

To the faculty and staff:

On behalf of the MTSU Foundation Board and its trustees, I congratulate today's award recipients. I would also like to thank the MTSU faculty and staff for their outstanding work and the services they provide to our students.

The quality of any institution of higher learning is measured by the strength of its faculty. Middle Tennessee State University is fortunate to have such a dedicated, creative, and inspiring faculty. There is no higher compliment than to be recognized by your peers, and we are honored to be part of today's presentation.

This is a remarkable time for MTSU and the Foundation. As we set grander goals, we must ensure that the University has the proper resources to achieve those goals. The MTSU Foundation looks forward to seeing the University continue to flourish. Best wishes for an exciting, fulfilling, and successful academic year!

Sincerely,



*Bill Mooringham, '68
President, MTSU Foundation*

Sandra S. Benson

Accounting

Outstanding Teacher Award



Sandra S. Benson, assistant professor in the Department of Accounting, earned a B.A. from Vanderbilt University and a J.D. from the University of Georgia. She joined MTSU in 2006.

Professor Benson teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in business, commercial, and health law. She draws on 12 years of experience in practicing law and her love for teaching when designing classroom activities and her own research, which focuses on emerging issues related to fraud, accountant liability, health care, and effective pedagogy in business law. Her work and expertise has been recognized by the Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress, the New York Society of Certified Public Accountants, and CNBC. Her classroom activities have become the subject of two pedagogical articles in the international publication *Journal of Legal Studies Education*.

Professor Benson's teaching philosophy is grounded in key principles that include incorporating projects that challenge students to learn material in memorable ways and fostering a supportive environment that allows students to make mistakes, take intellectual risks, and overcome obstacles to success. She continuously develops and implements innovative, student-centered learning activities. She has developed an online hybrid course that uses Elluminate technology to create an interactive classroom with web cameras for case discussions and an EXL course in which students take part in the "Legal Beagle News Show," an activity designed to develop skills in critical thinking and advocacy as students debate recent U.S. Supreme Court cases affecting business.

Mary B. Farone

Biology

Outstanding Teacher Award



Mary Bosch Farone is an associate professor in the Biology Department. She earned a B.S. from Thomas More College and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in microbiology from Miami University. She was a postdoctoral research fellow in the respiratory biology program at Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Farone came to MTSU in 1998.

She teaches courses in microbiology and diagnostic microbiology and has also taught anatomy and physiology and biotechnology. Her research interests are in the areas of disease-causing bacteria and viruses, particularly those transmitted from the environment. Dr. Farone's research has been funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Homeland Security, and her research has been published in *Environmental Science and Technology* and *Research and Reports in Tropical Medicine*.

Dr. Farone mentors undergraduate research projects, University Honors College theses, master's students in biology, and doctoral students in the Molecular Biosciences program. She is a coprincipal investigator on an NSF-funded GK-12 grant to prepare graduate students seeking careers in molecular and cellular biology to become better communicators to the public. Dr. Farone's teaching philosophy can be summarized as "the best way to learn science is to experience science." Her philosophy is reflected in her EXL Diagnostic Microbiology course modeled on her own training in clinical microbiology at Northeastern University and her close association with students in the research laboratory, working along with them as they develop their laboratory and professional skills.

Rhonda M. Hoffman

Agribusiness and Agriscience

Outstanding Teacher Award



Rhonda Hoffman is a professor in the School of Agribusiness and Agriscience and the graduate program director for the M.S. in Horse Science. She earned a B.S. at Truman State University and an M.S. and Ph.D. in equine nutrition at Virginia Tech. She earned board certification as a Diplomate of the American College of Animal Nutrition in 2007, an honor maintained by annual continuing education. She views the board certification as a guarantee to herself and her students to remain current and be the best teacher possible.

