

# *Summer Commencement*

August 12, 2023



Founded 1911

Charles M. Murphy Athletic Center  
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

# 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



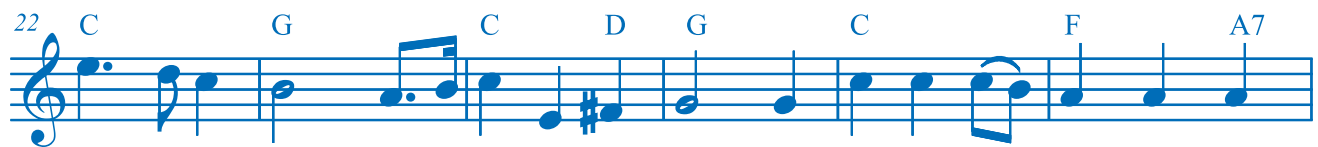
per - il - ous fight o'er the ram - parts we watched were so gal - lant - ly

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 - 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

112TH ACADEMIC YEAR

Saturday, August 12, 2023

9:00 a.m.

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



*Middle Tennessee State University has awarded 180,589 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, 2,299 Specialist in Education degrees, 576 Doctor of Philosophy degrees, and 58 Doctor of Education degrees awarded.*



# Board of Trustees

Mr. J.B. Baker

*Owner and CEO, Sprint Logistics*

Ms. Molly R. Mihm, Student Trustee

*Master's Candidate, Public Health*

Mr. Thomas R. Boyd

*Investment Advisor Representative,  
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Mr. Stephen B. Smith, Chair

*Chair of the Board, Haury  
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Mr. Pete DeLay

*Principal, Lynwood Ventures LLC*

Ms. Christine Karbowski Vanek, Vice Chair

*Retired Vice Chair, Chief Administrative Officer,  
Chief Risk Officer, and Executive Vice President  
of Bridgestone Americas*

Mr. William Sutton Jones

*Area Executive  
Pinnacle Financial Partners*

Ms. Pamela J. Wright

*Founder, Wright Travel  
President and Managing Partner,  
Wright Development*

Dr. Mary Martin, Faculty Trustee

*Professor, Department of  
Mathematical Sciences*

## 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 149,000 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](http://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!

Debbie Hickerson ('94, '97, '14)

President, MTSU National Alumni Association Board, 2023–24

# 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 .....Mr. Cameron Roberts  
MTSU School of Music

Moment of Silence

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

Commencement Address.....Dr. Stephen B. Salter  
2022–23 Faculty Senate President  
Professor, Department of Accounting

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

Conferring of Degrees.....Dr. Sidney A. McPhee  
Graduate listing begins on page 10  
Undergraduate listing begins on page 18

Announcing the Graduates.....Ms. Angela Tipps  
Master Instructor, MTSU School of Music  
Dr. Jennifer Vannatta-Hall  
Professor, MTSU School of Music

Alma Mater.....Mr. Cameron Roberts  
MTSU School of Music

Organist.....Mr. Windell Little  
MTSU 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  
*Interim Vice Provost for Enrollment Services*

**Heralds**

Mr. Steven Byrd, Ms. Yvonne Elliott, Ms. Allison McGoffin,  
Ms. Rachael Morales, and Mr. Chris Rochelle

**Faculty Marshals**

Ms. Pat Thomas Head  
Ms. Sherry Preston

**Interpreter**

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

**Commencement Staff**

Mr. Boniface Amuzu, Mr. Gary Arbit, Mr. Justin Burrus, Ms. Anne Ford, Ms. Kay Gibbs,  
Dr. Tyler Henson, Dr. Brian Hinote, Ms. Cindy Johnson, Mr. Robert Mogensen,  
Ms. Katrina Perry, Ms. Angie Price, Dr. Amy Aldridge Sanford,  
Ms. Susan Smith, Ms. Alex Stephens, and Mr. Ronson Wolf

