# THE MTSU FOUNDATION AWARDS



Fall General Faculty Meeting • August 22, 2014



#### 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,

Kathy Jokes Kathy Jones, '83

President, MTSU Foundation

# Heather J. Brown Concrete Industry Management Outstanding Teacher Award



Heather J. Brown holds a B.S., an M.S. and a Ph.D. from Tennessee Technological University. She joined MTSU in 2001 and is now chair of the Department of Concrete Industry Management (CIM).

Dr. Brown has developed nine new courses and has worked with three CIM institutions in Texas, California, and New Jersey to implement curriculum through an NSF PFI grant. Because the CIM program offers instruction in so many facets of the concrete industry, many industry partners actively support students and often speak to Dr. Brown's classes. These connections often lead to a 100 percent job placement rate for her graduating seniors. Dr. Brown travels extensively to stay current in the technology of the \$600 billion-a-year concrete industry and has acquired over 200 partners to support MTSU's program annually.

Dr. Brown requires each of her students to complete a senior research project, and she has received several government and corporate grants to support student research. Dr. Brown attempts to bring aspects of the built environment into the classroom in the form of actual materials, and she encourages the use of applied math by all her students.

Dr. Brown is known for engaging students in concrete projects such as the Blue Horseshoe, Blue Raider sidewalks, lightning bolts for the track, slabs for the soccer field, stamped concrete near the Floyd Stadium's elevator entrance, and permeable-paver parking lots.

# Rebecca M. Fischer Health and Human Performance Outstanding Teacher Award



Rebecca M. Fischer holds a B.A. from Trinity University, an M.Sc. from McGill University, and a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University. She joined MTSU in 1995.

She is a professor of speech-language pathology and audiology in the Department of Health and Human Performance and also a member of the Literacy Studies faculty in the College of Education.

Dr. Fischer teaches Phonetics, Research Methods, Diagnostics, Introduction to Audiology, Advanced Audiology, and Intervention for Individuals with Hearing Loss. Her research interests are in student education and clinical training and auditory processing disorders.

Dr. Fischer believes her role is one of not only classroom instruction but also advising and working with students on individual research projects, and she has served as advisor for undergraduate Honors theses. Dr. Fischer seeks to adapt activities to students' learning levels. This may include scaffolding theoretically based information on the inner ear, for example, or working with students to model the complex functions of the hearing system by forming a "human cochlea."

#### Sisavanh Houghton Art Outstanding Teacher Award



Sisavanh Houghton, an associate professor in the Department of Art, earned a B.F.A. from the University of Kansas and an M.F.A. from Southern Illinois University—Carbondale. She came to MTSU in 2003, and she teaches advanced-level painting courses.

Her source material for research stems directly from her personal experience as a mother, wife, teacher, citizen, and observer of everyday culture. Professor Houghton is a multimedia artist using classical techniques and materials such as oils, bronze, and wood. She has shown her work in solo, juried, and invitational exhibitions throughout the United States, Canada, and New Zealand. Her works have been featured in Gwyneth Paltrow's online journal *Goop.com* and in *Studio Visit* magazine, and she was among "The New Superstars of Southern Art" listed by *Oxford American* magazine in 2012. Her research has been funded many times by the Tennessee Arts Commission and MTSU.

As the main painting professor in the studio area, Ms. Houghton has made an effort to create a program that focuses on consistency in creativity and professional balance. Her students have published, gone to graduate schools, won juried awards, and exhibited their works nationally and have had internships with local artists and major galleries. Her goal is to create an environment where students feel comfortable enough to ask questions, take risks, bounce ideas off their peers, make a lot of mistakes, and gain fundamental skills essential to acquire the visual tools to create. Ms. Houghton has been recognized seven times by the Division of Student Affairs as a faculty member who "makes a real difference in the lives of our students."

### Victor J. Montemayor Physics and Astronomy Outstanding Teacher 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.

Because of his long-standing interest in and work with curriculum reform, Dr. Montemayor was asked to serve as facilitator for the first course-redesign faculty work group in 2013, and he is now facilitating the second such work group, formed in March of 2014.

He received the MTSU Outstanding Teacher Award in 1998 and 2006; the Outstanding Instructional Technology Award in 1999 and 2013; the Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology in 2012; and the 2013 Ernest L. Boyer International Award for Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology.

## Nathan C. Phillips Agribusiness and Agriscience Outstanding Teacher Award



Nathan C. Phillips received a B.S. and a Ph.D. from Utah State University. Since joining MTSU in 2007, he has served as the horticulture professor in the School of Agribusiness and Agriscience. He teaches undergraduate-level courses and annually serves as academic advisor for 40 to 60 students.

