two MT Engage courses will submit ePortfolio presentations in which they document and reflect on connections across their academic and cocurricular experiences. Up to 15 students will be selected for scholarships valued at \$6,000 (based on cost of attendance), and all qualifying applicants will earn priority registration.
- More than 3,500 students successfully completed MT Engage-designated courses in Fall 2017, representing 187 sections of 64 courses taught by 98 faculty—double the benchmarks specified for the full 2017–18 academic year in the MT Engage plan. MT Engage faculty will teach a similar number of course sections in Spring 2018 as well.
- The MT Engage leadership team and assistant director wowed their audience at the 2017 Quality Enhancement and Accreditation Institute of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Dianna Rust, Michelle Boyer-Pennington, Lara Daniel, Lexy Denton, and Jason Vance shared their insights from the development of the MT Engage QEP in their presentation, “Engaging Your Campus with a New Quality Enhancement Plan.”

## Great Tennessee Eclipse at MTSU

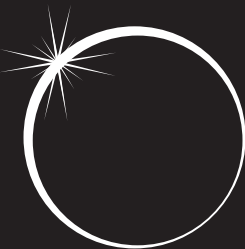
Thousands of people descended upon MTSU's campus for the Great Tennessee Eclipse event Aug. 21. They cheered wildly as the epic, coast-to-coast solar eclipse reached totality over Murfreesboro—with the sky literally darkening and exposing the planets Venus and Jupiter to the naked eye—around 1:29 p.m. in the central campus area called the Science Corridor of Innovation.

Braving 90-plus degree heat and bringing popup tents, folding chairs, picnic blankets, or even a hammock, several thousand attendees gathered

for the event. Visitors from as far away as China and other foreign countries joined Americans from across the country at MTSU to observe the awe-inspiring celestial phenomenon. Murfreesboro City Schools brought 600 children to the MTSU campus. A group of 140 attended from the University of Alabama–Huntsville. High school groups came from Florence, Alabama, and The Webb School in Bell Buckle, Tennessee. More than 9,000 free safety glasses sponsored by Turner Construction were distributed at the event and to schools in both Rutherford County and Murfreesboro City districts.

MTSU's event featured a main stage that showcased student musical performances in the hours leading up to the total eclipse, as well as on-stage interviews with faculty about eclipse viewing safety, the science behind it, the fascinating visuals, and responses from it. Football coach Rick Stockstill, men's basketball coach Kermit Davis, and baseball coach Jim McGuire also were part of the event.

The event was designated by NASA as one of its six official viewing sites in the greater Nashville area. Via coverage in *USA Today*, MTSU's event was mentioned in newspapers from the Carolinas to Arizona.



GREAT TENNESSEE  
ECLIPSE  
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



Each of the colleges and academic units at MTSU maintains a high level of activity and produces news worth crowing about. Here are just a few examples.

## College of Basic and Applied Sciences



### Hack-MT

MTSU's third annual Hack-MT, an event put on by our Department of Computer Science, will take place Jan. 26–28 in the Science Building. More than 200 individuals representing 10-plus colleges and universities will be teaming up to invent new web platforms, mobile apps, and electronic gadgets in a 36-hour period. The event, which also involves heavy collaboration with the Computer Information Systems program in the MTSU Jones College of Business, gathers software developers, visual designers, programmers, computer science, and information systems students from schools across the region. As of early January, 130 MTSU students were registered among the 180-plus entries—an increase from the same date in 2017. Online registration remains open at [hackmt.eventbrite.com](http://hackmt.eventbrite.com). Major corporate sponsors are Bondware Web Solutions, First Tennessee, CAT Financial, and Jackson National Life Insurance Co. Financially supportive “friends” of the event include SERVPRO, DecisionSource, Rutherford Works, axial Healthcare, Genesco, and Eventbrite.

## College of Liberal Arts

### History from the Ground Up

One of the nation's most prestigious and respected groups of historians will be housed at MTSU for at least the next five years. Now in its 52nd year, the Oral History Association has chosen MTSU for its headquarters. Co-chairs will be Louis Kyriakoudes, director of the University's Albert Gore Research Center, and MTSU History professor Kris McCusker. The organization boasts a diverse membership of scholars, activists, journalists, psychologists, folklorists, and others interested in bringing the historical experiences of both everyday people and elites to light.



