

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY.

Commencement

AUGUST 12, 2017



The Star-Spangled Banner

Lyrics by Francis Scott Key

Music by John Stafford Smith

C Am E Am D G C



O say, can you see by the dawn's early light what so proud - ly we

7 G C Am E



hailed at the twi-light's last gleam - ing? Whose broad stripes and bright stars thro' the

12 Am D G C G C



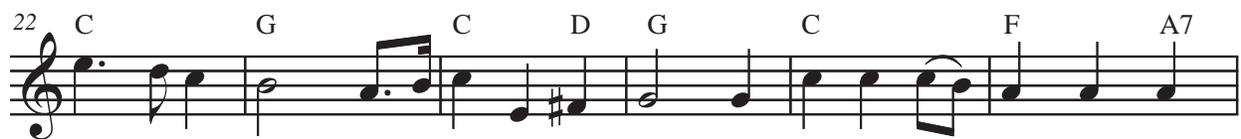
per - il - ous fight o'er the ram - parts we watched were so gal - lant - ly

17 G7



stream-ing? And the rock - ets' red glare, the bombs burst-ing in air, gave

22 C G C D G C F A7



proof thro' the night that our flag was still there. O say, does that star - spang - l'd

28 Dm G C Am D C G7 C



ban - ner yet wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Summer Commencement

105th ACADEMIC YEAR

Saturday, August 12, 2017

10:00 a.m.

Murphy Athletic Center, Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, Tennessee



Middle Tennessee State University has graduated 138,776 students since its inception in 1911. These students have received associate's, bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees. Our first Doctor of Arts degrees were conferred on December 22, 1972, the first Educational Specialist degrees on December 20, 1974, the first Doctor of Philosophy degrees on May 10, 2003, and the first Doctor of Education degrees on August 6, 2016. There have been 399 Doctor of Arts degrees, 1,840 Educational Specialist degrees, 273 Doctor of Philosophy degrees, and 15 Doctor of Education degrees awarded.



The listing of degree candidates and the announced honor distinctions are tentative and subject to final certification of graduation.

Program

Processional: "Rigaudon" by Andre Campra

*Audience, please remain standing for the processional,
singing of the National Anthem, and moment of silence.*

Men, please remove hats for the moment of silence and the singing of the National Anthem.

Moment of Silence

National Anthem

Presiding..... Dr. Sidney A. McPhee
President

Commencement Address..... Dr. Mary B. Martin
2016–17 Faculty Senate President

Presentation of Candidates for Degrees..... Dr. Mark Byrnes
Interim University Provost

Conferring of Degrees..... Dr. Sidney A. McPhee

Alma Mater..... Ms. Jessica Morel Scruggs
2017 School of Music Graduate

Recessional: "Hornpipe" from Water Music by G. F. Handel

Audience, please remain standing until the platform party has recessed.

Organist..... Mr. Windell Little

Program

Announcing the Graduates..... Dr. Kevin Donovan
Professor, Department of English

Ms. Kristi Shamburger
Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre and Dance

Assisting with Diplomas..... Ms. Jaye Kiblinger
Executive Aide, Department of Marketing

Commencement Marshal

Dr. Laurie Witherow
Associate Vice Provost for Admissions and Enrollment Services

Heralds

Ms. Anne Ford, Ms. Yvonne Elliott, Mr. Tyler Henson,
Ms. Allison McGoffin, Ms. Pat Thomas

***Commercial photographers will photograph each diploma presentation.
These pictures will be available to graduates for purchase. For this reason, no additional
photography will be allowed on the floor of Murphy Center.***

Alumni Association President

On behalf of the Middle Tennessee State University National Alumni Association, I congratulate you on joining a very special group. With today's ceremony, you move from being a student to joining more than 130,000 MTSU alumni. As an alum, you are a vital part of the Middle Tennessee State University family. We count on you to represent us to this nation and the world. We hope that your experiences as a student will serve you well in the future.

Always be proud of your alma mater and stay connected to your University. If you would like to be involved in the Alumni Association, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 1-800-533-MTSU (6878) or visit mtalumni.com.

Welcome to the future and to your National Alumni Association.

