

NEWS & information

FROM THE
PRESIDENT
Dr. Sidney A. McPhee



*Welcome to the
Spring 2019 Semester!*

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

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

True Blue!

DR. SIDNEY A. MCPHEE



ADMISSIONS

Several bold admissions initiatives have been key to our ongoing efforts to both sustain our operations and fuel our plans for growth.

Fall is the busiest season for recruiting high school seniors. We have eight recruiters in the Office of Undergraduate Recruitment who cover Tennessee and the greater geographical area served by the Regional Scholars program. In addition to working Preview Days and the True Blue Tour, these recruiters staffed tables at **128 recruitment** fairs across their territories and made **hundreds of visits** to high schools where they met with students and parents, presented the benefits of an MTSU degree, and worked with high school teachers and guidance counselors to spread the True Blue word.

In the Fall 2018 semester, we added a **True Blue Tour** date to serve the students here in Rutherford County. In 14 tour stops across Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and Kentucky, we met with 1,352 students and an additional 1,890 family members. That's a **13 percent growth in student attendance**.

Our on-campus recruitment events are our Preview Days, where students get an extended tour and

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Here are some photos of me informing high school seniors and others who qualify that they will receive the new Presidential Scholarship, now guaranteeing \$4,500 per year and \$18,000 for four years. It was part of the MTSU True Blue Tour stops in Memphis (left) and Franklin.

meet with advisors, faculty, and the dean. This fall we had three Preview Days where we hosted 691 students—again, a **13 percent increase**.

In addition to Preview Days, Admissions provides two tours of campus each weekday, as well as regularly scheduled Saturday tours throughout the semester (and additional housing tours for students interested in seeing on-campus housing options). We also schedule special tours upon request. This past fall, our Blue Elite tour guides walked approximately 1,010 miles while providing tours of our beautiful campus to **more than 7,000 guests!**

All of this hard work has resulted in increases in applications. We have made scholarship offers to 2,054 students who had at least a 25 ACT and 3.5 high school GPA. That's more than a **17 percent increase** over offers we made by this point last year.

This spring, we will turn our attention to converting those admitted students into enrolled students and will be visiting high schools with a particular focus on meeting with high school juniors with the objective of making them our entering freshmen in 2020. Transfer recruiters will be working with community college partners to enroll more transfer students than any other institution in Tennessee.



A Campus without Borders

Next, MTSU's independent governing board voted in December to expand our regional scholarship plan that offers qualifying out-of-state scholars with a discounted tuition rate. Previously under the "radius 250" or "R250" plan,

qualifying applicants graduating from a high school in a county within 250 miles of MTSU in any direction were eligible to receive almost half off of their out-of-state tuition costs. This geography, which still applies, includes portions of Illinois, Indiana, South Carolina, and Ohio (Cincinnati). The board's recent vote expanded the out-of-state discount program to **ALSO** include qualifying students from **anywhere** in each of the eight states that touch Tennessee (even sharing a small border like Missouri).



Major Scholarship Enhancement

Finally, last October, I announced that MTSU would substantially increase the value and broaden eligibility of its Presidential Scholarship, a move that will more than double the amount awarded to some high-ability freshmen who enroll for this fall.

The **Presidential Scholarship will increase to \$18,000 in total value**, paid out to eligible incoming freshmen at \$4,500 a year for four years.

Students must have a 3.5 high school GPA and score between 25 and 29 on the ACT to qualify for the expanded award.

MTSU guarantees the scholarship to all students who apply to the University before Dec. 1 each year and meet the eligibility criteria.

With these enhancements, the Presidential Scholarship becomes the **largest guaranteed academic award given by any public university** in Tennessee to students with these credentials.

For Tennessee residents, when combined with the Hope Lottery

Scholarship provided by the state, it will substantially reduce the cost of tuition for these high-ability students to attend MTSU.

The Presidential Scholarship previously only paid \$4,000 a year to students with ACT scores of 28 and 29. The expanded award now replaces two of MTSU's previous guaranteed scholarships: True Blue, which paid \$3,000 a year to students scoring 26 or 27 on the ACT, and Provost, which paid out \$2,000 a year to students with an ACT score of 25.

MTSU will continue to offer students making an ACT score of 30 and above, along with at least a 3.5 high school GPA, our guaranteed **Trustees Scholarship, which pays \$20,000** in four annual installments of \$5,000.

Students scoring at least 29 on the ACT and with a high school GPA at 3.5 and above can apply for MTSU's highest academic award, the **Buchanan Fellowship**, a competitive and selective **full-tuition scholarship** through the University Honors College.

This expanded Presidential Scholarship award will begin with freshmen entering in the Fall 2019 semester.

We feel strongly that MTSU, as a major comprehensive university with a broad array of top-notch majors, is **the best choice for these high-ability students**. Enhancing this scholarship will make it even more practical and affordable for them to pursue their higher education goals on our beautiful campus.

The University reallocated existing funds in our budget to pay for the scholarship enhancements. MTSU is also exploring additional changes that could be in place as soon as the Fall 2020 semester. [MTSU](#)

I AM *true* **BLUE**



Event details at
mtsu.edu/connection

 *A Step in the*
**RIGHT
DIRECTION**

STUDENT LIFE

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

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 2018 marked the beginning of the program's sixth year! Large numbers of upper-class students also attended many of the events. Signature programs included our annual University Convocation and President's Picnic, Dinner and a Movie, Fraternity and Sorority Life Open House, and Night of Comedy featuring a finalist from the hit television show *America's Got Talent*.

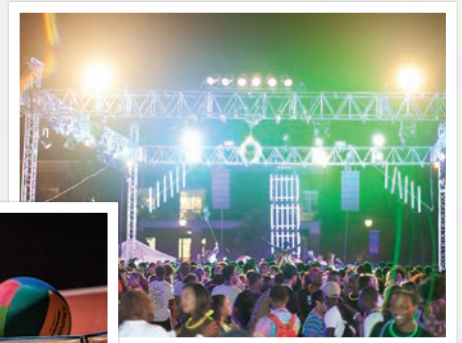
More than 80 percent of our first-semester freshmen participated in the program during Fall 2018, demonstrating its continued success.

Connection Point for Spring 2019 will kick off on Jan. 17 at the men's basketball game vs. the University of Texas–San Antonio for the annual Mardi Gras game. Upcoming events include free movies, sporting events, a free concert for students, Meet-n-Greet hosted by the Student Government Association, and much more!

Go to mtsu.edu/connection for a complete list of activities.

In other student life highlights:

- We will kick off the year with a **Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Vigil** on Monday, Jan. 21, at 6–8 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom, an event sponsored by Intercultural and Diversity Affairs. Musical performances and a video highlighting MLK's civil rights achievements are featured during the evening, concluding with a candlelight vigil.
- The **Student Organization Fair** will provide students with an opportunity to meet many of our 250-plus student organizations and learn how to get involved with one or more of these groups. The fair will take place Wednesday, Jan. 23, at 1–4 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom.
- **Women's History Month** will be celebrated throughout the month of 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.
- **MT After Dark:** Come out and enjoy FREE first-run movies at this annual event, which takes place at the Premiere 6 movie theater in Murfreesboro on March 21. Doors open at 11 p.m., and movies start at midnight.



