

## ADMISSIONS FORECASTS ANOTHER RECORD IN ENROLLMENT

- As of today, our Spring 2011 enrollment was 24,343.
- The early numbers represent an 8.19% increase over the same date last year.
- We will have final numbers after Jan. 20

## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS EDITION

- 1% to 3% budget cuts likely/**Page 2**
- Fund raising steady despite sluggish economy/**Page 3**
- Raiders win on and off the field/**Page 5**

**DR. SIDNEY A. MCPHEE**  
**JANUARY 13, 2011**

## Welcome back for the New Year!



Happy New Year and welcome to the Spring 2011 semester! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and have returned to campus refreshed and ready for what will prove to be an exciting year for MTSU.

We will observe the centennial of our founding this year. And while our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday is in September, we'll celebrate through the 2011-12 academic year with many special events.

The changing of the calendar year affords all of us an opportunity to pause and reflect upon the many accomplishments of the previous year.

We responded to the economic challenges by making often-difficult

changes that I believe have positioned us for continued success and forward progress.

I deeply appreciate the hard work that all of these efforts required.

More belt-tightening may be asked of us in the months ahead. But we enter 2011 with a positive, yet realistic, attitude.

And I am excited about our future prospects and opportunities ahead. I look forward to working with you to reach them.

## MTSU set to celebrate Centennial in 2011



During the 2011-12 academic year, we will have a year-long observance involving the entire University community to celebrate the founding of Middle Tennessee State University. The University was founded on Sept. 11,

1911, and is the oldest and largest institution in the Tennessee Board of Regents System.

Bob Lamb, class of 1969 and former member of the MTSU Foundation Board, is chair of the Centennial Committee, which has been hard at work for over a year planning and preparing for this very significant birthday.

The celebration will include a Centennial website ([www.mtsu.edu/centennial](http://www.mtsu.edu/centennial)), a Centennial Facebook page, as well as other social media offerings, and alumni and friends of MTSU are

encouraged to visit all of these sites. The Centennial website will include a historical timeline for viewers to revisit dates throughout the decades starting with the founding. There will be a scrapbook section with vintage photographs and videos.

New content will be regularly added to the site, as well as announcements of new upcoming events throughout 2011. A countdown clock will also be part of the site and will countdown the days, hours and minutes to the Blue Tie

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## ONGOING CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION

Renovation of **Deere and Nicks Halls** continues and marks the completion of a 10-year renovation master plan of the primary housing buildings. The area between Deere and Nicks will create a new secure courtyard, and will be ready for occupancy for fall 2012.

**The Student Union** will be ready for occupancy on schedule, summer 2012. The building features a new food court, new bookstore, a ballroom that will hold 850 seats at dining tables, student meeting space, student organization offices, SGA Parliamentary room, collaborative computer center, games room and many informal student gathering spaces.

We're still on track for the opening of the **College of Education building** this summer, and ready for classes fall, 2011.

Construction began on the project in the fall of 2009. The building will add more than 80 faculty offices, and about 1,000 classroom seats, including a 150 seat tiered lecture hall, a 75 seat classroom, and smaller classrooms that support flexible, collaborative teaching technologies.

## OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN THE COMING YEAR

### 1% to 3% budget cuts likely this year

Budget challenges from state appropriations reductions continue for MTSU.

Over the current and previous two fiscal years, MTSU's state appropriations have been reduced by more than \$31 million.

And pursuant to state government advice the Tennessee Higher Education Commission has recommended an additional 1% reduction for next fiscal year, which may, depending upon state revenue projection, increase to a 3%

reduction.

A 1% reduction, coupled with funding changes under the new Outcomes-Based Funding Formula Model, will mean for MTSU at least a \$709,600 reduction for Fiscal Year 2011-2012.

MTSU has absorbed those state reductions from a combination of budget cuts in every area of campus, new fees approved by the Tennessee Board of Regents (MTSU's governing board), use of federal stimulus funds and a voluntary employee buyout.