Dr. Phillips incorporates hands-on learning opportunities in all his courses. Students have scheduled and grown greenhouse crops, built and planted a trellised high-density orchard, developed a container nursery, and designed and installed landscapes. He utilizes the MTSU Experiential Learning and Research Center for many courses. Dr. Phillips has enlisted the help of many professionals as hosts of field trips, guest lecturers, and developers and supervisors of internships.

Dr. Phillips has mentored 15 funded undergraduate research projects, including one that was named the best undergraduate research poster at national American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS) meetings, two that took top honors at a southern region ASHS meeting, and another that won first place in the biology section of a Tennessee Academy of Sciences meeting. He coached the Horticulture Team to first-place overall in horticultural competitions at the ASHS meeting in Miami in 2012, and his teams had two top-three finishes in other years.

Dr. Phillips serves as a faculty advisor for the Plant and Soil Science Club, coaches the Horticulture Team, and manages the Student Farmer's Market, the Horticulture Center greenhouses, and the gardens and nursery at the Experiential Learning and Research Center.

# M. Dawn McCormack History Outstanding Teaching in General Education Award



Dawn McCormack, an associate professor in the Department of History, earned a B.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. She came to MTSU in 2008.

Dr. McCormack teaches ancient history and is a member of the Honors and Graduate faculties, and she directs archaeological projects in Egypt that include undergraduate and graduate students. She believes in sharing her love of the ancient world with students while also teaching skills applicable to any career and to life in general. She sees herself not only as a teacher but also as a mentor. She is committed to finding ways to teach more effectively and to reach those students in the back of the room who think history is boring. Through this process, she has become a strong advocate of a pedagogy called "Reacting to the Past," which involves unscripted role-playing games. Through this method, students become completely engaged with material and issues critical to understanding ancient world history in complex scenarios set in places like Athens, Jerusalem, Nicaea, and China.

# Jonathan M. Bradley English Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology Award



Jonathan Bradley holds a B.A. from Concord University in Athens, West Virginia; an M.A. from Radford University in Radford, Virginia; and a Ph.D. from Middle Tennessee State University. He joined the Department of English in 2013.

Much of Dr. Bradley's current research concerns matters of pedagogy and improving student engagement. Using his background in computer science, he has created educational tools to improve learning through integrated Web 2.0 technologies. Much of his work is interdisciplinary in nature and attempts to find intersections between literature and fields such as philosophy and physics. He has personal and scholarly interests in creative writing, with an upcoming research publication in that field. Dr. Bradley has conducted a creative writing workshop at an international conference and has worked as a freelance fiction consultant and editor during the last year. His creative work has been read at several regional conferences and has recently appeared in eHumor.

# Thomas M. Brinthaupt Psychology Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology Award



Thomas Brinthaupt holds a B.S. from SUNY/Oneonta, an M.A. from St. Bonaventure University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. A professor in the Department of Psychology and Director of faculty development for the Learning, Teaching, and Innovative Technologies Center, he came to MTSU in 1990.

His recent efforts in instructional technology have been focused on pedagogy and the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL). His research over the course of six years has resulted in the publication of thirteen papers, eight presentations for professional organizations, and collaboration with fifteen colleagues from MTSU and other institutions. His publications have focused on the effective integration of instructional technologies, enhancing courses through technology, and developing best practices in technology-related pedagogy. Dr. Brinthaupt has taken leadership and support roles in SoTL, often working with junior faculty members on projects related to instructional technologies. His general approach has been to identify gaps in the theoretical or research literature on the use of instructional technologies and then to address those gaps with best-practice recommendations, data collection, presentations, and publications. Dr. Brinthaupt received the Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology Award in 2007 and the Distinguished Educator in Distance Learning Award in 2005.

#### Michael S. Fleming Recording Industry Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology Award



Michael S. Fleming holds a B.A. from Carleton College and an M.M. from McGill University. He has taught graduate and undergraduate courses in audio technology, studio techniques, and critical listening since coming to MTSU in 2004.

Before MTSU, Mr. Fleming received a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship to conduct acoustical research and study classical music recording, and he was an associate music producer at WGBH Boston, winning awards for production excellence from the Massachusetts Broadcasters Association and the National Federation of Community Broadcasters.

His professional credits range from sound editorial and premastering work to producing and engineering recordings and broadcasts for numerous solo artists and ensembles ranging from the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Nashville Opera to singer-songwriter Phil Lee and composers and performers of the Tennessee-based independent record label Refinersfire.