Brian Walsh ('09)
President, MTSU National Alumni Association Board, 2017–18

Commencement Speaker

Mary B. Martin
2016–17 Faculty Senate President
Professor, Department of Mathematical Sciences



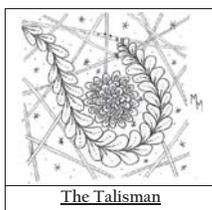
Dr. Mary B. Martin has been a professor of Mathematics at Middle Tennessee State University for 18 years. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics at MTSU, with minors in Physics and Computer Science, before completing her Master of Science in Mathematics and her Doctorate of Philosophy degrees at the University of North Carolina. Martin was awarded her Ph.D. for the dissertation “Invertible Ideals of a Polynomial Ring.” Her area of study is commutative ring theory, which is a specialization in abstract algebra.

Since returning to MTSU professionally in 1998, Martin has expanded her direction in research and scholarly activity to include professional development training in mathematics for high school teachers and the development of public policy for mathematics education. Martin previously was an assistant professor at Colgate University, an associate professor and a professor at Winthrop University, and a visiting professor at Cornell University and Florida State University. She

directed the University Honors program at Winthrop University for five years.

Over a period of seven years, Martin has directed or co-directed projects that have had a total funding level of approximately \$10 million from state and federal agencies. As a result of these projects, she and her collaborators have potentially impacted the learning experiences of over 260,000 Tennessee students in middle and high school, as well as contributed \$1 million directly to MTSU revenues. She serves on the State of Tennessee Board of Examiners for the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and Teacher Licensure and was the project director for the State of Tennessee Needs Analysis for Mathematics, Science, and English/Language Arts in 2008–09. She is an associate editor of mathematics for MERLOT, the online clearing house/publication for mathematics and science websites, which was developed by the National Science Foundation.

Martin, who had served as a Faculty Senate member (2005–07) and as secretary/treasurer (2007–09), was elected Faculty Senate president for 2016–17. While teaching undergraduate and graduate classes at MTSU, ranging from college algebra and calculus to topology and module theory, Martin also has delivered the Tennessee Employment Standards Training in Algebra for 11 years, acted as academic coordinator for the McNair Program, directed the National Women’s History Month program, and directed a three-year Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need program at MTSU. She received the MTSU Outstanding Public Service Award for 2008–09.



Platform Party

Dr. Sidney A. McPhee
President

Dr. Mark Byrnes
Interim University Provost

Dr. Mary B. Martin
2016–17 Faculty Senate President

Mr. Alan Thomas
Vice President for Business and Finance

Mr. William J. Bales
*Vice President for
University Advancement*

Mr. Bruce Petryshak
*Vice President for Information
Technology and Chief
Information Officer*

Dr. Debra K. Sells
*Vice President for Student Affairs
and Vice Provost for Enrollment
and Academic Services*

Mr. Andrew Oppmann
*Vice President for Marketing
and Communications*

Dr. Cheryl B. Torsney
Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

Dr. David L. Butler
*Vice Provost for Research and
Dean, College of Graduate Studies*

Dr. Richard Sluder
*Vice Provost for Student Success and
Dean, University College*

Dr. Robert Fischer
*Dean, College of Basic and
Applied Sciences*

Dr. Harold Whiteside
*Dean, College of Behavioral
and Health Sciences*

Dr. David J. Urban
Dean, Jones College of Business

Dr. Rick Vanosdall
Associate Dean, College of Education

Dr. Karen Petersen
Interim Dean, College of Liberal Arts

Mr. Kenneth A. Paulson
*Dean, College of Media
and Entertainment*

Dr. John R. Vile
Dean, University Honors College

Ms. Bonnie Allen
Dean, James E. Walker Library

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*Faculty Representative
Professor, School of Agribusiness
and Agriscience*

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Founder, Zycron Inc.

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*Student Representative
Master's Candidate, Administration
and Supervision*

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Chair and CEO, Acadia Healthcare

Ms. Christine Karbowiak
*Executive Vice President, Chief
Administrative Officer, and Chief Risk
Officer, Bridgestone Americas*

Mace and Chain of Office

Originally a medieval knight's weapon, the mace evolved into a symbol of royal scepters in various crown jewel collections. Large versions of the scepter have come to represent the power and authority of institutions such as our University. The mace measures 50 inches in length and is made of Tennessee cherry wood embellished with sterling silver and lapis lazuli. The Tennessee flower, the iris, denotes the public the University serves who, by their loyalty, give it strength and power. The leaves form a crown to symbolize the ennobling achievements of our graduates. Tennessee freshwater pearls, the official state gem, suggest the inestimable value of inquiring minds. The streamer on the wood shaft carries the names by which the University has been known since its founding. The finial at the base of the mace is a stylized nut, representing the core, the seed from which springs the mighty tree of those committed to lifelong learning.

