

Welcome to the Spring 2006 semester and Happy New Year! I hope you and your family enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. Once again, it is time to begin a new calendar year at our university. As this semester commences, we reflect on a challenging, productive, and successful past year. Our university continues to make good progress in many areas associated with the Academic Master Plan. The successes of the University are directly connected to the outstanding faculty, staff, and students.

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

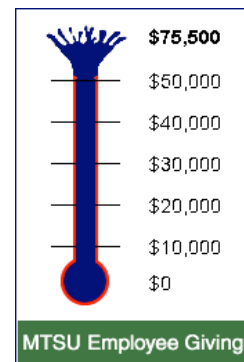
News and Information

Spring 2006 Enrollment

Comparing Spring 2006 enrollment to Spring 2005 enrollment one week prior to the beginning of class, indications are we have an increase of 123 (.62%) students. As of the last day of December 2005, we continue to show a significant increase in admission application activity for the upcoming Fall 2006 semester at the freshman and transfer levels.

Employee Charitable Giving Campaign

I am pleased to again report the very successful conclusion of the University's 2005 Annual Employee Charitable Giving Campaign. As of November 30, 2005, 430 employees had pledged in excess of \$75,500 for the upcoming calendar year. This is an increase of more than \$17,000 (29%) over last year's record amount and includes 133 additional donors.



The success of the campaign is the result of the exemplary leadership of Dean Jim Burton and the excellent work of a team made of many volunteers from around the campus. Special appreciation goes to:

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|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| ✓ <i>Angie Ray</i> | ✓ <i>McCreary Gentry</i> |
| ✓ <i>Nancy Bragg</i> | ✓ <i>Deborah Roberts</i> |
| ✓ <i>Dwight Bullard</i> | ✓ <i>Greg Schaffer</i> |
| ✓ <i>Tom Tozer</i> | ✓ <i>Abdul Rao</i> |
| ✓ <i>Gina Fann</i> | |

Thanks to each of you who joined in this effort.

National Recognition: 2005 CASE Tennessee Professor of the Year Dr. Jette Halladay

Dr. Jette Halladay, professor of Speech and Theatre, has been named the 2005 Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Tennessee Professor of



the Year. The award was presented to Dr. Halladay on November 17 in Washington, D.C., to recognize her excellence in undergraduate teaching and her impact on teaching on our campus. She was honored as a distinguished professor who upholds and guides the aspirations of her students, advances knowledge, and elevates and dignifies the profession of teaching by Lee Shulman, president of the Carnegie Foundation. Join me in congratulating Dr. Halladay on receiving this most prestigious award.

Area Legislative Meeting

On December 16, 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; Fran Marcum, vice chairman of TBR; Regents Agenia Clark and Robert Thomas; and Rebecca Fischer, 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 and greater funding for MTSU.



SACS Reaffirmation of Accreditation On Site Visit

MTSU has completed the Compliance Audit for its reaffirmation of SACS accreditation. The Compliance Audit report was the work of a team of MTSU faculty and administrators led by Dr. Richard Detmer, chair of the Computer Science Department. The team is currently compiling a focus report to address questions identified in the off-site evaluation process for review before the on-site visit.



MTSU is scheduled for its on-site visit from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools on March 21-23, 2006. The site visit will focus primarily on a peer review of our Quality Enhancement Plan on Experiential Learning. A campus wide committee, led by Dr. Jill Austin, chair of the Management and Marketing Department, has been working on our Experiential Learning plan over the past two years and will submit its written plan to SACS at the end of January. Peer evaluators will read the plan and use it as the basis for interviews they will conduct during the on-site visit. We look forward to our on-site visit and the opportunity to share our plan on Experiential Learning with our peers.

Academic Programs Update

The University was successful in implementing and receiving approval of several program initiatives during fall semester 2005.

