

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY®

Commencement

AUGUST 7, 2021



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 ear-ly 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 - I'd

28 Dm G C Am D C G7 C

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

Summer Commencement

110th ACADEMIC YEAR

Saturday, August 7, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Murphy Athletic Center, Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, Tennessee



Middle Tennessee State University has awarded 170,967 degrees since its inception in 1911. Students have received associate, 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 392 Doctor of Arts degrees, 2,195 Specialist in Education degrees, 488 Doctor of Philosophy degrees, and 46 Doctor of Education degrees awarded.



Program
Saturday, August 7, 2021
9:00 a.m.

Processional: "Pomp and Circumstance" by Edward Elgar

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

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

Presentation of Colors.....	ROTC Cadet Color Guard
National Anthem	Dr. Will Perkins Assistant Professor, MTSU School of Music
Moment of Silence	
Presiding.....	Dr. Sidney A. McPhee President
Commencement Address	Dr. Rick Cottle 2020–21 Faculty Senate President
Presentation of Candidates for Degrees	Dr. Mark Byrnes University Provost
Conferring of Degrees.....	Dr. Sidney A. McPhee Graduate student listing begins on page 13 Undergraduate student listing begins on page 20
Alma Mater.....	MTSU School of Music Seniors
Retirement of Colors.....	ROTC Cadet Color Guard

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

Audience, please remain standing until the procession has left the arena floor.

Organist.....	Mr. Windell Little Adjunct Faculty, MTSU School of Music
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Announcing the Graduates Ms. Angela Tipps
Instructor, MTSU School of Music

Dr. Jennifer Vannatta-Hall
Interim Director, MTSU School of Music

Assisting with Diplomas.....Ms. Sherry Preston, Legal Assistant
Office of the University Counsel

Commencement Marshal

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

Heralds

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

Interpreter

Ms. Jaclyn Kollar
Bridges for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Commercial photographers will photograph each diploma presentation. These pictures will be available to graduates for purchase. No additional photography will be allowed on the floor of Murphy Center.

Platform Party

Saturday, August 7, 2021

Dr. Sidney A. McPhee
President

Dr. Mark Byrnes
University Provost

Dr. Rick Cottle
*Associate Professor, Department of
Human Sciences
2020–21 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. Greg Van Patten
*Interim Dean, College of Basic and
Applied Sciences*

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

Dr. David Urban
Dean, Jones College of Business

Dr. Robyn Ridgley
*Interim Associate Dean,
College of Education*

Dr. Leah Lyons
Interim Dean, College of Liberal Arts

Ms. Beverly Keel
*Dean, College of Media
and Entertainment*

Dr. John R. Vile
Dean, University Honors College

Ms. Kathleen L. Schmand
Dean, James E. Walker Library

Board of Trustees

Mr. J.B. Baker
Owner and CEO, Sprint Logistics

Mr. Thomas R. "Tom" Boyd
*Investment Advisor Representative,
Decker Wealth Management LLC*

Dr. Rick Cottle, Faculty Trustee
*Associate Professor, Department of
Human Sciences*

Mr. Pete DeLay
Principal, Lynwood Ventures LLC

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*Vice Chair, MTSU Board of Trustees
and Executive Chair, Zycron Inc.*

Mr. Joey A. Jacobs
*Retired Past Chair and CEO,
Acadia Healthcare*

Ms. Gabriela Jaimes, Student Trustee
*Undergraduate Candidate,
Communication Studies*

Mr. Stephen B. Smith, Chair
*Chair of the Board, Haury and
Smith Contractors*

Ms. Christine Karbowski Vanek
*Retired Chief Administrative Officer,
Chief Risk Officer, Executive Vice
President, and Vice Chair, Board of
Directors of Bridgestone Americas Inc.*

Ms. Pamela J. Wright
*Founder, Wright Travel
President and Managing Partner,
Wright Development*

Alumni Association President

On behalf of the Middle Tennessee State University National Alumni Association, I congratulate you on joining our international network of more than 140,000 MTSU alumni. As a student, you embraced MTSU's core values of honesty and integrity, respect for diversity, engagement in the community, and commitment to nonviolence. As an alum, we hope that you represent our alma mater well throughout the world, actively contribute to your field, and are civically engaged.

