

Welcome and Happy New Year! I hope you and your family enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. Once again, it is time for us to begin a new calendar year at our university. As Spring 2005 commences, we reflect on a challenging, productive, and successful past year. The recently published

“President’s Biennial Report” clearly outlines the many successes of our faculty, staff, and students.

For this new year, we anticipate building on the tradition of excellence at this great institution.

News and Information



Employee Charitable Giving Campaign

I am pleased to report the very successful conclusion of the University’s Annual Employee Charitable Giving Campaign. The total amount pledged by employees was \$59,000, exceeding the University goal of \$50,000. This is an increase of more than \$16,000 from the previous year.

The success of the campaign is the result of the outstanding leadership of Dean Don Craig and the excellent work of a team from the University Library along with many volunteers from around the campus. Thanks to each of you who joined in this effort.



Spring 2005 Enrollment

Preliminary enrollment numbers for this spring semester show an increase of approximately 3.2% compared with the same period last spring. This is consistent with the University's enrollment management plan that focuses on controlling the growth in the student population.

Area Legislative Meeting

On January 4, 2005, I hosted a meeting on campus with all of our area legislators to update them on issues, concerns, and needs of the University prior to the opening of the new legislative session. In addition to our area legislators, Chancellor Charles Manning of TBR; various TBR senior staff; Regent Stanley Rogers, vice chairman of TBR; and Regent Larry Burriss, faculty regent and president of MTSU Faculty Senate, were also in attendance. The focus of the meeting was on how our area legislators can help improve funding for higher education with particular emphasis on MTSU. Special attention was given to the critical need for a new science building for our campus.



Facilities Update

Todd Renovation: The ground and first floor construction of Todd is now complete, and the Art Department has moved into these floors. Classes will be held in the new spaces with the start of this semester. The Gore Center staff will be moving into their new space on the ground level by early February. The second floor construction, which will complete the consolidation of the Art Department in Todd and include a foundry addition, has been advertised for bid, and bids will open on January 26. The upper floor will also accommodate additional faculty offices. This new facility will allow the Art Department to complete the application process for national program accreditation.

Art Barn Demolition: Plans call for demolition of the Art Barn around March 1. The demolition includes removal of the barn structure, the silo, and lab building. The project incorporates the creation of a gravel parking area of approximately 60 spaces on the site.

Observatory Plaza: The design and documents for the Observatory Plaza project are 100% complete, and the schedule calls for the receipt of bids by the end of February. With a successful bid, construction should begin in the spring. Additional future funding will allow completion of Phase 2 of this project, which includes construction of a new observatory adjacent to Wiser- Patten Science Hall.



MTSU / TBR Embarking on Major Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Project

MTSU, along with other TBR institutions, is embarking on a project spanning three to five years to bring the University's administrative software into the Internet age. The world's most widely used collegiate administrative solution, Sungard SCT Banner, is the winner of TBR's request for bid on ERP products. Banner supports institutions of all sizes and types as a tightly integrated suite of proven, scalable, enterprise-wide applications on a single database. It combines a premier administrative solution with portal, integration, information access, content management, and academic solutions; Internet technologies to personalize the user experience; and an architecture that supports interoperability across disparate systems within the institution and beyond.

With Banner, MTSU hopes to give students and faculty 24x7 access to student and other data, provide the tools and systems to integrate several campus data systems, and build a foundation for expansion of administrative IT capabilities for many years to come.

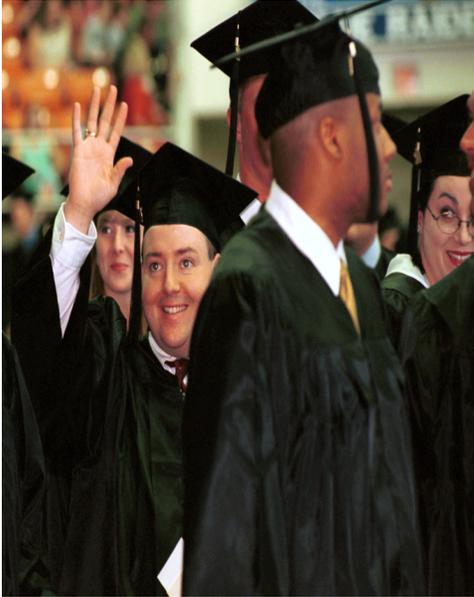
The finance component of Banner, started January 2005, is the first phase of implementation at MTSU. Human Resources, Advancement, and the multiple components of Student Affairs' systems will follow over the next few years. Many offices on campus are involved in this huge undertaking. While this project will require time and effort now, the benefits and efficiencies gained should be long-lasting.

