

Summer Commencement

August 6, 2022



Founded 1911

Charles M. Murphy Athletic Center
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

The Star-Spangled Banner

Lyrics by Francis Scott Key

Music by John Stafford Smith



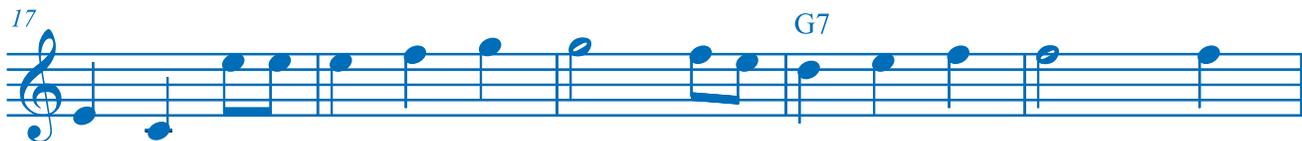
O say, can you see by the dawn's ear-ly light what so proud - ly we



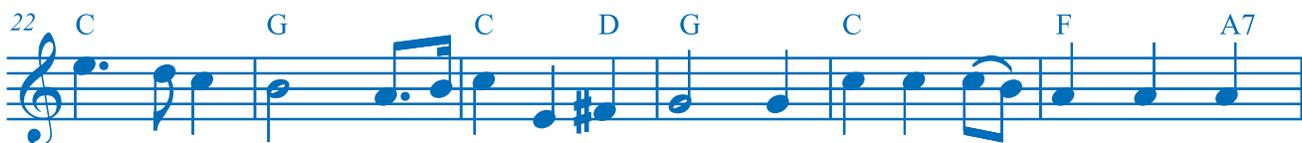
hailed at the twi-light's last gleam - ing? Whose broad stripes and bright stars thro' the



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



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



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



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

Summer Commencement

111TH ACADEMIC YEAR

Saturday, August 6, 2022

9:00 a.m.

Charles M. Murphy Athletic Center
Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, Tennessee



Middle Tennessee State University has awarded 175,686 degrees since its inception in 1911. Students have received associate, bachelor's, master's, specialist, and doctoral degrees. Our first Doctor of Arts degrees were conferred on December 22, 1972; the first Specialist in Education 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, 2,242 Specialist in Education degrees, 534 Doctor of Philosophy degrees, and 51 Doctor of Education degrees awarded.



Program

Processional: "Pomp and Circumstance" by Edward Elgar

*Audience, please remain standing for the processional,
singing of the national anthem, and a moment of silence.*

Men, please remove hats for the singing of the national anthem and a moment of silence.

National Anthem Dr. H. Stephen Smith
Professor, School of Music

Moment of Silence

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

Commencement Speaker..... Mr. Robert Gordon
2021–22 Faculty Senate President

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

Conferring of Degrees..... Dr. Sidney A. McPhee
Graduate listing begins on page 13
Undergraduate listing begins on page 22

Alma Mater..... Dr. H. Stephen Smith
Professor, School of Music

Organist..... Mr. Windell Little

Announcing the Graduates..... Ms. Kristi Shamburger
Associate Professor, Department of Theatre and Dance

Dr. H. Stephen Smith
Professor, School of Music

Recessional: "Hornpipe" from *Water Music* by G. F. Handel
Audience, please remain standing until the procession has left the arena.

Commencement Marshal

Dr. Laurie Witherow

Associate Vice Provost for Admissions and Enrollment Services

Heralds

Mr. Steven Byrd, Ms. Yvonne Elliott, Ms. Anne Ford,

Ms. Allison McGoffin, and Mr. Chris Rochelle

Faculty Marshals

Ms. Sherry Preston

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

Dr. Sidney A. McPhee
President

Dr. Mark Byrnes
University Provost

Mr. Robert Gordon
*Associate Professor, Department of Media Arts
2021–22 Faculty Senate President*

Mr. Alan Thomas
Vice President for Business and Finance

Mr. William J. Bales
Vice President for University Advancement

Ms. Yvette Clark
*Interim 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. David Butler
*Vice Provost for Research and
Dean, College of Graduate Studies*