Louis Kyriakoudes



Kris McCusker

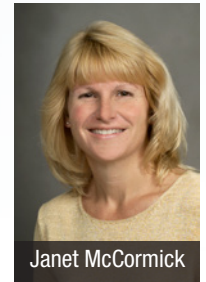
### Faculty Highlights

**Hugh Berryman** (Forensic Institution for Research and Education) was awarded a \$17,776 grant by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation to analyze Mexican War skeletal remains. **Carroll Van West** (Center for Historic Preservation) received \$25,000 for continued research and preservation of cultural resources associated with Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. **Mark Doyle's** (History) 2016 book, *Communal Violence in the British Empire: Disturbing the Pax* was co-winner of the Stansky Book Prize, awarded annually by the North American Conference on British Studies for the best book published by a North American scholar on any aspect of British studies since 1800. **Janet McCormick** (Communication Studies and Organizational Communication)

received the Outstanding EXL Teacher Award presented at the National Society for Experiential Educators conference in San Antonio last September. **Emily Baran** (History) was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities summer stipend to fund two months research in Moscow for her project, “The ‘Siberian Seven’ and the Global Campaign for Religious Freedom.” **Erin Anfinson** (Art and Design) earned a National Park Service Artist Residency at Herbert Hoover National Historic Site to collect research material for the production of an animated films about the reconstructed tallgrass prairie at the park. Her animated short film, *In the Tallgrass*, will become part of the National Park Service art collection.



Hugh Berryman



Janet McCormick



Carroll Van West



Emily Baran



Mark Doyle



Erin Anfinson

## College of Education

### By the Numbers

Four students will be student-teaching abroad Spring 2018 in New Zealand, Ireland, and Costa Rica. These opportunities have been provided to MTSU students since 1972 when our College of Education (COE) became one of 15 founding members of the Consortium for Overseas Student Teaching.

COE hosted 40 Tennessee colleges and universities at the statewide conference for edTPA, the performance-based assessment for teacher licensure in Tennessee.

The college also hosted 39 school systems and education organizations who actively recruited our MTSU student teachers at the closing celebration seminar and employment fair on Dec. 13.

And COE currently partners with 43 Tennessee school districts with strong collaboration focusing on connecting the education and preparation of teacher candidates and PreK–12 schools.

Additionally, the college has more than 20 school district-based graduate degree and administrative licensure programs.

MTSU also hosted the Admission to Teacher Education Celebration, welcoming more than 250 students into teacher preparation programs at MTSU during Fall 2017.

And the college's ASPIRE to Teach Grant awarded five students with monetary support to ensure their successful completion of our teacher education program. The endowment for this program is now over \$50,000, collected entirely through donations.

## College of Business



### Setting an Example

David Urban, dean of the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, worked to bring Dale Carnegie Training to Jones College in 2015, entering an exclusive partnership in Tennessee with the internationally recognized professional development training organization. The move made Jones College the first collegiate business school in the nation to require the course as part of its curriculum to graduate. Thus far, over 1,250 MTSU business students have taken the semester-long course, and more than a dozen faculty and staff members have become certified instructors. With the course offered to undergraduate business majors starting their junior year, students are taught the invaluable human relations principles and “soft skills” that many employers are seeking in today’s job candidates. Urban’s commitment earned him Dale Carnegie’s top honor, its Global Leadership Award,

in 2017. The award is given to people and organizations who have made “very significant investment into the talent development of their people.” International companies such as Mercedes-Benz, Verizon, FedEx, Charles Schwab, and Apple are among those honored since the Global Leadership Award began in 1985. Less than 10 leaders each year receive the award.

