

Dr. Sidney A. McPhee

January 12, 2012



PRESIDENT'S GREETING

Happy New Year! Welcome to the spring 2012 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 the many accomplishments and challenges we experienced in 2011.

Our successes last year were due to the hard work and dedication of our employees. I would like to thank each of you for your extraordinary commitment to MTSU, and I look forward to working with you in 2012.

I trust that you will continue to find this newsletter informative and useful. As always, I welcome your feedback and comments. Please send comments to Sidney.McPhee@mtsu.edu.

I will also be using our website more frequently to share updates and information. I invite you to check out "The President's Post" at www.mtsu.edu/president. You can also find them on the home page of the MTSU site.

And as always, I appreciate all you do to support the goals and objectives of this great university. **True Blue!**

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CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION UPDATE

During the past 25 months, the Centennial Committee (and many other dedicated people throughout the University community) worked diligently to prepare the University's Centennial Celebration. This historic year kicked off Sept. 9 with the Blue Tie Gala, a smashing success and one of the largest events of its kind ever held in Rutherford County (1,200 people attended).

Centennial weekend included the dedication of MTSU's brand-new, \$30 million, 87,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art College of Education building. It was fitting for the University to cut the ribbon on a new education building the day before the 100th anniversary of its founding as a Normal School dedicated to producing excellent teachers.

I am pleased that our centennial events in the Spring semester includes a visit by retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who will be on campus on Feb. 8 for a very special Windham Lecture hosted by the College of Liberal Arts.

The spring semester also will feature "Spring into Middle...2012 Alumni

Weekend," scheduled for April 12-15, which will showcase MTSU's rapidly changing and beautiful campus and will dedicate an entire weekend to hosting alumni and friends and encouraging Blue Raiders of all generations to become re-acquainted with the University. The weekend will feature the Blue Raider spring football game and dozens of activities taking place in academic and athletic departments across campus.

Commencement ceremonies in May will close our Centennial Celebration with a significant milestone, which will be revealed at the event.

A celebration of this magnitude and importance requires careful and thoughtful coordination by many people.

I want to extend my personal gratitude to everyone who has contributed thus far: it is they who have ensured that the University's 100th birthday and the many events surrounding it offer meaningful experiences for students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends.

A FEW PRIDE POINTS FROM LAST SEMESTER

During the 2011 Fall semester, MTSU professors and students continued to work hard, produce results, and shine as examples of our University's impact on the region. Here are some highlights:

■ Chemistry professor **Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross** was invited to attend the Dec. 9 "White House Champions of Change" event, which saluted efforts to recruit and retain girls and women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Iriarte-Gross was invited in recognition of her role as director of the Girls Raised in Tennessee Science (GRITS) Collaborative—a statewide organization. She also serves as director of the MTSU WISTEM (Women in STEM) Center. Twelve leaders from across the U.S. were honored at the event, which is part of a weekly series recognizing "champions," defined by the White House as "ordinary Americans doing extraordinary things in their communities to out-innovate, out-educate and out-build the rest of the world."

■ On Nov. 12 in Sevierville, **Gail Zlotky** ('93, '94) received the Tennessee Aviation Person of the Year Award for her tireless effort to bring a world-class, \$3.4 million air traffic control laboratory to MTSU. Zlotky conceived the ATC lab idea, followed through with the plan, and cleared budget hurdles to see the lab open last March. Bob Minter, founder of the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame and cofounder of the Tennessee Aviation Association, nominated Zlotky.

■ MTSU students were a major part of the "show behind the show" as the University partnered with Capitol Records at the "Capitol Street Party" on Nashville's Music Row in September. Forty-five students from the College of Mass Communication handled TV production at the event, which drew a crowd estimated at 10,000 people on Demonbreun Street near the Music Row roundabout. The street show featured alumnus Eric Paslay ('05) headlining with Alan Jackson and Eric Church. MTSU students in the Department of Electronic Media Communication handled the HD cameras, boom mikes, street interviews, and other duties.