Recent approvals:

- Ph.D. in Public History was implemented Fall 2005
- Concentration in Homeland Security within the existing B.S. in Criminal Justice was implemented in Fall 2005
- Revision to the admission policy for the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN-RODP)



- Revision to MTSU's admission policy for the Honors College
- Revision to admission and retention policy for the B.S. in Concrete Industry Management
- New graduate certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner within the MSN-RODP degree program
- Bachelor of Arts degree in Global Studies with three concentrations (approved by TBR and awaiting THEC approval):
 1. Globalization and Culture
 2. Globalization and Commerce
 3. Globalization and Science

- New B.S. in Construction Management Technology with two concentrations:
 1. Electrical Construction Management
 2. Land Development/Residential Building Construction Management
- Curriculum in the B.S. in Physical Education accompanied by a change in the name of the degree to a B.S. in Physical Education Teacher Education (PETE)
- New Regents Online Degree Program (RODP) Master of Professional Studies that is awaiting THEC approval before implementation.



On the horizon, MTSU is proposing two new Ph.D. degrees:

- Ph.D. in Literacy
- Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Sciences

Appropriations and Private Support

MTSU continues to make progress in efforts to obtain external funding, both from the private sector as well as local, state, and federal governments. Our strategy is to focus on a select group of needs and activities that represent high priorities of the campus. With this year's federal budget focusing much of its attention on the needs of those communities that were affected by the hurricanes of last fall, there was a considerable decrease in the discretionary monies provided to higher education. Nevertheless, with the help of Senators Alexander and Frist, along with Congressman Gordon, we were fortunate to obtain \$6.4 million in support for our Middle Tennessee Boulevard project. Additionally \$700,000 has been allocated for the completion of the Naked-eye Observatory project, located adjacent to the Cope Administration Building. We have begun developing priority project needs for the 2006-07 funding cycle, which will be submitted later this spring.



This past fall, we received notice of a \$5.5 million grant from the City of Murfreesboro. These funds will be used to enhance our academic facilities, particularly our track/soccer complex and the baseball field, as part of our partnership in hosting the TSSAA Spring Fling. These monies will serve as the impetus for the first ever facilities campaign for our athletic department, which will be announced in the very near future.

We continue to actively develop relationships with donors and are working on several major requests, which we hope to bring to closure in the coming months. Included in our efforts are requests for major multi-million dollar projects for our Aerospace and Concrete Industry programs. We also recently received a gift of more than \$100,000 for scholarships from a member of our College of Mass

Communications' Board of Visitors Finally our inaugural Senior Gift Challenge was a huge success with nearly 10% of our 2005 graduates making their first gift to the University.

University Personnel Update

Rick Stockstill named Blue Raider Head Football Coach

On December 12, 2005, Middle Tennessee Director of Athletics Chris Massaro named Rick Stockstill as head coach of the Blue Raider football program.

Stockstill joined the Blue Raider staff after spending the past two years at South Carolina, where he coached under Lou Holtz, Steve Spurrier, Danny Ford, Tommy Bowden, Ken Hatfield, and Tommy West.

Stockstill and his wife, the former Sara Fleischman, have a son, Brent, and a daughter, Emily.



Carlton Appointed Interim Vice Provost for Research and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies



Dr. Robert F. Carlton has been appointed as interim Vice Provost for Research and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. Having served previously as an interim in this position, Dr. Carlton's broad understanding and experience will serve to move our commitment to research and graduate education forward. A search committee for our new vice provost and dean has been established, and we anticipate a timely and successful search.

Homer Pittard Campus School

I want to make you aware of the recent discussions held with the City and County School Boards regarding the future of Campus School. The educational needs and physical facilities concerns of Campus School along with teacher training needs of MTSU students are major issues that must be addressed. Like all aspects of MTSU's operation, the Campus School is subjected to evaluation in terms of its success in meeting the university's programmatic needs and the condition and appropriateness of the physical facility. There are problems with the Campus School in several areas.



First, the primary purpose of the school is to provide a lab for MTSU's teacher training programs, which produce about 25% of the state's teachers. Growth in

the numbers of students and advances in technology make the current Campus School challenging itself to serve MTSU's needs for teacher preparation.