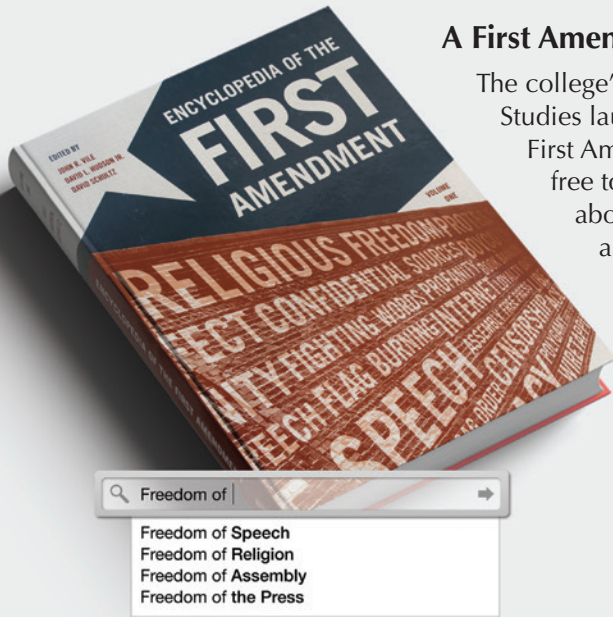
### More College Highlights

- The M.S. in Management program was ranked No. 21 out of the 50 top Management master’s programs in the country.
- The Jones College’s Zeta Gamma Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, the international honor organization for financial information students and professionals, achieved Superior status for the 2016–17 reporting period.
- The Tennessee Society of CPAs awarded \$250,000 of scholarships to 101 students across Tennessee, including 21 Accounting students at MTSU. Jones College students received a greater number of scholarships and more scholarship dollars (\$77,500) than students from any other university.
- New concentrations were approved for Supply Chain Management as part of the Management major and for Professional Selling in the Marketing major. A new stand-alone major in Risk Management and Insurance is replacing the former Insurance concentration that was under the Finance major.

I AM *true* **BLUE**

## Military-Friendly

MTSU’s veterans program is basking in the limelight of another appearance in the *Military Times* Best Colleges 2018 ranking announced in November. It is the sixth straight time MTSU has made the ranking (formerly known as Best for Vets) and first time the University has cracked the top 50, ranking 49th out of 140 four-year schools this year. More than 600 colleges took part in this year’s detailed survey. The only other Tennessee school making the list was the University of Tennessee–Chattanooga, selected 114th overall.



### A First Amendment First

The college's John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies launched a new online, searchable encyclopedia about the First Amendment. The First Amendment Encyclopedia, which is free to access, contains more than 1,500 essays and articles about court decisions and doctrines, people, law and events, and general issues and organizations significant in the First Amendment's history in the United States. The site is the only reference work that devotes such exhaustive attention to the First Amendment freedoms and is designed to grow in a way that promotes awareness and understanding of the First Amendment. The foundation of the online encyclopedia is the two-volume *Encyclopedia of the First Amendment* published in 2009, which contained more than 1,400 essays written by more than 200 contributors. One of the three original editors of the volumes was John Vile, a Political Science professor and the University Honors College dean at MTSU.

### EMC Changes to Media Arts

The Department of Electronic Media Communication became the Department of Media Arts. Department faculty conducted a survey that found 52 universities around the United States using "media arts" as the name or part of the name for programs. The survey also showed that a majority of those programs included studies that aligned closely with those in the department, which includes Animation, Interactive Media, Media Management, Photography, and Video and Film Production. Media Arts also introduced a new Bachelor of Science degree in Interactive Media in Fall 2017.



### Top Program Again

Our Department of Recording Industry was once again ranked in *Billboard* magazine's "15 Best Music Business Schools" in 2017. The national list includes other acclaimed music industry schools such as Berklee and Belmont.

## College of Behavioral and Health Sciences

### Getting SMART

MTSU's Center for Health and Human Services received \$30,000 from the March of Dimes Tennessee Chapter Community Grants Program to provide training to area dental providers on best practices for smoking cessation. Smile SMART is a patient-centered smoking-cessation training program for dentists, hygienists, and dental assistants to encourage their patients to quit smoking or decrease tobacco use and to reduce women's and infants' exposure to secondhand smoke, ultimately reducing tobacco-related preterm birth, low birthweight, and other adverse birth outcomes. Founded by MTSU's Adams Chair of Excellence in Health Care Services in 1993, the center collaborates with public agencies, private not-for-profit organizations, and University faculty and students to improve the health and well-being of Tennesseans.

