

Welcome. It is once again my honor to welcome you back to the campus for the start of the 2006 Fall semester. I hope you had a restful and productive summer.

I want particularly to offer a special greeting to our new faculty, staff, and administrators. MTSU is a wonderful community in which to work, and Murfreesboro and Rutherford County are great places to live and raise a family.

I continue to be pleased with the University's accomplishments and excited about its future. It is my sincere belief that we are an institution on the move and we are achieving great things because of the extraordinary people who work here. I want you to know how much I appreciate your service.

Sidney A. McPhee

News and Information

Fall 2006 Enrollment

MTSU's enrollment for Fall 2006 is projected to stabilize at more than 23,000 students. The Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment and Academic Services continues to do a very good job managing our enrollment. We have maintained our status as the institution of choice for Tennesseans attending college in the midstate area.

University Convocation

The fifth annual University Convocation took place yesterday in Murphy Center. Designed to formally introduce new freshmen to the academic community, this year's convocation featured speaker Greg Critser.

Critser is the author of the book *Fat Land*—this year's summer reading selection. With Mr. Critser's help, the MTSU community had a chance to take a look at the epidemic of obesity that has swept across the country and to consider some of the social, medical, economic,



educational, and cultural contributors to the problem. But in a much broader sense, *Fat Land* is a book about all of the choices we make every day and how those choices impact our individual and collective futures. I hope that we each use the experience as a personal opportunity to reflect on ourselves and on the choices we are making in our own lives. Appreciation and recognition go to the faculty members, administrators, and student leaders who participated in the event and to Dr. Bob Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs and vice provost for Enrollment and Academic Services, and his staff for their planning success. During Critser's time in Murfreesboro, he also spoke at Linebaugh Library and interacted with students in class.

Budget Update

The 2006-07 fiscal year budget appropriated by the state to colleges and universities provided for the first time in many years new operating funds. MTSU received \$4.3 million in new operating funds, which was the highest amount received by a TBR



institution. This was due to our recent enrollment increases and the distribution of new state funds based on the greatest need under the THEC funding formula. The state legislature also funded this year \$15 million for the planning and infrastructure work on our new science building. State funds were provided for capital maintenance projects as well.

Salary Increases

All regular full-time and part-time employees on the payroll as of June 30, 2006, and those participating in the post-retirement service program received a two percent across-the-board salary increase. The increase was included in the July 31 paycheck for non-faculty and will be included in the August 31 paycheck for faculty. Temporary faculty who are in regular, benefited positions will receive the increase. The University funded the salary increase from new state appropriations, fee increases, and reallocation of current funds.



Additional Salary Increase

I have requested that the Tennessee Board of Regents consider at its September Board meeting additional permanent salary increases for faculty and staff who were on the payroll as of June 30, 2006. The proposed salary increases are based on our approved compensation plan. The overall increase pool was limited to two percent according to Board FY07 compensation guidelines. If approved, the salary increase would be effective January 1, 2007.

Bonus

Funding has been provided by the state for a one-time flat rate bonus of \$350 per employee. To be eligible, an employee must have at least three years of creditable state service as of October 1, 2006. Creditable service does not have to be consecutive, but it has to be at least three years cumulative. Permanent part-time employees will receive a percentage of \$350 proportional to the percent assignment. The bonus will be paid in October.

I am also pleased to announce that, again, due to good budget management at your university, I have requested the Board to consider at its September meeting a University funded one-time bonus of one percent of current salary or \$500, whichever is greater, for all unrestricted and restricted regular full-time and part-time faculty and staff on the payroll as of June 30, 2006 who do not leave service before October and are not in terminal leave status in October. Participants in the post-retirement service programs will also receive the bonus, which will be paid in October along with the state bonus.

Physical Plant Improvements and Land Acquisitions

Middle Tennessee Boulevard

Reconstruction of Middle Tennessee Boulevard will enable us to create an attractive, inviting gateway to our campus and increase the safety of the Boulevard for our students. This appropriation is more than \$10 million. Designers are proceeding with plan reviews of the improved roadway design by the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). This approval will enable the City of Murfreesboro and MTSU to proceed with a partnership to make needed safety, pedestrian, and traffic improvements along the Boulevard.