Dr. Hoffman began teaching in 1997 and joined MTSU in fall 2003. She teaches undergraduate courses in equine nutrition (EXL), horse genetics, equine exercise physiology, horse production, animal science, and agrimedia skills and a graduate course in advanced equine nutrition. She advises some 100 Horse Science majors annually and is faculty advisor for the MTSU Horsemen's Association. She is on the graduate faculty and has directed undergraduate, M.S. and Ph.D. student research.

Dr. Hoffman constantly explores and revises her approach to teaching, especially abstract concepts. She created a life-sized model of an equine digestive tract from simple household items. The model provides common ground for meaningful association with equine gastrointestinal tract volume, length, and torsion. Student reactions are immediate and engaging because the model is safer and less malodorous than the real thing, and they can manipulate the model in order to consider effects of diet on equine health. The model has been used in collegiate teaching for 15 years, and its efficacy was reviewed and the assessment published by the Equine Science Society in 2003.

William H. Leggett

Sociology and Anthropology

Outstanding Teacher Award



William H. Leggett, associate professor of anthropology, specializes in issues of human mobility and cross-cultural interaction in relation to globalization, immigration, and work. He earned B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in anthropology from the University of Tennessee–Knoxville, Northern Illinois University, and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, respectively. He joined MTSU in 2005.

Dr. Leggett conducts ethnographic research on the economic, social, and cultural challenges faced by immigrants and refugees recently settled in Rutherford County. This project actively includes anthropology students, who have produced substantial research that has proved rewarding for them and has led to a greater understanding of the changing face of middle Tennessee.

Dr. Leggett teaches the courses Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, Anthropology of Globalization, Immigration and Globalization in the American South, Ethnology, Pop Culture in Global Perspective, Anthropology of Music, and Peoples and Cultures of China and Japan. In class, he actively engages students in the critical examination of theory, methods, and the production of anthropological literature. A central component of all classes is to disrupt taken-for-granted assumptions and understandings students bring with them to the University, opening up the possibility for alternative understandings of the world around them.

Dr. Leggett encourages independent research and has twice been recognized as a “professor making a real difference for graduating seniors.” He has mentored several students on URECA and senior thesis projects. Many of these projects have resulted in presentations at regional and national anthropology conferences.

H. Willis Means

Elementary and Special Education

Outstanding Teacher Award



H. Willis Means, an associate professor in the Department of Elementary and Special Education, earned a B.A. at David Lipscomb College, an M.Ed. at the University of Cincinnati, an M.S. at the University of Evansville, and an Ed.D. in instructional design and technology at Texas Tech University. He came to the University in 1996.

Dr. Means uses his teaching and research interests to develop course materials designed to actively engage students. He designed one of the first online graduate courses offered by the Regents Online Degree Program, an online undergraduate and graduate case-based classroom assessment course, and comparable instructional technology courses. He is currently teaching and developing problems-based materials for the first course in the department's professional education sequence.

Dr. Means's career in urban elementary and middle schools and as an early adopter and advocate for the use of technology in schools has resulted in presentations at regional and national instructional technology conferences. As a computer science textbook contributing author, he has emphasized the social and educational uses of computers. His research interest in computer-mediated communication is leading him to explore using mobile technologies in collaborative learning, problems-based learning, and the professional development of pre- and in-service teachers. He has been active in the redesign of the pre-service teacher education program by serving on two Tennessee Board of Regents committees (Ready2Teach and Instructional Technology).

Lori A. Kissinger

Speech and Theatre

Outstanding Teaching in General Education Award



Lori A. Kissinger is an instructor in the Department of Speech and Theatre. She earned a B.S. from the University of Southern Indiana, a master's in library science from Indiana University, and an M.A. in communication from Indiana State University. She teaches Fundamentals of Communication in the classroom as a hybrid and as a Raider Learning Communities class. She also teaches Organizational Communication in Communities. All her courses are classified as EXL courses, and she recently received the 2012–2013 Outstanding EXL Faculty Award. She joined MTSU in 2003.