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

Dr. Saeed Foroudastan
*Associate Dean, College of Basic
and Applied Sciences*

Dr. Barbara F. Turnage
*Interim Dean, College of
Behavioral and Health Sciences*

Dr. David J. Urban
*Dean, Jennings A. Jones College
of Business*

Dr. Rick Vanosdall
Interim Dean, College of Education

Dr. Leah Tolbert Lyons
Dean, College of Liberal Arts

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

Dr. John R. Vile
Dean, University Honors College

Ms. Kathleen Schmand
Dean, James E. Walker Library

Board of Trustees

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

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

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

Mr. Pete DeLay
Principal, Lynwood Ventures LLC

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

Mr. Andrew Carpenter, Student Trustee
*Master's Candidate,
Business Administration*

Ms. Christine Karbowskiak, Vice Chair
*Retired Vice Chair, Chief Administrative Officer,
Chief Risk Officer, and Executive Vice President,
Bridgestone Americas*

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

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 students, you embraced MTSU's core values of honesty and integrity, respect for diversity, engagement in the community, and commitment to nonviolence. As an alumnus, I encourage you to represent our alma mater well throughout the world, actively contribute to your field, and be 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!

Michael Hogan ('93)
President, MTSU National Alumni Association Board, 2022–23

Commencement Speaker

Mr. Robert Gordon
2021–22 Faculty Senate President
Associate Professor, Department of Media Arts



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.

He has taught multi-camera television production at MTSU for 15 years. He also has been a national television producer for over 40 years, producing a wide range of entertainment programming for Cinemax, PBS, CMT, TNN, GMC, The Family Channel, syndication, and Time Warner.

At MTSU, Gordon teaches live-event television production, including sporting events, concerts and music festivals, and awards shows. His students produce live sporting events for ESPN+ and for broadcast—30 games last year alone. They have also produced TV concerts for Bonnaroo, the Nashville Symphony, Capitol Records, and professional acts at the Franklin Theater. In December, his students produced a live-streamed concert special with the University of Salford in Manchester, England. Gordon and his students have received several international awards for their productions.

At Bonnaroo in June, Gordon's class, along with a RIM audio class, produced 21 live music performances for video over four days. Eleven of those performances were seen on the Hulu Channel.

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

Gordon produces and directs the WNPT interview/performance television series *The Songwriters* for the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame and MTSU. This series, hosted by former College of Media and Entertainment Dean Ken Paulson, is currently seen on Channel 8 and on more than 120 PBS stations across the country. This is the first MTSU-based television series produced for PBS stations.

During his time at MTSU, Gordon has independently produced the *41st Annual Gospel Music Association Dove Awards* for the GMC cable network, the Chonda Pierce *Stayin' Alive . . . Laughing!* comedy DVD, a concert special for Richard Thompson, 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.

Prior to coming to MTSU, Gordon produced *The Chieftains: Down the Old Plank Road* multiple-artist special for RCA Records and PBS, an Alabama Christmas special for TNN, six *America's Christian Music Awards* specials, three Barbara Mandrell specials, and a Chet Atkins music special for Cinemax, which included Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, The Everly Brothers, Emmylou Harris, Michael McDonald, and Mark Knopfler from Dire Straits. Gordon also has produced hidden-camera celebrity practical-joke specials, documentaries, and more.

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

Currently, Gordon is developing a 4K, 360-degree video of Sonus, a Nashville a cappella vocal chorus, and a performance special with The Smoking Section, a Nashville 15-piece pop/funk band made up of A-list session players. He is also writing a textbook about network and international live-event television directors for Focal Press/Routledge/Taylor & Francis.

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 state 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

Charles "Odie" Blackmon earned his B.S. in Recording Industry Management from Middle Tennessee State University and his M.L.A.S. from Vanderbilt University with Creative Writing, Creative Arts, History, and Humanities Teaching and Learning certifications. Blackmon was named Billboard's No. 1 Hot Country Songwriter in 2005 and lauded for his Grammy-nominated, Country Music Association Single of the Year "I May Hate Myself in the Morning."

His songs have been recorded and performed by artists such as Lee Ann Womack, John Legend, and Martina McBride and include No. 1 hit singles by Gary Allan and George Strait, resulting in over 31 million units in combined sales across multiple genres. While maintaining his presence on Music Row as a writer, producer, and publisher, Blackmon has also worked as a talent consultant for television shows *American Idol* and *America's Got Talent*.