***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. Stephen Salter

*2022–23 Faculty Senate President  
Professor, Department of Accounting*

Dr. Mark Byrnes

*University Provost*

Mr. Drew Harpool

*Interim Associate Vice President  
for Business and Finance*

Mr. William J. Bales

*Vice President for University Advancement*

Ms. Yvette Clark

*Vice President for Information Technology  
and Chief Information Officer*

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. Greg Van Patten

*Dean, College of Basic and  
Applied Sciences*

Dr. Michael Hein

*Interim Dean, College of Behavioral  
and Health Sciences*

Dr. Joyce T. Heames

*Dean, Jennings A. Jones College  
of Business*

Dr. Neporcha T. Cone

*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*

# Commencement Speaker

## **Dr. Stephen B. Salter**

*2022–23 Faculty Senate President  
Professor, Department of Accounting*



Stephen B. Salter is a professor of Accounting at Middle Tennessee State University and the immediate past president of the Faculty Senate. He has a Ph.D. in Accounting and International Business from the Moore College of Business at the University of South Carolina. Moore College has been *U.S. News & World Report's* top school for International Business for many years.

Before joining MTSU, Salter was a professor of Accounting and endowed chair for Western Hemispheric Trade at the University of Texas–El Paso. He also taught at the University of Cincinnati and Texas A&M University. At MTSU, he teaches at the graduate and undergraduate level, specializing in strategic cost and control in health care, management accounting, and international accounting. Through the Fulbright Specialist Program, he has taught in Chile and Uruguay both in English and Spanish.

Salter has published more than 50 peer-reviewed articles, including publications in the *Journal of International Business Studies*, one of the *Financial Times' Top 50 Journals*. In accounting, his articles have appeared in "A" level journals from the Australian Business Deans Council (ABDC) Journal Quality List, including *Behavioral Research in Accounting* and the *Journal of International Accounting Research*. Salter's work has been referenced by other authors 3,700 times, and Google Scholar ranks his research among the top 125 scholars globally.

Before entering academia, Salter was a partner at Danny Montano and Company, an affiliate of Ernst & Young. He had worked previously for Canada's Bank of Montreal in Asia. He was born in Canada and grew up in Trinidad in the West Indies, where his mother's family has lived for over 200 years. He has been married for 43 years to Jennifer Medina and has two grown daughters, Marie, a lawyer in Chicago, and Erin, an engineer in Pittsburgh.



# 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. Christina M. Cobb**

Christina M. Cobb is an associate professor in University Studies, teaching mathematics, first-year seminar, and graduate Professional Studies courses. She earned a B.S. and M.S. in Mathematics and a Doctorate of Education in Curriculum and Instruction at Tennessee State University, and taught middle school mathematics in Nashville for three years before joining MTSU in 2011. Cobb loves teaching mathematics, and it is her heart's desire to make an impact on each student who walks into her classroom.

Over the past 12 years, she has taught General Education mathematics, and her courses are designed to help answer the question most students have: When will I use this in real life? Cobb strives to reach all students at every level and to create an inclusive learning environment for all her courses.

She teaches with so much passion and energy that her students love to come to class. These efforts have been recognized by the Outstanding Teacher Award in General Education at MTSU in 2022, the Outstanding Teacher

Award at MTSU in 2019, and the Outstanding Faculty in Learning Support Award from the Tennessee Association for Student Success and Retention in 2021. Cobb also has been cited as a "Person Who Made a Difference" by graduating seniors at MTSU in 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2023.

For the past three years, Cobb has hosted the MT Engage Math Game Night. During this event, students participate in mathematics games outside the classroom in a fun environment. For several years, she has led mathematics skill-building sessions for students enrolled in the Scholars Academy early arrival program.

Cobb was a recipient of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' High Impact Practices Grant. In 2019, she was awarded a Student Engagement, Retention, and Success Grant, for which she served as co-principal investigator for the Mentoring and Mathematics (M2) program. In addition, she is the 2021–2023 Inclusive Teaching Fellow with MTSU's Learning, Teaching, and Innovative Technologies Center. In December 2021, she earned her micro-credential in Inclusive Teaching from the Association of Colleges and University Educators, and in June 2022, she received a Diversity and Inclusion certificate from eCornell.

Cobb has been active with multiple organizations, including the National Organization for Student Success (NOSS), Tennessee Association for Student Success and Retention (TASSR), and Southwest Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics. She has written and published several articles and newsletters, and has presented at numerous conferences. Cobb serves as the national co-chair of the NOSS Mathematics Network; is the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee chair with TASSR; and is on the committee for Tennessee Girls in STEM at MTSU.