■ Newsweek's 2011 College Rankings placed MTSU fifth nationally among U.S. schools that are "health-minded and inclined to healthier pursuits." With MTSU in the top five were Harvard, Louisiana State, Mississippi State, and Princeton. Newsweek considered five factors: sexual health, drug scene, physical activity, campus food, and student health care.

■ MTSU's Centennial year began with a record enrollment of 26,442 for the 2011 Fall semester. The average ACT for the freshman class (21.88) was above the national average (21.1) as well as Tennessee's average (19.5). MTSU is

again the number one choice for both undergraduates and transfer students in the state.

■ MTSU was well-represented in the Miss Tennessee USA 2012 pageant. The winner, **Jessica Hibler**, and the second runner-up, **LeShan Mathews**, have MTSU ties. Hibler, a 22-year-old senior mass communication major, will compete in the Miss USA 2012 pageant in Las Vegas later this year. Mathews earned her graduate degree in physical education in May 2011. She is a former Miss Middle Tennessee Blue Raider and Miss Black Tennessee.



■ **Bonnie J. Allen**, dean of libraries and professor of library science at the University of Montana (UM) since 2006, was named the new dean of MTSU's James E. Walker Library. She succeeds Don Craig, who retired after 38 years of service. Allen's professional accomplishments include membership in the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities' Accreditation Team for Library Standards and in the Online Computer Library Center Global Council and as a commissioner of the Montana State Library.

Update on enrollment, recruitment

It is important for all of us to recognize that student recruitment and retention is not just the job of our Admissions office. All of us play a role in this important function. I have identified this as a priority in the coming year and will share some additional insights and information with you in the weeks ahead.

As I mentioned on page 3 in my 2012-13 budget overview, the Complete College Tennessee Act put into place a formula for state funding based on our graduation and retention rates.

We are very proud to be the number one producer of college graduates for the Greater Nashville job market and we are developing new ideas to improve student advising, adult degree completion and other efforts to encourage student success.

As of today (Jan. 12), our Spring 2012 enrollment is 23,878, which is slightly below the number we reported for last year's Spring term.



1211-463 – Middle Tennessee State University is an AA/EEO employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Executive Director of Institutional Equity and Compliance, 1301 E. Main Street, CAB 220, Murfreesboro, TN 37132, 615-898-2185. The MTSU Title IX coordinator, designated to monitor and oversee Title IX complaints, may be contacted at Sam Ingram Building, 2269 Middle Tennessee Blvd., Murfreesboro, TN 37132, 615-898-5133, or via this webpage: www.mtsu.edu/titleix/.



Mobile App

MTSU Mobile, an Android application developed by students for students, is available for anyone to test and use. The new app helps students look up class and schedule information, map classrooms and offices, access academic information through their Pipeline accounts, get times and dates of sporting events, and check the latest dining specials.

Five senior computer science majors developed MTSU Mobile: Jason Bandy of Murfreesboro, Craig Murphy of Cordova, Chris Johnson of Smyrna, Chelsea Rath of Franklin, and Brandon Beard of Nashville. The app started as a class project for Dr. Sung Kun Yoo, who later received a grant that provided funding for its development. The team also received financial support from MTSU's Information Technology Division, which had been looking for ways to assist students in real-world learning experiences.

The beta version can be downloaded at www.mtsu.edu/mobile. An Apple version will be released shortly.

CAMPUS TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Work will continue during spring semester on establishing of campus-wide “virtualization” that will allow free, anytime access to virtual desktops, programs, personal files, and network resources. A thorough network review confirmed there is sufficient network capacity, and additional file storage space has been added to accommodate the new resources.

The new service is called **MyMT**, and secure access

will be as simple as opening any browser, going to the URL, and logging in with a username and password. A multiphase rollout approach should produce more than 2,000 virtualized devices by fall, after which the process will continue across the remainder of campus. The final phase will enable remote capability: students, faculty, and staff will have simple and secure access to virtual desktops, applications, network resources,

and file storage from any device—PC, Mac, notebook, tablet, or smartphone. Both personal and University-owned devices will have the capability on or off campus, and service will be available at any time.

