



News and Information
from the President
January 2008

Happy New Year! Welcome to the Spring 2008 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 2007. Our successes last year are 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 2008.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. J. Yelton".

President

News and Information
- Update -

SPRING 2008 ENROLLMENT

The spring enrollment as of the first day of classes shows over a 1% increase compared with the same date last year. Spring semester enrollment is traditionally lower than the fall semester headcount due to graduation. Our Fall 2007 enrollment was a record 23, 246 students. Based on historical trends, we are anticipating a spring enrollment of approximately 21, 600. Final enrollment numbers will not be available until the fourteenth day of class session, which is the official census date.

College of Graduate Studies Enrollment in the College of Graduate Studies broke all records this past year. The College received the greatest number of applications for admission in MTSU's history in Fall 2007 with 2,366 students enrolling and matriculating into graduate programs on the MTSU campus, also a record. The 6.5% gain in fall enrollment is expected to be followed by a record-setting enrollment for Spring.

EMPLOYEE CHARITABLE GIVING CAMPAIGN

Once again the University has completed a very successful Annual Employee Charitable Giving Campaign. The 2007 campaign resulted in employee pledges of \$81,415 to be given in the 2008 calendar year. This represents an increase in donations of more than 2.5% over the previous year's campaign. The pledges came from 414 university employees.

The success of the campaign is the result of the exemplary leadership of Vice President Robert Glenn and his campus coordinating team of Sherian Huddleston, Kathy Kano, Vicki Sargent, Gina Poff, Rob Patterson, and Michelle Lloyd, along with division coordinators of Philip Mathis, James Floyd, Deborah Roberts, and Gina Fann 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.



ANNUAL LOCAL TENNESSEE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION MEETING

The University hosted its annual on-campus meeting with the local Tennessee legislative delegation on December 4, 2007. Several TBR members, Chancellor Manning, and some of his executive staff attended the meeting along with MTSU senior administration. The delegation was updated on some of the pressing needs of MTSU, primarily budget matters. MTSU's number one funding priority is the \$115,000,000 capital outlay for constructing the new science building. The delegation was once again reminded about how efficiently MTSU operates but that in reality, MTSU is under funded in comparison to the other state universities.

SACS REAFFIRMATION

In January 2007, MTSU was reaccredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The University's Experiential Learning Scholars Program, led by Dr. Jill Austin, chair of Management and Marketing, was recognized again by SACS as a model quality enhancement plan to improve student learning. The campus worked hard this past year to respond to SACS' request for further clarification on how the institution was imbedding student learning outcomes into the culture of assessment. Dr. Sheila Otto, professor of English, led the student learning outcomes initiative, and the Commission recognized our successful efforts in closing the outcomes assessment loop in its December '07 meeting.

BUDGET UPDATE

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission has proposed to Governor Bredesen \$8,255,300 in new fiscal year 2008-2009 for MTSU to cover a 3% salary increase and \$2,754,516 in new operating funds. It also recommended \$115,000,000 capital outlay funds for the construction of our new science building and \$11,340,000 for capital maintenance projects, which would cover several underground electrical projects, roofing projects, some Murphy Center improvements, and the \$1,000,000 commitment for the Homer Pittard Campus School renovations and upgrades. We hope that the science building capital outlay funds will be appropriated this budget year.

SALARY INCREASES

Effective January 1, additional salary increases based on our approved compensation plan were implemented. The overall increase pool was limited to 2% per Tennessee Board of Regents FY08 compensation guidelines. Faculty and executive employee group increases were the second 1/3 step increase calculated based on data from the University's new peer groups and the expanded group of 25 institutions. Administrative, professional, and classified employee increases were the last of three step increase calculated using 2004 market data. Since increases for administrative, professional, and classified employees were calculated using the 2004 market data and that was the last step increase in their salary plan, any remaining funds in their 2% pool allotment was applied across the board for employees. At the end of January, letters stating their new salaries will be sent to employees receiving increases.