Ms. Kissinger is devoted to developing professional presentation skills in her students because she thinks that this is the edge that will allow them to move further and faster in their careers. Finding opportunities for her students to practice and demonstrate their classroom knowledge is a goal. She believes that real-world experiences create a greater understanding in students of the importance of public speaking while allowing them to network and build their resumes.

In addition to teaching, Ms. Kissinger runs a statewide nonprofit called VSA Tennessee, which is tied to the John F. Kennedy Center and works with people with disabilities through the arts. Her efforts in connecting students to VSA Tennessee won her the 2006 MTSU Public Service Award and the 2011 Certificate of Appreciation from Disabled Student Services. She also serves as an advisor to several student organizations and was nominated as 2013 Advisor of the Year. She believes that learning is a lifelong endeavor that happens both in and out of the classroom.

Victor J. Montemayor

Physics and Astronomy

Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology Award



Victor J. Montemayor received a B.S. from Bucknell University and a Ph.D. in theoretical physics from the University of Toledo. He came to MTSU in 1990.

Dr. Montemayor has been a guest scientist at Hahn-Meitner Institute for Nuclear Research in Berlin, the Institute for Atomic Research of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Debrecen, Hungary, and Sandia National Labs in Livermore, California. He was also an adjunct research professor of physics at Vanderbilt University and a visiting professor of physics in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. Dr. Montemayor has served as a consultant for the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) as they work to improve the quality of medical physics graduate programs across the country and has been invited by the AAPM to deliver plenary talks at international workshops and summer schools. He is chair of the national AAPM committee on Medical Physicists as Educators. Dr. Montemayor received the MTSU Outstanding Teacher Award in 1998 and 2006; the Outstanding Instructional Technology Award in 1999; and the Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology in 2012. He also received the prestigious 2013 Ernest L. Boyer International Award for Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology.

Charles H. Apigian

Computer Information Systems

Outstanding Public Service Award



Charles Apigian, associate professor in the Department of Computer Information Systems, received a B.S. from Bowling Green State University, an M.B.A. from Wayne State University, and a Ph.D. in manufacturing management from the University of Toledo. He joined MTSU in 2002.

As a faculty member with expertise in information systems and quantitative methods, Dr. Apigian has embraced his role at MTSU through his teaching and research and especially service. The recipient of several teaching awards including two Professor of the Year awards in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, he is most proud of his students who have moved on to successful careers in the field of information systems. A researcher who has been published in several peer-reviewed journals, he is also dedicated to helping children and families.

Dr. Apigian helped organize the Try Boro Kids Triathlon in 2009. Since then, the Try Boro Kids Race Series has hosted a total of nine events for children (ages 5 to 14) ranging from triathlons to 2.5K/5Ks, held ten clinics, and developed and administered programs in the Murfreesboro City Schools system to get kids active and fit. Each event is professionally managed and timed, and every child walks away with a finisher medal. The Try Boro Kids Race Series is conducted in partnership with Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation and Murfreesboro City Schools. More than 1,800 children have participated.

Debra Rose Wilson

Nursing

Outstanding Public Service



Debra Rose Wilson, associate professor in the School of Nursing, earned a B.S.N. with First Class Standing and a B.A. in psychology from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario; an M.S.N. from Tennessee State University; and a Ph.D. in health psychology with a focus in psychoneuroimmunology from Walden University. She is also pursuing a graduate degree in physics. She came to MTSU in 2007.

Dr. Wilson's research projects focus on stress and the immune function and overcoming breastfeeding challenges. She teaches courses in mental health, theoretical foundations, and advanced role development and shares widely her expertise in grief counseling.

Dr. Wilson has produced 22 peer-reviewed publications and numerous other articles. She is editor of the *International Journal of Childbirth Education* and an internationally known speaker on stress management. In 2010, she was an invited visiting scholar at the University of Botswana, sharing her expertise in stress management and self-care with nurse leaders.