Spirit of Geier Award

Our university was awarded the annual "Spirit of Geier" award at the December 2004 meeting of the Tennessee Board of Regents. This prestigious award is given to a TBR institution in recognition of exemplary accomplishments in recruitment efforts and programs to enhance universities' opportunities in higher education. The University received this award because of the dedication and commitment of faculty, staff, and administrators.

New Academic Programs

Several new academic programs were approved last year by TBR and THEC and more are pending approval for 2005. The following programs were approved for implementation or are pending approval during this calendar year.



New graduate programs

Master in Professional Science

New graduate certificates

Dyslexic Studies

Nursing Informatics

Pending THEC approval in January 2005

Ph.D. in Public History

M.F.A. Recording Arts and Technologies

New undergraduate programs

Bachelor of Science Concrete Industry

Management

B.A. in Art History

New concentrations

Secondary English Teacher Licensure

Genetics and Biotechnology

Physiology

Astronomy

Medical Physics

School Counseling

Mental Health Counseling

Production Sales and Services

Concrete Contracting

Proposals submitted

B.S. in Construction Management Technology

B.F.A. in Art Education

Letters of Intent

Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Sciences

B.S. in Global Studies

Ph.D. in Scientific Study of Literacy

Federal Appropriations Requests



I am pleased to report yet another successful year in securing direct federal appropriations for MTSU. Special appreciation goes to Senators Frist and Alexander and Congressman Gordon and their staffs. Thanks also to MTSU faculty and the staff in the Office of University Development for their efforts in helping secure those funds. The University strategy is to develop a select group of

requests focusing on unique strengths of the University and to keep requests to no more than two (2) per primary funding source (i.e. USDA, Labor, HHS). We also want to maintain an institutional priority list for the projects submitted to assure that highest priority items receive maximum consideration.

<u>2004 Federal Budget</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Received</u>
School of Nursing Expansion	\$3,650,000	\$1,000,000
Center for Dyslexic Studies	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
Naked-eye Observatory	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
Center for the Study of the Cedar Glades	\$ 291,000	\$ 200,000
Science/Math Teacher Training Institute	\$ 452,000	Not funded
Biotech Workforce Development	\$ 370,000	Not funded
ROTC Building	\$1,000,000	Not funded
Equine Science Research	\$ 500,000	Not funded

<u>2005 Federal Budget</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Received</u>
School of Nursing Expansion	\$2,000,000	\$ 750,000
Center for Dyslexic Studies – DOD	\$1,000,000	In process
Center for Dyslexic Studies	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
Center for Historic Preservation Stones River Battlefield	\$ 500,000	\$ 400,000
Biotech Workforce Development	\$ 540,000	\$ 100,000
Transmission of Infectious Diseases	\$1,200,000	\$ 200,000
Industrial Organization – Workforce Training	\$1,400,000	Not funded
Center for Historic Preservation Memphis Civil Rights Churches	\$ 500,000	Not funded

Over \$5 million in projects still pending

\$4.5 million for the Tennessee Boulevard project

\$500,000 for an AIDS/HIV in Africa project

Interim Director of Athletics Appointed



Last Thursday, Ms. Diane Turnham was appointed interim director of Athletics. Ms. Turnham has over twenty years of experience at MTSU as a coach and an athletic administrator. Diane will serve as interim until a new AD is named to replace Coach Boots Donnelly.

Coach Donnelly leaves the athletic director's position after serving more than 26 years as a coach and athletic administrator. He has given outstanding service to the university over the years. We are grateful for his many years of dedication and commitment to MTSU.

Plans for Class Cancellations Due to Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, information on school closing will be relayed to area radio and television stations. Information can also be accessed on the University Home Page and by calling the News and Public Affairs News Line.



If MTSU classes are canceled, 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 a.m. the following morning.

Radio Stations

WMOT-FM	89.5
WSM-FM	95.5
WSM-AM	650
WKDF-FM	103.3
WGFX-FM	104.5
WNRQ-FM	105.9
WLAC-AM	1510
WGNS-AM	1450

Television Stations

WKRN-TV	Ch. 2
WSMV-TV	Ch. 4
WTVF-TV	Ch. 5
WZTV	Fox 17

MTSU Home Page

Go to the MTSU home page and a message will be posted in the event of closings due to inclement weather. This page can be accessed at <http://www.mtsu.edu/>

News Line

The News and Public Affairs 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.

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.