2008 FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS

While the prevailing sentiment in Washington appears to be focused on efforts to reduce both the dollars allocated to and the number of unique appropriations provided in the federal budget, MTSU continues to enjoy success in attracting a significant number of federal appropriations or earmarks. With the recent passage of the federal budget, MTSU received more than \$1.8 million in support of six existing projects or new initiatives. The funded projects include

- School of Nursing for equipment - \$238,869
- Math and Science Teacher Education Program - \$478,721
- Center for Physical Activity in Youth - \$335,203

- Aviation Training Program - \$470,000
- Naked-eye Observatory Equipment - \$94,000
- Intermodal Transportation Hub assessment and planning - \$200,000

MTSU DEVELOPS NEW INNOVATIVE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS IN 2007

Ph.D. in Literacy Studies MTSU's new Ph.D. in Literacy Studies, approved by TBR this past year, addresses one of education's most pressing needs, the shortage of scholars, practitioners, administrators, and policy-makers who can help bridge the gap between the rapidly expanding body of scientific research relevant to the development of literacy and the knowledge base on which educational practice, policy, and professional preparation are based. This interdisciplinary degree effectively addresses the literacy crisis in our state and throughout the United States. The program director, Dr. Diane Sawyer, a nationally known expert in dyslexic studies, and faculty members in the Education and Behavioral Science and Liberal Arts colleges will provide the academic expertise and leadership to support this program.

TMSTEC MTSU received TBR approval to establish the Tennessee Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education Center (TMSTEC) as an official state center in November 2007. Building on the Center's reputation as a leader in the development, delivery, and evaluation of quality professional development for science and math teachers in Tennessee, the designation will allow the Center to expand and further enhance its emphasis on scholarly mathematics and science education research, as well as the development of undergraduate and graduate programs of excellence in mathematics and science education. The Center will continue to improve the quality of mathematics and science education in Tennessee and will build on MTSU's distinguished history of preparing K-12 teachers in general and high school mathematics and science teachers in particular. It will facilitate collaborative efforts between MTSU's College of Basic and Applied Sciences (CBAS) and the College of Education and Behavioral Science (CEBS) to integrate components of rigorous content and best practices in pedagogy, outreach, and research to accomplish the overall mission. The Center has been highly successful in receiving several Improving Teacher Quality and Math/Science Partnership grants, the latest one a \$2.25 million grant over two years.

Other Academic Programs The University continues to develop innovative programs to meet the region's needs. This past year, concentrations in Commercial Construction Management and Commercial Songwriting were established and the Industrial Systems concentration was changed to the Engineering Technology major and the concentration changed to Engineering System Technology. Additionally, an accelerated LPN to BSN and English as a

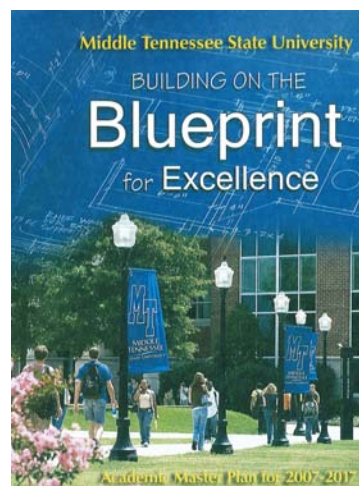
Second Language conversion to RODP were approved for implementation, and the admissions standards for the M.S. in Exercise Science were revised.

Experiential Learning Scholars Program (EXL) Our model Experiential Learning Scholars Program (EXL), aimed at increasing student success through hands-on, applied learning, continues to grow. We had 1,497 students enrolled in EXL courses this past fall and expect more than 1,600 students to be enrolled this Spring. A milestone in the program was celebrated during the December 2007 commencement when eight students graduated with the EXL Scholar Certification—the first MTSU students to do so. Additionally, seven faculty members completed the requirements to earn the distinction of an EXL Faculty Mentor. They include Dr. Wendy Beckman (Aerospace), Lynn Hampton (Sociology and Anthropology), Dr. Susan Hopkirk (English), Dr. Karen Petersen (Political Science), Dr. Daniel Prather (Aerospace), Dr. Don Roy (Management and Marketing), and Dr. Amy Sayward (History).

Academic Degree Proposals The University submitted proposals to TBR to establish Ph.D. programs in Computational Science, Molecular Biosciences, and Mathematics and Science Education. These join proposals already at the Board for the establishment of master's degrees in Health Behavior and Promotion, Teaching Physical Education, Leisure and Sport Management, Horse Science, International Relations, and a joint (with APSU and TSU) master's of Social Work.

