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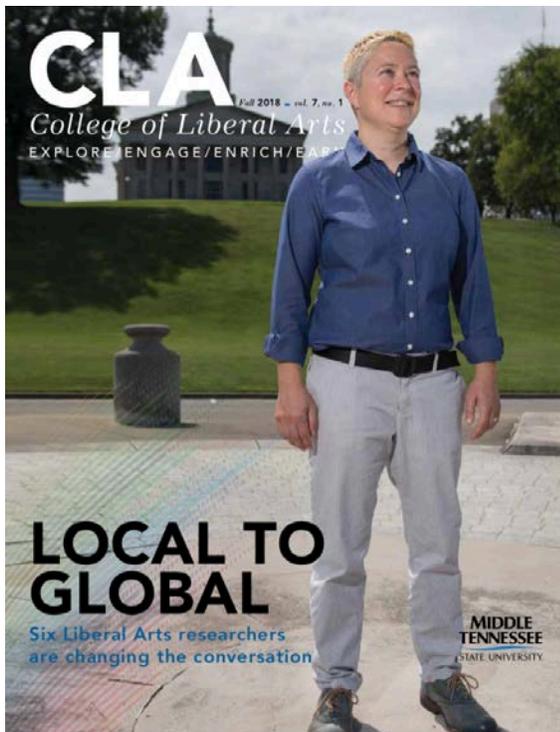
SPRING 2019 NEWS

The Public Value of Research and Scholarship

Join us for the second in a new series of workshops for faculty & staff in CLA. Andrei Korobkov, Steve Morris, Kent Syler, and Carroll Van West will discuss their work, how they contribute as public intellectuals, and how you can engage the public with your work. See the Fall 2018 CLA Magazine for more information about each of our participants.



**FACULTY ENRICHMENT
SERIES**



***April 5th, 11:30-1:00
(bring your lunch)
Faculty Senate
Chamber (JUB)***

General Education Redesign Update

This year two groups of faculty have been meeting as a Faculty Learning Community to talk about general education. Our focus has been on re-imagining general education for the 21st century: What should university-educated students know, be able to do, and have experienced by the time they complete the general education or core requirements?

The other task of the FLC has been to initiate a university-wide conversation about general education through focus groups. We are now ready to expand the conversation to include faculty, administrators, and staff at MTSU. Starting with the third week in February, we'll begin conducting focus groups where you can weigh in on this question. Focus group sessions will run through April, and all who want to participate will be given an opportunity to have their say. Everyone is welcome

It's important to note that any changes we make to general education will come from the university community. The 2004 redesign of general education was imposed on all TBR institutions and allowed little flexibility in creating a curriculum that was distinctive to MTSU. MTSU's change in status has given us the freedom and the opportunity to imagine a redesigned, 21st century curriculum that is faculty-driven and potentially more congruent with MTSU's identity. We won't change just for the sake of change. But this is an opportunity to review what we are currently doing and imagine the possibilities.

Once we have collected the focus group information, we will look for congruencies between the data and our current program. We'll review whether the current program meets our needs. If we discover that our current general education program reflects university-wide values and achieves the goals we think are important, then we probably shouldn't redesign. Collecting this information will help us decide if and how much we need to redesign. **Your participation is crucial in determining not only what we will change but whether we will make changes to general education.**

You can sign up today for a focus group by going to our redesign website, and clicking on the focus group tab: mtsu.edu/genedredesign/ or go directly to <https://mtsu.edu/genedredesign/focusgroups.php>

***Want to know more? Visit the FAQ page
for General Education Redesign
<https://mtsu.edu/genedredesign/faq.php>***

CLA In the News

MTSU political science and EXL students gained valuable experience helping WSMV-News 4 gather and report election results for the November 6 elections. The students joined their instructor and News4 political analysis **Kent Syler (Political Science)** for the Election Day coverage.



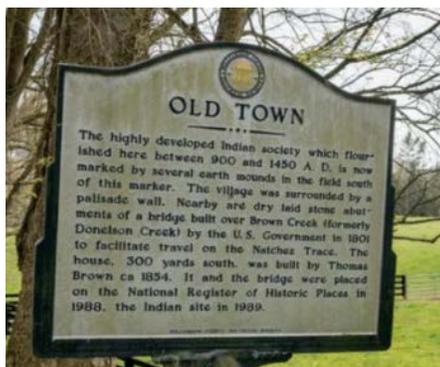
Inside Higher Ed
September 28, 2018

A new study found that women's basketball teams from HBCU's are among the most heavily penalized, suggesting that claims of bias against black athletes in college sports may be true.

Bias Against Black Female Players, Study Reveals
A new study suggests that long-standing claims of bias aimed at black athletes in college sports could be true, at least in...

Andrew Dix (Communication Studies) published a “viral” journal article on bias in women’s basketball, garnering international attention and an article in *Inside Higher Ed*.

Don’t miss the latest *MTSU Magazine*, featuring **Kevin Smith’s (Anthropology)** extensive efforts to preserve Old Town, a settlement on the Harpeth River that dates back at least 12,000 years and is now owned by Bill and Tracy Frist. Dr. Frist, former Senate majority leader, recognizes that the preservation of Old Town for future generations would not be possible without the assistance of partners. As he notes, “academic institutions like MTSU are at the forefront of discovery and play a vital role in uncovering that untold history.”