Active in her community, Cobb tutors and serves on the boards for multiple organizations in Nashville and Murfreesboro. She supports all students and especially seeks to be a role model to young women. In 2022, she launched her platform EducatHer, where she has taught women across the nation through workshops, book clubs, college mentoring, and more.



# 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 - 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, 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 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 and Visual Services 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.

THE COLLEGE OF *Graduate Studies*

*Doctor of Education*

**Judy Rebekah Albakry**

M.A.E., Northern Arizona University  
B.A., Northern Arizona University  
“Success Through Inclusion: Impact of Honors Participation on Transfer Student Graduation Frequency at Four-Year Colleges and Universities”  
*Hooded by: Jim Rost*

**Lisa T. Schrader**

M.P.H., Western Kentucky University  
B.S., Middle Tennessee State University  
“Focusing on the Positive: Examining the Relationships Between Flourishing Mental Health, Academic Performance, and Psychological Distress”  
*Hooded by: Kevin Krahenbuhl*

*Doctor of Philosophy*

**Alexander Jon Adams**

M.A.T., University of Phoenix  
B.S., California State University–San Marcos  
“Effective Teaching Practices in Online Physical Education: The Relationship Between Video Feedback Guidance and Performance”  
*Hooded by: Alysia Jenkins*

**Katie Lovenia Raigne-Briggs**

M.A., National University  
B.A., Trinity Washington University  
“We Are Done Dying: The NAACP Cultural Campaigns of the Early Twentieth Century”  
*Hooded by: Kristine McCusker*

**Evans Dapaa Addo**

M.S., East Tennessee State University  
B.A., University of Cape Coast  
“Unraveling the Nexus Between Monetary Policy and Macroeconomic Performance: Evidence from the United States”  
*Hooded by: Stuart Fowler*

**Matthew Israel Byrge**

M.A., East Tennessee State University  
B.A., East Tennessee State University  
“Gendered Violence in Indigenous Literature of Australia and Oceania: Surveying Archie Weller’s *Day of the Dog*, Keri Hulme’s *the bone people*, and Joseph Veramu’s *Moving through the Streets*”  
*Hooded by: Laura White*

**Tareg Ghazi Abdel Rahman Al Ghababsheh**

M.A., University of Jordan  
M.A., Middle Tennessee State University  
B.A., Tafila Technical University  
“The Free Trade Agreements of the USA”  
*Hooded by: Stuart Fowler*

**Darrin Walter Haas**

M.A., Middle Tennessee State University  
M.A., Webster University  
B.S., Tennessee Technological University  
“Discovering Sergeant York: Finding and Promoting an American Hero”  
*Hooded by: Amy Sayward*

**Md Shahedul Amin**

M.S.S., University of Dhaka  
M.A., University of Tennessee  
B.A., University of Dhaka  
“Three Essays on Labor Economics”  
*Hooded by: Charles Baum*

**Micah Scott Hallman**

M.A., University of Tennessee–Chattanooga  
B.A., University of Tennessee  
“The Neoslave Narrative Project: A Study of Select Texts and Contexts from 1971 to 2023”  
*Hooded by: Laura Dubek*

**Gabriel Frank Benzecry**

M.A., Middle Tennessee State University  
B.A., Wake Forest University  
“Essays on the History of Political Economy and Methodology”  
*Hooded by: Daniel Smith*

**Linxian Huang**

M.S., Middle Tennessee State University  
B.A.D., Guangxi University  
“Essays on the Influence of Technology in Economics and Finance”  
*Hooded by: Keith Gamble*

**Vichuda Kaveparsit Hunter**

M.A., University of Mississippi  
 B.A., University of Mississippi  
 “Investigating Student Discourse and Representational Understanding in an Electrochemistry Lab”  
*Hooded by: Amy Phelps*

**Tina Maria Jenkins**

M.A.Ed., Cumberland University  
 B.S., Austin Peay State University  
 “The Impact of edTPA Seminars on Physical Education Teacher Candidates”  
*Hooded by: Bev Clanton*