Always be proud of the excellent education you received here and remain connected to your faculty and fellow alumni. Stay involved with the Alumni Association by following MTSU Alumni on social media, calling the Office of Alumni Relations at 1-800-533-MTSU (6878), and visiting mtalumni.com.

Take time today to reflect on how your life was changed while at MTSU and celebrate the hard work you put in to earn your degree. Congratulations again!

Matthew Hibdon ('12, '14)
President, MTSU National Alumni Association Board, 2021–22

Commencement Speaker

Dr. Frederick S. “Rick” Cottle
2020–21 Faculty Senate President
Associate Professor, Department of Human Sciences



Dr. Rick Cottle is a textile/apparel industry veteran turned educator. He earned a B.S. in Textile Technology from Auburn University in 1984, an M.B.A. from the University of Phoenix in 2003, and a Ph.D. in Consumer Affairs from Auburn University in 2012. He spent his 25+ years in the textile/apparel industry in roles like manufacturing management, industrial engineering, cost accounting, marketing, and sales.

Cottle joined MTSU’s College of Behavioral and Health Sciences in 2013 and teaches a broad spectrum of topics within the textile/apparel industry. His research focuses on three-dimensional body scanning as it pertains to the fit of apparel items to the human body. He is currently serving a two-year term on the MTSU Board of Trustees.

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 wooden 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 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 lapis lazuli and sterling 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 BEARER

Dr. Jenna Gray-Hildenbrand joined the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at MTSU in fall 2012 as an assistant professor of Religious Studies and also as a member of the Women's and Gender Studies faculty. She earned a B.A. degree in both Religion and Women's Studies from Western Michigan University, an M.A. in Religious Studies from the University of Colorado–Boulder, and a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the University of California–Santa Barbara. Gray-Hildenbrand's research focuses on religion and law in the United States, with a specialization in the criminalization of religious practice. So, when she is not in the classroom, you may find her doing ethnographic research in the mountains of Appalachia in small Christian churches practicing serpent-handling.

Immediately upon her arrival at MTSU, Gray-Hildenbrand began developing the Religious Studies program with the goal of providing students with a religious literacy that is invaluable in our diverse society. To that end, she created a General Education course, RS 2030: Religion and Society. This course utilizes both in-class activities and site visits to local religious communities to provide MTSU students firsthand experience of the religious diversity in Middle Tennessee. This religious literacy helps students to better serve their future patients, students, clients, co-workers, and neighbors. Together with Dr. Rebekka King, Gray-Hildenbrand created the B.A. and B.S. programs in Religious Studies at MTSU. In addition to serving as program coordinator of the Religious Studies program, Gray-Hildenbrand directed student theses, independent studies, URECA research projects, and Scholars Week presentations. In 2017, she won the MTSU Experiential Teaching Outstanding Faculty Award. In 2020, she won an Outstanding Teaching Award. Gray-Hildenbrand is consistently recognized by graduating seniors as a faculty member who makes a real difference.

In addition to conference presentations and publications, Gray-Hildenbrand has earned two multiyear, external collaborative grants in support of teaching advancements. The first \$30,000 grant, "Building Bridges Across New, Multidisciplinary Religious Studies Programs in the South" (2016–2018), aimed to share intellectual resources among three new Religious Studies programs (Clemson, University of North Florida, and MTSU) to cultivate valuable classroom learning experiences that produce measurable learning outcomes for institutional and regional stakeholders. The second \$30,000 grant, "Under Pressure: Teaching Critical Religious Studies" (2019–present), is a learning community of 12 undergraduate professors from different institutions seeking to address the needs of our students in the classroom by bringing disciplinary critiques in Religious Studies and the scholarship of teaching and learning into dialogue. By doing this bridging, they develop a variety of teaching techniques that resonate with our students, reflect the disciplinary critiques of our field, and accord with evidence-based research on teaching and learning. The results of this research will be published in a forthcoming book under contract with Bloomsbury Press.

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 degrees and specializations.