ACADEMIC MASTER PLAN

Last semester, MTSU began implementation of its new academic master plan, *Building on the Blueprint for Excellence, 2007-2017*. A university-wide committee, chaired by Dr. John Vile, chair and professor of Political Science, revisited the University's former plan and laid out an aggressive agenda in anticipation of our Centennial celebration in 2011. The plan builds on the three central goals outlined in our previous plan and focuses on additional strategies to advance learning and enhance the excellence of our institution. Working subcommittees of faculty, students, staff, and community representatives identified strategies to enhance academic quality, support student-centered learning, and promote partnerships. Dr. Diane Sawyer, Murfree Chair of Excellence in Dyslexic Studies; Dr. Jill Austin, chair of Management and Marketing; and Dr. George Riordan, director of the School of Music, led the subcommittees.



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ACCREDITATION OF TEACHER EDUCATION (NCATE)

Congratulations to the teacher education unit within the College of Education and Behavioral Science on their recent successful review for NCATE Continuing Accreditation. The College is home to one of the largest undergraduate teacher education programs in the state and also supports graduate education, including programs leading to the Master's degree, the Educational Specialist degree, and the Ph.D. in Literacy Studies. The NCATE/State Department of Education review team chair reported the success of the visit in the exit interview. The President's office will receive the official written reports from the Unit Accreditation Board during the spring semester.

Specifically, the State Department of Education approved all eighty-eight undergraduate and graduate programs reviewed. All endorsement programs were recommended as approved status with a few content area programs approved with stipulations or weaknesses. The State Department of Education was complimentary of our quality faculty and relationships with the public schools. The NCATE team indicated that we met all six standards successfully and highlighted the quality faculty and program area documentation as strengths in response to the revised standards. The NCATE team also identified some weaknesses to be addressed. The teacher education unit will be addressing these concerns. The site visit validated the quality of our teacher education programs and the dedication and commitment of the teacher education faculty and staff.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Most TBR institutions requested and received approval for an International Education Fee (IEF) in June 2007. MTSU's fee is set at \$10 per student per semester. The purpose of the fee is to internationalize the University's curriculum as outlined in MTSU's Academic Master Plan and the TBR Strategic Plan through 1) study abroad (including experiential and service learning) opportunities that apply to students' academic programs; and 2) bringing more international content into courses through lectures by visiting international scholars, faculty development, curriculum integration, and greater utilization of existing University international resources. Since one of MTSU's primary goals is to provide more opportunities for students to study abroad or engage in other activities related to their academic programs, 65% of the IEF for the current academic year will go directly towards helping students achieve this goal. This fee is not intended to be used for scholarship support for students from other countries.



INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON MATH AND SCIENCE

A National Science Foundation grant will provide major funding for an international workshop on mathematics and science education to be held on the MTSU campus in June 2008. The workshop, "Common Priorities that Promote Collaborative Research," will provide a forum for discussing common priorities for collaborative research and an opportunity for organizing Sino-American research working groups. Northwest Normal University (NWNNU) is co-hosting the workshop where approximately 125 researchers will be invited from the United States and the P.R. China to participate. Presidents Wang Li Min (NWNNU) and Sidney McPhee will co-chair the workshop organized by Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Diane Miller and Vice President Deng Hualing (NWNNU). U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings has been invited to deliver the opening address and Congressman Bart Gordon will make closing remarks. Supporting funding will be provided by MTSU's Office of the Vice Provost for Research, the Colleges of Basic and Applied Sciences and Education and Behavioral Science, the China Education Association for International Exchange, Texas Instruments, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, and the Tennessee Department of Education.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC NAME CHANGE

At the December 2007 meeting of the Tennessee Board of Regents, members approved changing the name of the MTSU McLean School of Music to the MTSU School of Music.

NEW OFFICE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

A new Office for Community Engagement and Support has been established and approved by the Chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents. The primary purpose of the new unit is to focus on enhancing the University's relationship with the community. The Office is designed to proactively articulate the University's mission and activities in the surrounding communities. It is charged to generate community involvement in university activities and provide a listening ear to the needs and concerns of campus neighbors regarding university and community matters.

