

**Welcome to Spring 2003 Semester**

Welcome back! I trust that you and your family had a restful holiday season and you are now looking forward to an exciting and productive new year.

Last year was indeed challenging as we faced a number of issues and concerns. I believe that we have successfully met these challenges and will continue to work to advance the goals of the university.



I am encouraged about the future of our university. My optimism is due in large part to the dedication and commitment that each of you has made over the years. You do make a difference every day in the lives of our students. I appreciate all that you do for MTSU.

This newsletter is part of my goal to enhance communication with the university community. I invite your feedback on any items in this edition of the newsletter or any other matters. Your comments are appreciated.

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**News and Information**

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**Spring 2003 Enrollment**

The preliminary student enrollment for Spring 2003 is 9% above Spring 2002. This enrollment increase reflects a trend over the past several years of steady growth at the university. It is also important to note that last year the university implemented its enrollment management plan to control growth, including instituting an admissions deadline. Spring 2003 semester admissions deadline was December 15, 2002. Fall 2003 application deadline is July 1.

## **New Administrative Appointments**

### **Executive Vice President and Provost**

Dr. Kaylene Gebert has been appointed executive vice president and provost. She assumes her new position on March 1, 2003. Dr. Gebert comes to us with a wealth of academic and administrative experiences. She currently serves as Provost at the University of North Alabama. Dr. Gebert previously held senior level academic positions at the Tennessee Board of Regents central office and the Pennsylvania Board of Regents.

### **Interim Vice President for Business and Finance**

Mr. John Cothorn was appointed as Interim Vice President for Business and Finance upon the departure of Dr. Duane Stucky to Southern Illinois University. John assumed his new responsibilities on January 2, 2003. He has considerable experience in university administration. His most recent appointment was at the University of Memphis.

I hope you will join me in welcoming Kaylene and John to the MTSU family.

## **New Ph.D. Programs**

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) approved in November 2002, Ph.D. programs in English, Economics, and Human Performance. The new Ph.D. degrees are implemented immediately and the first-ever to be offered at MTSU. We are now in the process of developing proposals for PhD degrees in Chemistry and History.



### **Troy State University**

Most of you are aware, through reports in the media, of plans by Troy State University in Troy, Alabama, to locate a satellite campus in Smyrna. Troy plans to initially offer masters degrees in education and business management. MTSU was not consulted or informed about Troy State's plan prior to approval. The university is currently developing an appropriate response to Troy State's initiative.

## Motlow State Community College

Motlow State Community College (MSCC) is planning to construct a permanent education building in Smyrna, Tennessee on Sam Ridley Parkway. MSCC currently operates a temporary teaching center in the National Guard facility in Smyrna. This center will be a joint venture between MTSU and MSCC. The university's support of this initiative is contingent on the educational center's program offerings not competing with MTSU's educational offerings.

Motlow is the largest feeder school of transfer students to the university. This collaboration between Motlow and MTSU will certainly benefit the citizens of Murfreesboro, Tennessee.



### TBR December 2002 Quarterly Meeting

The Tennessee Board of Regents met December 12 and 13, 2002 at Northeast State Technical Community College in Blountville, Tennessee. The Board took the action on the following items regarding MTSU:

- ✓ Approved the establishment of a B.S. degree in Concrete Industry Management. The degree proposal will be sent to THEC for approval before implementation.
- ✓ Approved the staff recommendation for the consolidation and elimination of low producing academic programs at TBR institutions. The Board approved the phase-out of five degree or certificate programs at MTSU. Included were
  - Certificate program in Administrative Business
  - Associate degree in Law Enforcement
  - B.S. degree in Industrial Education
  - B.S. degree in Marketing Education
  - Masters degree in Vocational Technical Education
- ✓ The Doctor of Arts degree in History is to be changed to a PhD program; however, the concentration has not yet been determined.
- ✓ As part of the "Defining Our Future" initiative, the Board approved a proposal for a new General Education core for TBR institutions. This action will certainly impact MTSU's general education curriculum.

## Construction Projects Updates



**Tennessee Miller Coliseum** – The Coliseum is nearing substantial completion and is preparing for the first show in February 2003. The facility includes 4,600 spectator seats, a 150' x 300' show ring, covered warm-up ring, practice ring, and 500 covered stalls.

**Horse Science Center** – The Horse Science Center is ready for occupancy and the start of classes January 6, 2003. Remaining USDA grant funds are supporting a small addition to the building, construction of which will start in January 2003. The addition consists of locker rooms, research lab, and additional stalls.

**Development Building** – A new home for the Development Office is scheduled for completion and occupancy by fall, 2003. The building contains offices, conference room and reception space.

**Paul W. Martin, Sr., Hall** – Construction continues on the 20,000 square foot facility that will be the new home for the Honors College. The building contains three master classrooms, a science classroom, computer lab, 60-seat amphitheater, study areas, conference room, thesis room, and faculty offices. Occupancy is scheduled for spring, 2004.



**Housing Renovations** – Entry porticos and columns are being replaced on Lyon Hall. The scheduled completion is this spring, 2003.



**Todd Renovation** - A project to renovate the Todd Building (previously the Todd Library) was advertised for bid on December 18, 2002. Construction on the project is expected to begin by March 2003 and will be substantially complete in fall, 2004. The Art Department and Gore Research Center will occupy the building.




## Committee on Institutional Efficiency

The Committee on Institutional Efficiency is in the process of concluding its work. After submitting preliminary recommendations and findings, the committee held open meetings this past fall to solicit feedback from the university community. A final report will be forwarded to the President's Office in a few weeks. Upon receiving the final report, I will engage in additional consultation with constituent groups, including the Faculty Senate leadership, before deciding on which recommendations to accept and implement. Recommendations that involve academic programs and/or organizational unit changes will go through the appropriate internal review process before implementation.



## Update on Funding Priorities

You will recall that last year the campus community reached a consensus on the five top funding priorities for the university. Listed below is a progress report on the funding success:

### School of Nursing enhancement

-  A major gift to enhance the Nursing School building will be announced in a few weeks.
-  Over \$500,000 in nursing scholarships were secured last year.
-  A multi-million dollar proposal for two endowed Nursing professorships is under consideration by a major donor.

### Scholarship support for all colleges and schools

-  In December 2002, the university received a \$204,000 scholarship gift from the EdScholar program in Knoxville, Tennessee to offer high ability students scholarships in the amount of \$4,250 per year for four years.
-  In Fall 2002, the university scholarship budget was enhanced by \$250,000 of recurring funds for scholarships which equates to 100 new scholarships for the 2003-04 academic year.

New distinguished and endowed professorships

- ✎ The university is pursuing two endowed professorships to be funded at \$1.5 million each from a major donor.
- ✎ Other opportunities are also being pursued for private support of endowed professorships at the university.

University library collection enhancement

- ✎ The library budget was allotted \$300,000 of recurring funds in the 2002-03 budget to enhance library book collections.
- ✎ The university is in the process of developing a plan to solicit a major multi-million dollar gift for library collections endowment.

Aerospace instructional equipment enhancement

- ✎ A \$5 million bond was approved in November 2002 for the purchase of 25 new airplanes for our Aerospace program. The purchase of these new planes will significantly upgrade the quality of the instructional equipment for the program.

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I hope you find this news and update helpful. It is designed to keep you informed about matters affecting the University. Please send your comments to [smcphoe@mtsu.edu](mailto:smcphoe@mtsu.edu).