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 doctoral degrees, with the latter being longer. Hoods are lined with the official colors of the universities that conferred the degrees; 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 wearer’s major academic field. Further, the velvet bars on the sleeves may be either black or the same color as the discipline color of the hood. Colors associated with various subjects follow:

- Agriculture** - Maize
- Arts, Letters, Humanities** - White
- Commerce, Accountancy, Business** - Drab
- Criminal Justice** - Purple
- 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
- Public Health** - Salmon
- Science** - Gold
- Social Work** - Citron

The black cap, either a mortarboard or a tam, 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 the prayer, the playing of the alma mater, and the commencement address.

Undergraduate Latin honor graduates are distinguished by the stoles added to their gowns based upon the inclusive GPA: gold for those graduating summa cum laude, 3.90 to 4.0; silver for magna cum laude, 3.75 to 3.89; and white for cum laude, 3.50 to 3.74.

Graduating from the University Honors College is an additional merit awarded to students who have completed the Honors program, defended a thesis, and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or higher. Graduates of the University Honors College who have completed at least 29 hours with a 3.25 average in the Honors program will receive blue and white cords. Those who have maintained a minimum average of 3.65 in the Honors program are graduating the University Honors College with distinction.

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 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.

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

Military veteran students are distinguished by specially designed red stoles 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.

MT Engage Scholars are distinguished by royal blue, white, and gold cords. These students completed MT Engage-designated courses that promote active learning and integrated their learning by reflecting on connections across disciplines and between their academic and cocurricular experiences. MT Engage students showcased their integrative learning in an ePortfolio that documented their community and campus involvement as well as the academic knowledge and skills they gained during their time at MTSU.

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

Undergraduate Research students graduating with Distinction are wearing a dark blue, light blue, and white cord. These students graduating with Scholar Distinction are also wearing a medallion to recognize their completion of a research or creative project, its dissemination to the MTSU campus and/or a nationally recognized conference, and their engagement in promoting undergraduate research to the campus.

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, with 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 the Faculty Senate. Art Professor Janet Higgins, her student Kristi Baughman, and Darrell Callis Burks, designer in Creative Marketing Solutions and 2000 B.F.A. graduate, designed and executed the banners. 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. Don Hong, professor of Mathematical Sciences and well-known speaker and researcher, directs MTSU's award-winning Actuarial Science program. Hong earned his Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from Texas A&M University and completed his postdoctoral training at the University of Texas at Austin in Computational Mathematics. Before moving to MTSU, he was a tenured professor at East Tennessee State University, where he directed the actuarial mathematics program. He has also been a visiting professor in the departments of Mathematics and Biostatistics at Vanderbilt University as well as an intern at the Texas Department of Insurance.

Hong received the 2009 Distinguished Faculty Research Award from the MTSU Foundation and has been nominated for a Career Achievement Award (2018–2020). His research areas include approximation theory, medical data analysis, and computational statistics. His publications include two books and more than 50 research articles in leading journals.

College of Behavioral and Health Sciences

Dr. Rebecca Fischer received her bachelor's degree from Trinity University, her master's degree from McGill University, and her Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University. She joined the MTSU faculty in 1995 as a member of the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology program, where her teaching focuses on phonetics, hearing and speech science, and audiology. Her research interests include the relationship between hearing loss and cognitive function. Fischer received the Outstanding Teaching Award in 1998 and 2013.

Jennings A. Jones College of Business

Dr. Tom Morgan is an assistant professor in the Department of Management in the Jones College of Business. He received his undergraduate degree and Master of Business Administration degree from Arkansas State University. He earned the Ph.D. in Business with a concentration in Logistics Systems from the University of North Texas in 2018. Morgan teaches Supply Chain Operations, Distribution, and International Sourcing.

Morgan's research interests include supply chain learning and business relationship building. Morgan has guest lectured at Arkansas State University, Indiana State University, and the Air Force Institute of Technology.

Prior to joining MTSU, Morgan spent nearly 30 years in private industry. After receiving his Ph.D., he was an associate professor of Supply Chain Management and director of the Center for Entrepreneurship at Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania. While at Shippensburg, he was awarded the Charles H. Diller Service Award in recognition of his contribution toward growth of the entrepreneurship center.