At MTSU, he is an associate professor in the Department of Recording Industry. In addition to teaching, Blackmon is coordinator of the department's Commercial Songwriting concentration and has raised more than \$70,000 to support the program's growth. He was awarded the Outstanding Faculty Award from MTSU's Experiential Learning Scholars Program in 2016, the Distinguished Creative Activity Award from the MTSU Foundation in 2017, the Experiential Education Rising Leader Award from the National Society of Experiential Education in 2018, the True Blue Citation of Distinction for Achievement in Education from the MTSU Alumni Association in 2020, and the Outstanding Teaching Award from the MTSU Foundation in 2021. He has served on the boards of the Music and Entertainment Industry Educators Association and the Association for Popular Music Education, and on the Library of Congress/U.S. Copyright Office's Mechanical Licensing Collective.



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 1321 statute in England 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 with 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 - 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
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, regalia 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 regalia. 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 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. Mark "Nate" Callender joined the Aerospace Department at Middle Tennessee State University in 2005. He earned an M.S. in Aviation Systems and a Ph.D. in Engineering Science from the University of Tennessee Space Institute. He coordinates and teaches courses in the Aerospace Technology concentration; supervises the Aerospace Technology laboratory; mentors undergraduate and graduate researchers (Aerospace Technology seniors, URECA Scholars, Honors students, and master's students); chairs departmental and University committees; is a member of the EXL, Honors, and graduate faculty; and is an associate chair of the Aerospace Department. He specializes in low Reynolds number aerodynamics, propeller/rotor noise reduction, and fixed-wing flight testing. Callender has

incorporated glider design competitions, flight testing (simulated and actual), and wind tunnel usage (actual and virtual) into AERO 1020, 3440, and 4440. He also has used a robot in the classroom for recording lectures that he provides to students upon request. Approximately 900 lectures have been recorded to date.

Callender was recognized for Outstanding EXL Collaborations, for being an influential faculty member, and as a professor who makes a difference. He has received the College of Basic and Applied Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award and the LEGACY student club's Most Challenging Class Award. He was awarded MTSU's Outstanding Teacher Award in 2016 and the University's Outstanding Honors Faculty Award in 2018.

In his spare time, Callender speaks to church, school, and University audiences, teaches adult Bible classes, and mentors young men (6th–10th grade small groups). He shares life with his wife, Sarah. They have three children: Elijah, Ian, and Elizabeth.

College of Behavioral and Health Sciences

Dr. Yvonne Creighton is an assistant professor in the School of Nursing. She is an MTSU alumna, having received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2008. She completed a Master of Science in Nursing at Austin Peay State University and Doctor of Nursing Practice at Maryville University of St. Louis and holds certifications as a Family Nurse Practitioner and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP).

Her research focuses on expanding clinical use of an evidence-based approach to early intervention known as SBIRT—Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment—to help reduce the consequences of problematic substance use.

Creighton was hired at MTSU in 2014 to teach clinicals in the undergraduate nursing program and accepted a tenure track position upon completing of her doctorate in 2021. She developed the graduate Nursing program's PMHNP track, which began admitting students in fall 2020, and currently teaches Mental Health Nursing to undergraduate and graduate nursing students. Creighton is a member of Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society and created a Pecha Kucha presentation on Motivational Interviewing as Pedagogy in Higher Education for Sigma's International Congress in July 2022.

Jennings A. Jones College of Business

Dr. Melodie Phillips is an associate professor in the Department of Marketing. She holds a Ph.D. in Marketing from Louisiana State University, an M.B.A. from the University of Miami, and a B.A. in Marketing from the University of South Florida. Her areas of specialty are entertainment marketing and integrated marketing communications. Phillips has published in the *Journal of Services Marketing*, *Great Ideas in Marketing*, *Ethics and Critical Thinking*, *Global Education*, *Business Journal for Entrepreneurs*, the proceedings of the Association for Consumer Research, and more. She currently teaches primarily in MTSU's M.B.A. program while continuing to offer her entertainment marketing courses.

