

Welcome. It is once again my honor to welcome you back to the campus for the start of the 2005 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 2005 Enrollment

The university student enrollment for Fall 2005 is projected to stabilize at 22,000+ 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 fourth annual University Convocation was held yesterday in Murphy Center. The convocation was designed to formally introduce new freshmen to the academic community. Aron Ralston was the convocation speaker. Ralston, 29, is the author of the book *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*—this year's summer reading selection. His book tells how he came to be trapped by an 800-pound boulder that



almost cost him his life. Ralston relates how on the sixth day of his ordeal he lost his arm but gained his freedom. He stresses the importance of realizing that one can reach deep inside oneself and find hidden strength and courage to overcome adversity. More than 5,500 students, parents, and community members attended the program. 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 Ralston's time in Murfreesboro, he also spoke at Linebaugh Library and interacted with students in class, at the Recreation Center, and at a Murfreesboro City School.

Budget Update

The 2005-06 fiscal year budget appropriated by the state to colleges and universities provides some funding for new capital construction and deferred maintenance and includes increases in salaries for employees.

Salary Increases

All regular full-time and part-time employees on the payroll as of June 30, 2005, and those participating in the post retirement service program received a three 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. Again the state did not fully fund the three percent. Two percent of the salary increase was funded by the state and the university was mandated to provide the remaining one percent.

Additional Salary Increase

I am pleased to announce that, again, due to good budget management at your university, the Chancellor at TBR has approved my recommendation to give MTSU faculty and staff who were employed as of June 30, 2005, a one percent one-time bonus or \$500, whichever is greater, to be paid in October. In addition, contingent on a two percent enrollment increase this fall, employees who were on the payroll as of June 30, 2005, will receive an additional two percent across-the-board permanent salary increase effective October 1.

New Administrative Appointments

Associate Dean of the Graduate School

Dr. Pamela Knox was recently appointed as Associate Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. Dr. Knox holds a doctoral degree in Psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Knox has held both faculty and student affairs positions at numerous universities including Penn State, Oklahoma State, the University of Kansas, Idaho State and most recently, Tennessee State University.

Athletic Director

On April 8, 2005, Chris Massaro was appointed as the Blue Raiders' sixth athletic director. Massaro makes his way to Murfreesboro after spending the past 20 years in the South Carolina athletic department. As senior associate athletic director, he provided significant leadership to the department. At South Carolina, Massaro oversaw the men's basketball program and all aspects of the department's ticket operations and group sales, helped coordinate the department's marketing efforts, and was involved in all aspects surrounding the planning, building, marketing, and opening of the \$60 million 18,000-seat Carolina Center. Massaro also was responsible for football scheduling and negotiating game contracts.



Women's Basketball Coach

This past May, Coach Rick Insell was hired as the new women's basketball coach. Insell, a four-time National High School Coach of the Year honoree, is the seventh coach in Lady Raider history.

The legendary Insell, a 1977 graduate of MTSU, built a dynasty at nearby Shelbyville Central High School, where he guided the Golden Eaglettes to a record 10 TSSAA Class AAA state championships and two USA Today National Championships (1989, 1991) as he compiled a sparkling 775-148 worksheet during his 28-year tenure. Insell was named USA Today National High School Coach of the Year in 1989 and 1991; he also was named Converse National High School Coach of the Year in 1990 and 1992.

New Institutional Peer Group

Next month, THEC will approve a new group of peer institutions for our university. With the new peers, we will be in a league with institutions such

as the University of Central Florida, Georgia State University, George Mason University, and Florida International University. This group of new peer universities is a major improvement compared to our existing peer institutions. These new peers provide enhanced funding comparisons for the next budget cycle for per student allocation, library resources, and faculty salaries.

Federal Appropriations

We implemented a strategy two years ago to lobby our state congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. to help us secure increased federal dollars. This effort has resulted in the university receiving notice a few weeks ago of one of the largest direct federal appropriations in the history of TBR institutions of higher learning: \$6.4 million for the reconstruction of Middle Tennessee Boulevard, adjacent to campus. This will enable us to create an attractive, inviting gateway to our campus and increase the safety of the Boulevard for our students. This appropriation brings our total to date to more than \$10 million during the past two years.



Graduate College and Office of Sponsored Research

Our graduate college and office of research have made steady progress. Accomplishments include acquiring more than \$21 million in extramural funding for the past year. It was only a few years ago that our annual external research funding stood at \$6 million.

The following are activities and initiatives of the Graduate College and Office of Sponsored Research:

- ✓ Established a \$500,000/year Research Enhancement Program to facilitate interdisciplinary research
- ✓ Created the Center for Advancement of Research and Scholarship
- ✓ Established the Undergraduate Research Center
- ✓ Strengthened undergraduate students' involvement with faculty research projects
- ✓ Commissioned and produced the first White Paper on Enhancement of Creative Projects at MTSU. This initiative, which involved the faculty, will provide direction in facilitating greater emphasis and support for creative activities.

MTSU and Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce Rank #1



A recent issue of the Southern Business and Development magazine ranked MTSU and the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce partnership as #1 among the southern state for fostering new businesses. The magazine ranked the “top ten” university markets that really have “their act together” in attracting new business and industry to this region.

