

MTSU FOUNDATION AWARDS AND FACULTY RECOGNITIONS

FALL FACULTY
MEETING

AUGUST 22, 2019

I AM *true*
BLUE

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

0719-7860 / Middle Tennessee State University does not discriminate against students, employees, or applicants for admission or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, age, status as a protected veteran, genetic information, or any other legally protected class with respect to all employment, programs, and activities sponsored by MTSU. The Assistant to the President for Institutional Equity and Compliance has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies and can be reached at Cope Administration Building 116, 1301 East Main Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37132; Marian.Wilson@mtsu.edu; or 615-898-2185. The MTSU policy on non-discrimination can be found at www.mtsu.edu/iec.

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY.

To the faculty and staff:

Welcome to the Fall Faculty Meeting of Middle Tennessee State University. On behalf of the MTSU Foundation Board, I would like to thank you for your dedication and leadership, which have made MTSU the institution of choice for the region's top scholars.

We are grateful to all the faculty and staff seeking to provide a supportive learning environment to our students and an experience that is as personal and unique as our diverse student population. Since the establishment of the MTSU Foundation in the early 1960s, the University has been the beneficiary of gifts that have contributed significantly to its growth and development. Our mission is to provide financial assistance from alumni, friends, and the community to build an even stronger MTSU.

I congratulate today's recipients and all the faculty. Best wishes for an exciting, fulfilling, and successful academic year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Nichols".

G. Ron Nichols, '70
President, MTSU Foundation

FOUNDATION

AWARDS





Mary Beth E. Asbury

*Department of Communication Studies
Outstanding Teaching Award*

Mary Beth E. Asbury, an associate professor of Communication Studies, is a graduate of the University of Georgia (B.A., Speech Communication and Political Science), University of Tennessee (M.S., Communication Studies), and University of Kansas (Ph.D., Communication Studies). Her research focuses on communication processes in health and interpersonal communication, specifically in the areas of weight stigma and body image. Asbury teaches classes in interpersonal communication, organizational communication, and health communication at MTSU. Her primary goal in the classroom is to inspire students' love of learning by pushing her classes to look at current communication issues in their personal lives and in society as a whole.

Asbury's teaching has been recognized at both the University and regional level. She was a Faculty Teaching Fellow for MTSU's Learning, Teaching, and Innovative Technologies Center and was chosen to participate in MTSU's first Faculty Learning Community. In 2013, Asbury received the Bob Womack Award for the "faculty member who has made a significant contribution to the classroom" from the Student Government Association. In addition, during 2013–17, she was recognized as a professor who makes a difference by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Enrollment and Academic Services. Asbury also has been recognized outside of MTSU for her outstanding teaching as the recipient of the Dwight L. Freshley Outstanding New Teacher Award from the Southern States Communication Association. The award "honors SSCA members who have demonstrated teaching excellence early in their careers." Additionally, she has been active in developing new pedagogical techniques, publishing four teaching activities in regional and national outlets.



Vishwas Bedekar

*Department of Engineering Technology
Outstanding Teaching Award*

Vishwas Bedekar joined MTSU in Fall 2013 as an assistant professor in Engineering Technology. He received his B.E. degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Bombay, India, and his M.S. in Mechanical Engineering and Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of Texas–Arlington.

After finishing his Ph.D., Bedekar was appointed as a post-doctoral associate at Virginia Tech and later was named research assistant professor at the University of Arkansas. He has authored over 30 publications/presentations in research related to energy harvesting materials and devices as well as one U.S. patent. Bedekar is a reviewer for 10 internationally circulated journals and a panelist for federal funding agencies related to materials and manufacturing.

He is a member of the graduate faculty, has participated in the Faculty Fellow Program, and has served on the Graduate Council. Bedekar also has represented the Engineering Technology Department on the Faculty Senate since Fall 2017. He has been recognized on several occasions as a faculty member who makes a difference by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Enrollment and Academic Services. Bedekar was nominated for a College of Basic and Applied Sciences award for teaching excellence as well as for MTSU's Outstanding Teaching Award in 2017, 2018, and 2019. He is a member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME), chair-elect of SME chapter 43 of Nashville, and faculty advisor of MTSU's SME student chapter S239. Since 2016, Bedekar has mentored award-winning student teams at the National Robotics Challenge.

As part of his efforts to improve his teaching and students' learning experiences, Bedekar secured two Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) grants on course revitalization in 2015 and 2016 to adopt student-centered teaching practices. Some of the unique offerings of his courses include enhanced student engagement in class, regular visits to local industry, mid-semester feedback collection, and use of technology to improve student participation in class. In addition, Bedekar used several technology tools in the TBR-sponsored grants, such as TopHat, AudioNote, and Panopto BLTI.



Christina M. Cobb

*Department of University Studies
Outstanding Teaching Award*

Christina M. Cobb is an assistant professor in the University Studies Department teaching mathematics. She teaches prescribed mathematics courses and is starting her ninth year of service at MTSU. Previously, Cobb taught middle school math in Metro Nashville Public Schools for three years. She loves teaching mathematics, and it is her heart's desire to make an impact on each student who walks into her classroom. Cobb models education in her life. At Tennessee State University, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, a Master of Science in Mathematics, and a Doctorate of Education in Curriculum and Instruction.

Cobb works to give all of her students the tools needed to be successful in her mathematics courses and beyond. She teaches with so much passion and energy that her students love to come to class. Cobb often presents nationally about innovative ways to teach mathematics and serves as co-chair of the Mathematics Network for the National Organization for Student Success (NOSS). Along with Marva Lucas, Cobb was awarded a Tennessee Board of Regents' Student Engagement, Retention, and Success grant for "Strategies to Enhance African American Males in a Prescribed Mathematics Course Success Rates," which launches this semester. Cobb has a great rapport with her students and is very active in her community. Specifically, she tutors and serves on the boards of multiple community organizations in Nashville and Murfreesboro. Cobb supports all students and seeks to be a role model, especially to young women in her community.



Kate L. Pantelides

*Department of English
Outstanding Teaching Award*

Kate L. Pantelides has a B.A. in English from Bowdoin College, an M.A. in English from the University of Louisville, and a Ph.D. in English with a concentration in Rhetoric and Composition from the University of South Florida. She is the co-director of General Education English at MTSU and teaches both undergraduate and graduate writing classes. The foundations of her teaching philosophy are rooted in empathy and an ethic of care. Pantelides believes that writing is always creative, whether crafting a memo, a technical writing manual, or a poem; because of this, her primary goal for students—from first-year students through graduate students—is to foster risk-taking and innovation in their writing.

Pantelides supports such work in the classroom by designing challenging writing opportunities (like the annual Celebration of Student Writing, which she co-founded with Julie Myatt), modeling experimentation in her own writing, and encouraging extensive revision of formal writing projects. Her pedagogically-oriented research in Writing Studies includes the award-winning article “‘So what are we working on?’ Pronouns as a Way of Re-Examining Composing,” which considers student understandings of authorship. She regularly publishes with her students, most recently co-authoring “Like So Many Maps Under Foot: Using Holographic Thinking to Unflatten a Celebration of Student Writing” with Jacob Castle and Katherine Musick for the edited collection *Radiant Figures*. Pantelides is currently developing a co-authored textbook entitled *Research Methods for Writers* for Bedford Macmillan Publishing and is conducting a study on the impact of plagiarism accusations. (Any students or faculty who would like to participate in the study should contact her!)



Andrew R. Polk

Department of History

Outstanding Teaching Award

Andrew R. Polk has a B.A. in History from Lipscomb University, an M.A. in Biblical Studies from the Hazelip School of Theology, an M.A.R. in American Religious History from Yale University, and a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Florida State University. He started his career as an assistant professor of History and director of Social Studies Education at Arkansas State University in 2013, but came to MTSU a year later. A former high school teacher, Polk directs the history and social studies education initiatives for the Department of History and College of Liberal Arts (CLA). He also works alongside the College of Education on several state initiatives and Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation licensing standards and is director of the Middle Tennessee History Day competition, which brings over 300 middle and high school students to MTSU every year.

Polk teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on American religious history, history pedagogy, and 20th-century America. He teaches using the History Labs model, which emphasizes primary source analysis, group projects, and investigations over traditional lectures. Polk recently won the CLA's 2019 Faculty Teaching Award. A scholar of American religious history, he has published articles and essays in numerous academic journals, including *Church History* and *Presidential Studies Quarterly*. Polk's first book on the religious propaganda campaigns of presidents Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and Dwight Eisenhower is due out in the summer or fall of 2020. He is currently hard at work on his second book, a biography of the civil rights worker, author, and rogue preacher Will D. Campbell.



Aliou Ly

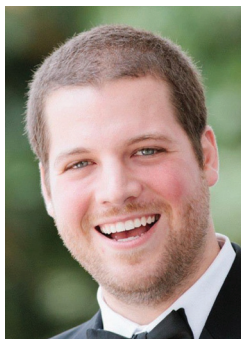
Department of History

Outstanding General Education Award

Aliou Ly is an associate professor in the Department of History. He earned a license from Université Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar (Senegal); an M.A. in History from California State University–Fullerton; and a Ph.D. in African History with an emphasis in African-American Studies from the University of California–Davis. Ly's

primary goal is to help students see general education courses as a means to be well-rounded and respected citizens by learning how to listen to, read about, and analyze issues related to the past. He also focuses on helping students to understand how general education courses are relevant to their lives. Ly is committed to mentoring students because he recognizes the importance of good mentoring. He is grateful to the many mentors and colleagues without whom he would not be where he is today. For the past eight years, Ly has taught a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses such as World Civilization I (from origins to 1500s); US History Survey II (from 1865 to present); African Slave Trade; Women and Politics in Africa; Colonial Africa; and Nationalism and Decolonization in Africa. He also has led an MTSU Education Abroad Program to Senegal multiple times.

