



Welcome to the New Academic Year

It is with great pleasure that I welcome our new faculty and staff to the opening of the new academic year. We are fortunate to have many new faculty joining us this year. I continue to be impressed with the quality of faculty we are attracting to MTSU.

I would also like to thank all of our returning faculty and administrative personnel who have contributed so much to this university over the past years.

This past academic year brought many challenges and opportunities for our university. I believe most of you will agree that working together we faced these challenges with vigor and optimism; and we also took advantage of the opportunities that came our way. I look forward to getting this year off to a great start.

News and Information



University Convocation

A special "thank you" goes to the faculty and staff who participated in the program yesterday. The convocation ceremony was a huge success! This event was part of our efforts to establish new

academic traditions at the institution. Approximately 7,000 students, parents, faculty, staff, and community members were in attendance.

Dr. Bob Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs and vice provost for Enrollment Management, and his staff should be complimented for their leadership in organizing the program.



2002-3003 State Appropriation

I am pleased to report that after several months of debates and uncertainties, the Tennessee General Assembly approved a budget for the 2002-2003 fiscal year. You will recall that we were forced to implement a partial shutdown of the University last month due to the budget situation. The final budget that was approved is much better than what we were expecting. For the first time in four years, the budget includes an increase in operating funds along with a 2% salary increase for the staff. I will be recommending to the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) an additional 2-3% salary increase. This will result in a 5% increase for faculty and a 4% increase for staff. If approved by TBR, increases will be effective January 1, 2003.

Revised Academic Master Plan

The University-wide committee has completed its work on the revised Academic Master Plan. Implementation of the plan will begin this academic year. My appreciation goes to Professor Phil Mathis of the Biology Department and the committee members for their excellent work. I encourage you to read the plan if you have not done so. You may access the document at <http://www.mtsu.edu/~pvpaa/univcomm/acad/index.htm>.

Other Ad Hoc Committee Reports

In my last newsletter you were informed that the Institutional Efficiency Committee, the Ad Hoc Committee on Classroom and Laboratory Utilization, and the Phi Beta Kappa Exploratory Committee were in the process of completing their various reports and recommendations. I am pleased to tell you that all the committees have submitted their reports. Copies of the reports may be found in the Faculty Senate Office, basement level, James Union Building.



All Steinway School of Music

This past spring semester we received a major gift of \$1.5 million for the School of Music to support the purchase of Steinway pianos. A few weeks ago, 54 new Steinway pianos were delivered to the University. We now have the distinction of being the only university in the state and one of only a few in the nation to be designated as an “all-Steinway” school of music.

Gift from Federal Express

Also, this past spring, Federal Express donated a 727 jet to our Aerospace program. The value of this gift is over \$2 million. This gift will further enhance a program that is already ranked nationally.



Communication to the Campus

I have made some efforts to improve communication to the campus by initiating an electronic newsletter from the President’s Office and creating a live TV program, “Open Line,” for the University and the external community to interact with the President on issues and concerns. I will continue my efforts to improve communication to the campus community.

Strengthening Campus Relationship with the Community

The relationship between campus and community is stronger than ever. Currently, we are implementing a long-range plan to increase financial support from our alumni and friends. During the past 12 months I have made numerous presentations to various civic groups and alumni chapters throughout the state. Audiences were provided an up-to-date profile of the University, an overview of my vision for the University, and our fund raising priorities for private giving. The presentations were well received. I will continue this effort in the coming year.

New Vice President for Development and University Relations

William J. "Joe" Bales has been appointed as the new Vice President for Development and University Relations. Mr. Bales comes to MTSU from the University of Tennessee where he served as assistant vice president for Corporate and Foundation Relations. He will assume his new responsibilities here on October 1, 2002. I am confident that Joe will provide the outstanding leadership necessary to advance MTSU in significant ways.

Funding Priorities

Finally, as a campus community we reached consensus on identifying five top private funding raising priorities to pursue. These priorities are:

Academic Focus

- ✓ School of Nursing enhancement
- ✓ Scholarship support for all colleges and schools
- ✓ Distinguished and endowed professorships
- ✓ University library collection enhancement
- ✓ Aerospace instructional equipment enhancement

Athletic Focus

- ✓ Locker-room for women's basketball coaches
- ✓ Renovation of women's softball field
- ✓ Expand baseball stadium
- ✓ New soccer and track complex
- ✓ New office complex for football coaches

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.