STUDENT SUCCESS

Our ambitious Quest for Student Success has provided an effective roadmap to guide our efforts to improve retention and graduation. The Quest has helped redefine and refocus our efforts and investments in recruitment, advising, and classroom teaching to better meet the needs of our students. Driving those increases are a number of new initiatives created over the past few years. One of those is the Office of Student Success.

While MTSU has always targeted at-risk populations for support, the Office of Student Success now is boosting every student's chance to succeed. Working collaboratively, the University has overhauled student advising, developed fresh options for academic help, and redesigned courses that are traditional stumbling blocks to graduation. At the same time, it's using predictive analytics—an approach more commonly associated with health care than higher ed—to fight attrition in a highly surgical way. Predictive data can help identify students who are at statistical risk of attrition even if they don't fit any traditionally "at-risk" population. Armed with this knowledge, faculty and advisors can watch these students to spot any problems early and get them back on track.

Here are some updates from that office:

- MTSU is one of 130 institutions that have joined together to increase student success as part of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) "Powered by Publics" Initiative. This is the largest collaboration in history designed to increase access and degree completion. The initiative includes the creation of 16 "transformation clusters" of change-ready universities. Our participation in this initiative complements student success work already underway at MTSU.
- Under the leadership of Provost Mark Byrnes, work continues to revise and update MTSU's Quest for Student Success 2013–2016. Input is being solicited from across the University for the revised Quest for Student Success: with Distinction 2018–2025. Current members serving on the Quest committee include:
 - Mark Byrnes**, provost (committee chair)
 - Joe Bales**, vice president for university advancement
 - David Butler**, vice provost for research and College of Graduate Studies dean
 - Jeff Gibson**, Theatre and Dance professor and chair
 - Pippa Holloway**, History professor and 2018–19 Faculty Senate president
 - Mary Hoffschwelle**, History professor and MT Engage director

- Faye Johnson**, associate provost for strategic planning and partnerships
 - Marva Lucas**, University Studies professor and chair
 - Susan Myers-Shirk**, History professor and General Education director
 - Ken Paulson**, College of Media and Entertainment dean
 - David Schmidt**, vice provost for international affairs
 - Deb Sells**, vice president for student affairs and vice provost for academic and enrollment services
 - Rick Sluder**, vice provost for student success and University College dean
 - Chris Brewer and Sylvia Collins**, of Institutional Effectiveness, Planning, and Research
- Our campus-wide tutoring initiative has added ePortfolio tutoring to its menu of offerings. In addition, mobile portability is an option for classes that meet in areas without a designated nearby kiosk.
 - Supplemental Instruction (SI) remains a core component of MTSU's comprehensive approach to learner support. This program is in its third year at MTSU and reaches into 119 individual course sections across five academic colleges in the current academic year. This large and nationally recognized program has grown to support thousands of

students in 14 of MTSU's most challenging and commonly attended courses, delivering nearly 10,000 hours of academic support through approximately 6,000 student contacts in the previous 2017–18 academic year. Similar impressive numbers are being compiled during the current academic cycle.

- A record number of participants (444) attended the Scholars Academy's Freshmen Summer Institute this past August. For at least the last four years, 90 percent of Scholars Academy students registered for the spring semester. By the end of the semester, 93 percent of the Fall 2018 cohort registered for Spring 2019. The Fall 2018 cohort also had 275 students (62 percent) earn a grade point average of 2.75 or above, with 123 of those students (28 percent) achieving Dean's List status.
- Letters were sent to 520 freshmen over the holidays encouraging those students to participate in our national award-winning REBOUND program. Historically, those students who qualify (having earned less than a 2.0 GPA their first semester) and participate in the program stand a 50 percent-better chance of returning to MTSU for their second year than do students who qualify for the program but do not participate. [MTSU](#)



Richard Sluder, Dean, University College, Vincent Windrow, Associate Vice Provost for Student Success, and Brian Hinote, Associate Vice Provost for Student Success in the Miller Education Center.

COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

The College of Graduate Studies achieved several significant successes in the past year. One in particular that I would like to call attention to was MTSU's role as the chief sponsor of the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature (TISL) General Assembly in 2018. TISL is a forum for the top echelon of the state's campus leaders to exchange ideas, express their opinions, and learn how government works. MTSU's College of Graduate Studies was featured throughout the assembly. The assembly provided the college the opportunity to talk with hundreds of accomplished undergraduate students, including students from MTSU, about how our graduate programs can support their career goals.

There is also a tremendous amount of valuable research taking place on the MTSU campus daily. Here are just a few select highlights:

MTSU's Office of Research and Sponsored Programs currently manages 148 active grants and contracts with a portfolio value of \$36,856,372. MTSU faculty and professional staff in 31 academic departments, centers, and administrative units submitted 73 proposals for external funding during Fall 2018, requesting \$13,702,000. During the same period, the University received 32 new awards valued at \$5,760,881.

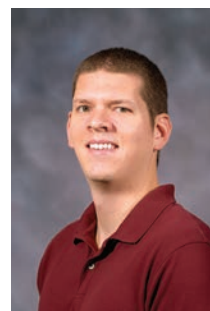


Gregory Rushton, who holds a Ph.D. in Physical Organic Chemistry and an M.Ed. in Science Education, joined MTSU in August as the new director of the Tennessee STEM Education Center. Rushton has added four new awards from the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education's Institute for Education Science to our portfolio with a total value of \$761,125.

Cynthia Chafin, associate director for community programs at MTSU's Center for Health and Human Services (CHHS), received five new awards during Fall 2018 with a total value of \$761,125. Much of the center's funding flows through the Tennessee Department of Health from federal agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Preventions and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. CHHS also receives direct funding from the National Institutes of Health.



Kevin Bicker (Chemistry) received a new U.S. patent during Fall 2018 for a "Process for Extracting a Surfactant Using Boronic Acid Modified Material." Bicker and his outside collaborator, Robert Tilford, have developed a process by which the mixture of waste oil, detergent, and water resulting from metal milling processes can be completely separated into its component parts on-site for reuse and recycling. The process provides an alternative to treating the milling residue as bulk hazardous waste. The inventors are moving their technology toward commercialization.



MTSU currently has seven pending application for patents involving nine MTSU faculty inventors. At this time, all of the applications involve biomolecular innovations for drug discovery and other therapeutic applications.

The Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity (URECA) committee received 24 applications for summer and were able to award 19 individual student research grants and one team grant, totaling \$50,027. In the fall round, the URECA committee received 50 applications and awarded 31 individual student research grants in the amount of \$35,145. The number of applications for these competitive grants continues to increase each semester. The URECA program has been extremely successful, thanks in large part to our faculty mentors who are supportive of the University's undergraduate research mission.