Phillips and her husband own a regional prosthetics and orthotics company with offices in middle and east Tennessee. They are parents to 12-year-old identical twin girls, and they are active in AKC dog showing. They have had several top 10 Saint Bernards and currently show Saint Bernards and Bouvier des Flandres. Phillips has judged puppy and veteran sweepstakes for the Southern Oregon Saint Bernard Club, NorCal Saint Bernard Cluster, the Heart of America Saint Bernard Club, and more.

Phillips and her family are rabid LSU fans and have a Bouvier puppy named Joe Burreaux.

College of Education

Dr. Eric Oslund, an associate professor and interim chair in the Department of Elementary and Special Education, is a core faculty member in the Ph.D. in Literacy Studies program. Oslund completed his B.S. at California Polytechnic State University and his M.A. in School Psychology from West Texas A&M. He received his Ph.D. in Educational Psychology with an Advanced Research Methodology certificate from Texas A&M University.

Oslund teaches graduate courses in Statistics and Assessment and has chaired or been a committee member on numerous doctoral dissertations for the Ph.D. in Literacy Studies and in Mathematics and Science Education, as well as theses in Psychology programs. His research interests include using advanced applied statistical techniques to better understand the complex theoretical models of reading, evaluate the effectiveness of reading interventions, and examine data-based decision-making and educational assessment.

Oslund has collaborated on interdisciplinary grants and received over \$1 million in intramural and extramural funding. He has won national and international awards for his research and is a board member for the Mid-South Educational Research Association.

Faculty Senate

Dr. Stephen Salter, a professor of Accounting, is president of the Faculty Senate. Before joining MTSU, Salter was a professor of Accounting and Endowed Chair for Western Hemispheric Trade at the University of Texas at El Paso. Salter has held appointments at the University of Cincinnati and Texas A&M University. He has taught various courses, primarily in management accounting and international accounting, at all levels. Through the Fulbright Specialist Program, Salter has taught in Chile and Uruguay. He recently taught in the M.B.A. program at UniAndes in Bogotá, Colombia.

Salter has a Ph.D. in Accounting and International Business from the Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina. He has published over 50 peer-reviewed articles, including publications in the *Journal of International Business Studies* (a *Financial Times* Top 50 journal), *Behavioral Research in Accounting*, the *Journal of Information Systems*, the *Journal of International Accounting and Research*, and the *International Journal of Accounting*. Google Scholar ranks his record among the top 125 scholars globally, in both accounting and international business.

Before entering academia, Salter was a partner at Danny Montano & Company, an affiliate of Ernst & Young. He previously worked for Canada's Bank of Montreal in Asia. Salter was born in Canada and grew up in Trinidad in the West Indies, where his mother's family has lived for over 200 years.

College of Graduate Studies

Dr. Marie Patterson, director of the new Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program, earned her Master of Science in Medicine from Trevecca Nazarene University and her Doctor of Health Science from Nova Southeastern University. A physician assistant (PA) for 18 years, she has clinical experience in emergency medicine, occupational medicine, urgent care, and primary care.

Ten years of her clinical practice was in the MTSU Student Health Clinic. Patterson earned her doctorate with the intention of one day teaching in a physician assistant program. She has been in PA education for over five years as a faculty member, admissions director, and now as the inaugural program director at MTSU. While working as an assistant professor, Patterson was appointed to the Committee on Physician Assistants by the governor of Tennessee. She served for two years before the committee transitioned into an independent Board on Physician Assistants, with Patterson as its first chair. She is currently vice president for the Tennessee Academy of Physician Assistants and has been elected to represent Tennessee in the House of Delegates for the national PA organization in 2023.

Patterson is from Murfreesboro, where she resides with her husband of 20 years and their eight children. She enjoys spending time with her family, teaching the next generation of PAs, and advocating for the PA profession.

College of Liberal Arts

Dr. Jenna Gray-Hildenbrand joined the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies in fall 2012 as an assistant professor of Religious Studies and 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. When she is not in the classroom, you may find her doing ethnographic research in the mountains of Appalachia in small Christian churches that practice serpent-handling.