The chain of office worn by the president is made of sterling silver. The lapis lazuli gems, mounted on scroll shapes, represent the colleges within the University. The knotted components depict the interdependence of knowledge and the various academic programs of MTSU. The sterling and lapis lazuli represent the University colors of blue and white. The Great Seal of the State of Tennessee embellishes the medallion suspended from the chain, representing the University as part of the Tennessee higher education system.

These unique emblems of authority were designed and crafted by Professor Klaus Kallenberger, formerly of the Art Department. The mace and chain of office are a generous gift to the University from the MTSU Foundation.

Mace Carrier

Charlie B. Dahan, a professor in the Department of Recording Industry, earned his B.A. in History from the University of North Carolina (1992) and his Master of Music from the State University of New York, Purchase College (2000). He is currently working on a Ph.D. in Public History at Middle Tennessee State University, where his focus lies in the preservation and interpretation of historic recording studios particularly in the South and Midwest. Currently, he serves on the National Advisory Board for the Starr-Gannett Foundation in Richmond, Indiana; the National Advisory Board for Sweet Relief Musicians Fund; and the Online Media Board for the Association for Recorded Sound Collections, where he is chair of the organization's social media properties. In 2016, he won the MTSU Foundation Award for Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology.

Dahan spent seven years as A&R director at Shanachie Records where he signed and/or worked with artists such as the Skatalites, Rufus Thomas, Bill Doggett, Lester Bowie, Duke Robillard, Double Trouble, Anders Osborne, Sue Foley, Debbie Davies, and Sara Hickman. He produced or oversaw the production of over 100 commercially released albums, including two by the Skatalites, both of which received Grammy nominations. Additionally, he was a talent agent at the Roots Agency for five years, booking tours for the Chieftains, Carlene Carter, Richie Havens, Arlo Guthrie, Ronnie Spector, and Dala, among many others. Dahan also co-owns Larchmont Recordings, a label that released several albums featuring recordings by Rhonda Vincent, Melissa Ferrick, Langhorne Slim, Eileen Ivers, Randy Brecker, and John Abercrombie. During 2001–04, he co-produced over 20 albums for CMH Records including ones featuring Dr. Lonnie Smith, Reuben Wilson, David "Fathead" Newman, and the Lounge Brigade with its bachelor pad takes on the music of Eminem and Ozzy Osbourne (some of which were featured on MTV's *The Osbournes*).

Arcadia Press released Dahan's book, *Images of America: Gennett Records and Starr Piano*, in September 2016, and he is currently working on a discography of all the recordings made and released by Gennett Records and its affiliate studios. *Images of America* is a finalist for the 2017 Association for Recorded Sound Collections award for Best Historical Research of Record Companies. In 2015, he co-authored the National Register for Historic Places nomination for FAME Studios in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. Dahan wrote and edited several chapters in the David Baskerville text *Music Business Handbook and Career Guide* and dozens of reviews and featured articles for *AllAboutJazz*. He previously was an assistant professor in the Music Business Department at the State University of New York at Oneonta (2001–07). During 2002–07, he was the sound and scoreboard operator for the Oneonta Tigers minor league baseball team.

Academic Regalia

The black gowns and colorful hoods traditionally worn in Middle Tennessee State University commencement ceremonies have their origins in the Middle Ages.

A statute in England in 1321 required that all “Doctors, Licentiates, and Bachelors” wear gowns. In the second half of the 14th century, the statutes of certain colleges forbade “excess in apparel” and prescribed the wearing of a long gown. Scholars were often clerics as well, and they adopted costumes similar to those of monastic orders. While the special attire covered rank or social status, thus lending a uniform look to ceremonies, it also served another purpose: warmth in drafty, unheated buildings.

As the universities began to pass from the control of the church, colors often were added to the somber robes and hoods, eventually signifying the degree and specialization.

The cut of the gown, which is usually black, also varies with the degree held—pointed sleeves for the bachelor’s degree; long, closed sleeves with a slit in the arm for the master’s degree; and round, open sleeves for the doctoral degree. While the bachelor’s and master’s gowns have no ornamentation, the doctoral gown is faced down the front with velvet and has three velvet bars across the sleeves.