The systems are expected to reduce desktop computing costs by more than 35 percent and reduce the University's electricity consumption.



2012–13 BUDGET OVERVIEW

Last year, the State of Tennessee implemented an outcomes-based funding formula for higher education, as called for in the Complete College Tennessee Act (CCTA). Productivity, meaning improved retention and graduation rates rather than enrollment, now drives the methodology by which the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) recommends state funding for higher education institutions.

Fiscal year 2012–13 will be the second year of implementation. This process also includes phasing out a previous “hold harmless” provision which resulted in institutions being funded unequally at different percentages of their funding formula calculations. Once the hold harmless provision is completely removed in 2013–14, institutions will be funded equitably at the same percentage of their outcomes-based funding formula.

For planning purposes, the Department of Finance and Administration instructed state agencies to prepare the 2012–13 budget with a 5 percent reduction in state appropriations. For higher education, this would result in a reduction in state appropriations of \$51.1 million. For MTSU, the reduction would be \$4.219 million. Combined with the second year of the implementation of the outcomes-based funding formula, MTSU's net reduction would be \$4,243,200. We will not have firm details for several weeks, however, until Gov. Bill Haslam proposes a budget and submits it to the General Assembly.

THEC recently approved a second distribution recommendation for 2012–13 operating funds that reflects the increase in institutional performance across the various outcomes in 2010–11. The aggregate increase in outcomes was 3.3 percent, requiring an increase of \$19.3 million in state appropriations. THEC's recommendation for MTSU in this regard would be an increase in state appropriations of \$1,961,800.

These recommendations have been submitted to the Department of Finance and Administration for consideration in the governor's proposed budget.





STUDENT LIFE

What's happening on campus? Ask that question of one of the almost 28,000 people who participated in programs sponsored by Student Affairs during the Fall 2011 semester, and you are likely to get many different responses. The Student Affairs staff have worked very hard to create, promote, and present a variety of offerings during each semester, including weekends and holidays, to encourage members of our True Blue community to be engaged in the whole of University life.

- More than 1,300 students turned out on the third Thursday of each month to participate in MTSU "After Dark" late night programs at Moonlite Drive-In; GoUSA Fun Park; and Lanes, Trains, and Automobiles.
- More than 1,500 students and 300 organizations participated in one of the many "Welcome Back" events such as the NPHC Welcome Back Party, Greekfest, Volunteer Fair, and Student Organization Fair.
- More than 3,000 students went to movies, listened to lectures, attended cultural events, or participated in a day of service.
- More than 4,000 students, alumni, and friends celebrated MTSU's 100th birthday at one of many Homecoming events, including a golf tournament, a 5K Run, a Chili Cook-Off, and the Homecoming Parade (to name just a few).
- More than 17,000 students, alumni, and fans participated in Game Day activities in Walnut Grove.

I encourage you to take a minute to see the programs and activities planned by our Student Affairs Division. Go to www.mtsu.edu/whatsup for to see a full calendar. You may want to join in the fun!

MTSUNews.com
Your source for
campus news and
information



Center for Innovation in Media

The College of Mass Communication's Center for Innovation in Media is up and running just in time for the Spring 2012 semester. Located on the first floor of John Bragg Mass Communication Building, the technologically advanced media complex is impossible to miss. The center is the new home of

- WMOT-89.5 FM, the 100,000-watt, professionally run, National Public Radio-affiliated station featuring classical, jazz, and Americana music; news; talk radio; and sports;
- *Sidelines*, the editorially independent student-run weekly newspaper and mtsusidelines.com, the up-to-the-minute, multi-platform online version;
- MTTV, the student-managed and produced cable television station featuring daily news and original programming;
- WMTS-88.3 FM, the student-operated radio station featuring music, sports, talk radio, and news; and
- MT Records, the student-managed record label.

Students and faculty share a cutting edge multi-platform newsroom, a robotic television studio, a "smart" classroom, and a conference center. Students work together—sharing ideas and resources—to create diverse digital content. College of Mass Communication professors offer advice, expertise, and ethical perspective to all student media.