College of Education

Dr. Heather Kaye Dillard is an associate professor in the Womack Educational Leadership Department. She earned her B.S. in Geoscience Education from Middle Tennessee State University in 1997. She then began her teaching career as a high school Social Studies teacher with Metro Davidson County Schools. She later completed two additional degrees from Middle Tennessee State University—an M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction and an Ed.S. in Curriculum and Technology. Upon moving to a middle school in the Rutherford County School System, she began working with student teachers. This led her to complete an Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Tennessee State University so that she would be qualified to continue that work in higher education. Since arriving at MTSU in 2013, she has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in the Educational Leadership Department and in the College of Education's Assessment, Learning, and School Improvement doctoral program. Partnering with local school systems to effectively prepare teacher candidates and to offer support to current teachers and administrators is a great joy for her. Dillard maintains extensive affiliations through national, state, and local professional organizations and presents at numerous education conferences. Her main research interest includes professional learning communities and support for novice teachers.

Faculty Senate

Mr. Robert Gordon, associate 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 multicamera television program production at MTSU for the past 14 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 live-event television program production, including sporting events, television concerts, series, newscasts, and awards shows. His students produce live, 10-camera football, basketball, volleyball, and soccer games for ESPN+ and for broadcast. They have also produced TV concerts for Bonnaroo, the Nashville Symphony, Capitol Records, and professional acts at the Franklin Theatre such as Sierra Hull, Richard Thompson, Phil Keaggy, Gretchen Peters, Riders In The Sky, and others.

Gordon is the Faculty Senate president for 2021–22, program coordinator for the Video and Film Live Production degree program, faculty advisor for the student-run television station MT10, and executive producer for the student-staffed television production company, Media Arts Productions.

Gordon produces and directs the WNPT interview/performance television series *The Songwriters* for the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame and MTSU, which is hosted by former College of Media and Entertainment Dean Ken Paulson. This is the first MTSU-based television series produced for PBS stations.

Gordon has produced and directed three modern dance videos for the professional dance company New Dialect and a series of 4K, 360-degree music videos for multi-Grammy winner Mark O'Connor.

Gordon has taught as an exchange faculty at the University of Salford at Media CityUK in Manchester England, guest lectures at the University of Cincinnati, and was selected as a Fulbright Award alternate by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars to teach at the Baltic Film, Media, Arts and Communication School at Tallinn University in Tallinn, Estonia.

Gordon also was also selected as a recipient of the 2017–18 and the 2019–20 Outstanding Experiential Learning (EXL) Faculty Award.

College of Graduate Studies

Dr. Jim K. Rost is originally from Chicago. He was always very active in the youth sports community and eventually earned a baseball scholarship to MidAmerica Nazarene University in 1990 and lettered there for three years before an injury cut his career short. While at MNU, he performed athletic training duties in various sports until his graduation in 1994. He then became a therapeutic exercise specialist in two clinical physical therapy settings until 1997. Rost graduated from San Diego State University with a master's in Sport Psychology in 1999 and then went on to work in academic support for student athletes as a counselor and administrator at the University of Southern California, Louisiana State University, MTSU, and Auburn University from 1999–2011. Rost left college athletics and returned to MTSU in an administrative post in the College of Education

as the advising manager for Student Success and Advising Services and completed his Ph.D. in Human Performance in 2015. In addition to his administrative post, Rost was an adjunct instructor in the Health and Human Performance Department from 2013–2020. Rost completed the College and University Teaching Certificate in Higher Education Administration in 2020 and was appointed to the position of assistant professor in Educational Leadership in August 2020. He is currently the coordinator for the Ed.D. in Assessment, Learning, and Student Success Higher Education concentration at MTSU. Rost resides in Murfreesboro and enjoys golfing in his spare time.