The Faculty Research and Creative Activity Committee (FRCAC) received 29 applications for the fall cycle and were able to make four grants totaling \$32,815. The recipients of these competitive awards were **Brandon Grubbs**, **Mengliang Zhang**, **Sal Barbosa**, and **Rohit Singh**. [MTSU](#)



Academic Affairs

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

True Blue!



University-Wide

MT Engage, the University's Quality Enhancement Plan for 2016–21, has met or exceeded expectations at the midpoint of this five-year program. Thanks to faculty in all academic colleges, in Fall 2018 alone almost 5,000 students completed 261 sections of 94 MT Engage-designated courses. Survey data show that MT Engage students are more likely to be in classes that involve service learning; attend campus events that connect their courses to important social, economic, or political issues; and participate in study abroad.

The American Democracy Project at MTSU reported that the University's tentative student voter registration count for all of 2018 was 1,070. Last June, MTSU introduced the True Blue Voter initiative, a partnership with the Rutherford County Election Commission to assist students with

registering to vote in person in Rutherford County elections or by absentee ballot in any of Tennessee's 94 other counties.



University College

EXL faculty member Odie Blackmon, assistant professor in the Recording Industry Department, was recognized with the Outstanding Experiential Education Rising Leader Award at the 2018 National Society for Experiential Learning annual conference.



Walker Library

Walker Library took home national recognition this past fall as the Digital Scholarship Initiatives team earned an honorable mention for the American Studies Association (ASA) Garfinkel Prize. The designation, handed out by the Digital Humanities Caucus of the ASA, recognizes exceptional work at the intersection of digital humanities and American studies. The MTSU digital collection honored was *Trials, Triumphs and Transformations: Tennesseans' Search for Citizenship, Community, and Opportunity*. The collection focuses on Tennessee's history in the time between the end of the Civil War and the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and 1965 Voting Rights Act. The project, which was a close collaboration between Walker Library and MTSU's Center for Historic Preservation, is available online at dsi.mtsu.edu.





College of Education

From China, to Washington, D.C., to right here in Rutherford County, representatives from more than 40 school districts and educational entities convened on the MTSU campus in December seeking to hire the next crop of new teachers to help lead their classrooms. MTSU's College of Education hosted the Teacher Recruitment Fair inside the Student Union Ballroom, giving dozens of graduating teacher candidates a chance to hear from recruiters about what their districts could offer, while also sharing their own résumés and interest in pursuing any open positions. The event also represented the final seminar for Residency II student teachers who have spent the entire semester at teaching assignments to finish their degree track. In the teaching profession, graduating is just an initial step. The College of Education must then recommend candidates for licensing, and those candidates must also pass a number of national tests before obtaining their licenses. The University produces an average of 250–300 license candidates each year.

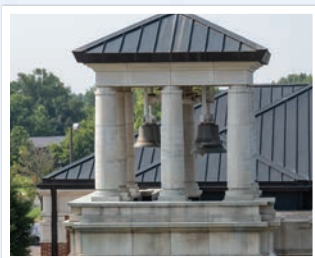


Honors College



Katelynn Horner, a Finance major, earned a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study abroad in New Zealand. Ethan Willis, majoring in both Computer science and Mathematics, also received one to study in Finland. Clorissa Campbell, a Biology major, received an award from Rhodes College's Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research Training (MHIRT) program to study frogs in Brazil.

Philip E. Phillips, associate dean of the University Honors College, was elected to serve a two-year term on the national Board of Directors of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at the biennial convention held in Minneapolis last summer.



Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression was selected to receive a 2019 Crown Award by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. The award will be presented at the organization's 95th annual convention at Columbia University in New York City.

Laura Clippard, head of the Undergraduate Fellowships Office, has been selected to the Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Selection committee.

Dean John R. Vile just completed his third year of service on a national Fulbright Committee to select English teaching assistants to Greece.



College of Liberal Arts

MTSU leads all other universities in the state of Tennessee in higher education humanities projects funded by the National Humanities Alliance. The nonprofit foundation, which funds education, research, preservation, and public programs, recently created a new website which documents 10 years of publicly engaged humanities work in United States higher education. MTSU's six NHA endeavors include:

- African-American Oral History Project
- The Hermitage, Andrew Jackson, and America: 1801–1861
- Travellers Rest, Occupied Nashville, and the Civil War and Emancipation in the Upper South
- Religious Pluralism in Middle Tennessee: An NEH Bridging Cultures Project
- Middle Tennessee Oral History Project
- Southern Places

A website that provides information for people seeking careers in the international relations fields recently ranked MTSU's master's program one of the nation's best.



InternationalRelationsEDU.org declared MTSU's M.A. in International Relations one of the top programs of its kind in the country, with selection criteria including the overall quality of the school, the diversity of its programs, the school's contribution to research and outreach, and joint or dual degree options. Housed in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, the master's degree offers a choice of concentrations in either International Security and Peace Studies or in International Development and Globalization. The program prepares graduates for a variety of careers including diplomat, environmentalist, human rights advocate, foreign policy advisor, linguist, relief agency director, and international trade compliance analyst.



College of Basic and Applied Sciences

The American Chemical Society has resumed publishing its annual national reports of graduates. In 2015–16 (the last year for which data is available), MTSU graduated 54 Chemistry and Biochemistry majors, placing us 69th (in a four-way tie with Holy Cross, Oregon State, and Loyola–Chicago) on the list of 683 institutions that confer ACS-certified degrees. MTSU is ranked No. 1 in Tennessee and 13th in the entire Southeast.

MTSU and China's Guangxi University of Chinese Medicine signed an agreement in December solidifying their ties with regard to cooperative research of agricultural residues and

traditional medicine. MTSU will join the team of collaborative institutes of the Guangxi Collaborative Innovation Center for Research on Functional Ingredients of Agricultural Residues, a research center based in China at Guangxi University.