In 2013, Mr. Fleming and his Recording Industry colleague, Mr. Bill Crabtree, cochaired the 50th international conference of the Audio Engineering Society (AES). The event produced 29 peer-reviewed papers on audio education and included over a dozen workshops and panels on audio pedagogy, industry relations, curriculum design, and ear training. Mr. Fleming has served AES through local section activities in Boston, Montreal, North Carolina, and Nashville. He was an AES Governor (2008–2010) and is completing his second term as regional vice president for the Central U.S. and Canada.

# Wendy S. Beckman Aerospace Outstanding Public Service Award



Wendy S. Beckman holds a B.S. from North Carolina State University, an M.S. from Missouri University of Science and Technology, and an Ed.D. from St. Louis University. She joined MTSU in 2005.

A professor in the Aerospace Department, she is its graduate program coordinator and coordinator of the undergraduate Professional Pilot concentration. Before MTSU, she was on the faculty of St. Louis University for 13 years as an associate professor and assistant chief flight instructor.

Dr. Beckman's public service has centered on K–12 students, using their natural interest in flight to introduce science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) concepts. She has assembled a set of laptop flight-simulator kits and other teaching aids to use in the classroom. She runs an aviation camp she developed for high school students interested in careers in aviation. She serves on the advisory boards for Career and Technical Education at Central Magnet School in Murfreesboro and the Academy of Aviation and Transportation at McGavock High School in Nashville.

Dr. Beckman's research includes the use of scenario-based methods for training in technically advanced aircraft and the use of aviation with K–12 students to develop long-term interest in STEM disciplines. She also researches factors that influence the success of professional pilot students in completing the curriculum and the ongoing development and implementation of safety management systems in aviation. She has been published in a number of peer-reviewed journals and has made many presentations based on her research.

#### **Jeremy Winters** Elementary and Special Education **Dutstanding Public Service Award**



Jeremy Winters holds a B.A. and an M.Ed. from Harding University and a Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. He joined MTSU in 2003.

Dr. Winters's teaching, research, and service have been heavily influenced by his passion for PK-12 education. Before MTSU, he taught mathematics in grades 6-12 and coached track and field in Mt. Dora, Florida, where he earned teacher of the year and coach of the year honors.

In pursuit of his doctorate, he worked with two major grants: one an urban initiative and the other a rural education grant. These experiences shaped his desire to support professional development of teachers through grant writing. In his current position, he has been active in building partnerships across the state with K-8 teachers to collaboratively improve mathematics achievement. Most recently, he received a public service grant to give resources to classroom teachers to help them teach fractions conceptually, implement a Family Math Nights program, offer professional development workshops for teachers and principals, and provide teachers with STEM professional development grants.

## Nancy E. Stubblefield Mass Communication Outstanding Public Service Award



Nancy E. Stubblefield earned a B.S. and a M.Ed. from MTSU. She held positions in automotive marketing, healthcare research, and human resources before coming to MTSU in 2007 as a career coordinator for the College of Mass Communication.

In 2010, Ms. Stubblefield became an advisor for freshmen undeclared majors in the University College. She also taught UNIV 1010 courses for which she developed two Web games to help students identify potential majors. Now an academic advisor in the College of Mass Communication, she assists at-risk students and works with them to improve grades and earn candidacy.

In 2012, Ms. Stubblefield and Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross coauthored a grant for a Career Sampler Day Camp to give middle school students an opportunity to learn about majors offered at MTSU. The camp includes field trips on campus, as well as off-campus field trip to Murfreesboro Airport and the MTSU dairy farm.

Ms. Stubblefield has been a Girl Scout leader for eleven years and has been named an Outstanding Leader for her service unit. In 2012, she was appointed service unit manager for over fifty troops in the Rutherford County area, developing programs for approximately 500 Girl Scouts ranging from kindergarten through high school. She recently created an event called "Junior Jam," which targeted 4th and 5th grade Girl Scouts. Co-sponsored by Kappa Delta Sorority, the event encouraged scouts to learn about college life.

## Ngee Sing Chong Chemistry Distinguished Research Award



Ngee Sing Chong holds a B.A. from Hanover College, an M.S. from Iowa State University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. He joined MTSU in 1998 and is a professor of chemistry, and director of the MTSU Interdisciplinary Microanalysis and Imaging Center.

Before MTSU, he worked for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, monitoring air pollutants at industrial sites. From 2004 to 2008, he served on the Tennessee Air Pollution Control Board to address airquality issues, and he helped formulate strategies for pollution control. He teaches general chemistry, instrumental analysis, intermediate analytical chemistry, vibrational spectroscopy, and atmospheric chemistry. Dr. Chong has provided research mentoring to students from high school to doctorate levels.