**Jordan Eugene Kirby**

B.S., Middle Tennessee State University  
 “Instructor Perceptions of Student Example Use and Understanding in an Introduction to Proof Course”  
*Hooded by: Sarah Bleiler-Baxter*

**Shu Liu**

M.S., Qingdao University  
 B.A.D., Hunan International Economics  
 “Robust Machine Learning Methods and Applications”  
*Hooded by: Qiang Wu*

**Claudia F. Russell**

Ed.S., Middle Tennessee State University  
 M.Ed., Tennessee State University  
 B.S., Tennessee State University  
 “The Effects of Critical Feature Handwriting Intervention on Early Literacy Skills Acquisition of Pre-K Students”  
*Hooded by: Katie Schrod*

**Thomas Kofi Torku**

M.S., East Tennessee State University  
 B.S., University of Cape Coast  
 “Deep Data Driven Neural Networks for Learning Dynamics of Covid-19 Epidemic Models”  
*Hooded by: Abdul Khaliq*

## *Specialist in Education*

**Anna R. Altman**

B.S., Tennessee Technological University

**Virginia H. Beasley**

B.S., Middle Tennessee State University

**Maria Derickson Bobo**

M.Ed., Middle Tennessee State University  
 B.S., Middle Tennessee State University

**Alexis Breanne Cameron**

B.S., Middle Tennessee State University

**Hannah Michael Clark**

B.S., University of Tennessee–Chattanooga

**Melisa Ann Haymore**

M.S., University of Tennessee–Martin  
 B.S., University of Tennessee–Martin  
 B.S., University of Tennessee–Martin

**Margaret Ann Horne**

B.S., University of Tennessee Southern

**Ashlie Nichole Hutchins**

M.Ed., Middle Tennessee State University  
 B.S., Tennessee Technological University

**April Senkow**

M.A., California State University–San Marcos  
 B.S., California State University–San Marcos