College of Media and Entertainment

MTSU will be making noise again at the upcoming 61st annual Grammy Awards, this time with seven University-connected people contributing to rap, Americana, country, and gospel projects, including a recent graduate who was still a student when nominated as part of the distinguished list. Integrated Studies major BryTavious “Tay Keith” Chambers of Memphis, Tennessee, who earned his bachelor’s degree Dec. 15, produced rap superstar Travis Scott’s No. 1 track, “SICKO MODE” with Drake, Big Hawk, and Swae Lee. The song was nominated earlier this month for the Best Rap Performance and Best Rap Song Grammys and is part of Scott’s also-nominated No. 1 *Astroworld* album. Chambers’ fellow honorees this year include:

- 2010 audio production grad Michael Anderson, known professionally as Anderson East, who was nominated in the Best American Roots Performance category for his song “All on My Mind”
- Repeat Grammy-winning songwriter/producer and 2003 alumnus Torrance “Street Symphony” Esmond, who is recognized this year for producing “Hussle & Motivate” on Nipsey Hussle’s Best Rap Album-nominated *Victory Lap* CD
- Repeat nominee, winner, and 2000 alumnus Jason A. Hall, whose engineering and mixing on the Brothers Osborne’s *Port Saint Joe* album helped it earn a Best Country Album nomination
- Multiple-award nominee and 2000 School of Music alumnus Wayne Haun, who is part of the Best Roots Gospel Album category for producing *Clear Skies* by Ernie Haase and Signature Sound
- Multi-nominated songwriter/producer and 2001 graduate Luke Laird, named in the Best Country Song list for co-writing Kacey Musgraves’ “Space Cowboy” and whose co-written “Butterflies” also earned Musgraves a Best Country Solo Performance nomination
- Repeat nominee James “Jimmy” Mansfield, a 2014 Audio Production alumnus who worked as assistant engineer on both Ashley McBryde’s Best Country Album-nominated “Girl Going Nowhere” and the Brothers Osborne’s *Port Saint Joe* project

On Nov. 2, the Center for Popular Music was designated an official Tennessee Music Pathways stop by the Department of Tourism Development, which launched the Pathways project to connect visitors to the state’s musical history.

Dean Ken Paulson represented MTSU on Capitol Hill last September, testifying at the hearing “Examining First Amendment Rights on Campus” for the U.S. Committee on Education and the Workforce in Washington, D.C. Paulson and others were asked to share thoughts on the role of college campuses as places where ideas from all quarters can be shared and debated, even if those ideas could be considered offensive or disturbing.

MTSU student news outlet *Sidelines* was a finalist in the online category for a Pacemaker, the annual award given by the Associated Collegiate Press. This ranks *Sidelines* among the top 20 college newspapers nationwide.



College of Behavioral and Health Sciences

MTSU recently spent about \$11,000 providing professional cameras for taking photos at crime scenes to law enforcement officers from around the state who successfully completed a six-week course at the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation State Academy. In cementing a reciprocal relationship with the academy, MTSU hopes to give working law enforcement officials even greater opportunities for professional development. The academy was created for officers who wish to continue and enhance their skills and knowledge.



Jennings A. Jones College of Business

On Jan. 8, MTSU Economics professor Charlie Baum was sworn in as a member of the state House of Representatives serving Tennessee’s 37th District. *Bloomberg BusinessWeek*, *U.S. News and World Report*, and the *New York Times* have recently cited Baum’s research on employment trends, wages, labor force participation rates, and employment benefits. “I am excited to serve, as we work to find innovative ways to provide education and improve health care while budgeting responsibly,” Baum told MTSUNews.com.



Last year, MTSU announced the creation of a Data Science Institute to promote funded interdisciplinary research and develop public and private collaborations around the emerging field of “big data.” In one of its first projects, the institute is digging deep into data provided by mid-state social impact technology company Hytch to see how users of its app-based rewards program are affecting traffic. [MTSU](https://www.mtsu.edu)

CHARITABLE GIVING

MTSU employees once again gave back generously to the community in 2018 with a record \$132,503 pledged during the most recent Charitable Giving Campaign.

The \$132,000-plus in pledges represented 106 percent of the \$125,000 goal, with 883 participants—39.4 percent of the University's faculty and staff—also setting a new record for the campaign.

The campaign is a month-long effort by faculty and staff to support worthy causes. The endeavor is fueled largely by monthly payroll deductions from employees, but also allows one-time, lump-sum gifts at the donor's discretion as well.

During the Oct. 1–Nov. 1 campaign, participants designated gifts to organizations from a list of 10 independent charities and three federated groups of charities, including Community Health Charities, Community Shares, and local United Way organizations.

Throughout the month, participants' names were entered into weekly drawings for a variety of True Blue swag and reserved parking spaces. All MTSU employees were eligible for the drawings, even those who chose not to give, as long as they registered at the campaign website.

Provost Mark Byrnes presented the Provost Cup to David Urban, dean of the Jones College of Business, for the sixth



MTSU's Charitable Giving Campaign, kicking off in September, set records for \$132,503 pledged and 39.4 percent of employees contributing.

straight year. The college with the highest percentage of employee participation receives the cup each year.

Last year's MTSU campaign resulted in pledges totaling \$128,593—a then-record for the campaign and 107 percent of its goal. I am very proud and pleased that our True Blue community showed its support for the communities we serve by donating and participating in our Charitable Giving Campaign in record numbers. I deeply appreciate the hard work of the volunteer team that organized this year's effort, as well as the generosity of the many faculty and staff members who participated in this annual tradition. This campaign is yet another example of the tremendous role the University plays in our city, region, and state. [MTSU](#)

ADVANCEMENT

Our ongoing fundraising is having a transformative effect on programs and students across campus.

Our first True Blue Give campaign last February encouraged every graduate, faculty, staff, and friend of the University to support the programs and initiatives they hold dear at MTSU. More than 550 donors committed \$320,000, which exceeded the initial goal by nearly 30 percent. The success of our True Blue giving campaigns is due in part to the generosity of MTSU Foundation and Alumni Board members and other special friends who provide a pool of matching dollars to encourage giving by a broader cross-section of alumni and supporters. Many scholarships, as well as programs ranging from the student food pantry to MTSU golf to the emergency fund initiative (as examples), experienced a True Blue impact as a result of this campaign.

MTSU supporters and academic leaders have clamored for a repeat of the True Blue Give. As a result, a bigger, better, and broader True Blue Give 2019 has been expanded to three days—Feb. 13, 14, and 15—with a goal of 600 friends giving at least \$275,000 to show their love for:

- Scholarships
- Education abroad funding
- Athletic teams or the BRAA
- MT Engage
- Band of Blue
- Greek organizations
- New student organizations
- Or anything else you love at MTSU!

If you're asked to be a matching Ambassador for True Blue Give 2019, just know that we count you as a very special friend of MTSU. When you're asked to participate in the True Blue Give in

February, please show MTSU—and our students—how much you love and support our University. Every True Blue gift in every amount to any campus program enhances *your* MTSU! [MTSU](#)

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





PROUDLY
PRESENTS

MTSU Arts

ART • DANCE • MUSIC • THEATRE

The College of Liberal Arts invites you to join us this semester at the following MTSU Arts featured concerts, exhibits, and productions.