Athletic Facilities Enhancements

With the gift of \$5.5 million from the City of Murfreesboro last spring, plans were made to enhance some of our athletic facilities. In just one year, bleachers were installed at the outdoor track and soccer complex prior to this May's state high school track and field Spring Fling event, and construction is now underway for new locker facilities,

concession stands, press box, and ticket booth. Design for a \$5 million baseball facility is proceeding with last year's gift by the City of Murfreesboro and gifts from many generous supporters. The facility will house a new press box and suites, improved seating, new dugouts for the teams, and improved entry plaza.



Middle Tennessee Building

Last year we purchased the former Middle Tennessee Baptist Church building, now renamed the Middle Tennessee Building. This new facility will be renovated to house the Office of Research and Graduate Studies and the University's Human Resources offices. Construction is scheduled to be complete in spring, 2007.

Guy James Farm

Last year we purchased the 500-acre Guy James Farm. This acquisition will allow Agribusiness and Agriscience to begin long desired farms consolidation. This acquisition virtually doubles the acreage of our campus. A planning project was approved by the State Building Commission this summer, and programming is underway to relocate the Dairy farm facilities.



New Alumni House

Our third major purchase this past year was the Buckner property on Middle

Tennessee Blvd. Renovations are complete, and the Office of Alumni Relations now occupies the facility.

Football Stadium Turf Replacement

This summer, a new and improved field turf was installed in the football stadium.

Women's Softball Renovations

Construction of the new women's softball press box, restroom, and dugouts is now complete.

Status of New Science Building and Other Academic Facilities

Planning continues for the science building. This past legislative session produced \$15 million in state appropriations for planning of the new science building. This long awaited funding will support design of new labs and classrooms. The current funding also supports the construction of a new chilling plant needed for the new science building. As it now stands, the state funding schedule calls for allocation of construction funding in two years. MTSU's recent capital outlay

submittal to TBR includes plans for a major addition to Bragg Mass Communication Building to support the college's growing programs. A project to expand the LRC and consolidate facilities for the College of Education and Behavioral Science is in line for funding in the next legislative cycle. If state funds are appropriated, planning and design will begin next year.

Nursing Building Expansion

Construction of a 28,000 square foot addition to Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building started last fall to support additional nursing student enrollment. This building expansion is a \$6 million project paid for with private funds. Construction is scheduled for completion this fall, and new classrooms, computer and nursing labs, seminar space, and faculty offices will be occupied prior to the start of classes in January.

Horse Science Ring Enclosure

A \$150,000 gift to the MTSU Foundation, awarded to further enhance the Horse Science program, will be used to construct an enclosure for the Horse



Science riding ring at the Tennessee Miller Coliseum. The project will be

completed this fall.

Expansion Plans for the Student Recreation Center

A major addition to the Student Recreation Center is in the works. The addition will add space for a new Student Health Clinic, space for Counseling Services, additional weight room space,

cardio area, aerobics room, meeting spaces, and recreation fields. This is a \$20 million expansion. The addition is being developed with a “Construction Manager” construction delivery process, recently approved by the State to help control schedule and cost on large complex projects. The project was bid last fall following hurricane season and a period of rapidly escalating construction costs; unfortunately it was over budget. It has recently been redesigned to significantly reduce costs and is scheduled for rebid in late fall.

Campus Parking and Transportation

Phase 1 of the Parking and Transportation construction improvements has begun. Phase 1 provides parking spaces on the east side of Rutherford Boulevard, adds traffic signals at the new intersection south of Greek Row, and makes major entrance improvements at MTSU Boulevard. The project is nearing completion, and Phase 2 design is underway. Phase 2 will provide a new connection from Rutherford Boulevard to the main campus on the south edge and other significant traffic, pedestrian, and dedicated shuttle bus lane improvements on campus.

Plans for New Student Union

Planning for a new student union has begun with the project programming to be completed over the next year. Programming is nearing completion for the new student union, and site planning for new and renovated facilities is underway as part of the University Master Plan Update.

Student Housing Renovations

Implementation of the long-range housing renovation plans continues with the reconstruction and redesigns of several halls in progress. We are in the in the fifth year of ten-year project. Renovation of the Monohan complex is scheduled for completion next spring, and renovation of Lyon Hall complex will be bid next spring.

