

Happy New Year! Welcome to the Spring 2007 semester. I hope you and your family enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. The beginning of a new calendar year provides an opportunity for us to reflect on a challenging and successful year in 2006. Our success last year is due to the hard work and dedication of our students, faculty, and staff. I would like to thank each of you for your extraordinary commitment to MTSU and I look forward to working with you in 2007.



Sidney A. McPhee
President

News and Information
- Update -

SPRING 2007 ENROLLMENT

The University's student enrollment continues to grow consistent with our enrollment management plan. Our enrollment management plan calls for a 2-3 percent enrollment growth. Comparing Spring 2007 enrollment to Spring 2006 enrollment approximately one week prior to the beginning of class, we have an increase in headcount of 683 (3.5%) students.

ENHANCING THE UNIVERSITY'S ACADEMIC IMAGE

MTSU recently completed an Awareness and Attitude Research study on the university image conducted by Stamats, one of the premier consulting, research and marketing firms specializing in higher education.



The purpose of the study was to look at the competitive position MTSU has regarding recruiting prospective students, our key competitors, and awareness of MTSU in all three grand divisions of the state. Stamats found that MTSU is operating from a

position of strength as it relates to our enrollment and fiscal health. However, for growth to continue in the future, we must focus more on enhancing the student experience at MTSU and improve our retention and graduation rates.

The report outlined several recommendations that fall under four broad areas:

- Continue to manage enrollment, making a conscious effort to trade growth for quality, and strategically position the University to operate at an optimum size.
- Consider the mix of students we recruit and be more effective in identifying 'best fit' students who are attracted to specific MTSU academic offerings.
- Define student-centeredness, and work harder to make it a distinguishing characteristic of the University.
- Develop a marketplace driven attitude and look closely at the costs and benefits of all the activities the University undertakes.

If you have further questions about the study, or would like to see the final report contact the university marketing office.

EMPLOYEE CHARITABLE GIVING CAMPAIGN

Once again the University has completed a very successful Annual Employee Charitable Giving Campaign. The 2006 campaign resulted in employee pledges of \$79,492 to be given in the 2007 calendar year. This represents an increase in donations of more than 5% over the previous year's campaign. The donations came from 440 university employees.

The success of the campaign is the result of the exemplary leadership of Vice President Lucinda Lea and her campus coordinating team of Robin Jones, Michelle Huss, Janina Overton, Matt Tate, and Melissa Towe, along with division coordinators of Mike Boyle, James Floyd, Deborah Roberts, Gina Fann, Kathy Kano, and Doug Cothorn and the more than 60 departmental volunteers who contributed to the campaign effort. Thanks to each of you for your participation in this important endeavor.

DEDICATION OF CASON-KENNEDY NURSING BUILDING ADDITION

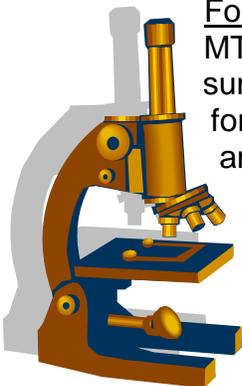
Construction of the 28,000 square foot addition to Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building is complete. This building expansion is a \$6 million project funded from private support. **Please join us on Friday, January 19, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. for the celebration of the expansion of the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building.** This building expansion project was made possible because of financial support from the Christy Houston Foundation and appropriated congressional funding supported by former Senate majority leader Bill Frist, Senator Lamar Alexander, and Congressman Bart Gordon.

MTSU RECEIVES SACS REACCREDITATION

MTSU received its reaffirmation of accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in the Commission on Colleges' meeting in Orlando in December, 2006. This reaffirmation of accreditation is an important accomplishment for the University. Our reaccreditation was based on a compliance audit and a quality enhancement plan. The compliance audit was conducted by a team of MTSU faculty and administrators led by Dr. Richard Detmer, chair of the Computer Science Department. A campus wide committee, led by Dr. Jill Austin, chair of the Management and Marketing Department, worked on our quality enhancement plan which focused on Experiential Learning. MTSU was invited by SACS to present a session on our Quality Enhancement Plan on Experiential Learning at its annual meeting in December. The Experiential Learning Plan was also selected as a model program and was highlighted to member institutions. Provost Kaylene Gebert, Dr. Jill Austin, professor and chair of the Management and Marketing Department, and Faye Johnson, assistant to the provost for special initiatives, shared our planning process and plan with other colleges and universities representatives attending the SACS Annual Convention in Orlando, Florida.