As a historian of colonial and post-colonial West Africa, Ly specializes in the political history of West Africa, particularly Guinea Bissau, with a focus on the meaning of women's participation in national liberation struggles and politics. His current research explores the ways in which a focus on the perspective of women fighters has led to re-writing current historical narratives of the Guinea Bissau national liberation war. Ly's research has broader methodological implications for historical research on national liberation struggles. His work also examines the ambiguous relations between African national liberation movements and movements for women's rights and emancipation within those movements. For many years, Ly also had a research interest in the Haitian Revolution (1791–1803,) and the dissemination of the idea of this revolution throughout African political and intellectual circles in the 19th and 20th centuries. He is the author of several publications.



Andrew W. Fialka

*Department of History
Outstanding Achievement in
Instructional Technology Award*

Andrew W. Fialka teaches courses on American history and the Civil War. He also collaborates with the University of Georgia's Center for Virtual History (eHistory.org) on digital humanities projects. Fialka's work on guerrilla war and spatial history has been published in multiple journals and edited collections. His areas of expertise not only include the Civil War, digital humanities, and guerrilla war but also 19th- and 20th-century U.S. and geographic information systems.

Fialka earned a B.A. from the University of Missouri, an M.A. from West Virginia University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. He also has served as a National Park Service park ranger at the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.



Joan E. McRae

*Department of World Languages, Literatures,
and Cultures*

*Outstanding Achievement in
Instructional Technology Award*

Joan E. McRae is a professor of French in the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures with degrees from Agnes Scott College (B.A.), Middlebury College (M.A.), and the University of Virginia (Ph.D.). She teaches both graduate and undergraduate courses in French and the humanities, on campus and online. McRae serves as an online faculty mentor with MTSU Online and supports graduate students with a grant from the U.S. Department of Education (Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need). Her research activity includes published books and articles on medieval literature and manuscript studies, French film, and study abroad. McRae also creates and translates articles for Wikipedia.



Ryan L. Korstange

Department of University Studies

*Outstanding Achievement in
Instructional Technology Award*

Ryan L. Korstange is an assistant professor of University Studies and coordinator of UNIV 1010/2020. He received his Ph.D. and M.Phil. from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion.

Korstange's research focuses on understanding student learning in college and building effective programs to prioritize high-level student success. His work has appeared in the *Journal for Student Success and Retention*; *The Journal for College Orientation, Transition, and Retention*; *The Journal of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*; and the *Journal of Faculty Development*.



Diane R. Edmondson

Department of Marketing

Outstanding Public Service Award

Diane R. Edmondson received her Ph.D. in Marketing from the University of South Florida. She also has a B.S. in General Business Administration and an M.B.A.

Edmondson's primary research interests involve sales-related constructs, especially emotional exhaustion and support; however, she also has published multiple meta-analyses and articles on nonprofit marketing and boundary spanning personnel. Edmondson has been published in a variety of journals such as the *Journal of Business Research*, *Journal of Marketing Theory and Practice*, *Journal of Global Scholars of Marketing Science*, *Journal of Marketing Education*, *Journal of Managerial Issues*, and *Journal of Personal Selling and Sales Management*. She has presented her work at over 30 marketing conferences, receiving numerous "Best Paper in Track" awards. Edmondson was named the E.W. "Wink" Midgett Distinguished Research Award Recipient from the Jones College of Business in 2016. In 2019, she was one of seven women featured in *MTSU Research's* Women in Research issue. Edmondson specializes in teaching professional selling, sales management, marketing research, principles of marketing, and services marketing. She participates in MTSU's Experiential Learning (EXL) and MT Engage programs and recently received the 2018–19 Outstanding EXL Faculty Award.

Outside of MTSU, Edmondson has been actively involved with two academic associations. For the Society for Marketing Advances (SMA), an international marketing association, she has served as president, program chair, and director of placement services. She currently chairs the SMA Board of Governors. Edmondson also has been president and program chair for the Atlantic Marketing Association, and she continues to serve on this association's Board of Directors. In addition, she is on multiple editorial review boards and is guest editor for two separate issues of the *Journal of Managerial Issues*. Finally, for over seven years, Edmondson has volunteered her time with the Civil Air Patrol.



Carroll Van West

*Center for Historic Preservation
Outstanding Public Service Award*

Carroll Van West, who came to MTSU in 1985, directs the Center for Historic Preservation and is a professor of History. Working with partners and communities, he has shaped such history projects as the Trail of Tears National Trail historic survey, Tennessee Century Farms project, Tennessee's Historic Rural African American Church Survey, and Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area. West's recent nominations for the National Register of Historic Places have focused on Nashville's music industry, including RCA Studio A, the Hank Snow House and Studio, the Carl Smith-June Carter House, and the Grand Ole Opry House. He also assisted recent efforts to build neighborhood museums in McKenzie, Charleston, Memphis, Parker's Crossroads, and Russellville, Tennessee, and in Notasulga, Alabama. This year, he joined efforts to establish the Jackson-Dinkins Houses Civil Rights Museum in Selma, Alabama. In 2013, Gov. Bill Haslam appointed West as the Tennessee state historian, a position he continues under Gov. Bill Lee.

Teaching, research, and public service are intertwined in West's work. He finds that engagement with community needs brings a sense of responsibility and "giving back," but it also creates new learning experiences. What communities share—their special places, traditions, and their own sense and understanding of history—makes him a better teacher and more productive scholar. As an MTSU History professor, West has overseen 100 M.A. theses and 30 doctoral dissertations. He has published eight university press books, including *Nashville Architecture* (2015); *Tennessee's New Deal Landscape* (2001); *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture* (1998); *Tennessee's Historic Landscapes* (1995); and *Capitalism on the Frontier: Montana's Yellowstone Valley in the 19th Century* (1993). West earned his B.A. from Middle Tennessee State University, his M.A. from the University of Tennessee, and his Ph.D. from the College of William and Mary.

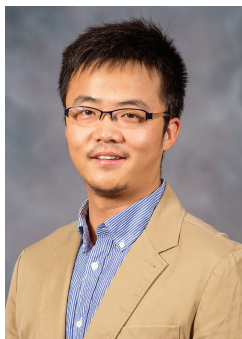


Cynthia Allen

*Department of Environmental Health and Safety
Outstanding Public Service Award*

Cynthia Allen has been with MTSU nearly 14 years and works as an environmental specialist for Civil/Environmental Services in the Environmental Health and Safety Department. She is an alumna with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. Allen's career began with analyzing, investigating, and sampling existing pollutants in the environment. She was eager to address pollution more proactively, and in 2005 she joined MTSU in the Biology Department's Center for Environmental Education, where she helped create, manage, and distribute informative materials to diverse audiences across the state.

In 2011, Allen transferred to Facilities and is enthusiastic about her current role both on campus and in the City of Murfreesboro under a co-permit for the Stormwater Program with the goal of protecting local streams and improving water quality. She enjoys interacting with the public and supports the Stones River Watershed Association, which she currently serves as president. Allen also recently joined the Flower Growers Garden Club. She believes MTSU is a supportive and engaging campus, enjoys working here, and is happy two nieces are currently attending college here and a younger niece is anticipating enrolling in 2020.



Song Cui

School of Agriculture

Distinguished Research Award

Song Cui is an associate professor in the School of Agriculture. He received his B.S. in Agricultural Science from Lanzhou University (China) in 2006 and his Ph.D. in Crop Science from Texas Tech University in 2011. Cui is a broadly trained agronomist with expertise in big data algorithms, crop physiology, forage production, simulation modeling, soil and boundary layer flux (CO₂, water vapor, and greenhouse gases) measurements, and large-scale agroecosystem studies addressing issues such as water sustainability and climate change. He is especially interested in integrating machine-learning techniques into advanced agronomic research domains, including remote sensing, bioinformatics, meta-analysis, and plant growth/ecological modeling. Furthermore, as a field agronomist by training, Cui enjoys conducting variety trials and cropping system research on various row, forage, and specialty crops in different agroecosystems.

He has authored and co-authored more than 20 high-impact journal articles since 2013. Additionally, Cui has served as reviewer for more than 10 peer-reviewed journals and has reviewed more than 20 journal articles in the past five years. Furthermore, he has served as principal investigator for more than \$1.9 million of externally-funded research projects (mainly from the U.S. Department of Agriculture-National Institute of Food and Agriculture) since 2013. Collectively, Cui has been involved in more than \$7 million in collaborative projects nationwide. Currently serving as vice-chair of the Airborne and Satellite Remote Sensing Community of the American Society of Agronomy, he will become chair in 2020. Cui also is the elected secretary/treasurer of Southern Branch of the American Society of Agronomy and will serve as vice president in 2021 and president in 2022. He has served as an external grant reviewer panelist on six external funding programs since 2013, including four USDA-NIFA sponsored competitive funding programs. Cui frequently mentors undergraduate and graduate student research projects and teaches courses such as forage crop production, field crop production, crop ecophysiology, and agricultural statistics and data analysis.



Thomas L. Neff

Department of Media Arts

Distinguished Creative Activity Award

Thomas L. Neff, an assistant professor in Media Arts, has over 35 years experience in the film industry with many national and international awards, including an Oscar nomination, an Emmy win, and an Emmy nomination. He is a member of both the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences and the Television Academy. Neff

founded the Documentary Channel, which aired to over 45 million viewers nationally. He has created, written, directed, produced, or executive-produced—often filling all of these roles in a single project—over 100 documentaries, including the Emmy-winning documentary *Shake Hands with the Devil: The Journey of Romeo Dallaire*; the Oscar-nominated *Red Grooms: Sunflower in a Hothouse*; the IMAX film *Our Country*; and many others. Neff's films have shown at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Smithsonian, New York's Whitney Museum of American Art, Lincoln Center, Lincoln Jazz Center, Denver Art Museum, Tennessee State Museum, Director's Guild of America, The Academy, Ojai Center, and other venues and cities.