Dr. Wilson has received four MTSU public service grants to support workshops and classes for Nashville Rape and Sexual Abuse Center clients, staff, and therapists. Public service funding has also supported her work with the SHARE Pregnancy and Infant Loss and Support organization for families who have experienced the death of a baby through miscarriage or stillbirth. She provides many other free workshops and lectures on self-care and stress management.

Becca Seul

University College Advising Center

Outstanding Public Service Award



Becca Seul earned a B.S. and an M.S. at MTSU. She is an academic advisor in the University College Advising Center (UCAC). From 2006 to 2008, she worked as a graduate assistant in the Department of Human Sciences and as an intern in the UCAC. After completing her master's in human sciences, she began her professional career in the UCAC while also serving as an instructor in the Department of Human Sciences. She received her certification in family life education shortly after graduation and then accepted responsibility for coordination of MTSU's Next Step program, which aims to help former foster care youth to enter college. Under her leadership, the program has grown and now assists former foster youth, homeless students, and other independent minors as they pursue higher education. Ms. Seul continues to develop strong partnerships with community leaders in an effort to assist her students in overcoming the many obstacles they face. She serves as MTSU liaison for Youth Villages of Tennessee, the Department of Children's Services, Davidson County Oasis, and Rutherford County Schools.

Ms. Seul worked with the Student Government Association to establish the Student Food Pantry in 2012. The pantry quickly became an important resource for students in need at MTSU.

Throughout Ms. Seul's academic career, especially in graduate school, faculty members played important roles in helping her define her future. She wants to inspire others as her teachers inspired her. She is a lifelong resident of Murfreesboro and is involved in Relay for Life, Community Cares, and Murfreesboro City athletics.

Paul S. Foster

Psychology

Distinguished Research Award



Paul S. Foster, associate professor of psychology, earned a B.S. in psychology and a B.S. in public and social services, summa cum laude, from Kennesaw State College; an M.S. in clinical psychology from Georgia Southern University; and a Ph.D. in clinical psychology with a specialization in neuropsychology from Virginia Tech. He completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in behavioral neurology and neuropsychology at the University of Florida coming to MTSU in 2007. Since 2009, Dr. Foster has maintained a private practice at Murfreesboro Medical Clinic (MMC), where he primarily conducts assessments on patients suspected of having neurodegenerative diseases. His practice a source of data for his research, and he has sought to build a bridge of collaboration between MMC and MTSU.

Dr. Foster investigates neurodegenerative diseases, with much of his research focusing on Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, and Parkinson's disease. His projects include investigations of spreading activation in lexical and semantic memory networks and other alterations in memory and cognitive functioning in these patient populations and investigations concerning the cerebral moderation of cardiovascular and immune system functioning. His research has resulted in 60 publications in peer-reviewed journals; 81 presentations at regional, national, and international conferences; 18 invited oral presentations; and nine published book chapters.

Minsoo Kang

Health and Human Performance

Distinguished Research Award



Minsoo Kang, associate professor in the Department of Health and Human Performance, earned B.A. and M.A. degrees from Seoul National University in South Korea and a Ph.D. in kinesiology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Dr. Kang's research has focused on measurement and statistical methods and their applications to physical activity assessments. His projects include reducing measurement error in objectively measured physical activity, applying missing data analysis to physical activity missing data, and developing new methodologies for measuring physical activity and function examining person/environment interactions using accelerometry and spatial data from GPS and GIS. He has been involved in several multidisciplinary grant and research projects, collaborating with colleagues in a variety of disciplines related to physical activity including epidemiology, psychology, geography, and medicine. The author of over 60 refereed journal articles and four book contributions, Dr. Kang has also presented more than 175 research projects, including 19 invited presentations, and received 20 research grants/contracts. He teaches courses on data analysis, research methods, and meta-analysis; conducts research seminars; and teaches current measurement issues in human performance at the master's and doctoral levels.