MTSU DEVELOPS NEW ACADEMIC INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS



Forensic Institute:

MTSU established a Forensic Institute for Research and Education in summer 2006. The institute, under the director of nationally known forensic anthropologist Dr. Hugh Berryman, brings together faculty and students in several scientific specialties to provide exceptional educational and training opportunities for law enforcement, medical examiners, coroners, attorneys, social workers, and other groups in forensic science and Homeland Security. It also fosters research collaboration and grant development among faculty.

Middle East Studies:

MTSU now offers an interdisciplinary minor in Middle East Studies. The minor includes courses in Arabic and Hebrew languages, philosophy and religion, Middle East and Islamic history, Middle East literatures, political science, and business. The University has also received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Languages program of \$142,000 over two years to develop an MTSU Middle East Center. Dr. Allen Hibbard, professor of English, is director of the new center.

Institute of Leadership Excellence:

Last year, TBR approved the establishment of a pilot for an Institute of Leadership Excellence, funded by a generous gift from Dr. H. Lee Martin, executive director, Clarity Resources LLC. The institute is designed to provide students an intensive study of leadership theory and practice with an emphasis on application and experiential learning. Students in the first Institute, held this past summer and led by Drs. David Foote and Earl Thomas in the Management and Marketing Department, engaged in interactive learning activities with notable state, region, and local community leaders to build their leadership skills and potential.



Academic Degree Proposals:

During December 2006, MTSU submitted final proposals to the TBR for consideration. A Master of Social Work, a cooperative degree with Austin Peay State University and Tennessee State University, was submitted from the College of Liberal Arts, and the Doctor of Philosophy in Literacy Studies was submitted from the College of Education and Behavioral Science. In addition, University faculty members are working on a Doctor of Philosophy degree in the sciences with three areas of focus.



FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

MTSU is meeting the challenge to better prepare students to succeed and lead in a global economy. Through its International Education Program, it is increasing the number of students studying abroad, the number of international students at MTSU, international content in courses taught on campus, the number of international scholars on campus, and the number of faculty teaching or doing research abroad.

During fall 2006, MTSU hosted 34 international exchange students, more than twice as many as the year before. These international students represent seven countries from around the world. MTSU sent 26 students to nine countries in return. Over a dozen new institutional partnership agreements were signed in 2006 with international institutions in China, Russia, England, Ghana, and Taiwan. These agreements are designed to create faculty and student exchanges and faculty research opportunities. A total of 227 MTSU students have participated in exchanges or study abroad courses since January 2006.

MTSU has established a B.A. in Global Studies and graduated its first degree students in the program in the December commencement. A new program in

partnership with Motlow State Community College was also initiated to offer General Education courses in Cherbourg, France during summer 2007.

OFFICE OF TRANSFER STUDENT SERVICES

The recently established Office of Transfer Student Services (OTSS) completed a very successful year of pilot programs, transfer student support initiatives, and community college outreach. During the past year, implemented successful pilot programs supporting at-risk transfer students, promoting faculty transfer advising, and modifying the registration process for new transfer students. In addition, OTSS facilitated the establishment of the MTSU Tau Sigma chapter (National Honor Society for Transfer Students) as the first chapter in Tennessee. The OTSS served as organizer and host for the well-received Community College Advising Appreciation Day. At this event, administrators, advisors, and faculty from Columbia State, Motlow State, Nashville State, Volunteer State, and MTSU participated in discussions and informational sessions.



BLUE RAIDER ATHLETICS UPDATE

Student Athlete Academic Performance - Fall 2006:

In the fall 2006 semester, MTSU student athletes enjoyed great success on the field and court as well as in the classroom. This past semester 50 percent of all student athletes earned a grade point average of

3.0 or higher, and 25 percent made their college Dean's List by earning a 3.5 or higher in at least 12 hours.