Dr. Chong's current research is focused on gas-phase chemistry, which plays a role in atmospheric pollution and the removal of toxic and malodorous chemicals in the environment. His main contribution in the field of analytical chemistry is the development of a prototype instrument combining gas chromatography with inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry. This allows the quantitative analysis of toxic compounds that may be found in contaminated seafood. He is collaborating with researchers at the Shelby County Health Department and the University of Memphis in an air-quality study of Memphis and surrounding areas.

# Cyrille L. Magne Psychology Distinguished Research Award



Cyrille Magne earned a B.S., an M.S., and a Ph.D. from Paul Cézanne University (France). He also completed a two-year postdoctoral research fellowship at the Center for Complex Systems and Brain Sciences at Florida Atlantic University. An associate professor, he joined the Psychology Department in 2007.

Dr. Magne's research interests focus on the neural correlates of speech perception and reading acquisition and the influence of music training on language processing. He has published 29 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters in highly ranked neuroscience and psychology journals including Cerebral Cortex, Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience, NeuroImage, Trends in Cognitive Sciences, Frontiers in Psychology and PLoS One.

Dr. Magne is currently principle investigator on a grant from the National Science Foundation aimed at investigating how linguistic rhythm affects the understanding of structure and meaning in written English text.

# Janis Brickey Human Sciences Creative Activity Award



Janis Brickey holds a B.S. from Virginia Tech and an M.S. and Ph.D. the University of Tennessee–Knoxville. She joined MTSU in 2006.

Dr. Brickey's career has included interior design work in the public and private sectors, and in human resource development and education. During the 1980s, she practiced interior design in east Tennessee, completing commercial and residential projects for clients in several states. Her accomplishments led to leadership positions in cross-discipline organizations and founding membership on Virginia Tech's interior design advisory board. Dr. Brickey's graduate studies included interdisciplinary projects in design, management, and community development. A human ecologist, she has used federal and state grants and contracts to improve work and living opportunities for people with disabilities. She represented the field of interior design as a leader and innovator at the 75th Anniversary Celebration of Women at Virginia Tech.

Dr. Brickey holds certifications from the National Council for Interior Design Qualification and the Center for Health Design. Her University service includes the Academic Appeals Committee, the Faculty Senate, the Honors Council, and the 2015 Academic Master Plan Committee. In 2010, Dr. Brickey established a relationship with the Tennessee State Parks Resort Division that has resulted in design experiences for students. She cochaired the 2013 Honors College Lecture Series on innovation and design, which challenged students to consider how business, science, technology, and design all influence changes in systems.

Dr. Brickey is a member of the Interior Design Educators Council, the International Interior Design Association, and NEWH, a networking group for the hospitality industry.

#### Ashley B. Morris

#### Biology

Special Projects Award

No photo available

#### \$9,000 for "MTSU Virtual Herbarium"

Ashley B. Morris holds a B.S. from the University of the South–Sewanee, an M.S. from the University of Tennessee–Knoxville, and a Ph.D. from the University of Florida. She joined MTSU in 2011.

The primary objective of this project is to curate and digitize the MTSU herbarium, which contains approximately 25,000 specimens, and to integrate the University's virtual collection into a publicly searchable online portal. These funds will be used to build a nonmobile imaging station using the criteria and design established by the New York Botanical Garden. Public access to the collection will provide opportunities for biological research and educational inquiry both within the MTSU community and around the world and will promote middle Tennessee as an important region for plant studies.

#### Ahad Nasab Engineering Technology Special Projects Award



\$16,000 for "Innovations in Robotic-Based Manufacturing"

Ahad Nasab holds a B.S. from California State University–Northridge and an M.S. and Ph.D. from Georgia Institute of Technology. He joined MTSU in 1991.

These funds will be used to purchase mobile industrial robotic equipment and software to be used in the Mechatronics Engineering program. The Bachelor of Science in Mechatronics Engineering began in spring 2014 with 39 students enrolled. One hundred students are expected by fall 2014. This program, created in response to advanced manufacturing need, offers students opportunities for learning through industry and academic partnerships.

The equipment will be used to challenge upper-division students in laboratory courses related to power, control theory, lean manufacturing, logistics, and mechanism design.

#### Paula Bevels Thomas

#### Deloitte Foundation Professor of Accounting

Jennings A. Jones College of Business
Career Achievement Award



Paula Bevels Thomas has deep roots at MTSU. She earned her B.B.A. and M.S. degrees in accounting here, and has been a member of the accounting faculty for over 30 years. Dr. Thomas holds the Deloitte Foundation Professorship in Accounting, an honor that reflects her success in instilling knowledge and professionalism in students and preparing them for careers.