Peck Hall Renovations Update

Over the fall semester and winter break, we completed the installation of the courtyard furniture, painting of all interior hallways, installation of new bulletin boards, and installation of video monitors throughout the building and in the courtyard. All that remains from the TBR-funded project is the installation of graphics to **improve way-finding** at the entrance to each exterior door and each corridor. Additional funds have been allocated to add graphics to the stairwells, which will complete the project. I'm grateful to all of the building occupants. This project would have been much more challenging with the cooperative spirit of faculty and staff in Peck.



CLA Strategic Planning Update

In the fall, we completed strategic planning sessions using the SOAR method (strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and results). Faculty, staff, and students participated in these sessions and filled out workbooks, which the planning committee and the dean's office are using to identify potential goals for the college. In February, faculty will receive a survey via email that will help us prioritize these goals, and we will constitute another committee to help construct the new strategic plan for the College of Liberal Arts. By the end of the semester we will have a draft of the plan available for comment, and the final plan will be presented at the CLA fall faculty meeting.

Student Success Update, Spring 2019¹

85.8% of CLA full-time undergraduate students were retained from Fall 2017 to Fall 2018 (down 1.2% from 2016-2017)

92.2% of CLA Students persisted from Fall 2018 to Spring 2019 (down 0.3% from Spring 2018). Six of our departments have persistence rates at or above 90% with the **School of Music leading at 97%** persistence! A remarkable achievement made possible by dedicated faculty and staff in the departments and in the CLA advising center.

2,222 Spring enrollment in CLA *see note below

68,312 SCH in Spring 2019 (down 2,388 from Spring 2018)

Three of the five student Fulbright semi-finalists at MTSU are CLA majors: Rebecca Clippard (World Languages), Joanna Kirkova (Theatre), and Caroline Parker (History). Congratulations to these outstanding students and their department mentors. Many thanks to Laura Clippard (Honors) for her work on behalf of our students.

*We conferred 187 undergraduate degrees in the Fall 18 term. Some of these 187 undergrads were likely dual degree or double major from another college or from within our college. But our original Fall cohort of 2,159 minus conferred undergrad degrees would be **1,972**, and our Spring 19 undergraduate headcount is **1,986**. This implies that even if some of the conferred degrees were double majors or dual degrees, we are picking up more students via change of major than we are losing, especially when factoring in attrition (9-10% this year). We might be starting to establish an equilibrium between graduation rates and recruiting expectations. It is too early to tell with any certainty, but these trends are encouraging. Of course, we're planning to graduate a large number again this Spring (330 currently filed for S19, though not all will complete), so **in order to avoid being victims of our own success, it will take a strong recruiting cycle and solid retention if we want to show growth in overall headcount for Fall 19.**

Thank you to all faculty and college advisors. You are making a difference in the lives of our students. I'm tremendously proud of the work you do and never miss an opportunity to share our data and our stories with anyone who will listen.



¹ Enrollment and SCH data are preliminary (not based on official census data).

CLA Events & Announcements

- **Philosophy Lyceum:** *Bigger than Football: Fan Anxiety and Memory in the Racial Present*
 Understanding fans' responses to football players' protests against police brutality requires recognizing the historic and contemporary role of football fandom in managing racial and gendered anxieties. Drawing on opposing views of football taken by the American philosophers Josiah Royce and George Santayana, and on contemporary social science research on the behavior of sports fans, I show that contemporary fan hostility to protesting players is consistent with the social ills that have surrounded football since the era of Royce's critique. **Dr. Erin C. Tarver**, Associate Professor of Philosophy at the Oxford College of Emory University **February 15, 2019, 5:00 pm, COE, Room 164**
- **Undergraduate Social Science Symposium: From the Ice Age to the Anthropocene: Human Response to Global Change.** Students are invited to submit papers or posters for presentation at the symposium. *Papers on all topics are welcome.* Go to <http://w1.mtsu.edu/soc/socsymp/index.php> to submit a brief abstract. The deadline for submission is **Wednesday, February 13, 2019.** The USSS will be held February 27-28, 2019 Tennessee Room, JUB
- **CREATING GLOBAL CHANGE: Interdisciplinary Conference in Women's and Gender Studies** Thursday, March 28 – Saturday, March 30, 2019
- **Holocaust Studies Performance:** Carolyn Enger (carolynenger.com) April 16, 2019 Tennessee Room, JUB

For questions about CLA events, contact [Connie Huddleston](#)



New Department & College Videos

Working with the Office of Marketing and Communications, we will be creating new videos for all departments. The producers need video footage of faculty and students. If you have an event or co-curricular exercise that might film well, please alert your department chair.

Share Your Expertise

Cathy Sgambati, Public Relations Specialist in Marketing and Communications, would like information about your expertise in order to connect you with media requests. If you would like to be available for interviews, please contact Cathy at cathy.Sgambati@mtsu.edu or (615) 898-5348 to make sure she has updated information for you.



Thank you...

...for joining us at the Celebration of Excellence! Our local business partners, Tennessee Brew Works and Peter D's catering, did a fantastic job with the refreshments, but your presence is what made the event a success. We enjoy celebrating you, so **please keep us updated as you achieve career milestones** so that we can include you in the information we use for the Celebration and so that we can share your success with others on campus.