The University will immediately initiate a search to fill the position of Assistant to the President of Community Engagement and Support. The successful candidate will provide leadership of the new office.

DEANS AND VICE PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS SEARCHES

The University began two dean searches this past semester. Dr. Phil Mathis, dean of the University Honors College, is retiring at the end of this academic year, and Dr. John McDaniel is chairing the search committee to find Mathis's

successor. With former Dean Anantha Babbili's appointment as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Texas A & M University, Corpus Christi, Dr. Phil Mathis is leading the search for a new dean of the College of Mass Communication. It is anticipated that new deans will be in place by the beginning of the 2008-2009 academic year. Additionally, a search committee for a new vice provost for Academic Affairs will be created early this spring with the expectation that a new vice provost will be in place by fall 2008. Currently, Dr. Diane Miller has been appointed at interim vice provost.



TEXT MESSAGING IMPLEMENTATION

MTSU implemented a text messaging emergency alert system in September 2007 in an effort to communicate with the campus community more effectively during an emergency. To date, nearly 5,000 students, staff, and faculty have registered for the MTSU text-messaging service. We will be conducting another test of the text-messaging service in early 2008 and once again will ask users to indicate the timeframe in which they received the message. Along with a text message, users will be instructed to access an alert update Web site and/or call a "Hotline" number to receive any additional message. It is important that we conduct these tests in order to discover and eliminate any glitches in the system. A task force is currently working on a document that will outline the entire emergency notification process on campus, including the personnel who will be responsible for the various aspects of the notification procedure. You may sign up for the text messaging service by going to <https://www.getrave.com/login/mtsu>.

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE UPDATE

The conversion to Desire 2 Learn (D2L) as the University's learning management software has progressed on schedule. Throughout the fall semester, MTSU faculty and Information Technology staff worked to learn the new software and convert existing course offerings and materials into the new system. The transition is now complete; WebCT is no longer available to faculty or students and all Spring 2008 courses are available within the D2L system. Information Technology staff will continue to offer workshops and consultations as faculty need to learn more about the system and as new features are introduced.

MT\$ource - PROCUREMENT SERVICES NEW SOFTWARE PACKAGE

The MT\$ource production site is now operating with five pilot departments after going live on November 20, 2007. Procurement Services began offering 'PROD' training classes for all MTSU users on December 3, 2007. A full campus implementation is planned for this month. The MT\$ource software is 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.

BLUE RAIDER ATHLETICS UPDATE



Our Blue Raiders continue to make great progress in the classroom as well as on the playing field. Our overall APR was 966 for the 2006-2007 cycle and football's APR was 958 for the 2006-2007 cycle. During this past fall semester, 9 of 13 teams had a semester team GPA of 3.0 or higher and the overall semester student-athlete GPA was 2.94.



Volleyball: The Middle Tennessee volleyball team became the first program in Sun Belt Conference history to advance to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen after defeating host No. 24 ranked Louisville and then No. 9 ranked Hawaii on back-to-back nights. The Blue Raiders ended the season with a school record 35 wins and only three defeats while winning their second straight Sun Belt Conference title.

Women's Basketball: Behind 41 points from senior Amber Holt, the Middle Tennessee women's basketball team upset No. 8 LSU before nearly 8,000 fans at Murphy Center on Dec. 28. It marked the second straight year the Blue Raiders have defeated a Top 10 opponent from the SEC (Georgia in 2006-07).



Men's Basketball: Before a regular season Sommet Center record crowd of 18,071, Middle Tennessee dropped a hard fought contest to No. 2 ranked Memphis in the first game of the Sun Belt Classic. The Blue Raiders and Tigers were on display before a national television audience on ESPN2 in an event that drew coverage from every major newspaper and media outlet in the state.

PROJECT UPDATES AND PHYSICAL PLANT IMPROVEMENTS

Master Plan Update

A comprehensive update to our facilities master plan is now complete and will be presented for final approval to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission January, 2008, and to the State Building Commission in February, 2008. The Master Plan defines land planning, prioritized facility planning, and infrastructure needed to support the Academic Master Plan to a target enrollment goal of 27,000 students (headcount).

