What Has Become of M.A. and Ph.D. Students in MTSU’s English Department, 2005-2015?

When the English Department converted its D.A. into a Ph.D. over a decade ago, becoming MTSU’s first Ph.D. granting program, we knew that our primary constituency would continue to be the people of the region—Middle Tennessee, of course, but also southern Kentucky and north Alabama and Georgia as well. For many years, long before we became a Ph.D. granting school, the faculty of such areas schools as Vol. State, Motlow, and Columbia came to us in pursuit of terminal degrees.

The list below offers a catalog of the afterlife of our M.A. and Ph.D. students from the last decade. Though the job market in our discipline has long been bleak and continues to be, our graduates, and even our ABDs, continue to find work and establish careers, for the most part at community colleges and other regional institutions of higher learning.

One very interesting and surprising trend: no less than seven MTSU English Ph.D.’s/ABD’s have secured positions at historically black schools: Thompson, M. Wise, Hayes, and Shafer at TSU; H. Hamby at Fisk; O’Neil at Alabama State; Howard at Langston.

In the year ahead, the English Department intends to market our post-baccalaureate degrees more widely and extensively than we ever have before, but our graduate program will continue to serve, first and foremost, as it always has, the people of our region.
—Dr. David Lavery, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in English [david.lavery@mtsu.edu]

- Michael C. Amrozowicz [M.A., 2009] is pursuing the Ph.D. at SUNY Albany.
- Dianna Lynn Baldwin [Ph.D., 2009] works in the Writing Center at Michigan State University.
- Raymond Leslie Bell [Ph.D., 2006] is a member of the faculty at Calhoun State Community College.
- Jonathan M. Bradley [Ph.D., 2013] is a librarian at Virginia Tech University.
- Clint Bryan [Doctoral Candidate] is a member of the faculty at Northwest University in Kirkland, WA.
- Cynthia Burkhead [Ph.D., 2010] is Chair of the English Department at the University of North Alabama.
- Nicholas Bush [M.A., 2007] is a member of the faculty at Motlow State Community College.
- Stephen Andrew Calatrello [Ph.D., 2009] is a member of the faculty at Calhoun State Community College.
- Keri Lee Carter [M.A., 2009] is a full-time faculty member in the English Department at MTSU.
- Catherine B. Chapman [M.A., 2010] is Associate Director of the University Writing Center at MTSU.
- James M. Curtis [M.A., 2009] is a doctoral candidate at the University of Southern Mississippi.


Brandi Ettehadieh [doctoral candidate] is Grants Manager for the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences at the University of West Virginia.

Jeffrey D. Frame [Ph.D., 2012] is a faculty member in Theatre at Trevecca Nazarene in Nashville.

Karine Gavand [Ph.D., 2009] is a full-time faculty member in the English Department at MTSU.

Gary Gravely [Ph.D., 2015] is a faculty member in English at Roane State Community College.

Candace Grissom [Ph.D., 2011] is a full-time faculty member at Motlow State Community College.

Arlo Hall [M.A., 2015] is a full-time faculty member at Volunteer State Community College.

Christy L. Hall [Ph.D., 2010] is a faculty member in English at the University of the Cumberlands.

Dawn Hall [Ph.D., 2014] is a member of the faculty at Western Kentucky University.

Holy Tipton Hamby [Ph.D., 2011] is a member of the faculty at Fisk University.

James A. Hamby [Ph.D., 2012] is a full-time faculty member in the English Department at MTSU.

Jennifer L. Hayes [Ph.D., 2013] is a full-time faculty member at Tennessee State University.
- Katherine V. Haynes [Ph.D., 2007] is a member of the faculty in English at Thomas Aquinas College in Nashville.
- Michael Howard [Doctoral Candidate] is a member of the faculty in English at Langston University.
- Brett A. Hudson [Ph.D., 2012] is a full-time faculty member in the English Department at MTSU.
- Melissa D. Lamb [Ph.D., 2005] is Chair of the English Department at Overton High School in Nashville.
- Autumn Lauzon [Ph.D., 2014] is a full-time faculty member at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.
- Qingjun (Joan) Li [Ph.D., 2010] is a member of the faculty at Belmont University.
- Adam McInturff [M.A., 2007] is a full-time faculty member in the English Department at MTSU.
- Shellie Michael [Doctoral Candidate] is a full-time faculty member at Vol State Community College.
- Taras V. Mikhailiuk [M.A., 2013] is a doctoral candidate at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
- Joe Mitchell [Doctoral Candidate] is a full-time faculty member in the English Department at MTSU.
- Candace Moonshower [M.A., 2009] is a full-time faculty member in the English Department at MTSU.
- Robert Musante [Ph.D., 2007] is a faculty member at Mohawk Valley Community College in New York.
- Dennis Negron [doctoral candidate] teaches full-time at Southern Adventist University.
- Dominic M. Ofori [M.A., 2010] is pursuing his Ph.D. at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.
- Summer O’Neal [Ph.D., 2013] teaches full-time at Alabama State University.
- Laura Beth Jackson Payne [M.A., 2011] is the Community Editor of Murfreesboro Magazine.
- Ryan Reed [M.A., 2006] is a full-time faculty member in the English Department at MTSU.
- Jean Anna Kinder Rhodes [Ph.D., 2006] is a member of the faculty at Daytona Beach Community College in Florida.
- Rachel Robinson [M.A., 2005] directs the Writing Center at Appalachian State University.
- Philip Shafer [Doctoral Candidate] is a full-time faculty member in the English Department at Tennessee State University.
- Aaron Shapiro [M.A., 2010] is a full-time faculty member in the English Department at MTSU.
- Agapi Theodoru Shapiro (Ph.D., 2013) is a full-time faculty member in the English Department at Tennessee Tech.
- Jolly Kay Sharp [Ph.D., 2009] is a member of the faculty at the University of the Cumberlands.
- Emily Carroll Shearer [Ph.D., 2014] teaches full-time at Del Mar Community College in Texas.
- Joy Smith [Ph.D., 2014] is a member of the faculty at Kansas State University.
- Jeffrey Dillard Thompson [Ph.D., 2007] is a full-time faculty member at Tennessee State University.
- Warren Tormey [Ph.D., 2009] is a full-time faculty member in the English Department at MTSU.
- Jesse L. Williams [Ph.D., 2013] is a full-time faculty member in the English Department at MTSU.
- Lisa E. Williams [M.A., 2010] is a full-time faculty member in the English Department at MTSU.
- Jennifer B. Wilson [M.A., 2005] is a full-time faculty member in the English Department at MTSU.
- Michele Wise [Doctoral Candidate] is a full-time faculty member in the English Department at Tennessee State University.