**Lora Ellinwood Taff**

B.S., Freed-Hardeman University

**Ashley Dawn Trent**

B.S., Western Governors University

**Tozia Jevonte Ware**

B.S., Middle Tennessee State University

**Natalie Williams**

M.Ed., University of West Alabama  
 B.S.Ed., University of Alabama

# Master's Degrees

## MASTER OF ACCOUNTANCY

### Kristian Jordan Epley

B.S.B.A., University of Tennessee

### Catherine Clark Felix

B.B.A., Middle Tennessee State University

### Kailey Dean Herrin

B.B.A., Middle Tennessee State University

### Lisa Ann Horner

B.B.A., Middle Tennessee State University

### Shelby Rhea Hurt

B.B.A., Middle Tennessee State University

### Thomas R. Judkins

B.B.A., Middle Tennessee State University

### Jennifer Barbara Martinez

B.B.A., University of New Mexico

### Julia Mihic

B.B.A., Middle Tennessee State University

### Christian P. Stine

B.B.A., Middle Tennessee State University

### Jessica Lauren Wattenbarger

B.B.A., Middle Tennessee State University

### Jordan Thomas Wheaton

B.B.A., Middle Tennessee State University

## MASTER OF ARTS

### Biven Virginia Alexander

B.S., Middle Tennessee State University

B.A., Middle Tennessee State University

### Fahad Saqlan S. Almutairi

B.A.D., Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University

### Autumn Lynn Bourque

B.S., Middle Tennessee State University

### Emily Lauren Cowles

B.S., Western Michigan University

### Denise Michelle Ealy

M.S., University of London

B.S., University of Georgia

### Amanda Christine Engelage

B.S., Middle Tennessee State University

### Sarah Grady Hicks

B.A., Lee University

### Anna Kate Holt

B.A., Lipscomb University

### Rachel Elizabeth Hooper

B.A., Middle Tennessee State University

B.S., Middle Tennessee State University

### Titus Jerome Jackson

M.S., Middle Tennessee State University

B.S., Middle Tennessee State University

### Kayla Renee Jenkins

B.S., East Tennessee State University

### Aubrey Elaine Keller

B.A., Belmont University

### Mohsen Keshavarzsafiei

M.D., Islamic Azad University Central

B.A.D., Islamic Azad University Central

### Steven S. Levan

B.A., Vanderbilt University

### Lina Eileene Mistrion

B.A., Macalester College

### Yendi Abigail Neil

B.S., Georgia Institute of Technology

### James R. Pegler

B.A., Middle Tennessee State University

### Oluwatomisin Adunni Phillips

B.S., University of Lagos

### Ksenia Plotnikova

B.B.A., CUNY Baruch College

### Sela Elizabeth Raulston

B.S., Middle Tennessee State University

### Mark Dieter Rust

B.S., Brigham Young University

### Kaylee Gabrielle Schilling

B.S., Middle Tennessee State University

### Christine Clemencia Soileau

B.A., University of Louisiana–Lafayette

### Lisa Michelle Strayer

B.A., Asbury University

### Ayat Tamimi

B.S., University of Tennessee

### Pershahg Karwan Tovi

B.S., Middle Tennessee State University

### Daniel Steffen Williams

B.S., Campbellsville University

### Brendan Stuart Woods

B.S., Middle Tennessee State University

## MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

### **Ta'Lyia Nachole Ballentine**

B.S., Middle Tennessee State University

### **Mark Benitez**

B.B.A., Tennessee State University

### **Brandon Boggs**

B.S., University of Cincinnati Clermont College

### **Ryan M. Bogle**

B.B.A., Middle Tennessee State University

### **Kaitlyn M. Carroll**

B.A., Maryville College

### **Ethan H. Dolan**

B.B.A., Middle Tennessee State University

### **Allyson N. Dunavant**

B.A., University of Tennessee

### **Hallie Michelle England**

B.S., Middle Tennessee State University

### **Cierra Fackler**

B.A.D., University of North Florida

### **William Dillon Finch V**

B.B.A., Middle Tennessee State University

### **John M. Garner**

B.S., Tennessee Technological University

### **Anthony G. Grasso**

B.E., Stevens Institute of Technology

### **Nicholas Leontin Hartman**

B.S., Middle Tennessee State University

### **Thomas Harrison Hawthorne**

B.S., University of Tennessee–Chattanooga

### **Janay Henson**

B.B.A., University of Memphis

### **Shelly Nichole Johnson**

B.S., University of Alabama

### **Joseph Theodore Kolwick III**

B.A., American Public University

### **Kenedi Grace Laribo**

B.B.A., Middle Tennessee State University

### **William C. Meehan**

B.S., University of Tennessee–Chattanooga

### **Gresham Canaan Mosley**

B.B.A., Middle Tennessee State University

### **John Edward Nicoll**

J.D., University of Tennessee

B.A., Furman University

### **Zachary Joshua Nolte**

B.F.A., The Art Institute of Tennessee

### **Kimberly Lynn Posey**

B.S.B.A., University of Alabama–Huntsville

### **Joshua Poston**

B.S.B.A., University of Tennessee

### **Anna B. Rakes**

B.S., Middle Tennessee State University

### **Julia K. Robert**

B.B.A., Middle Tennessee State University

### **Melissa Rogers**

B.S., Middle Tennessee State University

### **Jenna B. Russ**

B.S., Middle Tennessee State University

### **Satoshi Shindo**

B.S., Hitotsubashi University

### **Jennifer Paige Tackett**

B.S., University of Tennessee

### **Joseph Sanford Tobia Sr.**

B.S., University of Southern Mississippi

### **Jonathan K. Vincent**

B.S., Tennessee State University

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Emma Kathleen Sheley  
Ken E. Sikkema  
Georgja Ann Smith  
Alden Chase Stern  
Ethan Paul Stuart  
Case A. Terry  
Jakob Darrow Turner  
Edward Visay Vinavongso  
Anna Elizabeth Whorton  
Clark Perry Wilson

# University College

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

George Steven Acklin  
Sherry Wilson Alexander  
Thourah Arradi  
Ahmad Saleh Ali Awwad  
Breanna Nichole Bailey  
Rosemary D. Bates  
Jonathan N. Batson  
Philip Andrew Belew  
Andrew Anthony Bernhoft  
Laura A. Bishop  
Tyler Wade Bohanan  
Nikoshia Ann Bonds  
Jasmine M. Bourroughs  
Kirsty Erline Bowen  
Chris J. Brennan  
Daniel Keith Broadway  
Crystal Serena Burton  
Kristen Kay Burton  
Margaret Ann Byrge  
Francheska Carolina Cermeno  
Sekota Rose Chaput  
Jai Hyuk Choi  
Aidan Mae Christ  
Bre Anna P. Cobb  
Andrea Michelle Coleman  
Shannon N. Connell  
Broderick M. Cook