At Middle Tennessee, hoods are worn by holders of the master’s and doctor’s degrees, with the latter being longer. Hoods are lined with the official colors of the university which confers the degree; thus, holders of degrees from MTSU wear hoods lined in blue and white. The velvet edging on the hood, and often the velvet edging on the gown, represents the candidate’s major academic field. Often holders of the Doctor of Philosophy degree (Ph.D.) will be seen with regalia in dark blue instead of a color symbolic of their discipline. This is accepted academic dress. Further, the velvet lining on the gown may be the same color as the discipline color of the hood, or may be black. Colors associated with various subjects follow:

- Agriculture** - Maize
- Arts, Letters, Humanities** - White
- Commerce, Accountancy, Business** - Drab
- Criminal Justice** - Midnight Blue
- Economics** - Copper
- Education** - Light Blue
- Fine Arts** - Brown
- Home Economics** - Maroon
- Journalism** - Crimson

- Law** - Purple
- Library Science** - Lemon
- Music** - Pink
- Nursing** - Apricot
- Oratory (Speech)** - Silver Gray
- Philosophy** - Dark Blue
- Physical Education** - Sage Green
- Science** - Golden Yellow
- Social Work** - Citrine

The black cap, the mortarboard, is customarily worn. There is no general rule for the position of the tassel. In practice at Middle Tennessee State University, the tassel is worn on the right. It may be shifted to the left after the degree is awarded. Men may remove their caps during prayer, the playing of the alma mater, and during the commencement address.

Honor graduates are distinguished by the stoles added to their gowns: gold for those graduating summa cum laude, 3.90 to 4.0 (overall grade point average); silver for magna cum laude, 3.75 to 3.89; and white for cum laude, 3.50 to 3.74. Graduates with University Honors wear blue and white cords and have completed at least 31 hours with a 3.25 average in the Honors program, a curriculum of special classes designed for superior students. Those who have maintained a minimum average of 3.65 in the Honors program are graduating with Distinction in University Honors. Honor graduates and persons graduating with University Honors, along with those who have been commissioned second lieutenant in the United States Army, are listed in this program after the degree recipients.

Some academic honor societies and programs may provide cords, ribbons, medallions, or lapel pins designating the achievement and involvement of their members.

Since 1993, graduates of the University Honors College have received the official Honors medallion in recognition of their final thesis defense and completion of special requirements of the college. The medallion itself is a replica of the official seal of the University Honors College and depicts a lighted torch, three Ionic columns, and a lightning bolt. Respectively, these symbolize the search for truth and knowledge, the stability and unwavering commitment to pursuing knowledge, and the flash of enlightenment or creative energy.

Military veteran students are distinguished by specially designed red stoles and red, white, and blue cords in recognition of their admirable service to their country.

Experiential Learning Scholars are distinguished by blue, silver, and white cords. These scholars completed EXL-designated hands-on learning courses, an off-campus service activity, an on-campus service activity, and a portfolio of reflections on their EXL activities. The EXL program provides students with opportunities for hands-on experience, valuable networking, and an opportunity to explore career paths through real-world experience.

International students may wear colorful sashes that are representative of their country of origin. Each sash symbolizes, in color and design, their country's flag.

Most American colleges and universities have adopted a uniform code. However, at any academic gathering, costumes often are worn that are not described by these guidelines. Some of these may be from foreign universities, others from American institutions that have preferred to remain with the European tradition of allowing each school to determine its own costume. Silver medallions worn by faculty denote 15 years of service, and gold medallions represent 25 years.

Academic Banners

The banners carried and displayed at commencement represent the University; its nine colleges (Basic and Applied Sciences, Behavioral and Health Sciences, Business, Education, Liberal Arts, Media and Entertainment, Graduate Studies, University College, and University Honors); Walker Library, and Faculty Senate. Design and execution of the banners was a collaborative effort among Professor Janet Higgins, Art Department; her student Kristi Baughman; and Darrell Callis Burks, designer in Creative and Visual Services and 2000 B.F.A. graduate. The colors used in each banner represent disciplines within the colleges. The University seal appears in the center of each banner, symbolizing that the whole is greater than any of its parts.

BANNER CARRIERS

College of Basic and Applied Sciences

Dr. Anthony Farone is professor of Biology. Following a three-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Harvard School of Public Health, Farone began his academic career in the Biology Department in 1995. His STEM research and training grants have brought over \$4 million to MTSU. His research interests at the University have focused on the interaction between the immune system and pathogens.