His recent documentary, *Mr. Temple and the Tigerbelles*, features Coach Ed Temple and the famed African American female track team that broke the color barriers of the Olympics in the early 1960s with runners such as Wilma Rudolph. Shortlisted by the International Documentary Association as one of the nation's best short documentaries of 2018, the film has played to sold-out audiences at the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Nashville Public Library, and Tennessee State Museum; won Honorable Mention for Best Short Documentary at the Cleveland International Film Festival; and was accepted into this summer's prestigious RSF Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival. After the 1992 Rodney King-Los Angeles riots, Neff crossed police barricades to shoot black-and-white, large-scale photographs of the ravaged interiors and exteriors of buildings, featured in the one-man exhibition "Dialogue on Fire" in MTSU's Baldwin Photo Gallery last November.



William M. Robertson

*Department of Physics and Astronomy
Career Achievement Award*

William M. Robertson was born in Canada but grew up experiencing a global education, attending schools in India, Australia, and England. He received a B.Sc. degree in Physics from Imperial College in London and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees, both in Physics, from Purdue

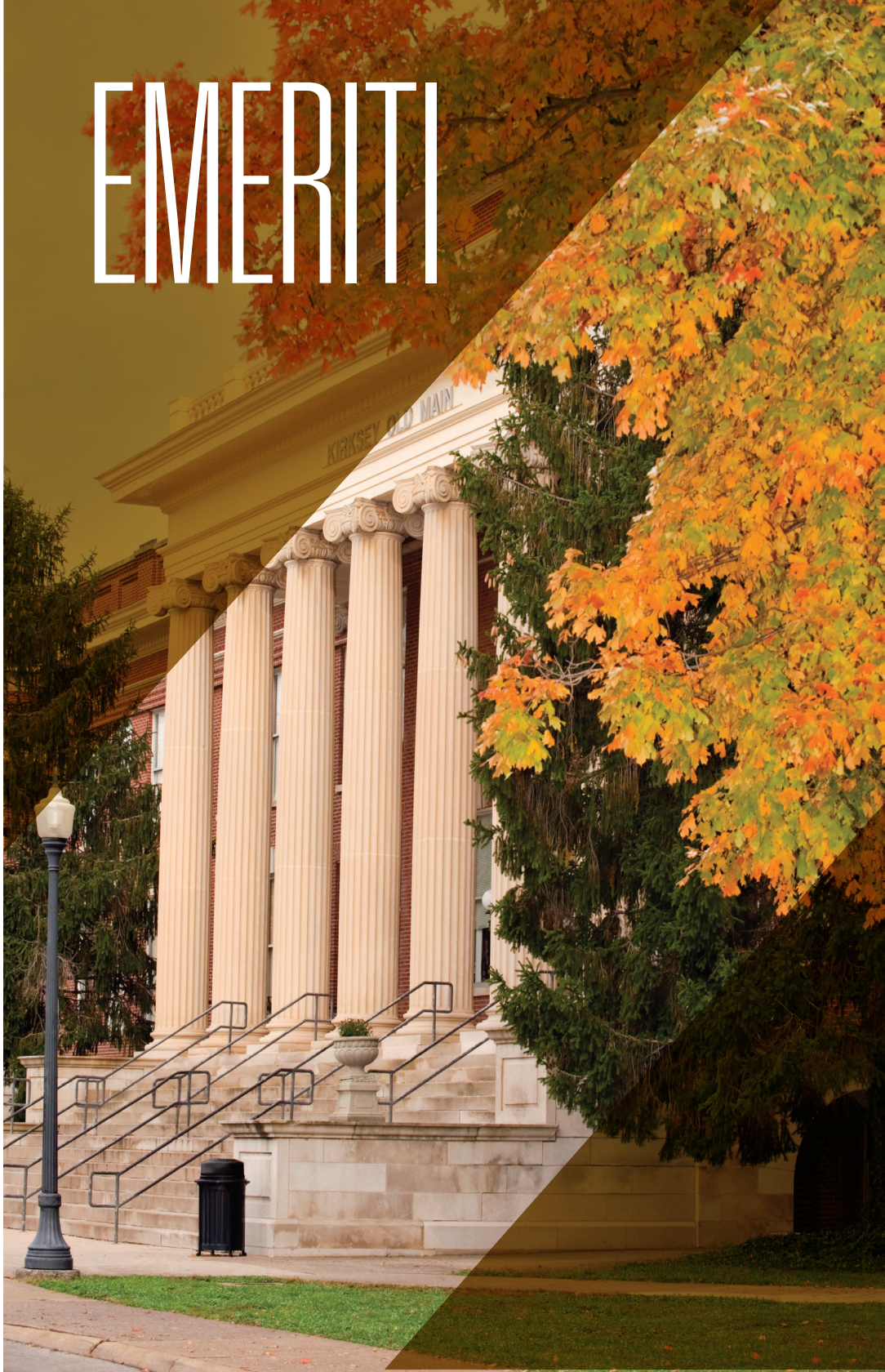
University in Indiana. Robertson was a post-doctoral researcher, first at Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois and then at IBM's T. J. Watson Research Center in New York. Subsequently, for three years, he worked as a research officer at the National Research Council Canada in Ottawa, Ontario, before accepting an assistant professor position at MTSU.

During Robertson's interview at MTSU, the Physics faculty put forward two challenges for the position. The first was to promote a culture of undergraduate research for Physics majors, and the second was to develop a course to attract non-majors—particularly Recording Industry students who represented the largest major on campus at the time. To meet the second challenge, Robertson—despite no previous background in acoustics and dubious musical skills—developed a popular course in the physics of music. Profoundly inspired by the material in the course, he began a research program in acoustics to complement his optics work. Robertson's research at MTSU is now evenly split between optics and acoustics.

As he rose through the ranks at MTSU, Robertson placed a special emphasis on fulfilling the first challenge: developing a research program with undergraduate students as key participants. At MTSU he has maintained a steady record of refereed research publications in optics and acoustics, with 22 undergraduates appearing as co-authors. Robertson's undergraduate collaborations on fast acoustic and electrical pulse tunneling received international attention in a variety of popular science publications, including *New Scientist* and *Science et Avenir*. He is active in securing external grant funding both for his research program and for the promotion of undergraduate involvement in research. Additionally, Robertson's research has resulted in six patents in the fields of optical sensors and acoustic lenses. He also wrote the proposal for MTSU's Computational Science Ph.D. and served as interim director of the program during its initial year.

Finally, Robertson finds that his greatest measure of success rests in actively following the academic, industrial, computer, and occasionally musical career paths of the students he has mentored.

EMERITI



Teaching

Research

Service



Hugh E. Berryman

*Professor Emeritus
Sociology and Anthropology*

Since 2006, Hugh E. Berryman has served as a research professor with the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and as director of the Forensic Institute for Research and Education (FIRE). He established FIRE as a premiere institute for research, education, and outreach. Achievements include his research of Kennewick Man, one of the oldest skeletons ever found in the Americas, and his work with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) to study and potentially identify remains of soldiers recovered from the Mexican-American War, for which he received \$80,650 in funding. Berryman has received four federally funded grants. Two of these, totaling \$1.175 million, were from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to expand and enhance training for law enforcement and forensic scientists. A third NIJ grant for \$197,000 developed an application for criminal investigations. In 2009–10, Berryman served as principal investigator of a \$161,000 grant from the Department of Homeland Security to study aerobic decomposition.

Berryman also created the Forensic Anthropology Search and Recovery (FASR) Team to provide TSU students the experience to work crime scenes for law enforcement and participate at the medical examiner's office in on-going medicolegal investigations. He further established the well-attended William M. Bass Legends in Forensic Science Lectureship series and CSI:MTSU, a forensic summer youth camp. Other forensic trainings he has developed include visual tracking and death investigation. While at MTSU, Berryman has served on the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Organization of Scientific Area Committees, which is working to develop standards for the forensic science community. He also has produced over 30 scientific publications during his tenure. In 2012, he received the T. Dale Stewart Award for lifetime achievement in physical anthropology, the highest award presented within the field of forensic anthropology.



Kathleen G. Burriss

*Professor Emerita
Elementary and Special Education*

Kathleen G. Burriss, professor in the Department of Elementary and Special Education, has been at MTSU since 1992. She received her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the State University of New York College at Fredonia in 1972. For the next 15 years, Burriss taught kindergarten in Akron, New York. At the same time, in 1976, she earned a master's degree in Elementary Education from the State University of New York College at Buffalo. In 1992, she completed her doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction/Early Childhood from Arizona State University.

After graduation, Burriss came to MTSU, and during the next 27 years taught undergraduate, master's, specialist, and doctoral candidates. For 10 years, she served as graduate coordinator and, as part of instruction, accompanied MTSU graduate students visiting schools in Australia. Burriss designed a variety of undergraduate and graduate instruction for on-ground, online, hybrid, and web-assisted courses. Additionally, she served as the interim department chair during 2012–14.

In addition to presenting at numerous local, regional, and national conferences, Burriss presented papers in Turkey, China, Russia, England, the Czech Republic, Canada, and Lithuania. She traveled to Japan several times as a facilitator in the Japan-United States Teacher Education Consortium. As a part of this exchange, Burriss also supported Japanese students visiting Tennessee by providing homestays, accompanying students to schools, and chaperoning special events. In addition to publishing numerous book chapters, manuscripts, and research papers, she coedited two books—*It's Elementary* in 2002 and *Outdoor Learning and Play* in 2005. Her third co-authored book, *Understanding Multiage Education*, was published this May.



Jimmie E. Cain Jr.

*Professor Emeritus
English*

Throughout his exemplary 22-year tenure at MTSU, Jimmie E. Cain Jr. served the English Department and University in various leadership positions, advised hundreds of English majors, regularly taught a full slate of classes, and maintained an active and vibrant research agenda. He also mentored numerous faculty members, played an integral role in MTSU's recognition of and service to veterans, and forged personal and professional connections across the MTSU campus. In addition to serving twice as director of the University Writing Center, Cain also advanced programs and policies that served the specific needs of the veteran population. An Army veteran himself, he counseled and mentored returning veterans with a mixture of compassion and understanding, enabling many of these students to flourish as members of the MTSU community.