Naked-Eye Observatory

The Naked Eye Observatory and Observatory Plaza north of Cope Administration Building is complete. Recently appropriated federal funding has allowed completion of planning for the adjacent observatory structure that will house a new telescope and technology that will allow exterior and Internet viewing of the images from the telescope.

Learning, Teaching, and Innovative Technologies Center

After a successful launch last year, the Learning, Teaching, and Innovative Technologies Center, a joint endeavor of the academic affairs and information technology divisions, continues to grow with the establishment of the following faculty development initiatives:

- Established the First Tuesday Series, a series of seminars where faculty panels discussed teaching and learning issues; the seminars were well attended by faculty.
- Facilitated a College Showcase Series culminating in an event that brought a nationally known higher education expert in teaching and learning to campus.

- Named two Faculty Fellows to serve as liaisons with the faculty in providing professional teaching and learning resources; faculty fellows will be named each year.
- Established a collection of resources for faculty in teaching excellence that includes a newsletter, e-mail, and Web postings, a library of books and articles, and online communication activities.
- Coordinated and provided support for the Faculty Mentoring Program.



Computer Replacement Plan

As part of our annual computer replacement and renewal project, more than 900 computers were replaced in 2005-2006, making sure that MTSU students, faculty, and staff have the up-to-date technology needed to fulfill their roles in accomplishing the MTSU mission. While 2006-2007 will be the third year for the faculty and staff desktop replacement program, it is the first year that we have established full recurring funds for this project. Student computer renewal and replacement has been in place for five years and is funded through the student Technology Access Fee.

Implementation of the New Administration System and Banner

Banner Finance went live in July 2005; Banner HR went live in January 2006; Banner Advancement went live July 2006. Plans are for Student Admissions to be live this fall with mock student registrations also occurring in the fall. The first live student registration will start in March 2007 for fall semester 2007. The MTSU conversion and implementation teams continue to lead the Tennessee Board of Regents in this system-wide effort.

Alumni / Development

In the areas of Alumni Relations and Development, I am again pleased with the efforts of our staff.

Our Alumni Relations Office has begun working closely with the Admissions Office in hosting receptions connecting student recruiting with our alumni in selected geographic areas of the state. Last year events were held in Kingsport, Knoxville, Jackson, and Memphis and were very well attended. The receptions provide an opportunity for our alumni to interact with prospective students and their parents.

Also, the University's Development Office has made tremendous strides over the years. Last year, we had one of our most successful fund-raising years ever, with over \$13 million in gifts to the University and the MTSU Foundation. This is the second largest total in University history and the outright cash gifts from our alumni and friends were the third highest ever. This support is directly opposite of national trends showing decreasing support from alumni.

The New Community and University Partnerships (CUP) Office



Establishing and nurturing partnerships is one of MTSU's three major goals. Middle Tennessee State University affirmed its commitment to Goal III of the Academic Master Plan last year by establishing a Community and University Partnerships (CUP) Office on February 1, 2006. Realizing that much was being done related to partnerships across campus and that there was no single entity having knowledge of all the activity, the decision was made to allot resources for a formal structured focus on this major goal.

The mission of this new initiative is to encourage the development of important bonds and connections that lead to a sharing of human and knowledge resources to facilitate better coordination of efforts university-wide. The CUP Office will have the responsibility of reporting information on formal partnerships engaged by various units on the campus. This will be done through a Web site and database that will include both current and prospective

MTSU partnerships. The database will be fully functional beginning fall 2006.

Please visit the new MTSU partnerships Web site: www.mtsu.edu/~partner to learn how your partnership can be catalogued and formally documented and earn appropriate credit and recognition.

Extramural Funding

We continue to make significant progress in increasing the University's extramural funding and last year was no exception. Funding totaled \$38,495,290, an increase of \$17,055,669 over FY2005. The increase occurred in all areas including instruction, research, and public service. You will recall that in 2001, our research and grants funding stood at approximately \$6 million annually. Today we are at \$38 million.

MTSU Faculty-Staff Health and Wellness Program

For years, we have known of the benefits of regular physical activity and proper nutritional habits on health and quality of life of our faculty and staff. Now, for the first time in this University's history, there is a new MTSU Faculty-Staff Health and Wellness Program that will be offered to all University full-time faculty and staff over the 2006-2007 academic year. Each program will consist of 10 weeks of testing and coaching in the areas of exercise, nutrition, and lifestyle change; MTSU is the only university in Tennessee that will be providing virtually 100 percent financial support. To ensure the commitment of each participant, there will be a nominal fee of \$20.00 (which includes a t-shirt for those who remain in the program).