Farone has over 20 publications in peer-reviewed journals, and while collaborating with microbiologists at MTSU and Tennessee Technological University on a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-funded project, a new genus of bacteria was discovered that infects the nucleus of human white blood cells. Over the years, he has had the opportunity to work with an interesting interdisciplinary group of faculty through international

and regional collaborations within the College of Basic and Applied Sciences in the Departments of Chemistry and Physics. Currently, through collaborations with faculty in the Tennessee Center for Botanical Medicine Research (TCBMR), he has received two patents for new immunotherapeutics.

College of Behavioral and Health Sciences

Dr. Ben Stickle is assistant professor of Criminal Justice Administration. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Cedarville University and a Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Justice Administration from the University of Louisville.

Stickle has more than 20 years of law enforcement, criminal investigation, and private security experience; is a two-time president of the Kentucky Peace Officers' Association; and serves on the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council. His current research interests include policing, property crime, metal theft, and qualitative research methods. Stickle has published several scholarly articles and has a forthcoming book, *Metal Scrappers and Thieves: Scavenging for Survival and Profit*.

Jennings A. Jones College of Business

Dr. Sandra S. Benson, associate professor in the Department of Accounting, earned her B.A. in Economics and Business Administration from Vanderbilt University and her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Georgia. Benson teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in business, commercial and corporate governance, and health law. She draws on 12 years of experience in practicing law and her love for teaching when designing

classroom activities and her own research. Benson's research focuses on emerging issues related to fraud, accountant liability, health care, and effective pedagogy in business law. Her work and expertise have been recognized by the Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress, the New York Society of CPAs, and CNBC.

This year, peers in the Jones College selected Benson as the recipient of the E.W. "Wink" Midgett Faculty Excellence Award for teaching, research, and service. The Accounting Advisory Board also honored her this year with an Academic Partnership Award. In 2012–13, she received an MTSU Outstanding Teacher Award and the Bridgestone/Firestone Distinguished Assistant Professorship from the Jones College. She was nominated as one of four finalists in the Master Teacher competition conducted by the Academy of Legal Studies in Business in 2013. Benson is continuously developing and implementing innovative student-centered learning activities to promote student success both now and for their future careers. Her classroom activities have become the subject of two pedagogical articles in the international *Journal of Legal Studies Education*. She was later selected to serve as articles editor and is currently on track to become editor-in-chief.

College of Education

Dr. Seok Jeng Jane Lim, assistant professor in Elementary and Special Education, earned her Bachelor of Social Science in Children and Family Studies from Edith Cowan University, Perth, Australia. She earned her Master in Educational Leadership in Early Childhood Education from Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia. In 2012, she earned her Ph.D. in Elementary/Early Childhood Education from University at Buffalo, State University of New York.

Lim is a Singaporean and has more than 20 years of experience teaching and working with preschoolers and adults in early childhood education. She has presented at 40 national, state, and international conferences. Her area of research interest is on the issue of bullying among an underrepresented population—refugee children. She was former executive director of the Association for Early Childhood Educators (Singapore). She also was on the executive board of the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) and is past president of Tennessee ACEI.

College of Graduate Studies

Dr. Barbara Whitman Lancaster is an assistant professor in the School of Nursing. She earned both her Doctorate of Nursing Practice and master's degrees at Frontier Nursing University. Lancaster is a practicing women's health nurse practitioner and a certified menopause practitioner through the North American Menopause Society (NAMS). She has received Institutional Research Board approval through MTSU for her research in "Development of a Menopause

Workshop for the Women of the Upper Cumberland Region of Tennessee." Lancaster has presented her work in this area at the Doctors of Nursing Practice conference in 2015 and the NAMS annual conference in October 2016.

In 2015, Lancaster joined MTSU, where she teaches in both the undergraduate and graduate Nursing curriculum. She is particularly excited about the new MTSU School of Nursing graduate programs for family nurse practitioners, and she has written the course on women's health. Lancaster is a member of Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society and is active in medical missions in West Africa and nationally. She was a recipient of the Governor's Tennessee Leadership White County Award in 2012.