All seven of MTSU Women's sports had a semester grade point average of 3.0 or higher and 9 out of 13 MTSU teams have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher. This reflects improved semester grade point averages for 11 of our 13 teams.

Last semester, the football program made great strides academically with a semester grade point average for freshmen of 2.87 and an overall grade point average of 2.59 for all football players. The athletic program overall has a 2.89 semester grade point average and a 3.03 cumulative grade point average.

Women's Basketball: Congratulations to the Women's' Basketball program for the success in the classroom and on the court. The Lady Raiders team is ranked 20th in the Associated Press and ESPN/USA Today polls.



Volleyball: Middle Tennessee made history on December of 2006 by winning its first match in the NCAA Tournament with a 3-2 victory over the Louisville Cardinals in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. The team capped off its season by receiving six votes in the final AVCA poll of the season, ending the year ranked No. 34 in the nation.



Football: The Blue Raiders made a valiant effort in its first visit to a bowl game as a Division I-A member in front of 54,113 at the 10th annual Motor City Bowl at Detroit's Ford Field. The attendance was a Motor City Bowl record and the fans were treated to a competitive and exciting game with the outcome undecided into the final minutes. In the end, however, Middle Tennessee (7-6) was unable to complete a gallant comeback attempt against Mid-American Conference champion Central Michigan, which finished its impressive season with a 10-4 overall mark. Congratulations to our team, Coach Stockstill, the coaches, and the staff for a great season.



Soccer: Middle Tennessee shattered numerous single-season records throughout the season and had several players ranked among national leaders in various categories. Middle Tennessee's quest for its first Sun Belt Conference Tournament Championship ran into a road block in a 3-1 setback to rival North Texas. The Raiders ended the season with a 17-4 season.



INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

MTSU continues to be in the forefront in bringing cutting edge educational technologies to the classroom. The Cingular Wireless Advanced Classroom Technologies (ACT) Laboratory, located in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building was officially opened and dedicated last November. This new facility provides faculty the opportunity to teach to different learning styles and to promote active, collaborative, and problem-based learning. Technologies and tools available in the room include a Walk and Talk Teacher Station, a sophisticated electronic flip chart system called Thunder, plasma screens and Tablet PCs to facilitate collaborative small group work, recording equipment, and educational software. The ACT Laboratory is the result of a campus collaborative among Academic Affairs, Information Technology, the Honors College, and Campus Facilities.

COURSE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

A contract with Desire2Learn (D2L) was signed by TBR in late December. D2L is the course management system chosen by TBR, through a bid process, to replace WebCT. The contract with WebCT expires in December, 2007. Plans are being made for the conversion of faculty courses to this new system. MTSU

Instructional Technology staff will receive training in January and February and then will make plans to begin training and consulting with our faculty to assist with their course conversions.



ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION (ERP / BANNER)

As we moved through the fall semester, the end of fiscal year processing was accomplished successfully in Banner. The Employee Self-service module, accessed through PipelineMT's RaiderNet tab, went live in November, and faculty rank and tenure tables were populated within Banner. The Advancement area continued to fine-tune its processes and added more converted data after going live in July 2006.

The first full Mock Registration was conducted in November in preparation to go live in March/April 2007 for fall 2007 priority registration. The first phase of Student Banner included the conversion of General Person, Degree, Academic History, Transfer Articulation Rule, and Transfer Academic History tables. Financial Aid is scheduled to go live early this semester.

Conversion to the student portion of Banner continues with course registration for Summer 2007 using the PLUS system beginning March 19, 2007 and ending March 23, 2007. Registration for Fall 2007 will be conducted April 9-20 using the Banner system.

Functional user training will be conducted during the spring term. Information regarding training sessions will be sent to academic and administrative departments during the next few weeks. All the MTSU ERP conversion teams continue to do an outstanding job and are exemplary in the TBR system through all phases of the implementation.

PROCUREMENT SERVICES NEW SOFTWARE PACKAGE

The Division of Business and Finance has acquired a new web-based procurement software package from SciQuest to be called *MT\$ource-The \$ource*. The *MT\$ource* software will be utilized by Procurement Services to offer a web-based shopping and marketplace environment to the MTSU community, allowing University personnel to access, order, and purchase everything from office supplies, computers, chemicals, furniture, certain services, etc. from the convenience of their desk top computers. For additional information on this new service, please contact the Procurement Services office.