Madison Marie Crawford  
Monica Sue Deel  
Amy Diatikar  
Derek Deandre Dowdy  
Lauren Beth Duggin  
Mary Elizabeth Elliot  
Jemima Azeneth Estrada  
Delanee M. Faulkenberry  
Caitlin Elisabeth Faulkner  
Jamie Ghee  
Thomas Wesley Haggard  
Amanda H. Harnish  
Devin Sean Hill  
Lakesha Holbrook  
Lennon Jameson House  
Zachery John Henry Hughes  
Rhegan Alexandria Jackson  
MaShala Kiana Jones  
Alia Husein Kanakrieh  
James Timothy Larson  
Sophie Rhea Markos  
Mackenzie Jordan Marsh  
Christina Martin  
Daylee Lynae Dolly Mathias  
Mary McCoig  
Asia Clark Means  
Joshua Blaine Mercer  
Evie Elizabeth Moore

Warven Burhan Mossa  
Mandy Renee O'Brien  
Olivia Shea Odimegwu  
Esosa Valerie Osaitile  
Paige Marie Peart  
Phillip B. Peart  
Lis D. Piedrahita  
DeAyrian Keith Pointer  
Kara Anne Rowland  
Nargiz H. Shemssuldin  
Nadia Sinclair  
Charlotte Elaine Smith  
Justice Steele-Lamar Spates  
Jacob C. Strobel  
Angelos M. Tawfik  
Emilee Noel Taylor-Walling  
Dalton R. Verran  
Summer Ellen Vickery  
Jacob A. Williams  
Kristie Williams  
Tymicia Nycole Willis  
Harley N. Wright  
Feben M. Yebrah  
Lynne Louise York  
Joelie Danea Young  
Jason K. Zachary



# Honor Graduates

CUM LAUDE (3.50–3.74 INCLUSIVE GPA)

## COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Logan Christopher Adams  
Travis Dale Arms  
Yousif Sami M. Bukhari  
Osamah Abdulmuhaymin Bukhary  
Caleb Thomas Cone  
Casey Mary Davis  
Mouyad Majdi M. Fatani  
Greyson Bradley Graf  
Mirna M. Hanna  
Jayce Morgan Hatcher  
Lorna Lee Hedges  
Hamzah Abdurahman Khalid  
Alexander James Light  
Patrick Liam Daniel McGinnis  
Houston Diane Messick  
Bibi Munsifa  
Samuel Dean Nester  
Cole A. Vinson  
Laura Viravouth  
Eden P. Walkowski  
Patrick Kelly Weaver  
Yordanos Tekeste Williams  
Joseph Wukasch  
Tony E. Youssef

## COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Ethan Ray Barnes  
Sydney Brooke Chapman  
Arden Claire Cummins  
Alanna C. Diserens

Cody A. Endicott  
Gracie Renee Hudson  
Magdalena T. Jaramillo  
Shaye Alexandra McClendon  
Alex B. Miller  
Ashi K. Patel  
Ashley J. Ritter  
Sandra Adel Shafeek Said  
Jossany A. Serrano  
Abigail Erin Smith  
Sid P. Souksangouane  
Za'kayla Dorothy-Jean Thomas  
Wesley Ryan Thornton  
Melat Gebrelibanos Tikue  
Jessica K. White

## JENNINGS A. JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Samantha Jade Bolton  
Cody J. Courtney  
Logan A. Davis  
Bennett T. Gerlach  
William Allen Haddix  
Samuel Amanesi Inaboya  
Jenna Cristine Jones  
Bailey Leanne Ledbetter  
Maycee Woods Marklein  
Brian Nicholas Mobley  
Boni Sunilkumar Patel  
Priya Ajay Kumar Patel  
Diego Perez  
Drake J. Richardson  
Eli Royal Waddoups  
Suzanne M. Wakefield