College of Liberal Arts

Dr. Shelley Thomas attended the Sorbonne in Paris in 1977, taught at the University of Grenoble in 1988, and received her Ph.D. in French Literature from Purdue University in 1991. Her articles and book reviews on 19th-century authors appear in the *Gale-Thomson Encyclopedia on Short Story Criticism, Romantic Review, L'Esprit Créateur*, and *Philosophy and Literature*. Her current research on brain-based learning has been presented at regional, national, and international conferences. Thomas serves on the MTSU Fulbright Committee and the Public Service Committee and is a member of both the graduate and Honors faculty.

She is the founder and director of the Center for Accelerated Language Acquisition (CALA), a center for the research and application of brain-based methods of learning. Her publication on the standardized test results of CALA classes appeared in the *International Journal of Foreign Language Teaching*. In partnership with the University Honors College, CALA provides language classes in multiple languages as well as Hatha yoga classes, which are part of its stress management program for teacher training. The yoga classes are open to the community and are being offered to the children at the Boys and Girls Club, as well as the men's population at the Rutherford County Correctional Work Center. CALA has formed local and international partnerships for language classes and teacher training with the Tennessee Department of Children's Services, the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute, the Webb School, the Confucius Institute, Doors of Hope, and the Isha Foundation, a nonprofit organization in southern India.

College of Media and Entertainment

Robert Gordon, tenure-track assistant professor in the College of Media and Entertainment, earned his B.F.A. in Broadcasting and M.B.A. in Marketing from the University of Cincinnati. Gordon has been teaching multi-camera television program production at MTSU for the past 10 years. He also has been a national television producer

for many years, producing a wide range of entertainment programming for Cinemax, PBS, CMT, TNN, GMC, The Family Channel, syndication, and home video.

At MTSU, Gordon teaches students live-event television program production such as sporting events, television concerts, newscasts, and award shows. His students produce live, nine-camera football, basketball, volleyball, and soccer games for ESPN3 and BeIN Sports. They also have produced TV concerts for Bonnaroo, the Nashville Symphony, Capitol Records, and professional acts at the Franklin Theater such as Richard Thompson, Phil Keaggy, Gretchen Peters, Riders in the Sky, and others. Gordon is faculty advisor for the student-run television station MT10, executive producer for the student-staffed television production company EMC Productions, and program coordinator for the Department of Media Arts video and film program.

Gordon also directs the WNPT2 interview/performance television series *The Songwriters* for the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame and MTSU—a new, student-staffed series that has won three international awards and is slated for release to PBS stations across the country. He also has produced and directed three modern dance videos for the professional dance company New Dialect, as well as a series of 4K, 360-degree music videos for multi-Grammy winner Mark O'Connor.

University Honors College

Dr. Keying Ding, assistant professor of Chemistry, earned her bachelor's degree from Liaocheng University in China. She acquired her Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Rochester in 2009. She pursued postdoctoral research at the University of Minnesota during 2009–13 before starting her career at MTSU. Her area of research is in inorganic chemistry, catalysis, and green chemistry.

Since joining MTSU in 2013, Ding has successfully secured \$443,174 funding from two National Science Foundation grants as principal investigator. Four graduate students from her research group have successfully finished their master's degrees. Along with active teaching and research, Ding also has served as MTSU Chemistry Society co-advisor since 2014, directing chemistry club outreach activities. She currently holds Molecular Biosciences Ph.D. graduate faculty and Honors College faculty positions.

University College

Matthew Duncan is a lecturer teaching prescribed mathematics courses in the Department of University Studies. He graduated from Jacksonville State University with his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science

degrees in Mathematics, concentrating on abstract algebra and statistics. He also is a doctoral candidate currently pursuing his Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematics Education at Middle Tennessee State University. Duncan has made several presentations concerning mathematics education at the regional, state, and national levels. He has been published in mathematics education journals and co-authored a book chapter on teaching through variation.

Duncan has served on several committees for the department, participated in several professional learning communities at MTSU, and taken part in professional development for pre- and in-service teachers in the surrounding community. He also has taught several courses for the State of Tennessee Fleming Training Center to assist utility workers in preparing for the mathematics portion of state-mandated exams. Duncan is a member of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the Psychology of Mathematics Education of North America, and the American Educational Research Association.