Upon arriving at MTSU, Gray-Hildenbrand began developing the Religious Studies program with the goal to provide 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, which utilizes both in-class activities and site visits to local religious communities to provide MTSU students with firsthand experience of the religious diversity in middle Tennessee. This religious literacy helps students to better serve their future patients, students, clients, coworkers, and neighbors. Together with Dr. Rebekka King, Gray-Hildenbrand created the B.A. and B.S. programs in Religious Studies. Gray-Hildenbrand directs 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. Graduating seniors consistently recognize Gray-Hildenbrand 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" (2016–18), aimed to share intellectual resources among three new Religious Studies programs (Clemson, University of North Florida, and MTSU). The second \$30,000 grant, "Under Pressure: Teaching Critical Religious Studies" (2019–21), created a learning community of 12 undergraduate professors from different institutions seeking to address student needs by bringing disciplinary critiques in Religious Studies and the scholarship of teaching and learning into dialogue. Through these grants, Gray-Hildenbrand and her collaborators developed teaching techniques that resonated with our students, reflected the disciplinary critiques of their field, and accorded with evidence-based research on teaching and learning. The results of this research will be published in *Teaching Critical Religious Studies: Pedagogy and Critique in the Classroom* (New York: Bloomsbury Publishing), in September 2022.

College of Media and Entertainment

Mr. Leon Alligood was a journalist for 30 years before joining the School of Journalism and Strategic Media as a professor in 2008. He is faculty advisor to *Sidelines*, a student-driven news website. His favorite course to teach is the Road Trip Class, which focuses on feature writing. Each May his students spend two and a half weeks in a Tennessee town creating content for a local media outlet. He is committed to the program, which incorporates several high-impact learning practices such as community service and research. For more information, please see www.theroadtripclass.com.

University Honors College

Dr. Steven Sprick Schuster is an assistant professor in the Economics and Finance Department and a member of the Political Economy Research Institute. He joined MTSU in 2019, after years as an assistant professor of Economics at Colgate University. Sprick Schuster received his Ph.D. (2014) and master's degree (2012) from Boston University; he earned bachelor's degrees in Economics and in Art History from the University of Missouri.

His research interests include economic history and political economy. His historical research studies the role of U.S. government institutions (especially the Post Office) in the late 19th and early 20th century, while his political economy research focuses on how voters respond to campaign messaging, information networks, and election structures.

Sprick Schuster lives in Nashville with his wife, two children, and dog. He spends most of his spare time gardening, biking, and listening to his ever-growing record collection.

University College

Ms. Pamela Elliott, soon to begin her eighth year of full-time service at MTSU, is a lecturer of Mathematics in the University Studies Department and a member of the 2019–20 MTSU Faculty Fellows. Formerly she taught Learning Support Mathematics at Nashville State Community College for two years. She had her own math tutoring business for two years, taught high school math for eight years with Rutherford County Schools, and taught middle and high school math at The Webb School in Bell Buckle for two years. Elliott is a Blue Raider alumna twice over, earning a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics (1999) and a Master of Science in Teaching in Secondary Mathematics Education (2005).

Elliott is a veteran of the United States Air Force as well as a retired officer at the rank of captain from the Tennessee Army National Guard. She is a proud alumna of MTSU ROTC's Blue Raider Battalion, having received her commission as an Army officer in 1999. Elliott has given her time back to the True Blue community with activities such as the MT Engage Math Game Night, midterm and final exam prep for veterans, the Middle Tennessee STEM Innovation Hub, and Tennessee Girls in STEM, a conference for middle and high school girls interested in pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and math.

James E. Walker Library

Mr. Ken Middleton, digital initiatives librarian and professor, has 29 years of experience at MTSU. He is part of a team that builds digital collections, develops digital humanities projects, and integrates digital content into the classroom. He has been a leader in Tennessee's statewide digitization program for the past 19 years, served as editor of the journal *Microform & Digitization Review*, and received two national awards for his work in making digital content in women's history more accessible.