A founding member of the English Department's advising team, Cain advised and mentored students from 2004 until his retirement, served as chair of the English Department Advisement Committee during 2006–16, facilitated close collaborations with the College of Liberal Arts advising staff, and mentored a generation of English faculty advisors. His impact also extended to the classroom, where he balanced his demanding exams with numerous study sessions and individual student conferences to ensure his class members understood his classroom materials. Beyond these deep commitments, Cain also produced well-received scholarly work up to his final semester, publishing a book and two critical articles on Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. Throughout his time at MTSU, Cain embodied what a faculty member should be: selfless as a peer, committed to the well-being and growth of the English Department, dynamic in the classroom, a fierce advocate for students, and one whose presence on campus over the last two decades has undoubtedly made MTSU a better university.



Michaele F. Chappell

*Professor Emerita
Mathematical Sciences*

Having devoted 38 years to education, Michaele F. Chappell has spent the past 18 in the Mathematical Sciences Department, where she served as chair during 2004–06. Prior to MTSU, she was at the University of South Florida for 10 years. In 2015, Chappell was the recipient of the John Pleas Faculty Award. Her research and scholarly interests have targeted improving the achievement of African American learners and incorporating the arts to learn mathematics. While at MTSU, Chappell has taught a variety of courses and has shown a particularly strong level of commitment to graduate programs, serving as the Master of Science in Teaching program coordinator for over 12 years, assisting over 75 individuals through completing their master's degrees, and helping to develop and launch the Mathematics and Science Education Ph.D. program. Not only did Chappell serve five years on its coordination committee, she also taught four distinct program courses, chaired three doctoral committees, and mentored several Ph.D. students.

An author and editor for numerous publications, including books, chapters, and journal articles, Chappell co-authored *Math, Culture, & Popular Media*, the contents of which she has presented at several national conventions and international conferences held in Tokyo, Rio de Janeiro, and Seoul. She led an National Council of Teachers of Mathematics editorial-panel team to launch a best-selling series, *Empowering the Beginning Teacher of Mathematics*. Chappell also has collaborated on numerous grant projects promoting mathematics teachers' professional development. Most recently, she served as a co-principal investigator for six years on the MTSU/National Science Foundation-funded Master Teaching Fellowship program. Chappell has served on a plethora of national and state boards, panels, and committees. During her MTSU tenure, she has mentored numerous junior and adjunct faculty, just recently co-directing a faculty learning community. Chappell has a bounty of professional, University, and community service and has contributed greatly to the overall well-being and stable workplace environment of her department.



Virginia S. Dansby

Professor Emerita

Womack Educational Leadership

Virginia “Ginny” S. Dansby joined the Professional Counseling M.Ed. Program at MTSU in 1989 with an Ed.D. in Counseling Psychology from West Virginia University. As a former high school teacher and counselor, she enjoyed working with school systems, collaborating on internships, grants, and workshops.

Dansby assisted in the revisions and growth of the counseling program and helped obtain accreditations by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs for the School Counseling concentration in 2000 and the Clinical Mental Health Counseling concentration in 2008. Her most significant administrative contributions were the result of serving as coordinator of the Professional Counseling program from 2003 to 2015 and the School Counseling Concentration from 2003 to 2019.

Teaching, however, was Dansby’s primary interest. Having taught 14 different academic courses, she especially enjoyed training graduate students in the application of counseling theories and in the development of counseling skills. As an advocate of experiential learning, Dansby incorporated interactive, applied activities in every course. Her research pursuits paralleled her teaching interests, particularly regarding individual counseling, group counseling, and trauma. Active in the profession, she held multiple offices in counseling organizations, chaired a counseling agency advisory council, and maintained a small private practice as a licensed psychologist. Dansby consistently helped students to become involved in the profession and included them in presentations at state, regional, and national conferences. She was presented the 2003 Post-Secondary Counselor of the Year Award by the Tennessee School Counselor Association, 2007 Dr. Charles Thompson Counselor Educator of the Year Award by the Tennessee Association for Counselor Education and Supervision, 2009 Counselor Educator of the Year Award by the Middle Tennessee Counseling Association, 2012 Humanistic Impact Award by the Association for Humanistic Counseling, and 2016–17 MTSU Outstanding Teacher Award.



Martha Jo Edwards

*Professor Emerita
Health and Human Performance*

Since 1992, Martha Jo Edwards has served as the holder of the Adams Chair of Excellence in Health Care Services for the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences. She earned her doctorate from the University of Florida, her master's from the University of Memphis, and her Bachelor of Science from the University of Alabama–Birmingham. Additionally, Edwards is a Certified Health Education Specialist and a Medical Imaging Specialist, where she holds the FELLOW status and life membership. As the director of the Center for Health and Human Services (CHHS), she has served as principal investigator (PI) or co-PI on over \$9 million of externally-funded projects and contracts focusing on improving the health of Tennesseans, improving health care workforce development, and engaging in international health projects. At the CHHS, Edwards engaged faculty and staff at MTSU to work with the Tennessee Department of Health, Tennessee Hospital Association, volunteer health organizations, and other state and federal agencies.

In 2003, she was appointed by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission as founding executive director of the Tennessee Institute of Public Health (TNIPH). She currently serves on the Board of Directors and as a consultant to TNIPH. Edwards also was codirector of the Rutherford County Wellness Council; a founding and present board member of the Rutherford County Primary Care and HOPE Clinic; founding director of the Tennessee Obesity Taskforce, resulting in the state obesity plan; and a founding member of the Tennessee Deans and Directors of Allied Health. She is a member of the THA Rural Health Partnership, THA Center for Health Workforce Development, state Department of Education Health Science and Technology Advisory Board, Vanderbilt's Nuclear Medicine Technology Advisory Board, and other state, national and local boards.

In addition to her published research, Edwards sat on three national and international editorial review boards for professional journals. She has received numerous professional recognitions and awards. Her international experience includes consulting in Europe and the Middle East; residing in Kuwait; working in South Africa squatter settlements on issues such as AIDS, health, and sanitation; and studying medical tourism in Bangkok, Thailand. A member of the Health and Human Performance graduate faculty, she taught a doctoral course in global health as well as the introduction to the health professions undergraduate course.



Beth C. Emery

*Professor Emerita
Human Sciences*

Beth C. Emery, who joined MTSU in 1985, is a professor in Human Sciences and program coordinator for Family and Consumer Studies. She received her B.S. degree in Home Economics Education from the University of Maine–Farmington in 1975 and both her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Family Studies from Oregon State University in 1983 and 1987, respectively. Emery has taught in the area of family studies and supervised internships in the Child Development and Family Studies (CDFS) program. She is also a Certified Family Life Educator. Emery has been an active member of the International Association of Relationship Researchers and the National Council on Family Relations, serving on various committees and boards over the years. In addition, her professional interest in hunger awareness and her commitment to the domestic and global War on Hunger led to the involvement of the CDFS program and MTSU with Universities Fighting World Hunger, an initiative of the U.N.'s World Food Programme involving over 300 universities worldwide.

Emery's program of research focused on physical and sexual aggression in intimate relationships. She co-authored a book, *The Darkside of Courtship*, as well as chapters in several books and articles in journals such as the *Journal of Family Violence*, *Violence and Victims*, *Family & Consumer Sciences Research Journal*, and *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*. Emery was associate editor for the *Family & Consumer Sciences Research Journal* and served on editorial boards for numerous other journals. She received the Woman of Achievement Award (2014) from Women in Higher Education in Tennessee; was a CASE Professor of the Year nominee (2011) and an Outstanding EXL Faculty finalist (2010); and has been consistently recognized as a "professor making a difference" by graduating seniors.



Wayne Rollins

*Professor Emeritus
Marketing*

After completing his bachelor's and master's degrees at MTSU, Wayne Rollins taught for one year at Cumberland University. He returned to MTSU in 1976 as an instructor in the Department of Business Education, Distributive Education, and Office Management. Rollins progressed through the academic ranks and was promoted to professor in 2013. In 1986, he accepted a half-time appointment as director of the Cooperative Education program. As a result of his diligent leadership, the position quickly grew to a full-time position. In 1995, Rollins was recognized as the recipient of the Outstanding Service Award by the Tennessee Cooperative Education Association. After 20 years as the co-op program director, he returned to the Department of Business Communication and Entrepreneurship as a full-time faculty member.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Rollins was one of the first Jones College of Business faculty members to become a Certified Dale Carnegie Coach. He taught the Dale Carnegie course to juniors and seniors in the Jones College until his retirement in January. Although officially retired from MTSU, he continues to utilize his Dale Carnegie training by instructing professionals for the Dale Carnegie organization.

Rollins' dedication to teaching earned him two MTSU Outstanding Teacher Awards (1986 and 2010). He also was recognized as an Outstanding Faculty Member by the Region VII Association of Continuing Higher Education in 1994. Additional honors included the June Q. Moore Outstanding Dedication Award (Tennessee Association of Colleges and Employers) and the FedEx Express Award for Excellence in the Support of Cooperative Education. Rollins' professional service reached far beyond the classroom. In 2006, he was recognized by the MTSU Alumni Association as a National Alumnus of the Year for Community Service. He has worked tirelessly with the Blue Raider Athletic Association (BRAA), recruiting new members and renewals as well as working on various fundraising activities. His efforts with the BRAA earned him the Roxie McHenry Loyalty Award in 1997.



Rebecca M. Smith

*Professor Emerita
Social Work*

Rebecca M. Smith began her career at MTSU in 2007 as chair of the Department of Social Work after serving as chair of Social Work and Professional Studies at Northeastern State University in Oklahoma. During her tenure at MTSU, she has served as the Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.) coordinator and as the Reaffirmation Committee chair. She also has served on the Undergraduate Admission Committee and in other leadership capacities beyond the department. Smith is the founding chair of the only remaining three university collaborative in the nation. The consortia is composed of MTSU, Austin Peay State University, and Tennessee State University. The Mid-Tennessee Collaborative Master of Social Work Program was approved by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Colleges in 2008, entered candidacy with the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) in Fall 2009, and was granted full accreditation in June 2013.