James E. Walker Library

Jason Vance is an associate professor and information literacy librarian in the James E. Walker Library's User Services Department. Vance is responsible for promoting the integration of library research and information concepts and skills throughout the MTSU curricula. He teaches students how to use the library in support of their learning and helps members of the MTSU community navigate the print and electronic resources at the reference desk. Vance's research interests include information literacy, instructional assessment, classroom design, and the historic pack-horse librarians of eastern Kentucky. He has published papers and essays in *The International Journal of the Book*, *The Journal of Library Administration*, *Communications in Information Literacy*, *Library and Information History*, *College and Research Libraries News*, and *Kentucky Libraries*. He has presented at both national and regional library conferences and is a regular academic book reviewer for *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*.

Vance served two terms as an appointed legislative advocate for Tennessee through the Association of Colleges and Research Libraries. He served five terms as a member of the Tennessee Library Association's board of directors and four terms as the organization's official legislative monitor. Vance earned his Bachelor of Arts from Western Kentucky University and his Master of Science from Simmons College in Boston. He is a member of Beta Phi Mu and the International Library and Information Studies Honor Society. Vance was named to the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels in recognition for his public service.

Faculty Senate

Dr. Joey Gray is an associate professor and program director of Leisure, Sport, and Tourism Studies in the Department of Health and Human Performance. Active in the MTSU community, she is the 2017–18 president of the Faculty Senate and serves as a member of the Honors faculty, graduate faculty, and EXL and MT Engage programs. She received her Ph.D. in Leisure Behavior from Indiana University; her master's degree in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management from North Carolina State University; and her bachelor's degree from Averett University. A faculty member at MTSU since 2006, Gray has focused her research on pedagogy in Leisure Studies and gender issues in Leisure.

Gray's dedication to teaching is marked by a history of student engagement and a few awards along the way. Her most prized honor to date is the MTSU Outstanding Teaching Award she received in 2016. Gray also received the Trustees' Teaching Award while at Indiana University. Gray says the most rewarding part of teaching is to have students say that she has made a difference in their lives. Asked about her dedication to students, she said: "I once hunted down a student when she dropped out of school. We had a connection, and I knew she needed a nudge every now and then. She was one of my first students in 2006–07 and graduated in May 2015." Among her students, Gray is well known for her sense of humor, accessibility, and active mentorship.

THE COLLEGE OF *Graduate Studies*

Doctor of Education

Assessment, Learning, and School Improvement

Kari Lynn Miller

B.A., University of Southern California
M.A., Pepperdine University
Dissertation: "The Development of Student Meaning and Mindset through the Practices of Standards-Based Grading"
Hooded by: Kevin Krahenbuhl

Mareen Pfeiffer Hoens

B.A., Middle Tennessee State University
M.Ed., Middle Tennessee State University
Dissertation: "An Investigation of Charter Schools' School Leader and Teacher Level of Assessment"
Hooded by: Donald Snead

Doctor of Philosophy

Economics

Mohammed Ibrahim Aldaghir

B.S., King Saud University
B.S., Middle Tennessee State University
M.B.A., Middle Tennessee State University
Dissertation: "Class Scheduling and Student Performance in Economics Principles"
Hooded by: Chris Klein

Mohammed Ahmed Saeed

B.B.A., King Abdulaziz University
M.B.A., Middle Tennessee State University
Dissertation: "Educational Attainment and Labor Market Integration of Young Adults, with Emphasis on Second-Generation Immigrants"
Hooded by: Anthon Eff

English

Jacquelyn C. Hayek

B.A., Fresno Pacific University
M.A., California State University–Sacramento
Dissertation: "Victims of Innocence: Victorian Heroines and the Patriarchal System in Catherine Hubback's Novels"
Hooded by: Elvira Casal

Corine Elizabeth Mathis

B.A., University of South Alabama
M.A., Auburn University
Dissertation: "From Liars to Slayers: Seeking a Better Understanding of the Teen Drama"
Hooded by: Mischa Renfroe

Human Performance

Casey B. Clark

B.S., Austin Peay State University
M.S., Middle Tennessee State University
Dissertation: "The Tactical March: Quantification of the Gait and Economy of the Airborne Shuffle in Torso Loaded U.S. Soldiers"
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Dissertation: "Improving Functional Independence in People with Incomplete Spinal Cord Injury through Eccentric Resistance Training"
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Shanna Nicole Savino
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Scott Morgan Storey
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Brian Gregory Taylor
Rachel E. Teo
Scott Michael Thissen
Alaina Brooke Thompson
Jennifer Nicole Thompson
Alexander Williams Urban
Diane Uwamahoro
Sherry Beth Velandra
Barbra Vilson
Daisy Lynn Wagner
Glenn Edward Whitefield
Brandon Lee Williams
Kelley L. Williams