## University College

### Success Leader

MTSU continues to get national recognition for its leadership in using data analytics to boost the University's retention rates to record levels. Rick Sluder, vice provost for student success and dean of University College, was recently among 25 education leaders being profiled as an "EdTech Hero" by edscoop.com, an online publisher focused on education trends that is part of the Washington, D.C.-based Scoop News Group. Since coming to MTSU in 2014, Sluder has emphasized the use of predictive analytics in student advising to identify at-risk students and formulate strategies to keep them in school and on track to graduate. MTSU's student success work has also been reported in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, and more than a dozen other national publications.

## University Honors College

### By the Numbers

A group of 18 Honors students left with Associate Dean Philip Phillips and advisor April Goers on Dec. 31 to spend about 10 days in Thailand. This is the first such trip that Honors students have taken to this country. In early November, seven Honors students joined the dean, associate dean, and staff members to attend the annual meeting of the National Council of Honors Colleges (NCHC) in Atlanta, Georgia. The Honors College has received about 275 applications for its prestigious Buchanan Fellowship, which is given each year to 20 incoming freshmen. The deadline for its Honors Transfer Fellowships is Feb. 15. The Honors College will host its annual open house on Presidents Day, Monday, Feb. 19 and is expecting a record number of students and parents. And last, 2018 represents the 50th year of *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression*, MTSU's student literary and arts magazine now housed in the Honors College, and which has published artwork, photos, poetry, and short stories created by MTSU students, not just validating student talent, but also helping launch careers.



# MTS ATHLETICS

I have often said that a college's athletics is the front door of the University. Many people across the region and country know MTSU first and foremost because of the success of our student-athletes on the playing field.

Blue Raider sports teams experienced another exciting and productive year in 2017. Since our University accepted an invitation to join Conference USA in November 2012, Blue Raider squads have consistently reached postseason play, won championships, and earned C-USA All-Academic team status.

Here are just some of the many recent athletic and academic highlights achieved by MTSU student-athletes both in competition and in the classroom.

## Blue Raiders have strong academic fall

During the Fall 2017 semester, 13 of 15 teams had a semester team grade point average of 3.0 or higher; 105 student-athletes made the Dean's List (3.5+ GPA), and 34 had a perfect 4.0. Overall, 196 of 329 student-athletes recorded a 3.0 GPA or higher (60 percent).



## MTSU scores record NCAA graduation rate

Our NCAA Graduation Success Rate for student-athletes set a new school record at 88 percent, as announced by the NCAA national office.

The Graduation Success Rate (GSR) is a four-year measure of freshmen and athletic transfers who entered MTSU between the Fall 2007 and Spring 2010 semesters. This marks the fifth straight year that our athletics program has scored above 80 percent. The last five GSR scores for the Blue Raiders have been 88, 87, 87, 87, and 82.

MTSU also ranked third out of the 14 teams in Conference USA, trailing only Rice and Charlotte, who scored 92 and 91 percent, respectively.

Six of our athletic programs recorded a perfect 100 percent GSR score: men's basketball, men's tennis, women's basketball, women's tennis, soccer, and volleyball. Men's and women's golf were next in line with scores of 88 percent.

Of the four FBS programs in the state of Tennessee, MTSU's football team ranked tied for second with Tennessee behind Vanderbilt's 96 percent. Memphis turned in an 87 percent score.

Our record performance in the Graduation Success Rate once again confirms our commitment to winning in the classroom as well as on the playing field. It reflects that student success is our top priority.

Five members of the Blue Raiders football team received their degrees in a special ceremony with President Sidney A. McPhee in Montgomery before the Camellia Bowl.





## Blue Raider soccer earns national team academic award

The MTSU women's soccer team earned its 16th consecutive College Team Academic Award in 2017 with a team GPA of 3.37, as announced by the United Soccer Coaches (formerly the National Soccer Coaches Association of America).

The Blue Raiders have accomplished the feat in every year of Coach Aston Rhoden's tenure.