College of Liberal Arts

Dr. Arunesh Nadgir is the coordinator of Keyboard Studies and an associate professor in the MTSU School of Music. Nadgir has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in the United States, South America, Europe, and Asia. He maintains a private piano studio, frequently adjudicates music competitions, and serves on the executive board of the Tennessee Music Teachers Association. He has previously held teaching positions at New England Conservatory's Preparatory and Continuing Education departments, the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, and the Point CounterPoint Music Camp. His students have been accepted to music festivals and college music programs across the country and have won top prizes at pre-college and college-level music competitions. Nadgir holds degrees from the New England Conservatory of Music, The Juilliard School, and the Eastman School of Music.

College of Media and Entertainment

Ms. Tammy Donham received her Bachelor of Science in Marketing degree from Western Kentucky University and her Master of Business Administration degree from Middle Tennessee State University. Donham worked for Fruit of the Loom Inc. in several marketing capacities before moving in 1996 to Nashville where she worked for nearly 17 years for the Country Music Association (CMA).

She held various marketing positions within CMA, ultimately rising to vice-president of marketing. While in her post as VP, she oversaw all marketing, creative services, and research efforts for the CMA Awards, CMA Music Festival, and CMA Country Christmas events and television specials, including broadcast, digital, radio, out-of-home, and print initiatives. She was CMA's lead liaison with ABC Television Marketing, Synergy, and Affiliate teams and worked closely with these, as well as other event partners, to maximize promotional and brand-building opportunities for CMA properties across all platforms.

Since joining the faculty at Middle Tennessee State University in 2013, Donham has taught numerous undergraduate and graduate courses including Marketing of Recordings, Digital Strategies for the Music Business, Entertainment Branding, and Research in the Music Industry. She frequently teaches online courses and was the recipient of the 2016 Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology Award. Donham is a graduate of Leadership Music (class of 2012), as well as a member of the Television Academy and the Country Music Association.

University Honors College

Dr. Joan E. McRae is professor of French in the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at Middle Tennessee State University, with degrees from Agnes Scott College (B.A.), Middlebury College (M.A.), and the University of Virginia (Ph.D.). She teaches in both graduate and undergraduate programs in Honors, French, Humanities, and Liberal Arts, on campus and online. Her research activity includes published books and articles on medieval literature and manuscript studies, French film, and study abroad; she also edits, creates, and translates articles for Wikipedia.

University College

Dr. Vivian Alley is a professor teaching prescribed mathematics courses in the University Studies Department. She graduated from Middle Tennessee State University with her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Mathematics and with her Specialist in Education degree. She also graduated from Tennessee State University with her Doctor of Education. She has made numerous presentations at the state and national levels and has published several articles in professional journals. She serves as coordinator over the Mathematics area in her department, as a member on many committees in her department and for the University, and as faculty advisor of Alpha Omega (a Christian student organization). She is a member of the Tennessee Association of Student Success and Retention, where she served as membership chair for 11 years and as treasurer for six years. She was honored to receive the Educator of the Year Award from the Tennessee Association for Developmental Education and the NADE (National Association for Developmental Education) Award for Outstanding Service to Developmental Education Students.

James E. Walker Library

Ms. Beverly J. Geckle earned her M.L.S. from the University of Maryland and an M.A. in Historical Studies from the University of Maryland–Baltimore County. She is the Continuing Resources librarian in the Collection Development and Management Department at Walker Library. She manages the unit responsible for acquiring print and electronic information resources. She has been a faculty member at MTSU since 2006 after several years at the University of Baltimore Law Library. A few years after arriving at Walker Library, Geckle initiated and managed a project to make microfilm copies of the MTSU student newspaper, *Sidelines*. This project preserved the newspaper and has enabled its digitization, making it more accessible and available to future users. She has presented at national conferences and is an active member of NASIG, a professional organization committed to improving the management of information resources. She served as treasurer of NASIG from 2013–2016. She also served as co-chair of the planning committee for the NASIG annual conference held in Nashville in 2012. Geckle’s current research interests include the role of learned societies in scholarly publishing.