The federal stimulus funds, which are non-recurring funds, provided MTSU time to strategically plan and implement budget cuts and reallocations. Those funds though will no longer be provided after this fiscal year which ends June 30.

Every effort will be made to minimize the effect of the additional state appropriations reductions.

As always, however, MTSU's first priority is to protect academics, classroom instructions and student services.

### Work continues on key building efforts

While there was no state appropriation for new capital construction, we remain hopeful that our critical need for a new Science Building will be met.

Several key legislators, including Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey and House Speaker Beth Harwell, came to campus in December to tour our existing facilities and learn first-hand why this project is so very important to our mission.

Planning continued on several previously authorized projects:

A new student quadrangle, located between the Union and College of Education buildings, contains raised seat walls and an expansive central lawn. A perimeter history walk highlights SGA leaders over the years, and University milestones by decade inscribed in granite bands.

Planning is underway on the new Student Services Building and Garage project. The Student Services Building will relocate all "one-stop" functions related to Admissions, Records and Enrollment, Financial Aid, Scheduling, Bursar's, and Academic Advising. The project will construct the University's first student parking deck structure and feature our visitor's center.

### No word yet on state salary raise, bonus

It is well acknowledged that there has not been any employee salary increase for the last three years. There has not to this point been any firm commitment from the state on any state salary increases or a bonus.

During this current fiscal

year, there was the possibility of a one-time bonus if state revenues had reached a required level. But that did not happen.

At the Tennessee Board of Regents quarterly meeting last month, though, many of the system's institution

presidents and Board staff discussed the need to address faculty and staff salary concerns this year.

Per directive of TBR Chancellor John Morgan, there will be more discussion within the system on this.

**OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN THE COMING YEAR****Federal support ‘significant’ to campus**

For the past few years, with the support of our Congressional delegation – most notably Senators Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, and retired Congressman Bart Gordon – the University has been very successful in attracting millions of dollars in federal appropriations.

As a result of the November elections, it appears Congress plans to reduce or eliminate this type of non-competitive funding. Should they move forward with these efforts, it will have a significant impact to our campus.

In the 2010-11 budget, which Congress has yet to



approve, MTSU has more than \$12 million in designated funds among the various bills.

While these dollars are not part of our base budget,

they have provided valuable support for many activities, including the expansion of the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building; new initiatives like our Math-Science Education and Childhood Health and Wellness efforts, vital equipment and research support; and pending enhancements to Middle Tennessee Boulevard.

We are eager to see what direction our new Congress takes in supporting higher education.

And we will continue to aggressively seek support for our most important priorities.

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**Fund raising steady despite slow economy**

We continue to make progress in our fund raising efforts, despite the lingering effects of our nation’s sluggish economy.

It is apparent that attracting contributions from our constituents has become more challenging, but this is a national trend that is impacting all of higher education.

For the fall semester, giving continues to keep pace with our 2009-10 levels, both in dollars and alumni participation.

When we consider the implications of declining state support, we cannot underestimate the importance of private fund raising to our future success.



An area that our Development staff has focused on and seen very positive results in the planned gift area – particularly with estates and trusts. We are seeing strong support from our alumni and friends in including the University in their estate planning which will provide a sound funding base for the future.

The importance of this type of gift was reinforced last spring when we learned that we were the beneficiary

of a major bequest from one of our best Blue Raider supporters, the late Emmett Kennon. His multi-million dollar bequest will fund a number of scholarships for outstanding students, help enhance and maintain our athletic facilities, and support our Blue Raider athletes.

And late this fall we received a major gift from the estate of Dr. Bob Womack, which will go to support the Womack Family Educational Leadership Department.

Securing gifts of this type is essential if we are to maintain a strong, diversified support base.

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## **UPDATE**

# **Complete College Tennessee Act of 2010**

The Complete College Tennessee Act of 2010 was enacted during an extraordinary session of the Tennessee General Assembly a year ago this month.