Dr. Thomas began her professional career as a staff accountant in the Nashville office of Arthur Andersen. After earning her CPA license, she moved to the banking industry. She created and headed the internal audit department at Union National Bank in Fayetteville, Tennessee. Dr. Thomas's interest in teaching began when she was asked to teach an evening section of Principles of Accounting at a community college. After teaching night classes for two years while working in banking, she decided to pursue an academic career full-time and earned her D.B.A. at Mississippi State University.

Dr. Thomas teaches a variety of financial accounting courses and has worked with colleagues to create many new courses to keep the curriculum relevant. She developed and now teaches the graduate capstone class in the M.Acc. program. She has also worked extensively on accounting curriculum issues at the national level. She chaired the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) core competency framework committee and has chaired and served on many educational committees and task forces for both the AICPA and the American Accounting Association.

Dr. Thomas has published over 40 articles on a variety of accounting issues in academic and professional journals including *Accounting Horizons*, *Journal of Accountancy*, *Advances in Accounting*, *Critical* 

Perspectives on Accounting, Directors Monthly, Tennessee Society of CPAs Journal, Advances in Public Interest Accounting, and Journal of Corporate Accounting and Finance. She served a three-year term as associate editor for Issues in Accounting Education, one of the top journals in accounting education in the nation. Her research on cash-balance pensions was a resource for IBM employees who were concerned about their reduced pension benefits resulting from IBM's pension plan conversions. She has presented academic papers to educators in the United States and other countries. Believing that academics have an obligation to share their knowledge beyond the university, Dr. Thomas frequently provides technical and professional issues updates to practitioners throughout the country. She also speaks annually at MTSU's Accounting Alumni Appreciation Day.

Dr. Thomas has served on and chaired several department, college, and University committees. She has chaired the Department of Accounting faculty recruiting committee for many years. Her opinions are valued by her colleagues, and they have consistently chosen her to serve on tenure and promotion committees at the college and departmental levels.

As department chair and Advisory Board Distinguished Professor from 2002 to 2007, she successfully led the department through its initial AACSB separate accounting accreditation process. When the department earned accreditation in 2004, only 165 college and university programs worldwide held that distinction. Ten years later, only 181 programs have earned both accounting and business accreditation.

Student success has always been one of Dr. Thomas's priorities. Since stepping down as department chair, she has assumed responsibility as faculty advisor for Beta Alpha Psi, an international honor organization for financial information students and professionals. Last year, the group's service and professional activities earned it Superior Chapter status, Beta Alpha Psi's highest designation, and for the first time in the chapter's history, students participated in Deloitte Best Practices competitions. Last year's team won first place at the regional level and second place nationally.

Dr. Thomas thrives on seeing her former students succeed; several are now partners in international, regional, and local CPA firms, and others have attained senior management positions. She works diligently to stay in contact with these graduates, and they regularly return to campus to share their knowledge and experience with current students.

Throughout her career, Dr. Thomas has been deeply involved in the accounting profession and the business community. At the national level, she is an active AICPA member. When appointed to serve a three-year term on the AICPA board of directors, she was the only academic among its 23 members and the first person from Tennessee ever selected. She is now serving a second term on the AICPA board of examiners, which has oversight responsibility for the Uniform CPA exam that is administered in the United States and internationally. Dr. Thomas has served on many committees and task forces of both AICPA and the American Accounting Association. She is a member of the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants and has served that organization as treasurer, council member, and finance committee member. She is a member of the board of directors at MidSouth Bank, where she chairs the audit committee, and is designated as a financial expert for regulatory financial statement filings. She is a member of the Nashville Chapter of Women Corporate Directors, a global organization. She has been involved in local organizations such as the YMCA board of directors and the trustees of the Richard Siegel Foundation.

Dr. Thomas was the first woman to receive the AICPA Distinguished Achievement in Accounting Education Award, the highest national award given to an accounting educator. Among her many other honors are the Tennessee Society of CPAs Lifetime Achievement in Accounting Education Award, the MTSU Faculty Public Service Award, and the Jennings A. Jones College of Business Outstanding Faculty Award. She won the Tennessee Society of CPAs Outstanding Discussion Leader Award in two consecutive years and also received that organization's Outstanding Educator Award. Most recently, she was inducted into Nashville CABLE's Board Walk Hall of Fame.

Throughout her career, Dr. Thomas's accomplishments in teaching, research, and service have brought national and international recognition to MTSU. She has succeeded in working with a wide range of constituents—both inside and outside of the classroom—to change lives for the better.

Dr. Paula Bevels Thomas is a most worthy recipient of the MTSU 2014 Career Achievement Award.

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