



Welcome back. The beginning of the new academic year is one of the most exciting times on a college campus. As students, faculty, and staff return to the campus, we all are reminded of the awesome responsibility we share in educating and nurturing the lives of thousands of students.

It is always my pleasure to officially welcome new students and employees to our beautiful campus. This institution is fortunate to have so many dedicated faculty and staff with significant years of exemplary service to students. I am confident that as this new academic year convenes, we all will work together as a team to move the university forward.

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## **News and Information**

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### **Fall 2003 Enrollment**

After several years of significant enrollment growth, this fall enrollment is expected to show a modest increase in student growth. The University's enrollment management plan was implemented this past year and as a result we anticipate a total enrollment of approximately 21,500 to 21,600, which is a two percent increase and consistent with our plan.



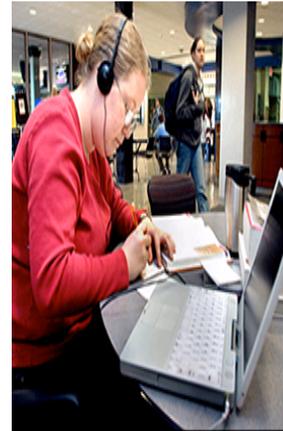
## Budget Update

We begin this new academic year with a nine percent reduction in the state appropriation to the University. You will recall that this cut was mandated because of the state budget deficit. Unfortunately, the state financial difficulties will not allow for any salary increases this year, except for faculty promotional raises.

The University has managed the budget impoundments and reductions well. The tuition increase along with the anticipated enrollment growth for this fall will allow the restoration of some of the cuts to the budget. Restoring faculty positions that were eliminated with the cuts is a priority.

## Tennessee Lottery

The Tennessee lottery scholarship program was approved by the legislature during the last session of the General Assembly. The lottery scholarship program is scheduled for full implementation in fall 2004. I have appointed a university task force chaired by Professor Bill Ford to advise the administration on the impact of the lottery on the university's scholarship program and to offer other appropriate recommendations.



## Update on Construction and Facilities



- ✓ The Paul Martin, Sr. Honors College Building is scheduled for completion in late November or early December of this year.
- ✓ The \$9 million Todd renovation project has started and is scheduled for completion in 15 to 18 months. The renovated Todd building will be the new home for the Art Department.

- ✓ The groundbreaking of the new Sports Hall of Fame building occurred this past spring semester. Construction will begin shortly.
- ✓ The Tennessee Miller Coliseum and the Wood-Stegall Development building are completed and occupied.
- ✓ Construction will begin soon on the naked-eye observatory. Completion is expected by January 2005.
- ✓ The \$70 million dollar, ten-year renovation of the university residence halls continues. This project involves renovation of all residence halls on campus.



## **TBR and THEC Policy Mandates**



Last year TBR and THEC approved a number of academic policy mandates. The university will begin implementation of two significant academic changes: revision of the General Education program and reduction of the credit hours to 120 for degree programs. We will keep you informed about these and other academic policy initiatives of TBR and THEC.

## **Sexual Harassment Education Initiative**

As we begin a new semester, with new staff, faculty, and students joining our existing family, it is an appropriate time to remind ourselves that our actions can impact the institution and others positively or negatively. Our actions should not be driven simply by legal mandates but by our wholehearted commitment to provide employees and students a safe haven in an environment where they will spend a large portion of their time.

As educators, we can do much to show that we take seriously our commitment to a safe environment for our employees and students. One way is to continuously educate ourselves about issues impacting them. Approximately one year ago, the institution implemented on-line training for

preventing sexual harassment to insure that our staff, faculty, and students have access to credible training on this important topic. We ask you, as a responsible citizen of the MTSU community, to do your part to contribute to a safe environment by taking the on-line training and continuing to do follow-up training at least annually as the program is updated. The training program can be accessed at the website:  
[http://www.mtsu.edu/%7Eeoao1/new\\_page1.htm](http://www.mtsu.edu/%7Eeoao1/new_page1.htm).

## University Convocation

The second annual University Convocation was held yesterday in Murphy Center. This convocation was developed to formally introduce new freshmen to the academic community. Pulitzer Prize winning author Rick Bragg was the convocation speaker. He's the author of the New York Times best selling book *All Over But the Shoutin'*, this year's summer reading selection. More than 5,000 students, parents, and community members attended the program. Dr. Bob Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs and vice provost for Enrollment Management, and his staff should be commended.



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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 [smcphee@mtsu.edu](mailto:smcphee@mtsu.edu).