Smith's exquisite comprehension of the requirements of CSWE has fostered continued success in reaffirmation of the graduate and undergraduate degree programs. During her tenure at MTSU, she faithfully served on the Chairs Council, the Council on Teacher Education, and the Institutional Effectiveness Committee. In addition to her outstanding service and teaching, Smith is co-author of a major social work textbook entitled *Human Behavior in the Social Environment*. The textbook is currently in its 12th edition. Smith has served the department, the faculty and students, and the University community admirably.



George Vernardakis

Professor Emeritus

Political Science and International Relations

George Vernardakis joined MTSU as an assistant professor of Political Science in 1969 with a B.Sc. from Cornell and a Master of Public Administration and Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Michigan. His work experience included four years with the British Colonial Service in Cyprus and 3½ years in the United Nations Secretariat as an administrative officer. He was promoted to associate professor in 1972 and to professor in 1981. Vernardakis has taught 10 different courses, including four graduate seminars. On three different occasions, he was identified by graduating students as the person at MTSU who made a real difference in their lives. Vernardakis has held program leadership roles, including director of the Master of Public Administration program (1970–84), director of the M.A. in Political Science program (1970–75), and director of the joint MTSU–University of Tennessee M.P.A. program in (1975–80).

His scholarship includes a book, a contribution to another book, a monograph, and 14 articles. Additionally, Vernardakis has made 21 presentations at national and international conferences. He has received multiple research grants from the University, in addition to two summer research grants and three non-instructional assignments—in Paris (1988); England, France, and the U.S. (1995); and England (2002). An additional summer research grant in 1983 was awarded by the government of France for study in Paris.

The University is grateful for Vernardakis's commitment to institutional service. He was a member of the University Faculty Appeals, Non-Instructional Assignment, and Faculty Tenure and Promotion committees. Additionally, he served on numerous departmental committees, chairing the committee that developed a new M.A. program in Political Science (1997–98), the committee that revised the general Political Science program (1995–96), and the departmental Peer Review Committee. Vernardakis was on the Faculty Senate for 12 years and was twice nominated for president. A leader of the American Association of University Professors' MTSU chapter, he served as president in 1976–77 and 1980–81 and on its Executive Board for many years.



David D. Whitaker

*Professor Emeritus
Agriculture*

David D. Whitaker was hired in 1976 as director of public service for the Horse Science program at MTSU. His extensive background in horse extension helped build the Horse Science program into what it is today. Whitaker quickly gained respect with horse seminars, which networked new and experienced horse people across Tennessee, and later, nationally-ranked riders and clinicians. He started the MTSU Horse Judging Team, which won every major breed national contest multiple times. Whitaker also judged horse shows in 11 countries and 42 states. With Anne Brzezicki, he started the MTSU Equestrian Team and was instrumental in convincing the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA) National Board to include western horsemanship and to partner with the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA). This relationship thrives today.

Furthermore, Whitaker initiated the Tennessee Walking Horse Versatility program, which developed a relationship with John and Mary Miller, who later bequeathed over \$20 million to MTSU, creating Miller Coliseum and two Chairs of Excellence. The coliseum infrastructure provided matching value for a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant to also build MTSU's Horse Science Center. Whitaker spent years serving AQHA as a director and chaired three committees: Youth, Research, and International. He was the sole non-veterinary member of the Board of the American Association of Equine Practitioners and an author of the white paper response to the soring of the Tennessee Walking Horse. Whitaker's leadership grew the Farm Animal Care Coalition of Tennessee, which represents quality animal agriculture to both constituents and detractors. He also helped build the Saddle Up therapeutic riding in Franklin to national status and created a relationship that eventually started the MTSU Center of Equine Recovery for Veterans. Whitaker's passion for all horse disciplines developed the interest, skills, and success of MTSU Horse Science students. His awards are numerous at local, state, and national levels, including the highest honor AQHA bestows: the Merle Wood Humanitarian Award.



Doug Winborn

*Professor Emeritus
Health and Human Performance*

Doug Winborn began his career at MTSU in 1993 after having taught ninth grade in the Franklin Special School District and summer Health Institutes at Southern Connecticut State University. Prior to this, he served as vice president of a private company. At MTSU, he adapted and taught the telecourse Effective Living as the first distance-learning course offered by the University. Winborn also created and taught Drugs and Violence in Health Education, and Workshops and Instructional Methods in Health Education at the undergraduate level, as well as Stress Management in Health and Health Promotion, and Holistic and Complementary Health at the graduate level. In the 1997–98 academic year, he received the MTSU Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award.

Winborn's service includes membership on multiple University committees and a three-year term on the Faculty Senate. His leadership roles included assistant dean in the College of Education and interim department chair in Health and Human Performance. Winborn served as president of the Tennessee Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance and as president of the Tennessee School Health coalition. While serving with the Tennessee School Health Education, he was instrumental in establishing Coordinated School Health in every school district in Tennessee. Winborn also served four terms on the Tennessee Board of Examiners for Teacher Licensure and as a reviewer for the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.



Faye Johnson

Associate Provost Emerita

In 1969, Faye Johnson began at the University as an instructor of sociology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. She retired this June from the Office of the University Provost, where she served as associate provost for strategic planning and partnerships, assistant to the provost for special initiatives, and co-director of the MTSU Learning, Teaching, and Innovative Technologies

Center. Johnson coordinated development and implementation of the MTSU Academic Master Plan and the University's strategic planning and accreditation. She has been an educator, administrator, and expert in faculty development and mentoring, service learning, University 1010 programming, and much more.

Johnson graduated from MTSU with a bachelor's degree in Sociology and a master's in Sociology Education and from Vanderbilt University with an M.A. in Sociology. She also participated in the prestigious Bryn Mawr Summer Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration. In addition to publishing articles in the field of sociology, Johnson has conducted workshops and seminars for professional organizations and civic groups in strategic planning, communication dynamics, sociology of the future, and organizational change.

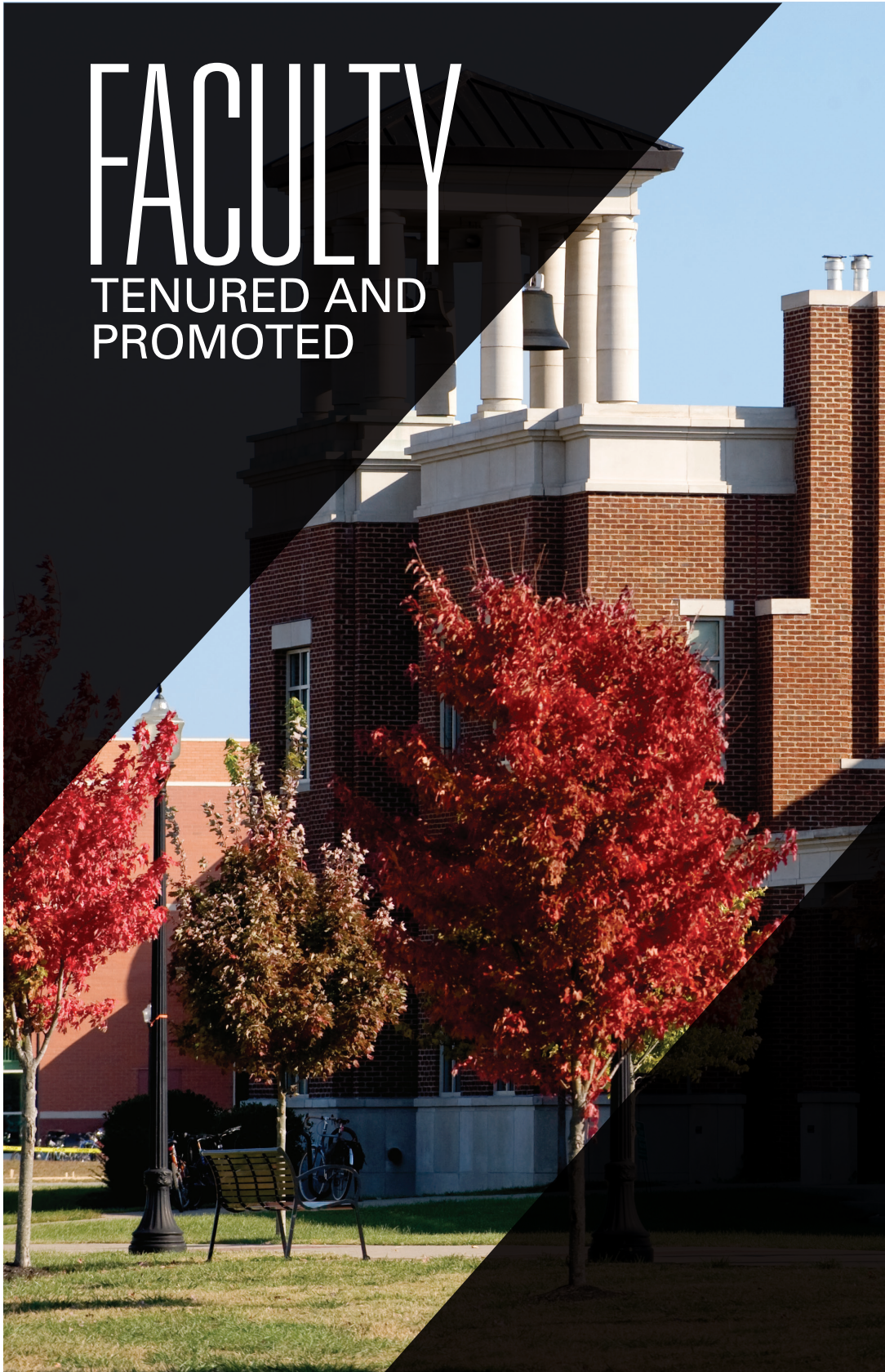
In 1992, Johnson was awarded MTSU's Outstanding Public Service Award for her hospice work. She is a past recipient of the MTSU Outstanding Teaching Award and the Murfreesboro/Rutherford County Trailblazer Award in Humanities. In 1994, Johnson was among 120 faculty selected nationwide to participate in the American Association for Higher Education's Forum on Exemplary Teaching. In 1996, she received the Southern Future Society's Outstanding Futurist in Education Award. Johnson was named the 2006 King-Hampton Award recipient for significant contributions to the improved status and equality of all women at MTSU. She also was named an MTSU National Women's History Month Trailblazer in 2016. Johnson holds memberships in Pi Gamma Mu, Kappa Delta Pi, and Phi Kappa Phi.