Todd Art Gallery and Department of Art and Design

The Goldsmith Press: The First Twenty Years,
Cindy Marsh
Jan. 14–Feb. 2
Todd Art Gallery (Room 224A), Todd Hall

School of Music

Keyboard Artist Series: John Nakamatsu
March 29, 7:30 p.m.
Hinton Music Hall, Wright Music Building



Department of Theatre and Dance

Spring Awakening
April 4–6, 7:30 p.m., and April 7, 2:00 p.m.
Tucker Theatre,
Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building

MT Dance Program

Spring Dance Concert
April 18–20, 7:30 p.m.
Tucker Theatre,
Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building



For a full calendar of events or to learn how to become a member of the MTSU Arts Patron Society, please visit mtsuararts.com

Ascend Federal Credit Union is the official credit union of MTSU Arts

ENRICH
YOUR LIFE
showcase your skills

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Numerous improvements to our campus buildings and roadways are underway or were recently completed. Here is a brief update on recent and current construction projects.

Middle Tennessee Boulevard

- Working on Alma Mater Drive circle
- Finishing entrance columns and pavers at Faulkinberry Drive
- Constructing curbs and gutters in median, top soil, and installing irrigation lines
- Completing Bell Street entrance plaza
- Anticipating final asphalt topping this spring
- Scope of work:
 - » \$15.7 million project
 - » Widening of 0.8-mile section of Middle Tennessee Boulevard between East Main and Greenland to a divided four-lane street
 - » Landscaped median with dedicated turn lanes
 - » Improved pedestrian walks and crossings
 - » Bike lanes
 - » Improved lighting
 - » New underground utilities
 - » Monument entry walls to MTSU campus
 - » New drop-off at Murphy Center
 - » Improvements to the Faulkinberry Drive intersection

Parking Services Facility

- Design development phase completed
- Construction starting late spring and finishing in summer 2020
- Scope of work:
 - » New home for Parking Services, including parking permits, bus maintenance, and personnel offices
 - » Located on City View Drive
 - » \$3.4 million project budget
 - » 13,000-square-foot building area

Academic Classroom Building

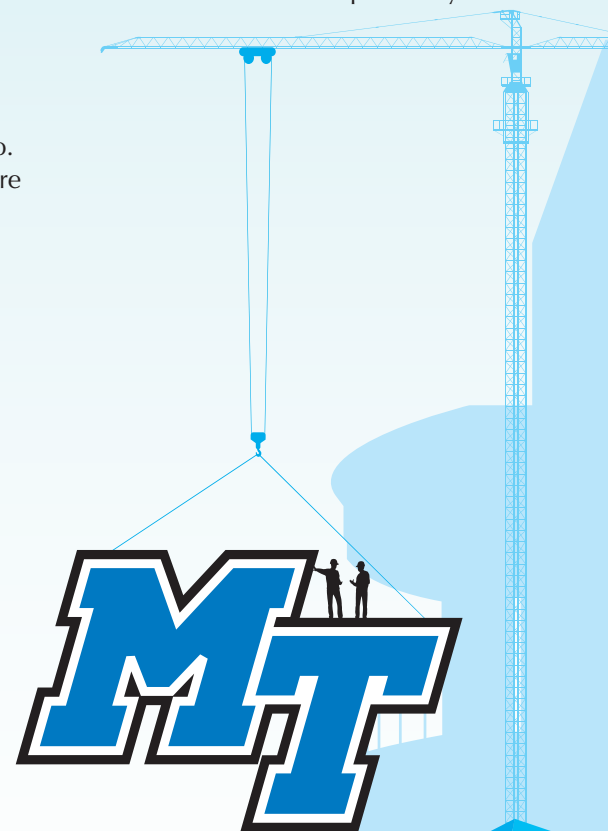
- New center for the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences
- Consolidating the Criminal Justice Administration, Psychology, and Social Work departments
- Providing critically needed classrooms, offices, and lab spaces
- Sitework construction (site utilities and grading) wrapping up in January
- Building construction starting in January
- Project completion expected summer 2020
- Scope of work:
 - » \$39.6 million total project cost
 - » State funding received last July 13
 - » 91,000 square feet
 - » Building site north of the Student Union across MTSU Boulevard
 - » Construction manager general contractor: Turner Construction Co.
 - » Architect: Bauer Askew Architecture

Peck Hall

- Interior improvements completed
- “Energetic” courtyard that’s been created by new exterior furniture
- Scope of work:
 - » \$924,000 construction cost
 - » Interior improvements, including new lighting at corridors and refinishing of terrazzo flooring on second and third levels
 - » New ceiling and lighting at breezeways
 - » New outdoor furnishings

Parking and Transportation Improvements

- New sidewalks open to students returning to class in January
- Scope of work:
 - » \$1.58 million construction cost
 - » New surface and lighting at Greenland Drive parking lot
 - » New sidewalks and lighting along Alumni Drive and Military Memorial Drive
 - » Improved pedestrian access to Livestock Lot and new lighting
 - » Wider sidewalks along Founders Lane
 - » Small roundabout at Military Memorial and Champion Way



WALKING THE WALK

MTSU's 1,731 newest graduates are out in the world and ready to use their education after receiving their degrees—and words of encouragement from enthusiastic guest speakers—in our Fall 2018 commencement ceremonies Dec. 15.

Wanda Lyle, managing director of UBS AG and general manager of the UBS Business Solutions Center in Nashville, urged students at the morning graduation ceremony to recall the adage, "Education is a gift."

"It's true, but your education is yours, your accomplishment, that you own, and you will define how best to use it," she said. "The opportunity to earn your college degree is surely a gift, but successfully completing your education is not. . . . It's the product of your hard work."

Alumna **Holly Thompson**, a WSMV-Channel 4 news anchor and journalist, reminded her fellow Blue Raiders at the afternoon commencement to hold fast to their principles and have faith in their abilities.

"You are paving your own way, forging your own path," she said. "At some point, you will face conflict. You will face fear. You will hear naysayers doubt you, maybe even ridicule you and try to quench your fire and your passion. . . . No matter the challenge, know this: You can do it."

Integrated Studies major **BryTavious Chambers** of Memphis graduated from MTSU's University College the same month a rap single he produced went double-platinum and No. 1 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 chart and was nominated for two Grammy Awards. Chambers, known professionally as Tay Keith, said he was glad he'd chosen MTSU for his education.

"I learned so much academically and personally while being here at MTSU," he said. "I enjoyed my four years here, and I appreciate all of the support I received from the community while in school."

Chambers produced rap superstar Travis Scott's No. 1 track, "SICKO MODE" with Drake, Big Hawk, and Swae Lee, which was nominated for the Best Rap Performance and Best Rap Song Grammys and is part of Scott's also-nominated No. 1 *Astroworld* album. In his senior year alone, Chambers produced nearly a dozen hot tracks for artists, including Drake's "Nonstop," which reached No. 2 on the *Billboard* charts.

U.S. Army veteran **Jay Strobino** received his degree in Exercise Science in the afternoon ceremony. The Silver Star recipient, shot 13 times during one-on-one combat in Iraq in 2006, celebrated his new degree with his wife and kids, as well as his parents, who flew in for the ceremony.

Strobino, now living in Nashville, was effusive in his praise of the MTSU Charlie and Hazel Daniels Veterans and Military Family Center for helping him earn his degree. Strobino said his plan now "is to not stop." He is strongly considering pursuing a master's degree at MTSU.