THE COLLEGE OF *Graduate Studies*

Doctor of Philosophy

Jessica Paz Salita Abarquez-New

M.S., Radford University
B.A., Radford University
"From Vague Standards to Qualitative Clarity:
A Validation Study of the Multicultural Text
Selection Rubric"
Hooded by: Katie Schrodt

Rawsam Samir Alasmar

M.B.A., Governors State University
M.S., Rochester Institute of Technology
B.S., Rochester Institute of Technology
"The Effect of the Pendl Training on Balance, Hip
Flexibility, Back Strength and Power in Adults with
Chronic Low Back Pain After an 8-Week Strength
Training Program when Compared to a Control Group"
Hooded by: Sandra Stevens

John Dale Butwell

M.A., Eastern Kentucky University
B.A., Indiana University Bloomington
"Mark Twain's Ambivalence toward the 'Tennessee Land'
and his Pioneer Roots in Kentucky: The 'Savage' Other
and the 'Sivilized' Order"
Hooded by: Carl Ostrowski

Leonard James Casterline

M.S., Cumberland University
B.S., Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania
"Online and Virtual Training During the COVID-19
Pandemic"
Hooded by: Jennifer Caputo

Gerald Wayne Christian Jr.

M.Ed., Middle Tennessee State University
B.S., Middle Tennessee State University
"The Pursuit of Sexual Activity for People with
Quadriplegia and the Surrounding Stigma: Psychological
and Sociological Determinants Important to the Pursuit
of Sexual Activity"
Co-Hooded by: Angie Bowman and Joey Gray

Rebecca Elizabeth Claypool

M.S., Middle Tennessee State University
B.A., Lipscomb University
"Trauma-Informed Practice among Exercise Professionals
as a Developing Determinant of Exercise Behavior for
Survivors of Sexual Abuse"
Hooded by: Bethany Wrye

Nicole Neal Crouch

M.Ed., Tennessee Technological University
B.B.A., Middle Tennessee State University
"The Effect of a Knowledge-Based Curriculum Using
Science Read-Alouds on Vocabulary, Content, and
Listening Comprehension Outcomes with Preschoolers"
Hooded by: Eric Oslund

Atia Ferdousee

M.A., Middle Tennessee State University
M.S., Jahangirnagar University
B.S., Jahangirnagar University
"Three Chapters on Electric Vehicle Adoption"
Hooded by: Michael Roach

Jennifer Lynn Francois

Ed.S., Middle Tennessee State University
M.A., Webster University
B.A., Webster University
"Effectiveness of Multimodal Feedback and Formulaic
Sequences on Fluency in Academic Speaking Tasks of
Secondary School English Learners"
Hooded by: Mohammed Albakry

Matthew Stanley Grisnik

M.S., Marshall University
B.S., University of Findlay
"Bat Microbiome Resistance through Functional
Redundancy in Response to a Fungal Pathogen"
Hooded by: Donald Walker

Colbi Layne Williams Hogan

M.Ed., Auburn University
B.A., Auburn University
"Displaced to Save the World: Strategies for Using
Historic Preservation and Education to Interpret
Pre-1942 Communities in Oak Ridge, Tennessee"
Hooded by: Carroll Van West

Robert Corbitt Huseth

M.S., Middle Tennessee State University
B.S., Middle Tennessee State University
"The Effects of an Aerobic-Based Conditioning
Program on Veterans with PTSD Symptoms and
Sleep Deficiencies"
Hooded by: Sandra Stevens

Alysia Ann Jenkins

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COLLEGE OF *Media and Entertainment*

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Andrew Allen Abrams
Riley Jo Anderson
Robert Angelotti
Tajee Cornelius Barnes
Jonathon Spencer Barton
Abbey Marie Burgett
Katera C. Carr
Jordan Anthony Cobbs
Evan Wesley Coover
Greyson D. Courtney
Rebecca Lee Daniels
Zachary Daniel Domberg
Evan Scott Dover
William Chad Finchum
Nathan Marcus Fink
Joanna Katria Finley

Kelly Jan Grenvik
Joseph S. Guymon
William Tyler Hamby
Kristal Danielle Hamilton
Robert Fletcher Howell Jr.
Garret M. Kimmel
Taylor Christopher Krebs
Alexander Paul Kundert
Jackson Todd Marion
Jackson Hayes McKeague
Thomas Richard Meadow III
Corey Jontrell Miller
Ashley J. Norman
Christopher Jon Olson Jr.
Christian Myles Patterson
Kendall Grace Petersen
Emma Elizabeth Petty