The center is designed to lead the way in the study and practice of how we create and receive our news, information, and entertainment. Ultimately, it will be a gateway to professional media careers.

MTSU'S TOBACCO-FREE POLICY



MTSU has joined approximately 250 institutions of higher education across the country in becoming a tobacco-free campus. Effective January 1, 2012, MTSU policy prohibits the use of all forms of tobacco products anywhere on University grounds.

A tobacco-free campus helps provide a healthier living, working, and learning environment. It also improves the overall campus aesthetic—the litter of cigarette butts and smokeless tobacco containers can often be a blight on the campus's appearance. The University's commitment to preparing graduates who are in demand by companies and organizations is also a factor. As health care costs escalate, more companies are asking about the tobacco use of current and potential employees.

The transition to a tobacco-free campus will be worth the short-term obstacles. Good health is essential to fully meeting one's academic and professional potential. MTSU is proactively addressing the number-one health risk in the U.S. and creating a more vibrant environment for its next 100 years.

The policy, finalized six months ago, was implemented January 1 to allow time for educating the MTSU community about the new policy and for the University to provide support to those wishing to cease tobacco use.

Additional information and cessation resources can be found at www.mtsu.edu/tobaccofree.

Fundraising and Development Update

I'm extremely pleased to announce the gift of an incredible new resource for MTSU students and faculty. The Harpeth Wetland Bank recently donated about 220 acres of rural/farm property in the Rockvale community of Rutherford County to MTSU. The land, donated with the support and encouragement of the property's previous owner, Betty Rowland and her family, will be used as a field laboratory for programs such as Biology, Environmental Science, Botany and Conservation. It will offer undergraduate and graduate students alike a unique research center where they can conduct projects and activities near campus. Betty Rowland formerly worked in the Gore Center.

Also, the MTSU Foundation recently celebrated its golden anniversary with 140 past and present board members, including trustees and past foundation presidents as well as University officials and other invited guests. The Nov. 18 dinner at the Embassy Suites Murfreesboro Hotel and Conference Center was a prelude to a board meeting the next day in MTSU's new College of Education Building. The foundation has a current endowment of more than \$37.5 million and total assets of more than \$60 million. It has raised more than \$133 million since its inception.

CAMPUS SAFETY

We continue to improve and refine our Public Safety efforts. We have added four officers to our patrol staff in an effort to continue to improve responsiveness and service.

Chief Buddy Peaster and his team are emphasizing an approach known as Community-Oriented Policing Services. It encourages our police to forge collaborative partnerships with those they serve and work together to develop new approaches.

Improvements to campus-wide lighting systems are substantially complete following replacement of existing lighting fixtures. New pedestrian lamps and lamp heads have improved nighttime visibility and offer less glare and light pollution and a reduction of overall energy use. Additional campus safety features, including access control and video camera installations, continue to be implemented in new building designs as construction plans progress.

MTSU continues to be a leader in notifying the campus community of emergencies and threats, especially in times of severe weather. With five additional tornado siren towers and a contract with a private severe weather monitoring company, Accuweather, MTSU continues its commitment to notifying and protecting campus members and visitors in times of need.

Go to police.mtsu.edu to learn more about the variety of programs designed to help provide a secure and safe environment on campus. Keep in mind, however, they cannot be effective without your cooperation. Chief Peaster and his officers are here to help, so be sure to call 898-2424 immediately to report any matters you deem suspicious.

Go to www.mtsu.edu/alert4u to sign up for our emergency text alert system and other need-to-know information.

CAPITAL PROJECTS/ CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

It's nothing short of a marvel to watch as the new Student Union and other construction projects at MTSU seem to be in daily transformation.

The Student Union is scheduled for occupancy this summer. The building features a food court and casual dining area, a bookstore, a ballroom that will hold 840 seats at dining tables, student meeting spaces, student organization offices, an SGA parliamentary room, a collaborative computer center, a games room, a copy center, and many informal student gathering spaces.