The program includes testing before and after the 10-week intervention. Details follow:

1. fitness, in which graduates from the University's exercise science program will conduct five fitness tests, followed by an exercise prescription and weekly coaching;
2. a lipids profile blood test, provided by Student Health Services that will indicate the person's cholesterol levels;
3. nutritional habits, conducted by registered dietician Cristie Wells, who will provide continued coaching and who will be assisted by advanced students in the University's nutrition program sponsored by the Human Sciences Department;
4. examining possible mental barriers that might impede maintaining program participation, conducted by the program's life skills coach, licensed health psychologist, Dr. Brynda Guinn; and finally,
5. receiving an opening 90-minute orientation and personal coaching by Dr. Mark Anshel, Health and Human Performance Department professor, in examining lifestyle changes, both personally and professionally, by developing an action plan (received at the orientation) on ways to expand our capacity—physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually—to manage energy and perform at the highest level in our personal and professional lives.

The program will be directed Dr. Mark Anshel, MTSU professor, who just completed a one-year study with the Murfreesboro Police Department on replacing unhealthy habits with healthy routines; he has conducted previous similar programs on campus funded by FRAC grants on changing health behavior. My thanks to Dr. Tony Johnston, MTSU Faculty Senate President, for initiating this program. He and Dr. Anshel submitted a program proposal early summer that I felt was in the best interests of the University. I hope you take advantage of this rare opportunity.

Remember, the program is limited to 100 full-time faculty and staff in each of three sessions, fall, spring, and summer; watch for its promotion through campus-wide e-mail.

Blue Raider Athletics

Athletic Academics



Last year I reported to you that during the spring of 2005, the football program in particular, and the athletic department in general, received some negative public attention with the announcement of the NCAA Academic Progress Report (APR). I am pleased to report to you that this past year, the athletic department's overall APR score has improved significantly and will be no lower than 950. The NCAA benchmark is 925.

In comparison, last year we were at 926, and 905 the year before. The football APR score for the last academic year should be near 940. In the past two years, the team's score was 812 and 892, much below the benchmark. This past year, four programs that have perfect APR scores are baseball, men's tennis, women's tennis, and men's golf.

In addition, Middle Tennessee posted a record 154 student-athletes on the Sun Belt Commissioner's List and Academic Honor Roll. Sixty-three of those student-athletes were members of the Commissioner's List for a grade-point-average of 3.50 or above. Thirteen student-athletes participated in summer commencement ceremonies, while 31 graduated in December and 41 others were part of spring commencement.



Our athletic teams received accolades both nationally and through the conference last season. The Blue Raider soccer team was awarded the prestigious National Soccer Coaches of America (NSCAA) Team Academic Award for the fourth consecutive year under the direction of head coach Aston Rhoden. Our softball team won the Sun Belt Academic Team award for the second year in a row.

ESPN The Magazine and the College Sports Information Directors of America honored three student-athletes for their academic achievements. Women's basketball player Chrissy Givens was named Second Team All-America, while Krystle Horton (women's basketball) and Muriel Ledbetter (softball) received Academic All-District honors.

The MTSU student athlete graduation rate exceeded the freshmen student graduation rate for the most recent six-year cohort. Student athletes on athletic aid had a graduation rate of 53 percent compared to a 38 percent rate for all freshmen, a 15 percent difference.

National Champions

Middle Tennessee men's tennis won the 2005 Polo Ralph Lauren ITA All-American doubles championship in Tulsa, Okla., in October, one of three national championship tournaments during the college tennis season.

All-Americans

Middle Tennessee produced six All-Americans during the 2005-06 academic year, including three in track and field. In baseball, catcher Michael McKenry was named First Team All-American by the American Baseball Coaches Association. He is only the second player in school history to garner First Team national honors. Dewon Brazelton was the first.



I trust that you will continue to find this e-newsletter informative and useful. I welcome your feedback and comments. And as always, I appreciate all that you do to support the

goals and objectives of this great public university. Please send your comments to smcpee@mtsu.edu.