Of the 1,731 students receiving MTSU degrees in December, 1,471 were undergraduates and 260 were graduate students (248 master's, one education specialist, and 11 doctorates) degrees. Two graduate students and 19 undergraduates also received certificates for their advanced studies. [MTSU](#)



Wanda Lyle



Holly Thompson



BryTavious Chambers
a.k.a. Tay Keith



Jay Strobino

BUDGET AND SALARY OVERVIEW



The combination of \$4.6 million in state appropriations and additional funding from the 2.84 percent increase in tuition allowed the University to fund several initiatives this year. For the first time since 2012, market adjustments based on the University's compensation plan were partially implemented effective Oct. 1, 2018. Other items funded were:

- 1.5 percent across-the-board increase—or \$500, whichever is greater—effective July 1, 2018
- 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



Provost Mark Byrnes speaks to the Board of Trustees at MTSU, which is awaiting word on a proposed 4.4 percent increase in state appropriations.

Looking toward the 2019–20 fiscal year, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) is recommending operating state appropriations of \$107.7 million for MTSU. This is a \$4.5 million increase, or 4.4 percent, over 2018–19. This net increase is a combination of a decrease of \$1.5 million in outcomes formula adjustments and a \$6 million increase in proposed new funding for higher education.

The most exciting news is that MTSU has a new capital outlay project proposed for funding in 2019–20. No. 3 on THEC's capital project list is the new School of Concrete and Construction Management building, which has a total project cost of \$40.1 million. This project is No. 1 among the six locally governed universities. In addition to the 54,000-square-foot building, the funding also includes an addition to the Satellite Chiller Plant and demolition of Abernathy and Ezell halls in order to prepare the site for development. With such a high ranking of this project by THEC, we are optimistic the project will be included in the governor's budget and funded in the upcoming fiscal year.



The commission also voted to recommend \$10.1 million in capital maintenance funds for MTSU projects, which includes several buildings roof replacements; Kirksey Old Main mechanical, HVAC, fire protection, lighting, and ceiling upgrades; Stark Ag / Police mechanical and HVAC upgrades; campus stormwater best management practices (BMP) Phase 1; sidewalk repair/replacement Phase 1; and boiler replacement at Miller Education Center.

THEC's recommendations have been submitted to the Department of Finance and Administration for consideration in the proposed state budget that Gov.-elect Bill Lee will be submitting to the state legislature in late February. At that point, we will have more information regarding our likely 2019–20 state and capital appropriations.



The MTSU Board of Trustees local governing structure has been approved by the state through June 2021.

In December, MTSU Board of Trustees Chair Steve Smith, Vice Chair Darrell Freeman, and Alan Thomas, vice president for business and finance, went before the State Education, Health and General Welfare Joint Subcommittee of Government Operations for our Sunset Hearing as required by state statute. Initially, the Board of Trustees was established for a two-year period ending this upcoming June 30. The hearing's purpose was for the subcommittee to review MTSU's answers to questions issued by the Comptroller's Office auditors to determine whether the Board of Trustees should be continued, restructured, or terminated. The subcommittee approved MTSU's Board of Trustees until June 30, 2021.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The ITD Instructional Support team continues to assist faculty in pedagogically strong, effective, and innovative ways of using technology to enhance teaching and learning. The team supports the University learning management system, along with a variety of teaching-with-technology tools; consults with faculty in course design, multimedia, and research projects; and provides instruction on a wide variety of pedagogical and technical topics.

Highlights from the past semester include:

Four course redesigns, using an instructional-design team approach, were implemented in Fall 2018: General Psychology, Introduction to Astronomy, Personal Financial Planning, and Interpersonal Communications. Each team, consisting of a subject-matter expert, instructional designer/technologist, accessibility specialist, learning multimedia developer, and assessment consultant, designed and built the courses and assisted with implementation. Preliminary outcomes are showing enhanced faculty and student satisfaction, high levels of interaction and engagement, and increased student success.

ITD's Faculty Instructional Technology Center has increased its ability to support multimedia development of course materials. A development studio is now operational where faculty—either independently or working with our learning multimedia developer and accessibility specialist—can create audio, video, graphic, and animation materials for use in courses. Professional-grade cameras, microphones, lighting, and software are in place. A “lightboard” has been installed, enabling video capture of voice and activity while an instructor writes, draws, and/or annotates course materials.

The implementation of 2017–18 Innovation grants are complete: An immersive storytelling lab in the College of Media and Entertainment is operational and has begun creating virtual and augmented reality resources. Courses in the Department of English have incorporated more digital technologies and have been revised to analyze video games as a narrative form. And the Department of Art and Design added UI/UX large-format design to the Graphic Design curriculum and began creating media for digital displays.

The Learning, Teaching, and Innovative Technologies Center continued to expand its professional development and teaching excellence support services by hosting more than 25 workshops, seven faculty learning communities, two reading groups, multiple writing groups, a two-day writing retreat, and programs for graduate teaching assistants and faculty fellows.

Several other important technology projects are taking shape at MTSU:

Banner 9

Work is progressing to move MTSU to Banner 9. Its new user interface, known as Application Navigator, replaces older technology like Oracle Forms and Java. What used to be called INB is now Admin Pages. Version 9 eliminates browser compatibility problems, ends dependency on Internet Explorer, and allows for full browser support (Chrome, Firefox, Safari, and MS Edge). Key administrative staff will begin to use Banner 9 as a live test in January. Remaining Banner users will start using Banner 9 late January to early February, dependent on the vendor's delivery of patches for the new version.

The new user interface with the Banner 9 version, to launch in full by February, eliminates browser compatibility problems, ends dependency on Internet Explorer, and allows for full browser support (Chrome, Firefox, Safari, and MS Edge).

Multi-Factor Authentication

MTSU began requiring multi-factor authentication (MFA) for faculty and staff in 2018. The primary goal is to protect MTSU accounts from credential theft via phishing attacks by requiring a second factor, such as a phone, to complete a login request. This second factor requires physical access, meaning even if hackers steal users' credentials, they cannot log into users' accounts without physically accessing their second factor. MTSU currently has 4,573 users enrolled in multi-factor authentication. This includes 1,227 faculty, 1,467 staff, 1,664 students, and 215 miscellaneous accounts for vendors and systems administrators. In February, we will begin requiring all students to enroll in MFA.

Academic Computer Replacement

We have been conducting inventory audits of computers in preparation for the upcoming academic primary computer replacement. Inventory results will be sent out for each department chair's verification and acceptance mid-January. We will order by late January, with actual replacements to take place in February and March. We have identified 280 academic computers that will qualify for replacement. The academic replacement is for primary computers only used by full-time or benefited academic employees. All other machines will need to be replaced using departmental budget funds. Beginning in July, there will be an additional 250 replacements for student-accessible labs and instructor stations sponsored by Technology Access Fees (TAF).