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Elaf Ali Alkazzaz  
Alexander Levi Baldwin  
Thomas Allen Berry  
Abbie C. Harris  
Lorna Lee Hedges  
Emily Rose Huntsman  
Lawson Gabriel Johnson  
Emma Leeann Richardson  
Thomas J. Smith  
Madison Gail Staggs  
Matthew Tronell Wilkins

## COLLEGE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

Charese Angel Harrison  
Lillian Joy Hickman  
Callie R. Lutche  
Michael Francis McCulla Jr.  
Alberto Ortiz Jr.  
Jack M. Scharstein

## UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Aidan Mae Christ  
Lennon Jameson House  
Mackenzie Jordan Marsh  
Warven Burhan Mossa  
DeAyrian Keith Pointer  
Emilee Noel Taylor-Walling  
Harley N. Wright

## MAGNA CUM LAUDE (3.75–3.89 INCLUSIVE GPA)

### COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Andrew Charles Adams  
Mohammed Ageeli  
Saleh Saad Alamri  
Mohammed Atiah H. Albishri  
Mohammed Abdullah S. Alghamdi  
Khaled Hassan A. Alghamedi  
Abdullah Mohammed S. Almehmadi  
Valerie Raeanne Davis  
Omar H. Gure  
Christian James Malach  
Alexander Richard Martin  
Jonathan Orrett Nam  
Ana Flavia Negrin Yerena  
Alan Long Nguyen  
Colby James Rupp  
Brianna H. Tuttle

### COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Grahm Mckinna Bellenfant  
Mikala Marie Commodore  
Haley B. Hardcastle  
Carmen Elisabeth Knox  
Kelli Anne Myers  
Koltier K. Ryan  
Ashleigh Grace Slavny  
Bailey Marie Webster  
Taylor Ray Wilson  
Reaghyn C. Wise  
James C. Wiseman

### JENNINGS A. JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Emma Clark Alexander  
Justin Garrett Price

### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Zahra Abbas Fadhil  
Daniel Joseph Gagliardi  
Anna Grace Gragg  
Jeffrey Scott Mooring Jr.

### COLLEGE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

Rachel Ann Hall  
Kennedy Ryann Martin  
Ariana Rae Moss  
Clark Perry Wilson

### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

BrandThourah Arradi  
Tyler Wade Bohanan  
Sophie Rhea Markos

## SUMMA CUM LAUDE (3.90–4.00 INCLUSIVE GPA)

### COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Abdulrahman Mohammed Albukhari  
Willow Irina Branham  
Anna May Clarke  
Adam Mark Gasper  
Ahmed Salah H. Gedair  
Yaseen Mahmoud Ginnab  
John Walter Hitch Jr.  
Jason Andrew Martin  
Tarak Ankit Patel  
Emily Ann Swindell

### COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Nicole Kathleen Bauer  
Blake L. Bush  
Ivy Lee Chambliss  
Madeline Marie Cone  
Audrey Natalea Johnson  
Mackenzie Ann-Marie Nolan  
Megan Shae Turner  
Jason Alexander Watkins

### COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Erin Nevada Bates  
Rebecca Jean Jones

### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Kyleigh Jane Bowers  
Kaylee S. Bullion  
Samantha Nicole Cathey  
Alexandra Leigh Davis  
Jonas Seth Graham  
Molly Nicole Johnson  
Dimend Kaya Little  
Kynlie Freeman Reames

### COLLEGE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

Kristen E. Mahy  
Alden Chase Stern

### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Amy Diatikar

# *University Honors College*

## UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE

Marian Josephine Medley  
Suzy Ni  
Ashi K. Patel

## UNIVERSITY HONORS WITH DISTINCTION

Daniel Joseph Gagliardi  
Yaseen Mahmoud Ginnab  
Lillian Joy Hickman  
Rebecca Jean Jones  
Dimend Kaya Little  
Yordanos Tekeste Williams  
Clark Perry Wilson

## ROTC Commissionees

Nadia Sinclair  
Urielle Umotoni



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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 melody is written in the treble clef, and the piano 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 piano 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 piano 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 piano accompaniment concludes in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'We proud - ly of - fer our hearts in loy - al - ty.'.