Dr. Kang is a fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine and a research fellow of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance. (AAHPERD). He is an associate editor of *Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sports* and a section editor of *Measurement in Physical Education and Exercise Science*.

Kevin E. Smith

Sociology and Anthropology

Distinguished Research Award



Kevin E. Smith completed his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in anthropology at Vanderbilt University. In 1994, he joined the faculty of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, where he serves as professor and director of Anthropology.

Dr. Smith's primary area of research is the archaeology of the southeastern United States, with special interests in the late prehistoric Native American cultures of middle Tennessee (ca. A.D. 900–1500), the frontier period of Tennessee (ca. A.D. 1780–1820), and the archaeology of African American life from slavery through reconstruction.

Within the past five years, Dr. Smith has contributed as an author to over 60 presentations at professional conferences and at invited lectures at universities and museums and to nonprofit organizations and clubs. He has also been published in over 40 peer-reviewed books, professional journals, National Register nominations, and publicly accessible monographs and newsletter articles. His engagement of students in the process of research includes serving as director or reader for over fifteen undergraduate senior and Honors theses, master's theses, and dissertations at MTSU and three other universities.

Dr. Smith has received several advising, teaching, and service awards including College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Advisor (1998 and 2010), the Outstanding Teacher Award (2000), and the Outstanding Public Service Award (2009). In addition to an active teaching and research program, he serves as vice chair of the Governor's Archaeological Advisory Council and vice chair of the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Review Board.

Robert “Bob” S. Wood

Recording Industry

Outstanding Creative Activity Award



Bob Wood earned piano performance degrees from Oklahoma Baptist University (B.M.) and the University of North Texas (M.M.). At the latter institution, he earned a D.M.A. in composition. He joined MTSU in 1991. He is director of the M.F.A. in Recording Arts and Technologies in the Department of Recording Industry. He administers the graduate program and teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in film scoring and music synthesis/MIDI.

His creative activity has included writing vocal and instrumental arrangements for recording sessions, composing jingles, and serving as a contributing writer for a complete music package for a cable television network. His musical arrangements have been performed across the country and on NBC television.

Dr. Wood's most recent creative work has been composing original scores for short films. Working with MTSU professor and film director Dr. Bob Pondillo, he has written scores for three films in the last five years. These films have received numerous awards and were official selections of more than two dozen film festivals. Of particular note is the score to the film *Wait*—a film containing no dialogue in which the music plays a prominent role. The film was a selection of the Cannes Film Festival and the Park City Film Music Festival, where it received the gold medal for Best Impact of Music in a Short Film.

Saeed Foroudastan

College of Basic and
Applied Sciences

Special Projects Award



\$15,000 for

“Experimental Vehicles Program Hybrid Car Project”

Students will design and build the first ever Formula Hybrid Car prototype, a high efficiency green energy competition vehicle that competes in a series of events that test the design and performance of the vehicles. Students will race at the international Formula Hybrid Car race. The Formula Hybrid Car is widely regarded as one of the most complex design and engineering projects of the SAE-sponsored intercollegiate design vehicle competitions. This project involves working across various disciplines. The vehicle will be judged on innovative design, fuel efficiency, and sustainable manufacturing practices.

Gail Zlotky

Aerospace

Special Projects Award

\$10,000 for

“Development and Implementation of a National Certification Program for LifeFlight Communication Specialist”

The purpose of this project is to use the capabilities and expertise within the Air Traffic Control program at MTSU to create and implement a new certification for Helicopter Emergency Medical Services personnel that will improve safety of helicopter traffic at hospitals.

William F. Ford

Weatherford Chair of Finance

Jennings A. Jones College of Business

Career Achievement Award



William F. Ford, professor of economics and finance, holds the Weatherford Chair of Finance in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business. A veteran of the U.S. Navy Submarine Service, he received a B.A., summa cum laude, from the University of Texas and an M.A. and Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan. He is a graduate of the Senior Executive Program at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business. He has been at MTSU since 1991.