## Football named an academic award recipient

MTSU shared the American Football Coaches Association's 2017 Academic Achievement Award, along with the University of Alabama, the University of Cincinnati, Northwestern University, the University of Utah, Utah State University, and the University of Virginia.

All seven schools recorded a 100 percent graduation rate for members of its freshman football student-athlete class of 2010. MTSU, Alabama, Cincinnati, Utah, and Utah State received the award, presented by the Touchdown Club of Memphis, for the first time. This is Northwestern's 10th honor and Virginia's third.

The award was presented during the Honors Luncheon on Jan. 8 at the 2018 AFCA Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina.

## Men win C-USA cross country title

For the first time in program history, the Top 25-ranked Middle Tennessee men's cross country team won the C-USA Cross Country Championship in October. The squad was led by Jacob Choge's second individual C-USA cross country crown.

The league's coaches voted associate head coach Keith Vroman as men's Coach of the Year. Sampson Laari, in fifth place, was named the meet's Outstanding Senior with the top time for a senior.

The team raced to its best finish in school history at the NCAA National Championships on Nov. 18, finishing in 23rd place.



*continued on page 18* ►



### Stockstill selected to AFCA Allstate Good Works team

MTSU quarterback Brent Stockstill made the elite list of 22 football players announced to the 2017 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team by the Allstate Insurance Co. and the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA). Stockstill, one of only 11 players on the FBS team, was among those recognized at halftime of the Jan. 1 Sugar Bowl national semifinal between Clemson and Alabama.

Stockstill is just the second player in MTSU history to earn this prestigious recognition. Wes Counts, also a left-handed quarterback for the Blue Raiders, was on the 1999 team.

This award shines a spotlight on the incredible stories of selflessness and community service displayed by these student-athletes and honorary head coach, and honors their dedication to volunteerism and enriching the lives of others.

Already with an undergraduate and graduate degree in hand, Stockstill is involved with numerous community organizations as a volunteer, including Special Olympics, Murfreesboro City Schools, Boys to Men Mentoring, Reading Raiders, VA hospital for military veterans, Camp Ability with special needs kids, Boys and Girls Club, youth camp, and the Broadmore Senior Citizens Rally.

### Blue Raiders cap season with bowl victory

Just as they did all season, the Blue Raiders showed an incredible amount of resiliency in taking down Arkansas State for the Raycom Media Camellia Bowl championship on Dec. 16, the program's first bowl victory since 2009.

Despite a four-hour marathon game, a late A-State comeback, three turnovers, and players sidelined by injuries, the MTSU football team was undeterred in the 35-30 win.

The victory snapped a four-game bowl losing streak for the Blue Raiders (7-6) and pushed their all-time record against their old Sun Belt Conference rival Red Wolves (7-5) to 10-5.

Darius Harris was named the bowl's Most Valuable Player after racking up a game-high and career-high-tying 12 tackles with a sack and forced fumble. He also had two pass breakups.



### Men's golf started fall season with a win

For the second year in a row, MTSU started its golf season with a victory. The Blue Raiders had a late birdie to edge past Arkansas State to win the 2017 Memphis Intercollegiate.

### Insell collects win No. 300 in victory over Vandy

Every win is sweet for MTSU women's basketball coach Rick Insell. But the Nov. 10 victory against Vanderbilt was maybe a little sweeter than usual.

The Blue Raiders went up the road to Nashville to visit the Commodores and came home with a 65-54 season-opening win, making Insell the first coach in program history to reach the 300-win mark (300-97 overall in 12-plus seasons).

It marked the 11th win for MTSU in 19 tries against Vandy and the first since 1988.

### Women's basketball stuns Kentucky

A battle of blues broke out on Dec. 28 at Murphy Center, as the MTSU women's basketball team welcomed Kentucky for a renewal of what's become a yearly matchup.

After trailing by double digits in the third quarter, MTSU scratched and clawed for a thrilling 62-57, come-from-behind victory in front of 4,209 partisan fans. It was the fifth win in the 19-game series all-time against UK and first since taking down the sixth-ranked Wildcats at home in the 2011-12 season.