Print Management

The print management contract has recently been renegotiated with a significant cost savings to the University over the next five years. The vendor furnishes all equipment and has an investment of \$1.8 million in equipment alone on campus and provides all consumables, which include toner, all parts and labor, and maintenance. The vendor also furnishes two maintenance technicians on campus who are dedicated solely to MTSU and guarantees the replacement of equipment as needed. The replacement of production equipment for Printing Services was also included. This represents 380 print management machines on campus and about 75 percent of departments (including student labs) involved in print management in some way. A reminder: Printing should always be reserved for academic purposes only and not used for personal gain (i.e., advertising flyers, etc.). Such non-academic printing should be performed at Blue Print Solutions in the Student Union Building. (An additional note: Student printing has slightly decreased over the past five years, with 97 percent of the student population printing well within a reasonable number.)

Information Technology Help Desk

The goal of the Information Technology Help Desk is to be the first place students, faculty, and staff turn to when confronted with technology obstacles. The Help Desk is staffed seven days a week when classes are in session. Experienced personnel can assist you with many hardware, software, password, and other computing and technology questions. The IT Help Desk responds to thousands of inquiries each year and helps to keep the MTSU community at the top of its game in the technology realm.

Contact the Information Technology Help Desk staff

Phone: 615-898-5345

Email: help@mtsu.edu

In person: Keathley University Center,
Room 320

Quick links for help with FAQs can be found on the Help Desk web page at mtsu.edu/help

Innovation grants resulted in a Media and Entertainment lab creating virtual and augmented reality resources; English courses using digital technologies and analyzing video games as a narrative; and UI/UX large-format design in Graphic Design curriculum for digital media displays.



CREATING IMPACT

I am always pleased to highlight areas that are changing to meet the needs of our 21st-century University. Recently the offices of Creative and Visual Services and Printing Services, both within the Marketing and Communications division, united to form a new department: Creative Marketing Solutions (CMS). This will allow these areas to work seamlessly together to provide our campus with even smoother and lightning-fast responses to our growing outreach efforts through content development, design, photography, and printing. Now, rather than needing to contact several areas, you can reach out to creativesolutions@mtsu.edu, call 615-898-2744, or visit mtsu.edu/creativesolutions, and connect to all of these services in one step. There is even more synergy in the works in our marketing division, so keep your eyes out for additional information in the near future! [MTSU](#)



DESIGN AND CONTENT

Build Momentum around your program, event, or project by requesting our services in:

Design

Our award-winning marketing specialists are experts in:

- concept development
- design, illustration,
- targeting audiences
- typography
- overall campaigns

Writing and Editing

Our content specialist can help create compelling marketing materials and promotions, come up with clever phrasing, craft your messages, research, and fact-check your information.

Wordmark and Logo Requests

We are often asked for MTSU wordmark and logo files. We are happy to work with you to create your branding suite, make sure your project is within University standards, and provide files suitable for your end product.



PHOTOGRAPHY

Focus On Images to promote your program or project, or record special events and moments, by requesting our professional photography services:

Hire a Photographer

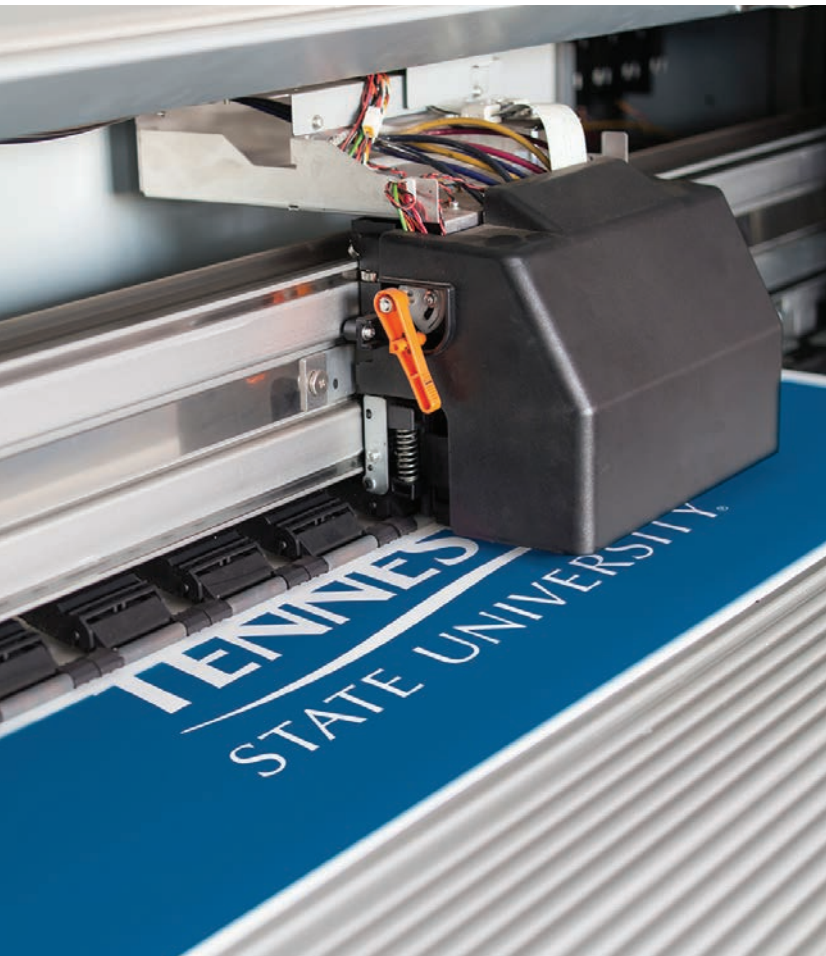
Let our photography masters help you catch the eye of your audience—whether prospective or current students, the campus or broader community, partners, or donors. Call on us to take new photos of academic experiences, our beautiful campus, special occasions, personnel, or other assignments to meet your needs.

Request a Photo Service

We are dedicated to building an extensive library of images for MTSU and can provide archived photos for publications, web, photo printing, large-format images, and custom digital image editing.

Schedule a Headshot

We don't charge a sitting fee for official portraits for faculty and staff (billed when requested for use).



PRINTING

Make An Impression with help on your next promotion, presentation, or project from our professional staff and services:

Blue Print Solutions

Our retail store offers on-demand printing, including personal orders, such as black-and-white or color copies with simple binding or post-printing services. Additional products include:

- large-format posters
- on paper or foam core
- vinyl banners
- yard signs
- booklets
- variable-data printing
- passport photos
- invitations
- stickers
- magnets (large quantities)
- window clings
- class project materials

Finishing Options

Because we have a full-service printing facility, you can obtain finishing services such as binding, collating, cutting, folding, hole-punching, laminating, and shrink-wrapping.