The primary directive of the Act provided for the Tennessee Higher Education Commission to develop a statewide master plan for future development of public universities, community colleges and technology centers with input from the Tennessee Board of Regents and the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees.

The statewide master plan is to direct higher education to be accountable for increasing the educational attainment levels of Tennesseans.

The plan is to include, but not be limited to, the consideration of:

- Addressing the state's economic development, workforce development and research needs;
- Ensuring increased degree production within the state's capacity to support higher education;
- And using institutional mission differentiation to realize statewide efficiencies through institutional collaboration and minimized redundancy in degree offerings, instructional locations and competitive research.

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission, University of Tennessee Board of Trustees, and the Tennessee Board of Regents are charged with specific responsibilities for implementing the legislation, with most provisions requiring implementation within the next two years.

The Complete College Tennessee Act of 2010 also includes a provision for an outcomes-based funding formula. In that regard the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees, the Tennessee Board of Regents and state government representatives were to develop the model to be used for the 2011-12 budget cycle.

The Formula is to provide incentives to institutions that reinforce the policy objectives of the state master plan.

After several sessions of a group representing all required parties the Tennessee Higher Education Commission approved a new funding formula at its November 2010 quarterly meeting.

The formula model includes several weighted factors to measure institution outcomes that will be used to calculate the amount of each institution's state appropriation. The formula will also use institutions Carnegie classification in determining

appropriation amounts.

We do have some concerns about how implementation of the new formula and how will it affect MTSU long term and have expressed our concerns to both Tennessee Higher Education Commission and the Tennessee Board of Regents. Notwithstanding, however, the new formula will be applied for FY 2011-2012.

We will continue working with the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, the Tennessee Board of Regents and the state to monitor the financial impact of these changes on our University. Our intent is to achieve a fair and balanced consideration that will recognize our successes in both increased enrollment and degree production for more than 10 years.

Finally, consistent with Act, we created the University College last year through our restructuring efforts. It was designed to more specifically address and better coordinate our efforts to improve retention and graduation rates and help produce more graduates, particularly adult students.

Better academic support services through the new college will help accomplish these goals, which is a key part of the act.

## Raiders win in sports, academics

Our Blue Raiders Athletics staff and student athletes recorded several accomplishments last semester, both on and off the field of play.

I am proud that our student athletes continue to excel athletically and academically.

Here are some of their academic highlights:

- 47% of all student-athletes had a grade point average of 3.0 or higher;
- 22% of all student-athletes made the Dean's List by earning a grade point average of 3.5 or higher;
- 20 student-athletes had a perfect 4.0 GPA; and
- 9 of 17 teams had a semester team GPA of 3.0

or higher.

The cumulative GPA for all student-athletes was 2.94 for this past academic year.

The most recent Academic Progress Rate (APR) report, which will be released during the spring, shows that MTSU had a department-wide score of 988 (out of 1,000) in 2009-10.

All 17 MTSU athletics teams achieved passing marks of 925 or higher in 2009-10, with seven teams turning in a perfect mark of 1,000. In fact, the lowest score by any program is 962.

During the fall sports season, Middle Tennessee won the SBC regular season and tournament championship in volleyball

and also won the SBC Tournament in women's soccer. Both programs advanced to the NCAA Tournament.

The football program went to its third bowl game in five years, facing Miami (Ohio) University in the GoDaddy.com Bowl in Mobile, Ala.

It marked the fourth nationally-televised game of the season for the Blue Raiders, which is a new school record.

And, congratulations to senior football player Jeremy Kellem, who became the first in school history to earn Academic All-American and First Team All-Conference honors.

Go Blue Raiders!