Second, there are long-standing problems with the building that houses the Campus School. Neither MTSU nor the state has the funds necessary to make the needed improvements to the building. The County School Board was made aware of the facility needs in 1996 and again in 2002 but has not given them priority. Maintenance and long-term capital needs must be addressed if the Campus School is to remain where it is.

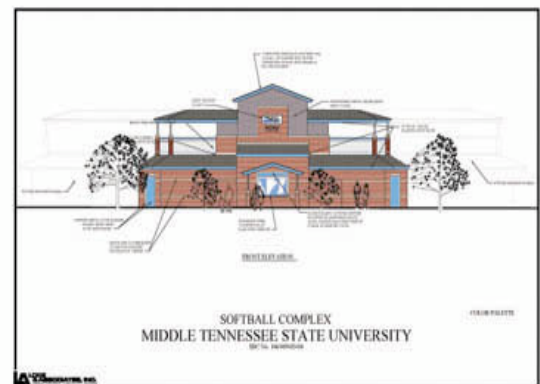
Finally, the Americans with Disabilities Act requires that the building housing the Campus School be made accessible to people with disabilities, which will require costly adaptations to the facility.

It is now necessary to explore options for resolving these issues. Needs of students in the MTSU College of Education and Behavioral Science teacher training program and needs of Campus School students must be addressed if it is to remain in its present location.

Facilities Update

Cason Kennedy Nursing Building Addition: This project calls for a two-story brick addition to match the existing CKNB in appearance. The first floor contains four Master Classrooms each accommodating 50 students and one seminar room for 20. One of the classrooms will also serve as a computer lab. A large lobby area with seating groups is designed to provide a study area for and to encourage communication among the Nursing students. On the second floor there is to be a clinical lab with 24 teaching stations each equipped with stretchers and medical gas headwalls. Also, another seminar room for 40 students and an expanded administrative suite with a faculty lounge has been added. Construction is slated to be completed in Fall, 2006, making the addition ready for occupancy by Spring semester, 2007.

Women's Softball Complex: The existing bleachers are being expanded to include seating for 600 fans. Both existing home and visitor's team dugouts are being supplanted by new cast-in-place concrete structures complete with team toilets. A brick-on-block concession stand will include large spaces for prep support as well as an outdoor grill enclosure. Public toilets will be located on this level. On the second level behind the bleachers there will be a press box enclosed by metal panels fronted by sliding shatterproof windows. On each wing of the press box there will be covered camera decks. A lift will provide accessibility to the press box level. Brick banding, sloped shingle roofs, and picket railings



will add visual interest to its appearance. These facilities will be completed in time for Spring softball games.

Alumni Relations House and Office: The Alumni Relations House and Office located at 2259 and 2263 Middle Tennessee Boulevard will be the future home of the Alumni Relations office currently located in the Tom H. Jackson Building. The facilities are currently being renovated to update life safety codes and ADA accommodations. The renovated facilities will include offices, workroom space and a conference room for the Alumni Relations office, along with an outdoor area for social events. Construction began in November 2005 and is scheduled to be completed late spring 2006.

Track and Field Improvements: In response to the relocation of the TSSAA Spring Fling to our campus, this project is to be undertaken in two phases. The first phase now underway includes replacement of the field lighting and provision of a 1500-seat bleacher on the east side of the soccer field and its surrounding track. This phase is to be completed prior to the May, 2006 Spring Fling. The second, more extensive phase consists of a brick-on-block concession stand, public toilets and separate male and female locker rooms on the ground level. A press box with adjoining camera stands accessed by an elevator will be on the second level of this building. The second phase, which is now in design, will commence in June, 2006 and is to be completed prior to the 2007 event.

Plans for Class Cancellations Due to Inclement Weather



In the event of inclement weather, students should listen to area radio and television stations to determine if classes have been canceled.

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.

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 Station

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 smcphoe@mtsu.edu.