THE COLLEGE OF *Graduate Studies*

Doctor of Education

Cortney Lea Crews

M.Ed., Cumberland University
B.A., Middle Tennessee State University
"The Journey from Adoption to Implementation of
a Middle School ELA Curriculum: An Instrumental
Case Study"
Hooded by: Angela Hooser

Bryanna Nichole Licciardi

Ed.S., Middle Tennessee State University
M.F.A., Emerson College
B.A., Austin Peay State University
"Supportive or Corrosive: Can Title IX Websites Impact
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Equation (FODE) Models of CD70 CAR T-cell–Therapy
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Ta'Michael L. Mims
Caroline Grace Mull
Regan Marie Newport
Raegan Alexandria Norman
Ashton Thayer Northrop
Zachary Thomas Pate
Shiv Nilesh Patel
Christopher Patrick Perkins
Amber Makenzie Perry
Cristofer Adam Phimmasene

Melvin Frederick Potter III
Colton T. Primm
Katherine Lorraine Prybilla
Maura Erin Quinn
Sophia Rai
Carolyn Rauch
James Eric Reed III
Elizabeth Virginia Rhodes
Madison Riley Roberts
Christian David Robertson
Olivia Victoria Romanko
Kylie S. Rosson
Maia Danae Ruffin
Jahlil Ja'tez Ryles
Mi'Honor Desire Sales
Belagya George Samy
Lauren Alexi Sanchez
Reuben E. Savage
Jina Gaiel Schuller
Matthew Austin Serina
Himani U. Shah
Taylor Symone' Shaw
Keturah Anna Smith
Makalah Samone Smith
Morgan Russell Smith
Reece M. Smith
Tavyan M. Smith
Hannah G. Suder
Caleb Austin Tate
Gabrielle Nicole Thornton
Jesslyn A. Towry
Cole Robert Traynor
Tadariel Jordan Triplett
Nicholas Mark Trogdon
Alliyah N. Trusty
Sydney Yates Uselton
Maryrose F. Uwimana
Damarly C. Valadez
Erin S. Walsh
Marah M. Wanamaker
Ashley Michael Weber
James Albert Williams II
Daquan J. Willis
Lakin P. Yoe

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Brittany Allison Buerkle
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Justin Charest
Alex Ndungu Chege
Destiny Michelle Christian
Camryn Eve Combs
Dylan S. Crews
Chase R. Davis
Ethan Sean Davis
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Ethan Nathaniel Hopkins
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Kowsar Hassan Ige
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Mitchell Arthur Lyness
Hutton Eli Magee
Jacob Daniel Mahoney
Michael Alexander Mann
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David B. Mason
Andrew Joshua Mast
Tracey Lynn Matthews-Gullett
Matthew Jordan McCurry
Zackary Ryan McDonald
Maurice J. McGee
Danielle Rae McInturff
Jacob A. Merlo
Aland Dindar Mohammed
Linny Mountry
Robinson Allen Muller
Edgar Munoz
Owen Charles Murphy
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Akshay Dilipkumar Patel
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Shivamkumar KetanKumar Patel
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Chase H. Smith
Michael Oliver Smith
Kobe Sithpasouk Srisourath
Philnardo Dexter Steverson
Vincent Michael Swann
Karina Grace Swauger
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Nadia M. Treadwell
Scott Louis Uebelhor
Theparuck Chandler Vongphachanh
Ariayl M. Vongphakdy
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Jamie L. Wall
Justin Brady Watkins
Noelle Christine Wehrer
Marquel M. Williams
Keimora A. Woods
John Taylor Wright
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Erin S. Walsh
Matthew Brock Williams

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Hailey Roberts
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Victor Hugo Tiscareno

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Hayley J. Gretz

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Sydney Bridwell
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Katherine Elizabeth Corder
Susanna Lindsay Deter-Wolf
Chloe Rebecca Dowdy-Wright
Stephen William Elston
Arzorai Espinoza
Morgan Leanne Fipps
Matthew C. Gaines
Josie Gillespie

Elif Nisa Girismen
Sarah E. Grimm
Gloria E. Hernandez
Samantha Kate Hollyfield
Elizabeth M. Kern
Madalyn Krummel
Cody Heath Lester
Victoria S. Looney
Jacob Greenebaum May
Tiana Lichelle McGaughey
Justin J. Mcklean
Carmen Elizabeth Newcomb
Savannah Alysia Maree Nippers
Caitlin Nichole Pope
Cynthia Rene Rich
Samuel Austen Robinson
Steve James Robinson IV
Chandler Williams Ryan
Rhiannon M. Sexton
Grace Elisabeth Smith
Haley Marie Smith
Alexander Taylor
Sesaleigh A. Whitaker
Rebecca J. White
Laccie Suann Woodall
Aubree N. Word
Sophie M. Young