Madison Anne Pruitt
Nicholas B. Radtke
Miranda Marie Renzi
Taylor Alexis Rivers
Christian Blake Robinson
Adrian Salters-Woodham
Cole Bradley Skaggs
Alanah Monya Story
Collin Layne Thompson
Lauren Elizabeth Tunstall
Alexis Jade Tyler
Ana Lee Walker
Earl Kirk Wallen
Darius J. Watkins
Morgan Dion Wesley
Cherry Elizabeth Williams

University College

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Steven Kyle Adcock
Amerah Dominique Alexander
Renee Brock Aly
Alexander Isaac Ashworth
James Atkins
Isabella C. Aversa
Dorothy Barreau
Ta'Seanna Alisah Bell
Rebecca Lynn Bennett
Michael Alan Betzold
James Birkofer
April Denise Blanch
Mary Lane Booten
Julia Ellen Brockner
Melissa Jean Brooks
Edward Harris Brown
Patrecia Sandra Brown
Leslie Buckingham
Chapel D. Burns
Brian Keith Butler
Adrian Denise Cammon
Lynsie Chamberlain
Anaston Hope Chisam
Kaitlyn B. Cox
Nicholas David Csercsevit
Nicholas Clark Curee
Kailey Brianna Demastus
Kelli Downer
Emily Caroline Earl
Sydney Nicole Ellis
Patricia R. Estrada

Anood B. Ezzeir
Kevin Benjamin Feldman
Nicole Denise Ford
Alexis D. Fouts
Brandon Keith Garrett
Cory Alexander Gibson
Jamie Nicole Gillihan
Steven Gioielli
Kenneth R. Graver
Austin Harris
Anastasia Keystarcia Hayes
Kailey A. Hayes
Larry Cam Henderson Jr.
Natalie Rose Hickman
Kristin Meshea Hughes
Tahlir Isabel Hughes
Destiny Joshua Idugboe
Robin Link Inglis
Margaret Alaina Jack
Amanda Christine Johnson
Leslie Ann Kekelis
Jordan Elizabeth Leath
Tammye Brown Ledford
Erin R. Lee
Michelle Lynnette Livingston
Clare Elise Manning
Clark Alexander Martin
Thomas Eugene Mathis
Heather Lyne Meares
Marilyn Camille Mickle
Samuel Travis Mitchell
Luke Parker Moore
Matheau Brian Mosley

Michelle Smith Murphy
Heather Rojas Newman
Asher L. O'Hara
David Christopher Palmer
Philip Wayne Patton
Dajana Pavicic
Renee Shantel Pennington
Terrie Lynn Peterson
David M. Posey
Amber D. Potts
Phillip Dean Prior II
Myesha Arielle Ramsey
Jason Kyle Robertson
Jereld L. Rogers
Jordan Scott Rogers
Mason Thomas Salvatore
Steven Michael Shattuck
Lisa Marie Shaw
Meagan Y. Shaw
Casie Jo Smith
Edward Stegall
Bryan Scott Swanson
Angela Jeannette Taylor
Emma Rhea Tenpenny
Megan A. Turner
Fabrice Uwimana
Megan R. Vetter
Spencer Lawrence Walker
Tosha Latrice Williams
Taylor Justine Wilson
Vincent L. Windrow II
Danielle Martrice Yount

Honor Graduates

CUM LAUDE (3.50–3.74 INCLUSIVE GPA)

COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Christopher Ayers
James Baron Cummings III
Andrew Bailey Dobbins
Nicholas Harvey Echols
Tyler John Firman
Hayden Paul Locum
Anthony Utah McEntire
S. Jackson Oakey
Jarrett Michael Patmore
Oxana Sergeevna Puzyreva
Jonathan Wayne Smotherman

COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Kylee Amelia Alvarez
Monica Arias-Serrano
Hilarie Leah Austin
Heather Marie Beardsley
Katherine D. Berman
Daniel Christian Ryan Brunner
Jacquelyn E. Davis
Sarah Elizabeth Diaz
Mason Riley Finney
Delaney Shea Freeze
Wesley C. Frisbee
Aliana R. Garcia
Reagan O. Hall
Christian D. Haynes
Kacie Alexandria Jackson
Jamal L. Jones
Jessica Wynne Loso
Devin Blake Meno
Cassidy Catelyne Erwin Parrish
Valerie Wade Pulk
Valerie R. Schrock
John Boyd Thomas Jr.
Alexis K. Vallier
Olivia G. White

JENNINGS A. JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Ibrahim Saleh Alhumaidi
Kara M. Beggin
Alexa de Jesus Cobian
MaKayla Danyelle Cummings
Truc Thi Thanh Le
Hayley L. Smith
Kenia Yeaneth Torres
Pa Ying Yang

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Kylee Amelia Alvarez
Ashlyn B. Bresee
Amanda Gabrielle Chirinos
Ricardo Garcia
Chertiqua Chernee Hargrove
Arien Lenora Howse
Eunseo Lee
Manuel Martinez
Hunter M. Spence
Nia Walthall-Moon
Eli J. Walton

COLLEGE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

Rebecca Lee Daniels
William Tyler Hamby
Corey Jontrell Miller
Ashley J. Norman
Emma Elizabeth Petty
Lauren Elizabeth Tunstall

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Michael Alan Betzold
Julia Ellen Brocker
Kaitlyn B. Cox
Emily Caroline Earl
Sydney Nicole Ellis
Alexis D. Fouts
Kenneth R. Graver
Heather Lyne Meares
Renee Shantel Pennington
Casie Jo Smith
Taylor Justine Wilson

MAGNA CUM LAUDE (3.75–3.89 INCLUSIVE GPA)

COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Abdulmoez Arab
Abdulrahim Mohammed A. Bin Mulayh
Ryan Wiley Doole
Dakota Lee McDonald
Dylan Lee McDonald
Glenn Mitchell Randolph
Ronald Marc Robbins
Colleen Marie Roberts
Benjamyn Savard
Terry Joel Seaton
Joseph James Zimmerman

COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Taylor Nicole Ball
Johnathon A. Cleek
Olivia Jo Craker
Jenna Moore Demonbreun
Abany V. Dugger
Stacey Herndon
Mattison Jaine King
Anna Page Wolfe
Mackenzie Ryan Woods

JENNINGS A. JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Susanna A. Gayed
Alexander Vernon Jones
Cung San Lun

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Luke Aaron Arnold
Makayla Dawn Barrett
Caleb James Edward Brush
Sheridan K. Harrison
Ruth Anne Hollingsworth
Shelby Kay Lemmon
Lisa Michelle Martin
Colleen Marie Roberts

COLLEGE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

Riley Jo Anderson
Greyson D. Courtney
Evan Scott Dover
Joanna Katria Finley
Kelly Jan Grenvik
Madison Anne Pruitt

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Larry Cam Henderson Jr.
Robin Link Inglis
Angela Jeannette Taylor

SUMMA CUM LAUDE (3.90–4.00 INCLUSIVE GPA)

COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Ahmed Mohammed A. Alaqil
Ahmed Mansour M. Almalki
Mya R. Vader

COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Jarod Randall Ball
Madison Danielle Barker
Daisy Munoz
Misty Onevathana
Summer Pritchard
Logan A. Woynaroski

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Erica Shannon Combs
Kyle T. Inman
Grace E. Santodonato

COLLEGE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

Nathan Marcus Fink
Miranda Marie Renzi

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Brandon Keith Garrett

University Honors College

UNIVERSITY HONORS WITH DISTINCTION

Jarod Randall Ball
Makayla Dawn Barrett
Ryan Wiley Doole
Summer Pritchard
Miranda Marie Renzi
Colleen Marie Roberts

ROTC Commissionees

Tanner Luke Campbell
Daniel Kenneth Diaz-McFarland
Sheridan K. Harrison
Nathan Caleb Jones
Fabrice Uwimana
James Jay Wright



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

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 has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. 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 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 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 lyrics are: 'We proud - ly of - fer our hearts in loy - al - ty.'