Active in civic affairs, she was invited to join the Restoring Trust and Confidence in the Judicial System Steering Committee (1998–2001) convened by Tennessee Supreme Court's chief justice. Additionally, Johnson was president of the Community Advisory Board of Hospice of Murfreesboro, Middle Tennessee Medical Center Foundation, and Main Street Inc. She is a former board member and chair of Mind2Marketplace and board member of the Saint Thomas Rutherford Foundation. Johnson is active in the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce, Rutherford CABLE, and Murfreesboro Breakfast Rotary Club. She is an especially active member of the Murfreesboro/Rutherford County League of Women Voters and was president of League of Women Voters of Tennessee.



FACULTY

TENURED AND
PROMOTED



*Through commitment
to teaching, research, and
professional service, the MTSU
faculty achieves the University's
mission of providing quality
educational programs in a
supportive campus environment.*



Jeremy W. Aber

Department of Geosciences

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Jeremy W. Aber received a B.F.A. in Art with a minor in Geospatial Analysis at Emporia State University in 2005 and M.A. (2007) and Ph.D. (2012) degrees in Geography from Kansas State University. He taught for a year in the Earth Science program at Emporia State, covering geospatial courses, before coming to Middle Tennessee

State University in 2013. Since arriving at the Department of Geosciences, Aber has taught both undergraduate and graduate sections of courses on Physical Geography, Geographic Information Systems, and Cartography. He runs the physical geography field course in the summer.

Aber works on funded research for such as agencies as the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Park Service, and Tennessee Board of Regents, among others. He has researched and published on the use of tethered kite and blimp platforms for the collection of small-format aerial photography. Aber also co-authored a textbook on the topic of geospatial analysis and cartography for a library audience titled *Map Librarianship: A Guide to Geoliteracy, Map, and GIS Resources and Services*.



Tyler A. Babb

Department of Aerospace

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Tyler A. Babb has a B.S. in Aerospace and an M.Ed. from Middle Tennessee State University. After earning his degrees, he flew the Learjet 35 and Embraer Phenom 100 airplanes for an air charter operation based in middle Tennessee. During his time as a charter pilot, Babb traveled to 43 states and several locations in Canada, Mexico, and the Bahamas. In 2011, he joined other pilots to help Jeppesen develop software for Electronic Flight Bags (EFBs). In 2012, he began an aircraft technician apprenticeship at the same company. Shortly afterward, Babb was promoted to training coordinator and audit administrator. In 2013, he was hired as an assistant professor with the MTSU Department of Aerospace.

Since then, his primary research accomplishments have focused on EFB systems, including software design and behavior, EFB policies, and EFB practices at both air carriers and university flight programs. In 2017, Babb was awarded the MTSU Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology Award, primarily for developing and teaching a curriculum with EFBs. He currently serves as a reviewer for the *International Journal of Aviation, Aeronautics, and Aerospace* and is the Professional Pilot program coordinator for the Department of Aerospace.



Vishwas Bedekar

*Department of Engineering Technology
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Vishwas Bedekar joined MTSU in Fall 2013 as an assistant professor in Engineering Technology. He received his B.E. degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Bombay, India, and his M.S. in Mechanical Engineering and Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of Texas–Arlington.

After finishing his Ph.D., Bedekar was appointed as a post-doctoral associate at Virginia Tech and later was named research assistant professor at the University of Arkansas. He has authored over 30 publications/presentations in research related to energy harvesting materials and devices as well as one U.S. patent. Bedekar is a reviewer for 10 internationally circulated journals and a panelist for federal funding agencies related to materials and manufacturing.

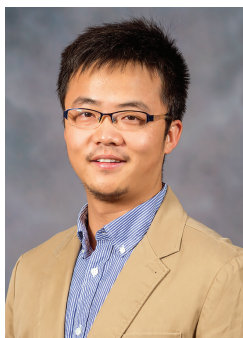
He is a member of the graduate faculty, has participated in the Faculty Fellow Program, and has served on the Graduate Council. Bedekar also has represented the Engineering Technology Department on the Faculty Senate since Fall 2017. He has been recognized on several occasions as a faculty member who makes a difference by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Enrollment and Academic Services. Bedekar was nominated for a College of Basic and Applied Sciences award for teaching excellence as well as for MTSU's Outstanding Teaching Award in 2017, 2018, and 2019. He is a member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME), chair-elect of SME chapter 43 of Nashville, and faculty advisor of MTSU's SME student chapter S239. Since 2016, Bedekar has mentored award-winning student teams at the National Robotics Challenge.

As part of his efforts to improve his teaching and students' learning experiences, Bedekar secured two Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) grants on course revitalization in 2015 and 2016 to adopt student-centered teaching practices. Some of the unique offerings of his courses include enhanced student engagement in class, regular visits to local industry, mid-semester feedback collection, and use of technology to improve student participation in class. In addition, Bedekar used several technology tools in the TBR-sponsored grants, such as TopHat, AudioNote, and Panopto BLTI.

**Kevin L. Bicker***Department of Chemistry**Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Kevin L. Bicker earned his B.A. in Chemistry and Biology from Bluffton University, followed by a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of South Carolina before spending time as a post-doctoral fellow at the Scripps Research Institute. At MTSU he has taught several undergraduate and graduate courses in organic and bioorganic chemistry.

Bicker also is a member of the Molecular Biosciences Ph.D. program and conducts research with both graduate and undergraduate students in the identification and development of peptoid molecules with interesting biological properties. He has published several peer-reviewed research articles, has presented at regional and national meetings, holds three patents from his work at MTSU, and has been funded by the National Institutes of Health.



Song Cui

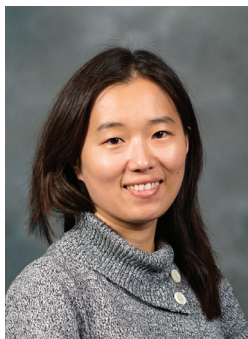
School of Agriculture

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Song Cui received his B.S. in Agricultural Science from Lanzhou University (China) in 2006 and his Ph.D. in Crop Science from Texas Tech University in 2011. Cui is a broadly trained agronomist with expertise in big data algorithms, crop physiology, forage production, simulation modeling, soil and boundary layer flux (CO₂, water vapor,

and greenhouse gases) measurements, and large-scale agroecosystem studies addressing issues such as water sustainability and climate change. He is especially interested in integrating machine-learning techniques into advanced agronomic research domains, including remote sensing, bioinformatics, meta-analysis, and plant growth/ecological modeling. Furthermore, as a field agronomist by training, Cui enjoys conducting variety trials and cropping system research on various row, forage, and specialty crops in different agroecosystems.

He has authored and co-authored more than 20 high-impact journal articles since 2013. Additionally, Cui has served as reviewer for more than 10 peer-reviewed journals and has reviewed more than 20 journal articles in the past five years. Furthermore, he has served as principal investigator for more than \$1.9 million of externally-funded research projects (mainly from the U.S. Department of Agriculture-National Institute of Food and Agriculture) since 2013. Collectively, Cui has been involved in more than \$7 million in collaborative projects nationwide. Currently serving as vice-chair of the Airborne and Satellite Remote Sensing Community of the American Society of Agronomy, he will become chair in 2020. Cui also is the elected secretary/treasurer of Southern Branch of the American Society of Agronomy and will serve as vice president in 2021 and president in 2022. He has served as an external grant reviewer panelist on six external funding programs since 2013, including four USDA-NIFA sponsored competitive funding programs. Cui frequently mentors undergraduate and graduate student research projects and teaches courses such as forage crop production, field crop production, crop ecophysiology, and agricultural statistics and data analysis.



Keying Ding

Department of Chemistry

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Keying Ding obtained her Ph.D. in Chemistry at the University of Rochester in 2009. She then worked as a post-doctoral associate at the University of Minnesota. Since Fall 2013, she has been an assistant professor of Chemistry at MTSU. Her research revolves primarily around organometallics, catalysis, and bioinorganic chemistry, solving challenging problems related to energy, environment, and human health.

Her current research interests are developing novel earth-abundant transition metal complexes and investigating their unique catalytic activities to discover new and environmentally benign transformations. Ding has been awarded two National Science Foundation grants as principal investigator. She has supervised over 30 student researchers at graduate, undergraduate, and high school levels. Ding also is faculty co-advisor of the MTSU Chemistry Society.



Grant E. Gardner

Department of Biology

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Grant E. Gardner holds a B.S. in Biological Science from Vanderbilt University and an M.S. in Zoology and Ph.D. in Science Education, both from North Carolina State University (NCSU). Following completion of his terminal degree, he served as an interdisciplinary post-doctoral scholar for both the Biology and STEM Education departments at NCSU. Prior to joining the faculty at MTSU, Gardner was employed as a teaching assistant professor at East Carolina University. He is currently in the Department of Biology with graduate faculty status in the Mathematics and Science Education Ph.D. program (Biology Education focal area). Gardner primarily studies the barriers and affordances to the adoption and adaptation of evidence-based instructional practices related to biology. He has served as a co-principal investigator on two National Science Foundation grants, published 35 articles in peer-reviewed journals, and authored five book chapters.