Dr. Ford's distinguished professional career in macroeconomics and monetary economics is notable for achievements in both the private and public sectors. His commitment to teaching excellence, research, and service has been exemplary, and students, academic colleagues, and industry professionals have benefited from the breadth and depth of his banking and finance acumen.

Dr. Ford began his academic career in 1965 as a teaching fellow and instructor of economics at the University of Michigan, followed by a stint with the Rand Corporation as a member of the economic research staff. He then spent time on the faculties of the University of Virginia, Texas Tech University, and Transylvania College, rising from assistant professor to professor of business and finance. In 1970, Dr. Ford entered the private sector, where he began a stellar career in banking and finance. He served as executive director and chief economist of the American Bankers Association for five years before assuming a leadership position with Wells Fargo Bank as senior vice president. Dr. Ford was appointed president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta in 1980, a post he held for three years. He subsequently served as president, COO, and director of the First

Nationwide Financial Corporation and First Nationwide Bank and president and CEO of the Broadview Savings Bank. He returned to academia in 1990 when he joined the College of Business at Denver University as dean and professor of finance.

An active researcher, Dr. Ford is the author or coauthor of over 100 articles in business and academic journals including the *Journal of Financial and Economic Practice*, the *Government Accountants Journal*, the *Journal of Economics and Finance*, *Economics Bulletin*, *Journal of Government Financial Management*, *Tennessee Business*, *Business Economics*, *Economic Education Bulletin*, *Social Science Quarterly*, and *Health Economics* among others. He serves as associate editor of the *Journal of Business and Management* and *Business Economics* and is a member of the editorial board of *Bank Funds Management Report*. Widely sought for his banking and financial expertise, he has provided consulting services to the National Credit Union Administration, the IMF/World Bank, Sri Lanka, and Telecheck Services Inc., where he also serves as senior economic advisor. He has provided expert witness and business consulting to RTC, the FDIC, and numerous community banks.

In addition to his service as a board member and member of the Economics Committee of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Ford has been a member of the Bretton Woods Committee and has served on the boards of six corporations. He has made over 300 presentations to local, national, and international academic and business audiences, most recently to the Progress Foundation and the American Institute for Economic Research. He is a regular commentator on financial issues on nationwide and regional TV and radio business news shows and is often cited in news publications for his financial economics expertise.

Dr. Ford is an outstanding teacher, recognized by his students for his instructional excellence and commitment to their success. His courses in management of financial institutions and the financial system and economy are rich in experiential learning activities to ensure that students are actively engaged beyond the classroom. He is attuned to the needs of his students inside and outside the classroom—especially first-generation college students. He has provided mentoring and business guidance to many students who were at risk of dropping out. He encouraged, for instance, one student to start his own business as

a way to learn the principles of finance and then provided academic mentoring and business guidance until the student completed his degree, graduating at the top of his class with a financially successful business. The consistently high placement of Financial Institution Management program graduates also speaks to Dr. Ford's commitment to his students beyond graduation.

Dr. Ford is heavily involved in University, community, and professional service. He has served as a member of the Faculty Senate and as a trustee of the MTSU Foundation and has been a member of numerous University committees. A member of the National Association for Business Economics, he has also served as an advisory board member to the University of California–Berkeley National Center on Financial Services and the board of visitors for Berry College.

An elected fellow of the National Association for Business Economics and Phi Beta Kappa Society, Dr. Ford also served as MTSU's representative on the Tennessee Lottery Task Force and received MTSU's Outstanding Public Service Award twice (1996 and 2004) and the Distinguished Research Award in 1998. He was named a 2001–2002 Outstanding Faculty Member in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, and in 2004, he received the Tennessee Board of Regents Academic Excellence Award for managing the Weatherford Chair of Finance's programs.

Dr. William F. Ford is a most worthy recipient of the MTSU 2013 Career Achievement Award.