PHYSICAL PLANT IMPROVEMENTS AND LAND ACQUISITION



New Science Building: Planning continues for the science building. The state legislature funded \$15 million in state appropriations for planning of the new structure. The funding supports the design of new labs and classrooms. Dr. Stephen Wright, professor of Biology, is leading a faculty and administrative team under Project Kaleidoscope, to develop the design plans. The current funding also supports the construction of a new chiller plant needed for the new building. As it now stands, the state funding schedule calls for allocation of capital construction funding July 2008.

Athletic Facilities Enhancements: Construction completion of the track pressbox and locker rooms is scheduled prior to the next Spring Fling in May, 2007. The new baseball facility design is nearing completion, and the project construction will bid this spring.

Middle Tennessee Building Renovation:

Construction is on schedule for completion in spring, 2007, and occupancy summer, 2007.

McWherter LRC Expansion:

A project to 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 this summer. Programming for the project is underway in preparation of anticipated funding.

Student Housing Upgrades:



Renovation of the Monohan complex is scheduled for completion this spring, and renovation of Lyon Hall complex will be bid this spring, with completion of Lyon scheduled for spring, 2008. We are in the in the fifth year of ten-year housing renovation project.

Expansion Plans for the Student Recreation Center:



The project was redesigned to significantly reduce costs. Bids were received January 10 and were within budget. The project should begin later this year.

Future Projects in the planning phase:

- Middle Tennessee Boulevard redesign
- Student union / university center
- Expansion of Mass Communications Building



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER PROGRAM EXPANDS

In early 2007 Middle Tennessee State University will expand its statewide business development center program by opening an office at Volunteer State Community College. We have 15 Tennessee Small Business Development Centers (TSBDCs) across the state, but the demands by the business community for our business counseling and training assistance continues to grow. As a result, we are partnering with Volunteer State Community College to provide expanded business assistance services in the Sumner County area. This will increase our presence to 16 locations in Tennessee.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROJECT

A campus-wide task force is currently developing a tornado alert plan, scheduled for implementation next spring. Our plan will utilize person-to-person communication in every MTSU building on every floor on and off campus. The program will rely on a group of individuals, in each building, who will serve as “building coordinators,” with the responsibility of notifying all occupants in the event of an emergency.

Our tornado alert plan, while low tech in design, should prove to be highly effective. Its success will depend on the cooperation of everyone and the ability of key people—“building coordinators”—to perform their duties; navigating hallways, knocking on classroom and office doors, and asking people to go calmly to the designated, secure location(s) in the building.

This person-to-person communication is especially important as students and faculty inside classrooms often cannot hear the warning siren and are not aware of impending severe conditions outside. Also, it will ensure that most people on campus (and at off-campus sites) will have been alerted in the event of a tornado warning or actual sighting.



Our goal is to make our campus environment as safe as possible for everyone. Your help and cooperation will be greatly appreciated.



CLASS CANCELLATIONS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather, students and university employees should listen to area radio and television stations to determine if classes have been canceled. Our website is the best source of up to date information - www.mtsunews.com and click on Emergency Weather

Information along the left margin.

If MTSU classes are cancelled, the announcement will apply to all classes, credit and non-credit. Offices at MTSU will be considered open unless the announcement specifically says all offices will be closed. If such a decision is made overnight, it should be announced by 6:00 the following morning.

The MTSU News Line provides updated news about events on the MTSU campus. If there is a closing due to weather, it will be available on the News Line. Because of a limited number of incoming lines and the potential of congestion that could cause delays in service, the News Line should be used only as a last resort to get information on school closings. The MTSU News Line can be accessed at 904-8215.

Radio Stations

WMOT-FM 89.5
WQQK-FM 92.1
WKDF-FM 103.3
WGFX-FM 104.5
WNPL-FM 106.7
WLAC-AM 1510_
WGNS-AM 1450

Television

WKRN-TV Ch. 2
WSMV-TV CH. 4
WTVF-TV Ch. 5
WETV (WGNS) Ch. 11
WZTV - Fox 17

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 smcphoe@mtsu.edu.