Jason R. Jessen

Department of Biology

Promoted to Professor

Jason R. Jessen earned a B.S. in Biology from Augustana College in South Dakota in 1992, then moved to South Dakota State University where he received an M.S. degree in Biology and Microbiology in 1995. Jessen obtained his Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in 1999 from the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta. His thesis work focused on artificial chromosome transgenesis in zebrafish and resulted in three publications, including one in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* and another in *Nature Genetics*. Jessen next moved to Vanderbilt University, where he completed a five-year post-doctoral fellowship with Lila Solnica-Krezel, Ph.D., a leader in the field of zebrafish genetics. He was awarded post-doctoral fellowships from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the American Cancer Society and published multiple manuscripts, including one in *Nature Cell Biology*.

In 2006, Jessen was hired as a tenure-track assistant professor in Vanderbilt's Department of Medicine/Division of Genetic Medicine. He had a joint appointment in the Department of Cancer Biology and was a member of the Host-Tumor Interactions Research Program of the Ingram Cancer Center. During his seven years at Vanderbilt, Jessen published numerous manuscripts and received over \$2.3 million in competitive external funding. Since moving to MTSU in August 2013 as an associate professor, Jessen has continued research on cell polarity in migrating cells utilizing both human cancer cell culture and zebrafish model systems. His research is currently funded by an NIH grant. Jessen is director of MTSU's interdisciplinary Molecular Biosciences Ph.D. program. He also teaches cell and molecular biology to undergraduate and graduate students.



Jennifer J. Kaplan

Department of Mathematical Sciences
Tenured

Jennifer J. Kaplan earned a B.A. in Mathematics from Brandeis University and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Texas. Before entering graduate school, she had a 10-year career as a high school mathematics teacher—three years in public schools in the suburbs of Boston, two years at the Istanbul International Community School in Turkey, and five years at Colegio Internacional de Caracas in Venezuela, where she was also the K–12 mathematics department chair. Initially planning to complete a Ph.D. in Mathematics Education, she quickly developed a love for statistics and the teaching of statistics. Nearly all of her research has been in the teaching and learning of statistics at the undergraduate level.

Kaplan previously served on the faculty in the Department of Statistics and Probability and the Division of Science and Mathematics Education at Michigan State University and in the Department of Statistics at the University of Georgia. In addition to her publication record, she has been the principal investigator (PI) or co-PI on three National Science Foundation grants, is the editor of *Regular Papers for the Statistics Education Research Journal*, and has graduated seven M.S. and three Ph.D. students. She joins MTSU this fall as program director of the Mathematics and Science Education Ph.D. program.

Rachel N. Leander*Department of Mathematical Sciences**Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Rachel N. Leander received her B.S. and Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Tennessee in 2005 and 2010, respectively. She then spent three years as a post-doctoral researcher at the Mathematical Biosciences Institute at Ohio State University before joining MTSU's Department of Mathematical Sciences in Fall 2013. Leander is a member of the Computational Sciences Ph.D. program and an interdisciplinary researcher. She collaborates with biologists to study fundamental cellular processes in relation to disease pathogenesis. Leander has authored and reviewed numerous articles for scholarly journals.

She also is an active member of the University community and regularly serves on committees. Leander helped to develop a methodology for the peer evaluation of teaching within the Department of Mathematical Sciences, chaired multiple job searches, and served as Faculty Senate recording secretary during the 2018–19 academic year. She enjoys teaching and advising students of all levels. Leander has supervised multiple undergraduate research projects and chaired a doctoral and master's thesis committee. She recently received a National Science Foundation grant for a Research Experiences for Undergraduates site, Computational Modeling in the Applied Sciences, as co-principal investigator.

Alyson E. Lischka

Department of Mathematical Sciences

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Alyson E. Lischka has a B.S. in Mathematics from Michigan State University, an M.S. in Secondary Mathematics Education from Georgia State University, and an Ed.S. and Ed.D. in Teacher Leadership for Learning with a concentration in Adolescent Mathematics from Kennesaw State University. Since 2016, she has served on the leadership team for the Mathematics Teacher Education Partnership, a national partnership of over 100 institutions which is a coordinated research, development, and implementation effort to transform secondary mathematics teacher preparation programs. In her work with the MTE-Partnership, Lischka leads the MODULE(S2) research action cluster in addressing the problem of improving mathematics content courses for prospective secondary mathematics teachers.

In 2017, she served as a leader of the Scholarly Inquiry and Practices Conference on Mathematics Methods and then later edited the book that resulted from the research generated by this conference. Locally, Lischka served as a leader for Project IMPACT, a six-year professional learning project supporting over 200 K–8 mathematics teachers in several area school systems. In addition to her grant-supported work, she teaches content and methods courses for prospective mathematics teachers in the Department of Mathematical Sciences, supervises secondary mathematics student teachers, and provides mentoring and course instruction for MTSU's Mathematics and Science Education Ph.D. program. Lischka's published research and scholarship are focused on supporting prospective and practicing mathematics teachers in developing effective mathematics teaching practices.



David E. Nelson

Department of Biology

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

David E. Nelson has a B.Sc. in Applied Biochemistry and a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from the University of Liverpool in the United Kingdom. He performed his post-doctoral research at Harvard Medical School, Department of Systems Biology, and the University of Cambridge, Department of Pathology, before joining the

MTSU Biology faculty in December 2013. Nelson teaches undergraduate courses in Anatomy and Physiology, and Cell and Molecular Biology, as well as graduate courses in Cell Metabolism and Human Disease.

His research interests include biological rhythms, mitochondrial quality control, and host-pathogen interactions. Nelson's research has been published in *Science*, *Nature Neuroscience*, *The Journal of Biological Chemistry*, *Frontiers in Immunology*, and other journals. His work is currently funded by the National Institutes of Health through a National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases R15 Area grant.

**Patricia M. Patterson***Department of Chemistry**Promoted to Professor*

Patricia M. Patterson, who joined the MTSU faculty in 1998, earned her Ph.D. and M.S.E. in Macromolecular Science from Case Western Reserve University. She received her B.S. in Chemistry from Virginia State University. Patterson teaches an undergraduate physical science course (chemistry, physics, geology, and

astronomy) for K–8 pre-service teachers in the College of Education. This is a standards-based, interactive combination of lecture and class activities. She also teaches undergraduate lecture and lab courses, including Chemistry for Consumers (chemistry and cooking) and Topics in Physical Science.

Patterson has been the MTSU Science Olympiad regional director since 2001, which involves organizing the tournaments for students in high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools in middle Tennessee. She has served as secretary for the Tennessee Science Olympiad Board of Directors since 2002. Her research focuses on science education: application of state science standards in K–12 classrooms, learning styles, process skills, and scientific attitudes toward learning science.

**Jeremy F. Strayer***Department of Mathematical Sciences**Promoted to Professor*

Jeremy F. Strayer has been teaching mathematics, mathematics education, statistics, and statistics education courses in higher education since 1998. In that time, he has held faculty positions at Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Indiana State University, and Middle Tennessee State University. Strayer holds a B.S.

in Mathematics Education from Asbury University, an M.A.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from Mount Vernon Nazarene University, and a Ph.D. in Mathematics Education from Ohio State University.

His research interests include supporting university instructors' implementations of research-supported mathematics teaching practices, understanding how pre-service and in-service teachers' mathematical/statistical knowledge for teaching develops, and understanding ways the classroom flip can be used to enact research-supported mathematics teaching practices. Strayer has secured over \$3 million in grant funding to support his teaching and research efforts, and he currently co-leads the MODULE(S2) project, which focuses on the development of mathematical and statistical knowledge for teaching. He has published more than 20 peer-reviewed journal articles and presented his work at over 50 professional meetings and conferences.

Beverly K. Clanton*Department of Health and Human Performance**Promoted to Senior Instructor Coordinator*

Beverly K. Clanton has a B.S. in Physical Education, an M.S. in Health, and a Ph.D. in Human Performance from Middle Tennessee State University. She has spent her professional life at MTSU, where she serves as the coordinator of graduate teaching assistants (GTAs) and the activities program in the Department of Health and Human Performance (HHP).

As GTA coordinator, Clanton works with GTAs in the areas of Exercise Science, Health, Leisure and Sport Management, and Public Health and is responsible for their work schedules, training, and professional development. In her role as activities coordinator, she oversees all physical activity courses, including scheduling, instructor assignment, and curriculum revision. She also has developed three online courses, was co-principal investigator for three grants, and was director for the MTSU Special Operations Dive Training program.

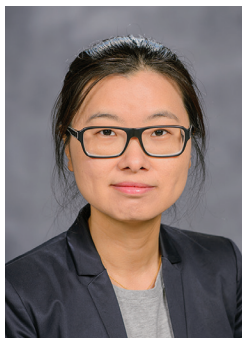


Joey Gray

*Department of Health and Human Performance
Promoted to Professor*

Joey Gray received her Ph.D. in Leisure Behavior from Indiana University, her master's degree in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management from North Carolina State University, and her bachelor's degree from Averett University. A faculty member at MTSU since 2006, she focuses her research primarily on pedagogy in Leisure Studies and gender issues in Leisure. Active in the MTSU community, Gray was Faculty Senate president in 2017–18 and is a member of the Honors faculty, graduate faculty, and Experiential Learning (EXL) and MT Engage programs.

Her dedication to teaching is marked by a history of student engagement and a few awards along the way. Gray's most prized honor to date is the MTSU Outstanding Teaching Award she received in 2017. While at Indiana University, she received the Trustees' Teaching Award. Gray has been acknowledged by students as a dedicated teacher throughout her career. She says the most rewarding part of teaching is when students say that she has made a difference in their lives. Among her students, Gray is well known for her sense of humor, accessibility, and devoted mentorship.



Ying Jin

Department of Psychology

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Ying Jin earned her Ph.D. in Research, Measurement, and Evaluation from the University of Miami. Her research areas include item response theory, differential item functioning (measurement invariance), test construction and validation, structural equation modeling, and multilevel modeling. Jin works primarily

with educational and psychological data. She has published both theoretical and applied papers in peer-reviewed journals, including *Behavior Research Methods*, *Journal of Community Psychology*, *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, and *Journal of Sport & Exercise Psychology*.