### Men's basketball defeats Ole Miss for fifth straight SEC win

Southeastern Conference men's basketball teams may not want to put MTSU on their schedules in the future.

With a 77-58 win over Ole Miss at Murphy Center, the Blue Raiders pushed their winning streak against SEC opponents to five games over the past three seasons. It was the second SEC victory of the season for MTSU, with the first coming Dec. 6 at Vanderbilt, and pushed its all-time series advantage against the Rebels to 6-4.



## UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

Private support continues to provide valuable resources for our campus, and donor support for the current fiscal year is approaching record levels. For the first six months of the fiscal year, gifts to the University totaled more than \$8 million. Among the key gifts received were:

- A gift valued at \$2.2 million from the Siemens Corp. for our Mechatronics Engineering program
- Bequests from the estates of Cecil Cantrell, Elizabeth Fox, and Joseph and Florence Jones totaling more than \$1.3 million

We are also extremely pleased that our graduating seniors continue their history of generous support through our Senior Gift Challenge, which encourages our graduates to begin their own tradition of giving with their first gift to their alma mater. This year, 586 new graduates made a gift to MTSU. We are extremely grateful for their True Blue support!

In other news, in partnership with the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, our Alumni Relations Office recently completed a survey measuring alumni satisfaction with their education and assessed their continued involvement and participation. Consistent with our findings in our 2010 Alumni Survey, 93 percent of our graduates indicated they had a good or great experience as a student, and more than 95 percent promote the University within their communities.

## GRADUATE STUDIES/RESEARCH

MTSU has aggressively transitioned from a primarily undergraduate institution to a doctoral research university with significant research activity.

### Increased Enrollment in Graduate Programs

Graduate enrollment for the Fall 2017 semester increased by 1.38% over the previous fall. In September, the College of Graduate Studies reorganized to increase its capacity for service to students, applicants, prospective applicants, faculty, and staff and to further boost graduate enrollment.



**IF YOU'VE EVER SAID  
"I LOVE MTSU"**

**NOW IS THE TIME  
TO SHOW YOUR LOVE  
DURING MTSU'S  
INAUGURAL GIVING DAYS**

**trueBLUE GIVE**

**February 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>**

Every student, grad, faculty, and staff member has left a mark on our University. Through the **True Blue Give**, we can all impact MTSU and support our 22,000 students even better. You can once again leave your mark **U** with a gift of service or financial support.

**Goal:** Raise \$250,000 with 500 friends of the University leaving their mark **U** on any program, scholarship, college, or team that you choose.

**FEELING THE LOVE RIGHT NOW?  
MTSU.EDU/TRUEBLUEGIVE  
MAKE YOUR IMPACT TODAY!**

The first \$50,000 in gifts will be matched by **TRUE BLUE** supporters like you who Love **MTSU!**

*true* **BLUE**  
*true* **IMPACT**



## Update from Research and Sponsored Programs

Scholarly research not only provides the foundation for MTSU's strong academic programs but also drives innovation and economic progress across the region, state, nation, and globe. Creating a culture of research and inquiry is at the heart of the University's mission among faculty and students and in vital industry partnerships.

Thus far in the 2017–18 fiscal year, 66 MTSU faculty and staff from 22 academic departments in seven colleges and 11 centers and administrative offices have submitted 95 grant proposals, requesting a total of \$25,689,460. During this same period, the University received 45 new awards, with a total value of \$7,670,465. The current lifetime value of the 135 active awards in MTSU's sponsored programs portfolio is \$34,636,254.

*The following examples of recent awards and proposals illustrate the depth and diversity of excellence and contributions among MTSU employees:*

**Jeremy Strayer** (Mathematics) earned a five-year, \$727,437 award from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for "Collaborative Research: Mathematics of Doing, Understanding, Learning and Educating for Secondary Schools." The

project will strive to improve preservice secondary mathematics teachers' mathematical knowledge for teaching, which is a national need.

**Barbara Scales** (June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students) led a team of administrators from across campus on a proposal, "Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking on Campus," that was recently funded for by the Office on Violence Against Women at the U.S. Department of Justice. Through agreements between our Division of Student Affairs, the Domestic Violence Program and Sexual Assault Services, and the Murfreesboro Police Department, MTSU will use the two-year \$300,000 grant to expand our current initiatives in this area.