Academic Facilities

Science Building: \$15 million has been appropriated for planning and design of the new science building, and the design is now complete. Funding for construction is anticipated in the next legislative cycle, and if funding is appropriated, the plans will be released for bid this coming fall. This long awaited funding will support design of new labs and classrooms for Biology, Chemistry, and multidisciplinary coursework. The current funding also supports the construction of a new chiller plant, which is needed to meet the needs of the new science building and will be built this spring, 2008.

College of Education and Behavioral Science Building: A project to consolidate facilities for the College of Education and Behavioral Science was funded last summer, and programming for the project is now complete. The design of the project is underway. The building will be located immediately east of the Business and Aerospace Building.

Bragg Mass Communication Addition: MTSU's recent capital outlay submittal to TBR includes plans for a major addition to Bragg Mass Communication Building to support the college's growing programs. This project remains a top University priority for future state funding.

Plans for New Student Union

Planning for a new student union has begun, the project programming is now complete, and bond funding has been approved. The project will provide a new \$63 million union facility with student activities space and meeting spaces, food court and new bookstore space and will also provide new and renovated facilities at Rutledge Hall to house a "one stop" location for Admissions, Records, Financial Aid, and Bursar's Office.

Baseball Facility Enhancement

Design for a \$6.6 million improved baseball facility is supported by a gift from the City of Murfreesboro and gifts from many generous supporters. The facility will house a new press box and suites, improved seating, new dugouts for the teams, and improved entry plaza. Construction is scheduled for completion this summer, 2008.

Veterans Memorial

Ground breaking for a new Veterans Memorial was held November 2007. The site is south of Tom H. Jackson Building and includes an outdoor classroom space with a memorial wall, lectern area, plaza, and seating. Fundraising for the \$75,000 project continues this spring.

Ingram Building

Renovation of the Sam H. Ingram Building is now complete; the building is occupied by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies and the University's

Human Resource Services offices. Planning is now underway to renovate the previous sanctuary space as a multipurpose conference and large meeting room.

Guy James Farm

The acquisition of the 450-acre Guy James farm, approximately six miles east of the main campus, will allow Agribusiness and Agriscience to begin long desired farms consolidation. This acquisition virtually doubles the acreage of our campus. A planning project was approved by the State Building Commission, and active planning is underway to relocate the dairy farm facilities to this property.

Expansion Plans for the Student Recreation Center

A \$20 million dollar addition to the Student Recreation Center is in the final stages of construction. The design adds space for a new Student Health Clinic, additional weight room space, cardio area, aerobics room, meeting spaces, and recreation fields. Construction is scheduled for completion summer, 2008.

Campus Parking and Transportation

Phase 2 of Parking and Transportation improvements is under construction. Included are a new connection from Rutherford Boulevard to the main campus on the south edge and other significant traffic, pedestrian, and dedicated shuttle bus/bike lane improvements on campus. The widening of MTSU Boulevard and construction of a traffic rotary is now under construction, and the widening of Alumni Drive to Cope will begin fall, 2008. All of Phase 2 is scheduled for completion by spring, 2009.

Student Housing Renovations

Implementation of the long-range housing renovation plans continues with the reconstruction and redesigns of several halls in progress. We are in the in the sixth year of ten-year project. Renovation of the Monohan complex was completed last summer, and renovation of Lyon Hall complex will be complete summer, 2008. Designs for total renovations of Corlew and Cummings are underway.

Naked-eye Observatory

The Naked-eye Observatory and Observatory Plaza north of Cope Administration Building are complete. Appropriation of additional federal funding supports the current construction of an adjacent observatory structure housing a new telescope and technology. The telescope images may also be viewed from the exterior of the building and via the internet. Construction is scheduled for completion spring, 2008.

Middle Tennessee Boulevard

Reconstruction of Middle Tennessee Boulevard will enable us to create an attractive, inviting gateway to our campus and increase the safety of the Boulevard for our students. With an appropriation of more than \$10 million, designers are proceeding with plan reviews of the improved roadway design by

the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). This approval will enable the City of Murfreesboro and MTSU to proceed with a partnership to make needed safety, pedestrian, and traffic improvements along the Boulevard. The project planning is continuing. Designer selection by the City of Murfreesboro is scheduled for this spring, with the final design completion scheduled over the next year.

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 - click on “Emergency Weather Information” along the left margin, then click on “Inclement Weather.”



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 smcpee@mtsu.edu.