Murfreesboro City Council Makes a \$5.5 Million Investment in MTSU

Last Thursday evening, the Murfreesboro City Council unanimously voted to approve a \$5.5 million gift to the university. The donation is an investment in improving some of the athletic facilities on campus, including upgrades to the outdoor track, soccer complex, and baseball stadium. The city’s commitment is the largest financial donation ever to the athletic department and one of the largest in the history of the university.

Physical Plant Improvements and Land Acquisitions

Regarding improvement of our physical facilities and acquiring land for academic program expansion, acquisitions during the past year total \$7.1 million. We made three key purchases:

Middle Tennessee Building

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 Human Resources offices

Guy James Farm

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.

New Alumni House

Our third major purchase this past year was the Buckner property on Middle Tennessee Blvd. This facility will house the Office of Alumni Relations.

Athletics

On March 2-7, 2006, MTSU will host the Sun Belt Conference Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament. It will be the largest on-campus basketball tournament in the country. ESPN will have 14 broadcasts on their family of networks from our campus during this event, including two national telecasts. Such coverage from MTSU is unprecedented.



Murphy Center Renovations

We are currently engaged in a major renovation of Murphy Center. Seats in the arena are being replaced in preparation for the 2006 Sunbelt Basketball Tournament.

Other improvements being made include adding an ADA restroom.

Women's Softball Renovations

Construction is beginning for a new press box, public restrooms, and new dugouts for Women's Softball. Future plan are to add new stands around the field. These improvements support MTSU's Title IX facilities plan.

Future Football Schedule

Our future football schedule is sure to create some excitement. The following games have been secured:

- ✓ 2006--Louisville in Nashville
- ✓ 2007--Virginia in Floyd Stadium
- ✓ 2008--Maryland in Floyd
- ✓ 2009--Memphis in Floyd



I encourage you to come our and support our student athletes.

New Initiatives for 2005-06 Academic Year

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) will conduct its re-accreditation review of our university next spring. The Compliance Audit, led by Dr. Richard Detmer, for MTSU's SACS reaccreditation will be submitted September 9 with our off-site review scheduled for November 9-11. The SACS on-site visit will be March 21-23, 2006. The site visitors will be reviewing our Quality Enhancement Plan for Experiential Learning project led by Dr. Jill Austin. Dr. Austin and her campus wide committee have put together an excellent plan that will have significant impact on

student learning at MTSU for the future. We look forward to the review and moving forward to implement our plan.

Status of New Science Building and Other Academic Facilities

Planning continues for the science building. Our new science building is now #3 on the TBR capital funding list and we are expecting it to be funded next year. Next in line is the LRC addition which is #6 on the list. The LRC addition will provide expansion area to support consolidation of the College of Education and Behavioral Science. MTSU's recent capital outlay submittal to TBR includes plans for a major addition to Bragg Mass Communication Building to support their growing programs.



Nursing Building Expansion

Construction of a 28,000 square foot addition to Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building will start this fall and will add classrooms, computer lab, nursing lab, seminar space, and faculty offices to support additional nursing student enrollment. This building expansion is a \$6 million project raised with private funds.

Expansion Plans for the Student Recreation Center

A major addition to the Student Recreation Center will be bid this September. 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.

Campus Parking and Transportation

Phase 1 of the Parking and Transportation construction improvements will begin this year to provide parking spaces on the east side of Rutherford Boulevard, add a traffic signal at the new intersection south of Greek Row, and make major entrance improvements at MTSU Blvd.

Plans for New Student Union

Planning for a new student union has begun with the project programming to be completed over the next year.

Other Major Capital Construction Projects

Todd Hall

Construction of the third floor of Todd Hall is nearing completion, and will complete the consolidation of the Art Department.

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 fourth year of a \$70 million, 10-year project with the goal of renovating all of the residence halls. In addition, we are in the process of adding sprinkler systems in all student housing.

Naked-Eye Observatory

Construction continues for an Observatory Plaza north of Cope Administration Building that will support teaching and research of the planets and stars. Completion is anticipated in December.

Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building

Completion of a major retrofit project for Boutwell Dramatic Arts was completed this summer. The project replaced an antiquated HVAC system providing more cooling and better temperature control. In addition, workers updated the electrical service in the building, replaced the fire alarm system, and replaced sections of ceilings and lighting. The total price for the work is approximately \$2 million.

Peck Hall

Peck Hall historically has had many problems associated with drainage, parking, and delivery vehicle access. Facilities Services recently completed a significant site improvement project that alleviates these problems by reworking the site drainage, sidewalks, and parking areas on the north side of the building.

President's Goals for 2005-2006

I wish to share with you my goals of the 2005-06 academic year.

- ✓ Conduct a review of the Developmental Studies division and develop and implement a plan for restructuring the area.
- ✓ Develop a strategic plan for the Athletic Department with major emphasis on facilities enhancements and improvement in the academic progress of student athletes.

- ✓ Continue the development of new academic programs consistent with the university's Academic Master Plan.
 - ✓ Continue efforts to improve alumni relations and donor giving to the university.
 - ✓ Continue enterprise resource planning (ERP) and implementation.
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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.