**Zhijiang Dong** (Computer Science), **Eric Oslund** (Elementary and Special Education), **Chrisila Pettey** (Computer Science), and **Joshua Phillips** (Computer Science) received a five-year NSF award for \$999,965 for their project, "Growing the Regional Computer Science Workforce," to support low-income students with academic promise to succeed in STEM disciplines at MTSU.

**Don Morgan** (Health and Human Performance) was invited to submit a proposal to the highly-competitive Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs. His proposal requests \$2,283,204 for the project "Functional benefits of underwater treadmill training in persons with acute and chronic incomplete spinal cord injury."



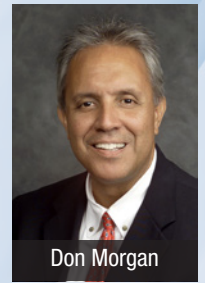
Jeremy Strayer



Zhijiang Dong



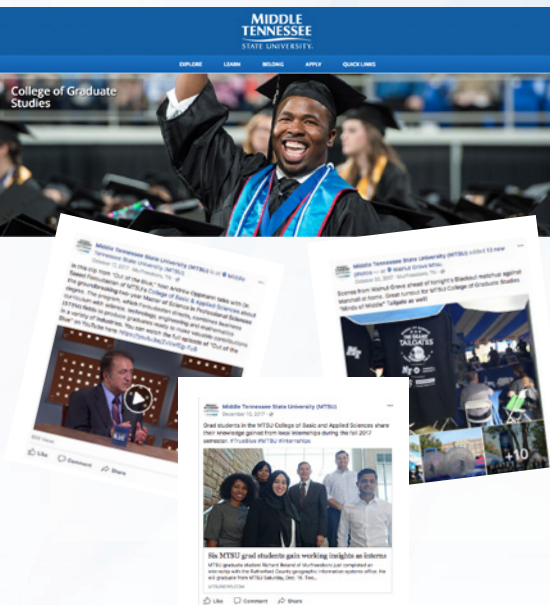
Barbara Scales



Don Morgan

## Digital Marketing Campaign

Graduate Studies and 13 graduate programs began a pilot program in September to revolutionize graduate student recruitment on the MTSU campus. Graduate Studies is engaging these 13 programs in a social media marketing campaign. Messages are targeting to Facebook pages in particular geographical areas. The technology allows Graduate Studies and the programs to know what messages are resonating with viewers. Analytics show when/where viewers are clicking onto messages. Each viewer also has the option of submitting an information form to express their interest in a particular program. Having the viewer's contact information allows Graduate Studies and the particular program to begin a conversation with the individual that ultimately may lead to a submitted application. This new approach is systematic and is informed by precise data at each step of the process. For example, clicks and the submission of information forms indicate precisely where Graduate Studies should target future resources.



## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

MTSU boasts significant international undergraduate and graduate student enrollment, robust study abroad opportunities, and numerous faculty and student exchanges. MTSU also conducts meaningful research collaborations with our international partners. Here are just two recent highlights related to MTSU's growing international presence.

### Getting Results

As part of my ongoing China Initiative, 38 students from Guangxi University in Nanning, China, enrolled in the fall semester as part of the University's first 3+1+1 program. The students are part of a special cohort which was designed and implemented as early as 2014 and includes majors in both the Jones College of Business and the College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

### Bearing Fruit

MTSU is at the forefront of breakthrough research aimed at helping treat metastatic breast cancer. Lead researcher Iris Gao, with MTSU's Tennessee Center for Botanical Medicine Research, announced in October that her team has isolated and identified a new, patented compound, DMDD, from the root of the tropical star fruit tree, that is helping treat this form of cancer. This new hope for a low-toxicity treatment for metastatic breast cancer has been reported in the prestigious research journals *Scientific Reports* and *Oncotarget*. Metastatic tumors (those that have spread to other organs) resulting from late-stage breast cancers are usually inaccessible by surgery or radiotherapy. That means there are no effective treatments, and 90 percent of cases at stage IV are fatal.