Blue Raider sports teams experienced another exciting and productive year in 2018. Since our University accepted an invitation to join Conference USA in November 2012, Blue Raider squads have consistently attended postseason play, won championships, and achieved C-USA All-Academic team status. Here are just some of the many recent athletic and academic highlights achieved by MTSU student-athletes.

187 of 341 of all student-athletes had a 3.0 GPA or higher

55%

118 made the Dean's List by earning a 3.5 GPA or higher

35%

38 had a perfect 4.0 GPA

11%

Cumulative GPA for all student-athletes

3.044

Semester GPA for all student-athletes

2.950

Teams that had a 3.0 or higher semester GPA

11 of 15

Tennis: highest men's team GPA

3.73

Golf: highest women's team GPA

3.64

Strong Academic Fall

The fall 2018 semester was a good one for MTSU student-athletes both on the fields of play and in the classroom.



Conference USA Soccer All-Academic honorees included four Blue Raiders: **Peyton DePriest** and **Amber Hoot** named to the first team, and **Sydney Navarro** and **Carolin Engelhard** on the second team.



Conference USA Volleyball All-Academic honorees included junior **Brienna Tankesley**, an Exercise Science major, who boasts a perfect 4.0 GPA in her major. The Landisville, Pennsylvania, native played in all 104 sets for the Blue Raiders this season.



Only 11 Conference USA football student-athletes were selected to the 2018 InTouch Credit Union C-USA Football All-Academic Team for excelling both on and off the field this season. Middle Tennessee's **Brent Stockstill** was named to the team for the third time.

Middle Tennessee's NCAA Graduation Success Rate (GSR) set a new school record at 89 percent—the fifth straight year to either equal or establish a school record. The GSR is a four-year measure of freshmen and athletic transfers who entered MTSU between the Fall 2008 semester and the Spring 2011 semester. This marks the sixth straight year that Middle Tennessee has scored above 80 percent. The Blue Raiders also ranked third out of the 14 schools in Conference USA, trailing only Rice and Charlotte. Six programs at Middle Tennessee scored a perfect 100 percent GSR score: **men's basketball, men's tennis, women's basketball, women's tennis, soccer, and volleyball.**

Here are some additional highlights from MT Athletics:

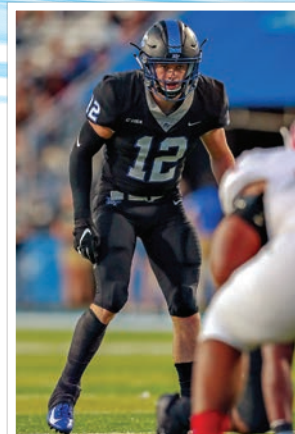
Four Soccer Players Make All-Conference

Freshman forward **Hannah Tillett** (top-l) was named C-USA Freshman of the Year and earned a spot on the All-Conference first team and the All-Freshman Team. **Peyton DePriest** (top-r) was named Offensive Player of the Year and a member of the All-Conference first team. Senior defender **Sydney Navarro** (bottom-l) received her second-straight All-Conference second team honor, while junior midfielder **Amber Hoot** (bottom-r) was selected for the All-Conference third team.



Blankenship Earns National Honor

Middle Tennessee sophomore **Reed Blankenship** was chosen as the Bronko Nagurski National Defensive Player of the Week by the Football Writers Association of America on Oct. 30. Blankenship became just the second player in Blue Raider history to earn the honor and the first one in Conference USA since 2014. Blankenship turned in his best game as a Blue Raider in leading Middle Tennessee to a 51-17 victory at Old Dominion. The sophomore from Athens, Alabama, had a career-high 17 tackles (nine solo), one sack, three tackles for loss, and a 100-yard interception return for a touchdown.



Football Wins C-USA East, Hosts Title Game

Middle Tennessee football (8-4, 7-1) clinched its first C-USA East Division title in 2018 and earned home-field advantage in the C-USA Globe Life Conference USA Championship Game Dec. 1.



Blue Raiders Picked for New Orleans Bowl

The Middle Tennessee football team was awarded a spot in the 2018 New Orleans Bowl against Sun Belt Champion Appalachian State. It marked the school-record fourth straight bowl game for the Blue Raiders and the eighth appearance under Coach Rick Stockstill.



Owens Qualifies for U.S. Amateur Golf

With a sterling mark of 5-under par posted at a sectional qualifier in Decatur, Alabama, Middle Tennessee rising junior **Tanner Owens** earned a spot in the 2018 U.S. Amateur Championship at Pebble Beach Golf Links. Owens became the 12th Blue Raider to qualify for the U.S. Amateur and first since both Brett Patterson and Jason Millard made the field in 2011.



Four Raiders on All-Conference First Team

Conference USA's 2018 football all-conference award winners, voted on by the league's head football coaches, placed Middle Tennessee seniors **Brent Stockstill** (top-l), **Chandler Brewer** (top-r), and **Darius Harris** (bottom-l) and sophomore **Reed Blankenship** (bottom-r) on the first-team roster. Senior **Wesley Bush** and redshirt junior **Khalil Brooks** were given second-team honors, while honorable mentions included **Robert Behanan**, **Josh Fannin**, **Ty Lee**, **Malik Manciel**, **Jahmal Jones**, **Rakavian Poydras**, **D.Q. Thomas**, **Darryl Randolph**, and **Matt Bonadies**. **Chaton Mobley** was also included on the C-USA All-Freshman team.



Stockstills Sweep Top C-USA Awards

Dec. 5, 2018 will be remembered in the Stockstill family for many years to come. On that day, **Rick Stockstill** was named the C-USA Coach of the Year and son **Brent Stockstill** was chosen as C-USA MVP. The Stockstills became only the second father and son to win a conference Coach of the

Year and Player of the Year honor in the same season in the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS). Jim Sweeney and Kevin Sweeney of Fresno State won such honors in 1985.

MT Captures UNLV Lady Rebel Roundup

Taylor Sutton, the Lady Raiders' freshman point guard, delivered a sterling performance to lead Middle Tennessee's 66–62 win against host UNLV in the title game of the UNLV Lady Rebel Roundup on Nov. 25. Sutton led four Lady Raiders in double figures with 22 points while adding three assists and one steal to garner MVP honors. The Atlanta native averaged 19.5 in two tournament wins. Earlier this season, Sutton became the first true freshman to start at point for Middle Tennessee since Shanice Cason in 2011.



2018 Hall of Fame Class Inducted

The 2018 class of the MTSU Blue Raider Sports Hall of Fame featured seven stars from the past who delivered greatness in the athletic arena (l–r): **Ralph Massey** (football), **Amber Holt** (women's basketball), **Marty Carter** (football), **Taryn Durham** (women's golf), **Julius Robberts** (men's tennis), **Daniel Klemetz** (men's tennis), and **David McNamara** (men's tennis). Induction ceremonies took place on the lawn of the Kennon Sports Hall of Fame Building on Sept. 29, prior to the Blue Raiders' come-from-behind win over Florida Atlantic.