Construction will begin this spring on a student services building to be located east of the new Student Union. Admissions, Records and Enrollment, Financial Aid, Scheduling, the Bursar's Office, and Academic Advising will relocate to the new facility. The building will be the primary visitors' center for prospective students and their families. Construction and move-in are expected to be complete by fall 2014. The buildings will be joined by a bridge to the ballroom level of the new Student Union.

Renovation of the Learning Resources Center is scheduled to be completed by spring 2013. The project is designed to accommodate the Interior Design and Textiles, Merchandising, and Design programs in the academic campus core. Creative and Visual Services has moved into renovated space in the Fairview Building, and the new Center for Innovation in Media has opened in the John Bragg Mass Communication Build-

ing (see story on page 5).

In 2011, ten buildings totaling more than two million square feet received updates to energy management systems controlling heating and cooling. The projects totaled more than \$2.5 million and were funded with stimulus funds.

Facilities Services' Construction/Renovation group, which provides services to the University that range from furniture and carpet replacement to creation of master classrooms, completed more than 200 projects at a total cost of more than \$3.5 million this past year.

Construction of an underground electrical duct bank this year will complete an electrical loop around campus, improving service and reliability while enhancing the campus appearance by removing most overhead electrical lines.

Several older buildings need exterior repair and renovation. This includes column replacement, renovation of concrete steps, capital and cornice work, parapet wall repair, and other repairs. Substantial completion is scheduled for March 2012.

Parking projects include the construction of two new student parking deck structures, one adjacent to the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Center and the other in the Holmes Building lot. Each will contain about 480 spaces for students. Work is scheduled to be completed by summer 2013.



Science Building Update

In September, Gov. Bill Haslam asked the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) to request that the Tennessee Board of Regents and University of Tennessee systems conduct a review of their priority lists of existing capital outlay and maintenance projects. This request by the governor was made to ensure that the projects were consistent with the goals of the Complete College Tennessee Act (CCTA), which was passed by the General Assembly and signed into law in January 2010.

The capital priorities assessments were completed by the two systems in early December and submitted to THEC. The assessments were based on recommended plans for the two systems developed by THEC in its 2012–13 Capital Projects Recommendation and Five-Year Capital Projects Plan, which was formally approved and sent to the Department of Finance and Administration.

I am pleased to report that after these assessments, our proposed Science Building remains MTSU's number one capital outlay funding request; the number one request of the TBR system; and THEC's top recommended capital outlay project.

The THEC Five-Year Capital Projects Plan includes an institutional matching component for capital outlay projects applicable to the first \$75 million of a project. Matching funds can come from private gifts, grants, institutional matching funds, student fees, and other sources. THEC intends for UT and TBR to have flexibility to craft specific parameters of the matching component. For universities, including MTSU, the match is 25 percent. So, with the MTSU Science Building project at \$126.6 million and the match being 25 percent of the first \$75 million, the match for MTSU will be \$18.75 million. We are working diligently on a plan to have the matching funds if state funding is provided.

We are hopeful that funding for the Science Building will be included in the governor's proposed budget and funding will come from the General Assembly.

ATHLETIC GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

During the fall 2011 semester, eight of 17 teams had a semester team grade point average of 3.0 or higher; 63 student athletes made the Dean's List (3.5+ GPA), and 20 had a perfect 4.0. Women's soccer had the highest team GPA with a 3.49. Men's tennis had the highest men's team grade point average with a 3.40

Once again, Middle Tennessee won the Sun Belt Conference All-Sports Trophy, the Vic Bubas Cup. MTSU has won it seven times; no school has won the award more times since the Blue Raiders joined the league in 2000–01.

2011 Fall Athletic Highlights

- On December 11, the Athletic Department announced a \$1 million gift—the largest unrestricted donation in MTSU athletics history—from the late Jeff Hendrix. The gift will be used to construct the Jeff Hendrix Stadium Club in Floyd Stadium. I want to personally thank the Hendrix family, and as president I want them to know how appreciative we are for their generosity and help in moving the University forward.