The MTSU research center and Guangxi Botanical Garden of Medicinal Plants in Nanning, China, which have an exclusive collaborative agreement, forged a novel approach to accelerate development of Western medicines from botanical extracts based on their respective strengths and expertise. The Guangxi garden holds the largest depository of plants used in traditional medicine, including the tropical star fruit tree. The root of the star fruit tree has been used in traditional Chinese medicine to treat debilitating headaches for thousands of years.

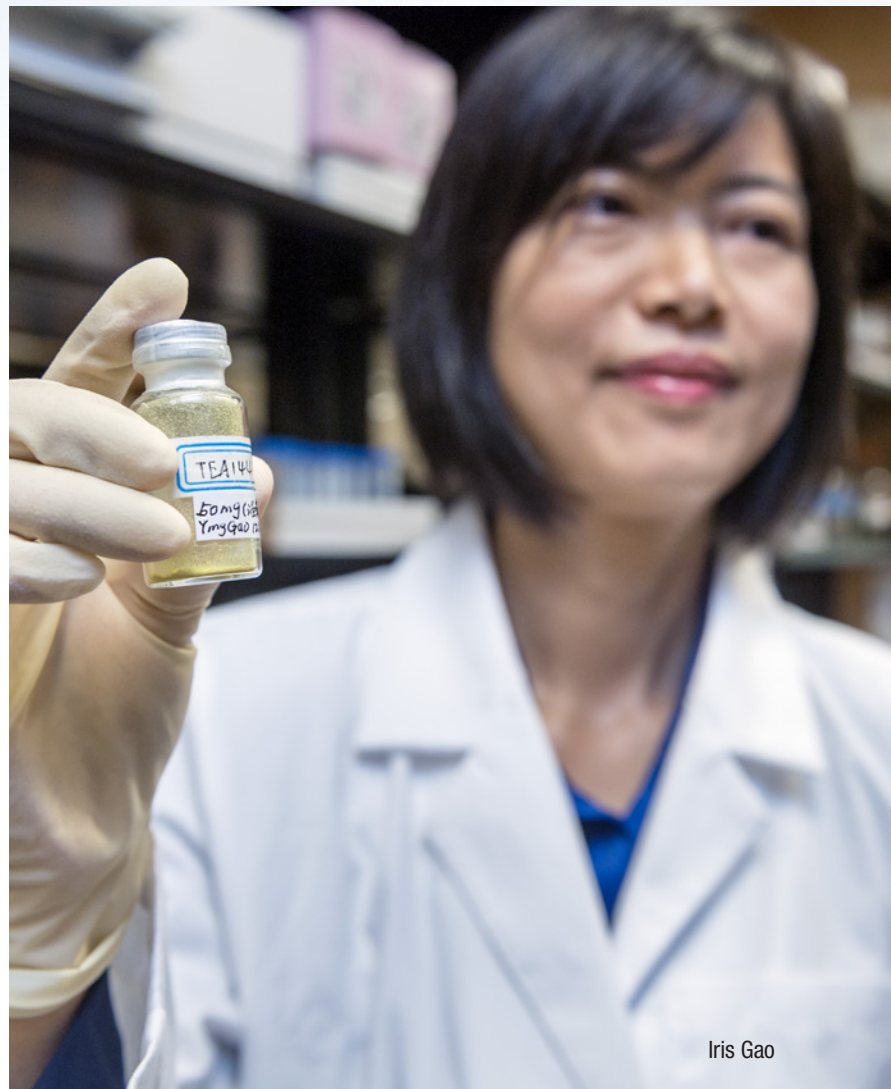
**Ying (Iris) Gao**, (Agriscience/Agribusiness), **Elliot Altman** (Biology), and **Nate Phillips** (Agriscience/Agribusiness) recently received \$148,081 as one of only six awards granted nationwide under the USDA's Federal State Marketing Improvement Program. Their project, "Improving the production of wild simulated ginseng in the State of Tennessee by providing outreach and certification services to farmers," will serve Tennessee forest owners in order to increase production of wild-simulated ginseng.



Nate Phillips



Elliot Altman



Iris Gao