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Jason Kyle Biggs
Molly Kristine Boland
South Anthony Bradley
Evangeline Elizabeth Brandt
Erin Alexis Brockett
Hayden Daniel Brown
Devin D. Buford
Connor Ryne Chase
Kirstyn Renee Collins
Katherine Bridgett Corban
Tiffany Jaidan Croft
Shannon Dowden
Cameron Lee Dupree

Anna Bailey Finn
Avery Lee Gauthier
Dallas Janae Glover
Cameron Matthew Johnson
Jamal Marquis King
Andrew James Kuster
Jacob Andrew Luttrell
Logan Paul Mcphee
Robert Forrest Murphy
Aleksander Oleg Oglesby
Kaitlyn Morgan Osteen
Zachary Brian Patterson
Ashley Nicole Perhac
Haley Grace Perkins
Joseph S. Pilkinton

Nicholas B. Pyka
Keaton Sean Reagan
Chloe G. Russell
Amanda H. Smith
Russell Lee Smythia
Isaiah A. Thomas
Coral T. Tiano
Bryce Emery Tuggle
Kimia Joi Anise Wade
John Fitzgerald Williams II
Savannah G. Williams
Toriana Stephanie Anne Williams
Samuel C. Winton
Dylan Tyler Yates

University College

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Tana Nichole Bartz
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Natalie Lingbawan Dodson
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Madeleine Rose Duncan
Brittany De'Juanquista Easley
Cody Robert Ellis
Samantha Esgro
Laura Esther Espinel
Alexa Audrianna Flatt
Eric Tyler Forrest

Gary Gage
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Terry Garner
Benjamin Parker Garretson
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Mario C. Grigsby
Zorana Grujicic Algranati
Jayme Gwaltney
Anthony Gwaro
Taylor Wayne Helton
Katlyn Rai Hodge
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Sarah Andrea Lindley
Madison Denise Looney
Sandra Lynn
Chelsea Joanna Masterson
Kendyll Thomas Mayer
James Gideon McKee
Selah Faith Melvin
Cha'ton Antonio Mobley
Sherri Lynn Moore
Sara Linden Muscha
Joy Goodge Musselwhite
Chryssantium Mustapha
Iyanna Lenique Norman
Ally Jo Nourse
Emily Lissette Nunez
Madeleine Cusachs O'Donnell
Jack Joseph Ohle
Holly Ann Olson

Tad Ejike Onwu
Michael Wesley Paul
Meridee Lanay Pelham
Mitchell Timothy Phillips
Raquel R. Ramone-Beyal
Joy N. Roberts
Esco Keith Satchfield
Carly Dee Schall
Destini Janae Small
Keith Spates
Kristen Lynn Spence
Julie Lynn Spencer
Madelyn Noel Sterban
Taylor L. Stewart
Troy A. Stewart
Trenton Vidal Stokes
Trisha Ann Thompson
Renessa Velevia Turner
Ashley Jamillia Ulmer
Tyler Warmath
Sean Forest White
Bayley Whittle
Brittney R. Williams
Julia Morgan Williams
Kristen N. Williams
Pashion Wofford
Giada Mikaela Wren
Samuel L. Zahorian

Honor Graduates

CUM LAUDE (3.50–3.74 INCLUSIVE GPA)

COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Gadi Yombek Mori Akeri
Bandar Faiz H. Alahmadi
Abdulrahman Ali A. Alghamdi
Aileen Ithzel Barrera Vite
Winton Jordan Cooper
Danyssa D. Diseker
Madison Taylor Hopkins
Joshua Horney
Christopher M. Jones
Braden Dustin Longenecker
Julie Marie McDowell
Romario Raeis Nan
Patrick McGuire Owen
Jonathan O'Neal Pendergrast
Oxana Sergeevna Puzyreva
Steven Daniel Rhodes
Sloane Westervelt Smith
Kendall N. Williams
Anna Rene Yuhas

COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Mohammed Ali M. Albouhamed
Gracyn Alexis Blake
James A. Cagle
Emma C. Chance
Samantha Leigh Check
Knikeyla Kniery Cleveland
Sarah A. Creasy
Dasha S. Grayson
Heather Rose Hosier
Ethan Thomas Maggart
Regan Marie Newport
Madison Riley Roberts
Olivia Victoria Romanko
Makalah Samone Smith
Jesslyn A. Towry
Cole Robert Traynor
Tadariel Jordan Triplett
Maryrose F. Uwimana
Marah M. Wanamaker

JENNINGS A. JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Abby Grace Blackwell
Ethan Nathaniel Hopkins
Sara Nicole Kangas
Rebecca Marie Karban
Matthew Jordan McCurry
Linny Mountry
Kristine Marie Newkirk
Hunter L. Ramsey

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Carissa S. Culpepper
Arzorai Espinoza
Samantha Kate Hollyfield
Taylor Ann Lane
Victoria S. Looney
Tiana Lichelle McCaughey
Savannah Alysia Maree Nippers
Sakhiba Nurmatova
Cynthia Rene Rich
Zoe L. Roberts
Rhiannon M. Sexton
Victor Hugo Tiscareno
Rebecca J. White
Matthew Brock Williams
Laccie Suann Woodalll

COLLEGE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

Jason Kyle Biggs
Katherine Bridgett Corban
Shannon Dowden
Andrew James Kuster
Bryce Emery Tuggle

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Sheena Anne Collins
Amanda Dawn Dudley
Laura Esther Espinel
Sandra Lynn
Joy Goodge Musselwhite
Giada Mikaela Wren

MAGNA CUM LAUDE (3.75–3.89 INCLUSIVE GPA)

COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Nancy Emilie Blankenship
Cade Tyler Howell
William Thomas Richmond
Jessica Miriam Robles Macias
Momo Takada
Yanlan Zheng

COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Alyssa Marie Avratin
Brittney Kay Gilbert
Colten Tanner Guess
Angela Hager
Abigail Maria King
Heather Leach
Caroline Grace Mull
Reuben E. Savage
Jina Gaiel Schuller

JENNINGS A. JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Phillip Roger Hill
Jackson Edward Holland
Antony Stephen Johnson
Pa Houa Lo
Julianna Gabrielle Noone

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Macy Elizabeth Blake
Brooklyn Paige Coleman
Hayley J. Gretz
Veronica Leto
Rebecca Jane Samoila

COLLEGE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

Evangeline Elizabeth Brandt
Anna Bailey Finn
Kaitlyn Morgan Osteen
Kimia Joi Anise Wade

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Alyssa Nicole Bradbury
Joseph Gammon
Zorana Grujicic Algranati
Julia Morgan Williams

SUMMA CUM LAUDE (3.90–4.00 INCLUSIVE GPA)

COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Moayyad Ahmed S. Dabbos
Bradford Clark Eden
Jonas Ean Farmer
Ashley Elizabeth Leonard
Christopher Ryan Murphy
Issala Mayte Saenphansiri
Timothy Caleb Trotter
Aubrey Grace Vest
Samara B. Wagner

COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Alyssa Paige Chaney
Shelby LeAnn Howard
Amy Shalaine Lowry
Sara Ellen Mashburn
James Nelson McCampbell
Maura Erin Quinn
Christian David Robertson
Hannah G. Suder
Gabrielle Nicole Thornton
Erin S. Walsh

JENNINGS A. JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Brittany Allison Buerkle
Kiah Mikenna Krueger
Mitchell Arthur Lyness
Andrew Joshua Mast
Sean Alan Presson
Jessikah Danielle Riley

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Katherine Elizabeth Corder
Ellen A. Everett
Chelsea Jeanne Gardiner
Elizabeth Grace Simpson
Grace Elisabeth Smith
Gabrielle Nicole Thornton
Erin S. Walsh

COLLEGE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

Connor Ryne Chase

University Honors College

UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE

Diana Rose Castro
Anna Rene Yuhas

UNIVERSITY HONORS WITH DISTINCTION

Alyssa Paige Chaney
Connor Ryne Chase
Katherine Elizabeth Corder
Jessikah Danielle Riley
Reuben E. Savage
Aubrey Grace Vest

ROTC Commissione

Zachary David Seaton



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 system of musical notation. The lyrics are: 'We proud - ly of - fer our hearts in loy - al - ty.'