- Head women's basketball coach Rick Insell was one of ten inductees into the 2012 class of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame. The Woodbury, Tenn., native began his seventh season at Middle Tennessee in 2011–12, having earned five NCAA Tournament appearances, four Sun Belt regular-season championships, and four Sun Belt Tournament titles. Insell also coached five All-Americans and had three of his players drafted by the WNBA.

- Middle Tennessee set a Floyd Stadium attendance record when 30,502 fans watched the Blue Raiders take on Georgia Tech.
- Placekicker Alan Gendreau became the Sun Belt Conference's all-time leading scorer in football.
- The volleyball program was invited to its sixth straight NCAA Tournament, receiving its second at-large bid in school history.

- The men's basketball program made history in November with an impressive 86–66 win on the road against UCLA, one of the most storied basketball programs in the nation and owner of 11 national titles. The team also picked up a win over SEC foe Ole Miss in late December and began garnering votes in the ESPN/USA Today Top 25 poll.

- Senior Hunter Green led the men's golf team to the Mason Rudolph Championship in September by taking medalist honors with a score of 8-under par. (He also earned National Player of the Week honors.)



- Justus David captured the Sun Belt Conference men's cross country individual title in October. He advanced to the NCAA Championships.
- During the Fall semester, Middle Tennessee benefitted from three national television broadcasts, ten more on regional networks, and an additional seven games on ESPN3.com
- The Blue Raider women's soccer team was awarded the NSCAA Team Academic Award for the tenth straight season.
- Middle Tennessee quarterback Logan Kilgore was named to the 2011 Capital One Academic All-District III Football Team for the University Level as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America.
- On Nov. 1, the Coach Kenneth A. Shipp Women's Basketball Office Suite was officially dedicated during a ceremony at Murphy Center. Coach Shipp made the complex possible with a gift of \$600,000.

MT True Blue!

As we begin the new semester, I thought it appropriate to reflect upon our emerging "I am True Blue" theme and how this simple expression of Blue Raider pride and values has begun to take hold across campus and the communities we serve.

You may recall that the True Blue Pledge is a result of the President's Task Force on Non-Violence and Conflict Resolution, which I formed last spring.

I asked the task force to develop ideas and approaches to stimulate effective problem solving and conflict resolution, teach civility in resolving disputes, and promote a positive campus environment that celebrates diversity among our students.

MTSU is committed to developing and nurturing a community devoted to learning, growth, and service.

Each person who joins or affiliates with the community does so freely and ac-

cepts and practices these core values and expectations:

- **Honesty and Integrity**
- **Respect for Diversity**
- **Engagement in the Community**
- **Commitment to Non-violence**

The True Blue Pledge, which debuted at our Convocation Ceremony last August, is an eloquent way to express those values and expectations. I have been proud to see the pledge become part of so many of our University activities and functions. It has been played on the big screens at our football and basketball games and weaved into leadership and civic activities on our campus.

I am particularly proud that "True Blue" has been embraced by our Alumni Association, Student Government Association, and our campus circle of the Omicron Delta Kappa leadership honorary.



Many in the University community, myself included, are also using "True Blue" as a declaration of those values and expectations. It has been great to see our alumni and friends using it as a greeting or cheer in person and a closing statement in letters and emails. It is more than a saying, it is a statement of both who we are and what we represent. True Blue!

www.mtsu.edu/trueblue

WINTER WEATHER DELAYS AND CANCELLATION POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, MTSU will disseminate closing plans via

- Local radio and television stations (see list below)
- MTSU's Rave Mobile Safety system;
- The "Alert Updates" web page at www.mtsu.edu/alertupdates;
- A banner on the MTSU home page at www.mtsu.edu; and
- The MTSU hotline (615-898-2000).

If MTSU classes are canceled, the announcement will apply to all classes, credit and noncredit. Offices at MTSU will be considered open unless the announcement specifically says that all offices will be closed. If the decision is made overnight, it should be announced by 6 a.m. the following morning.



Radio Stations

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

Television Stations

WKRN-TV (Channel 2)
WSMV-TV (Channel 4)
WTVF-TV (Channel 5)
WETV (WGNS Channel 11)
WZTV (Channel 17)