Honor Graduates

CUM LAUDE (3.50–3.74 GPA)

COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Faisal M. Aleisa
Lynh Ngoc Ho
Tala J. Melhem
Mohammed A. Raboei
Laura Catherine Warren

Maddox Gray Stampley
Derriel Shontae Tolbert
Jasmin Stephanie Velazquez
Rebecca Ann Venus
Stanly Vongsa
Mary Carter Webster
Doreen Westberg
Joel R. Westberg

Austin Taylor Graf
Erika A. Kixmiller
Ashley Michelle Pardue
Ashaben Siddhathbhai Patel
Selvia George Sargious
Colton L. Shipley
Allison Blair Sones
Rosa Abigail Taylor

COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Andrew Michael Allen
Courtney F. Anderson
Lyndsey E. Clairday
John T. Farmer
Mariah Selitsch Fyke
Madison B. Gifford
Grayson L. Girsky
Jacqueline Alexis Marinelli
Nam Hoang Nguyen
Kelsey Elizabeth Nix
Jason Mwejor Revels
Benjamin Ray Sanderson
Olivia Rose Schultz
Caleb C. Smith

JENNINGS A. JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Nawaf N. Alsukhayri
Amro Ahmed I. Bahkali
Margaret Jo Coleman
Meghann Paige Eubanks
Nickolas A. Farmer
Justin Blaine Potts
Marcos Antonio Tadeo II
Courtney Locke Williams

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Parker J. Dodson
Chase Wilkerson Stewart

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Luz Mia Bahr
Deleecia D. Clark
Michael Reginald Fitch II
Sharahlee Helen Alicia Purrenhage
Julia A. Stanley
Rachel E. Teo

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Emily E. Baldwin
Andrea Caroline Forsythe

MAGNA CUM LAUDE (3.75–3.89 GPA)

COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Kimberlee Lynn Wilson
Christopher Daniel Winfrey
Justin Charles Winkler

JENNINGS A. JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Kylie Nicole House

COLLEGE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

Katherine Elisabeth Benton

COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Synthia J. Bouldin
Stacey Marie Bryant
Ariel Moranda Cornett
Callie Jane Gilliam
Shelby L. Herlong
Hannah Renee Maynard
Amelia Jade Morgan
Taylor A. Neese
Carolyn Pena
Cameron Phillip Shelton

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Michelle Lee Alderman
Austin Todd Currin
Colin Howerton
Charles F. Huffman
Sara Elizabeth Moorehead
Bryan Marti Saling Punyon
Crystal Jane Rogers
Lorie R. Sinks
Aliina J. Suri

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

David Anthony Amburgey
Paul Douglas Johnson III
Sherry M. Preston

SUMMA CUM LAUDE (3.90–4.00 GPA)

**COLLEGE OF BASIC
AND APPLIED SCIENCES**

Adam Clement Stuart

**COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL
AND HEALTH SCIENCES**

Elizabeth Nicole Axe
Laura J. Bell
Marisa Kathleen Fazzari
Baylee L. Shelton
Kyle James Tate
Elizabeth Ann Wilson
Jeeun Yi

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Michelle Ann Rathbun
Ashley Renae Shank

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Jessica Barnes
William L. C. Harrison
Jessica Marie Havican
Scott Morgan Storey

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Alma Mater

words and music by Charles Douglas Williams (B.M. '54)

We sing thy prai - ses faith - ful guide of youth;

The first system of musical notation for the song 'Alma Mater'. It consists of a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'We sing thy prai - ses faith - ful guide of youth;'.

Through all the a - ges af - firmed and strong in truth.

The second system of musical notation. The melody continues in the treble clef, and the accompaniment continues in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'Through all the a - ges af - firmed and strong in truth.'.

Al - ma Ma - ter Mid - dle Ten - nes - see

The third system of musical notation. The melody continues in the treble clef, and the accompaniment continues in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'Al - ma Ma - ter Mid - dle Ten - nes - see'.

We proud - ly of - fer our hearts in loy - al - ty.

The fourth and final system of musical notation. The melody concludes in the treble clef, and the accompaniment concludes in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'We proud - ly of - fer our hearts in loy - al - ty.'.

I AM *true*
BLUE™