*Senior Phillip Tanner closed his Blue Raider career with a pair of touchdowns and 121 all-purpose yards in the GoDaddy.com Bowl.*



**Construction is underway to widen and improve MTSU Blvd. from the rotary to Jones Hall, for more efficient shuttle bus service and improved pedestrian walkways and lighting. The project will extend Blue Raider Drive northward to a new campus entry at Greenland Drive, Construction will be substantially complete in the spring of 2012.**

**A project to improve campus lighting is about to begin. New pedestrian lamps and lamp heads will improve nighttime visibility, lessen glare and light pollution, and reduce overall energy usage in fixtures. Most of the work will be done by the fall.**

## New college unites 'service' disciplines

Our educational disciplines that focus on service to society are now under one umbrella.

Last semester, we watched the new College of Behavioral and Health Sciences take its first steps toward the future.

With the departments of Criminal Justice, Health and Human Performance, Human Sciences and Psychology leaving the College of Education, the new college also welcomed the Department of Social Work from the College of Liberal Arts and the School of Nursing from the College of

Basic and Applied Sciences. In addition, the Communication Disorders program moved from the Department of Speech and Theatre to the Department of Health and Human Performance.

Joining the academic departments are the Centers for Health and Human Services, Organizational and Human Resource Effectiveness, and Physical Activity and Health for Youth, as well as the Tennessee Center for Child Welfare, the Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic and the Adams Chair of

Excellence in Health Care Services.

"We really see ourselves as a research-powerful operation for getting grants and other opportunities because of cross-collaboration between disciplines," says Dr. Harold "Terry" Whiteside, dean of the new college.

Behavioral and Health Sciences' mission statement reads, in part, that it "coalesces around a student-centered approach to provide reality-based, direct learning experiences that serve their graduates as well as future professionals."

## NEWS OF NOTE

### Site team OKs college for reaccreditation

An Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication site team visited the College of Mass Communication in November and recommended full reaccreditation, subject to approval in spring 2011 by the Accrediting Committee and the Accrediting Council.

### History professor wins 3<sup>rd</sup> Fulbright fellowship

Dr. Sean Foley, assistant professor of history at Middle Tennessee State University, embarked in September on a 10-month research excursion in Southeast Asia after winning the third Fulbright Fellowship of his career.

Foley will work and study primarily in Malaysia.

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Please check out our digital platforms for breaking news, features and other information about the campus:

[www.mtsu.edu](http://www.mtsu.edu)

## Employee charitable campaign sets record

With more than 500 MTSU employees participating in the 2010 Tennessee Board of Regents Employee Charitable Giving Campaign, the campus wide initiative resulted in a record amount of \$100,637 for the calendar year.

This represents a significant increase in

donations from the previous year's campaign.

The success of the campaign is the result of the leadership of University Community Relations area and the campus coordinating team, which included Allison McGoffin, Janice Benson, Cassie Leyhew, Belinda Young and

Pat Grimes, along with innovative division coordinators, Mark Byrnes, Hilary Stallings, Kelly Kler, Cherie Linam, and Diane Turnham.

My thanks also go to the departmental volunteers, who greatly contributed to the success of the campaign effort.

## CENTENNIAL: Scholarships to be established

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Gala, which will kick off the celebration on Sept. 9, 2011.

During 2011, the University will also establish the Centennial Scholars program, which along with the existing Buchanan and Presidential Scholar programs, will provide MTSU

students with one of the most competitive scholarship offerings in the region.

Everyone in the MTSU community, even alumni and friends who may have strayed far away from the University, are invited to post or send photographs or

messages of their MTSU days to be included on one of the Celebration sites.

If you have questions about the University Centennial celebration, or want to contact a member of the committee, please e-mail to: [centennial@mtsu.edu](mailto:centennial@mtsu.edu).

### *Thank you for your hard work and terrific results*

I deeply appreciate the focus, determination and dedication put forward by the entire University last year in the face of several challenging situations.

Thanks to your efforts and results, MTSU is better positioned to educate our students and serve the Middle Tennessee region and the state through our

research, outreach and community service. As always, I welcome your ideas and feedback. Feel free to e-mail me directly at [smcphoe@mtsu.edu](mailto:smcphoe@mtsu.edu).



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