Jin has presented her research at national conferences, including the American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, and National Council on Measurement in Education, among others. Jin is also a faculty fellow at the Tennessee STEM Education Center, where she helps the center conduct evaluations on exiting projects and provides statistical analyses and external evaluations.



Gina R. Pisut

Department of Human Sciences

Promoted to Professor

Gina R. Pisut is program coordinator of the Textiles, Merchandising, and Design (TXMD) program and the TXMD internship coordinator for both Apparel Design and Fashion Merchandising concentrations within the Department of Human Sciences. She earned her B.S. in Apparel Design from Iowa State University. From Auburn

University, Pisut received her M.S. in Consumer Affairs and her Ph.D. in Integrated Textile and Apparel Sciences, both with a concentration in Apparel Design. As an Apparel Design faculty member, she teaches content in apparel construction, patternmaking, textiles, corsetry, and product development. She specializes in patternmaking, fit, and product development, with over 25 years of experience in these areas. Her experience has allowed her to work with apparel design companies and institutions in the positions of instructor, consultant, freelance designer, writer, and reviewer.

Pisut's creative projects in advanced corsetry have received national and international recognition through national design competitions and museum displays in both the United States and Great Britain. Her research is dedicated to body image and body cathexis, along with body shape, apparel sizing, and fit preferences of U.S. female consumers. During her time at MTSU, Pisut has implemented the Senior Apparel Design Showcase and designed new courses of study in product development, fashion forecasting, and corsetry. In addition, she has streamlined program functions with an emphasis on developing and promoting student talent within the TXMD program. Her most recent endeavor involves developing a pattern-making book proposal for use in postsecondary institutions through an international publication house.



Ariana E. Postlethwait

Department of Social Work

Promoted to Professor

Ariana E. Postlethwait holds a B.S. in Psychology and an M.S.W. from Louisiana State University and a Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of North Carolina. Dr. P., as her students call her, has been with the MTSU Department of Social Work since August 2012.

She combines her passions for teaching research, conducting community-based research, and using active learning. Postlethwait's community-based research projects have taught students how to analyze and present information in a way that is accessible and useful for agencies. Many of these data reports have helped to detail the serious problems faced by our most vulnerable community members including suicide, domestic violence, human trafficking, addiction and reintegrating back into the community, individuals and families without affordable and permanent housing, and families who have finally found their forever home.

Postlethwait and her classes have completed over 20 separate data analysis reports for 13 social service agencies in the middle Tennessee area since 2013. She also serves as the vice president of the Murfreesboro Cold Patrol, an agency serving people experiencing or at risk of chronic homelessness. Additionally, she is working with the Rutherford County Drug Court as part of a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Postlethwait is principal investigator for evaluation of the drug court's expanded services that include treatment interventions for court clients with co-occurring disorders (i.e., mental health and substance abuse). She continues to publish and present nationally, although her heart remains where her research is—in the community.



Sonya L. Sanderson

*Department of Health and Human Performance
Tenured*

Sonya L. Sanderson comes to MTSU from a 14-year career at Valdosta State University, where she served as interim department head for the Kinesiology and Physical Education Department for three years, as undergraduate coordinator, and as a member of the graduate faculty. She received the Faculty Excellence in

Advising for Valdosta State in 2014 and was named the Georgia Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance's 2016 College/University Physical Education Teacher of the Year. Sanderson holds a D.A. in Physical Education from Middle Tennessee State University, as well as an M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction and a B.S. in Physical Education from Austin Peay State University. She is an active member of Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society for those in the field of education; the American College of Sports Medicine; the Society of Health and Physical Educators; and the Georgia Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (GAHPERD).

Sanderson is on the staff of Share the Wealth, a national physical education conference. She was the coordinator for a physical education workshop for GAHPERD's Southeastern Division and the Coastal Plains Regional Educational Service Agency for the past four years. Sanderson has published research more than a dozen times in scholarly journals, with other articles either under review or in the process of being published, and she has collaborated with her students in their research. She is a seasoned presenter at local, state, regional, national, and international professional conferences. Sanderson has served the community as a volunteer with Relay for Life, Special Olympics, and county-wide wellness days.



Carter F. Smith

*Department of Criminal Justice Administration
Promoted to Senior Instructor*

Carter F. Smith has a B.S. in Public Management from Austin Peay State University, a J.D. from Southern Illinois University, and a Ph.D. from Northcentral University. He spent most of his professional life in the U.S. Army Criminal Investigations Command as a special agent at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he was instrumental in identifying the growing gang problem that began affecting the military community in the early 1990s. Smith's academic publications include private and homeland security, military-trained gang members, and gang members in colleges and universities. He has served as a consultant on a variety of topics for several news sources and has appeared twice in the History Channel's *Gangland* series.

Smith was a founding board member of the Tennessee Gang Investigators Association and is a three-time recipient of the Frederic Milton Thrasher Award from the National Gang Crime Research Center. Recent books he has authored or co-authored include *Gangs and the Military: Gangsters, Bikers, and Terrorists with Military Training* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2019 and 2017); *Gangs and Organized Crime* (Routledge, 2018); and *Private Security Today* (Pearson, 2017). Smith has been a part of the MTSU Department of Criminal Justice Administration since 2006, except for a brief stint at Austin Peay during 2011–13. He has been a peer evaluator for the Tennessee Board of Regents, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, and American Council on Education.

Sandra L. Stevens*Department of Health and Human Performance**Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Sandra L. Stevens received her B.S. from the University of Kansas and completed her M.S. and Ph.D. graduate degrees in Health and Human Performance from Middle Tennessee State University. After earning her doctorate, she stayed on and completed a two-year post-doctoral fellowship at MTSU, successfully contributing to the development of a National Institutes of Health grant exploring the effects of underwater treadmill training on individuals experiencing paralysis.

Since completing her post-doctoral fellowship, Stevens has served as a faculty member in the Exercise Science program and continued her research in gait restoration. In addition to her work at MTSU, she has participated in international programs to facilitate rehabilitation interventions in developing countries.



Benjamin F. Stickle

*Department of Criminal Justice Administration
Promoted to Associate Professor*

Benjamin F. Stickle has been teaching Criminal Justice Administration courses since 2010. He holds a B.A. in Sociology from Cedarville University and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Justice Administration from the University of Louisville. His research interests include policing, crime prevention, environmental crime, metal theft, and private security. Stickle has published in peer-reviewed journals on these and other topics, is the author of *Metal Scrappers and Thieves: Scavenging for Survival and Profit*, and serves as production editor for *Police Practice and Research: An International Journal*.

He has over 20 years' experience in the criminal justice field, including service as a sheriff's deputy, advanced police officer, advanced crime scene processor, and private security officer. Stickle is a two-time president of the Kentucky Peace Officers' Association and member of the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council. He is a graduate of the National Forensic Academy (Session XXII), holds multiple professional certifications, and has served as an expert witness on matters involving police administration.



Sandra S. Benson

Department of Accounting

Promoted to Professor

Sandra S. Benson earned a J.D. at the University of Georgia, where she was No. 1 in her class, and a B.A. at Vanderbilt University, summa cum laude, with a double major in Economics and Business Administration. At MTSU, she teaches five undergraduate and graduate courses in legal environment, commercial law, health care, corporate governance/fraud, and Dale Carnegie Human Relations. Benson draws on over 20 years of business and law experience as well as her passion for teaching when designing classroom activities and research.

Her research focuses on emerging issues related to fraud, accountant liability, health care, governance, and legal pedagogy. Benson's expertise has been recognized by the Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress, New York Society of CPAs, and CNBC. She recently served as editor-in-chief of a leading international business law pedagogical journal, *Journal of Legal Studies Education*, and on the Executive Committee of the Academy of Legal Studies in Business, an organization of legal scholars and instructors from around the globe. Benson has mentored numerous peers and students in their research and publications. She serves as an invited Editorial Board member of *The CPA Journal* and a certified Dale Carnegie instructor.

Benson creates projects and courses for students to integrate knowledge across disciplines, improve critical thinking, apply ethical reasoning, and expand communication skills with peers and business professionals. She implements experiential events such as her novel Court Experience simulations, where students role-play to expand understanding; Health Care Grant Advocacy competitions; and accounting/business/ethics case competitions. Benson has developed two graduate courses and Experiential Learning (EXL) and MT Engage versions of her undergraduate law courses. She creates the ethics assessment instruments and ethics case studies for the Master of Accounting program. Recognition includes Charles Hewitt Master Teacher international competition finalist (2013); two E.W. "Wink" Midgett Awards (Distinguished Teaching, 2018; Faculty Excellence, 2017); Accounting Advisory Board Academic Partner (2017); MTSU Foundation Outstanding Teaching (2013); and Bridgestone/Firestone Distinguished Assistant Professorship (2012–13).

Juanita G. Brooks

Department of Information Systems and Analytics

Promoted to Professor

Juanita G. Brooks is a faculty member in the Information Systems and Analytics (ISA) Department in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business. She received a B.B.A. and an M.B.A. in Finance from the University of Arkansas–Little Rock and a Ph.D. in Business with a focus in Information Systems from the University of Arkansas. Brooks currently teaches business intelligence and analytics in the ISA undergraduate program and information systems security analytics in the ISA graduate program. She was the recipient of the Bridgestone/Firestone Distinguished Assistant Professorship Award and the first recipient of the Kathy and Bill Jones Outstanding Faculty Award.

Brooks' current research interests include the information systems workforce, security and privacy, information systems education, and student retention. Her research has been published in several journals such as *Management Information Systems Quarterly*, *European Journal of Information Systems*, *Database: Advances in Information Systems*, *Journal of Education for Business*, *Communications of the ACM* (Association for Computing Machinery), *Journal of Computer Information Systems*, and others. Brooks is currently graduate program director for the Information Systems and Analytics Department. Additionally, she is the MTSU Faculty Senate president-elect and serves as a program evaluator for the ABET Computing Accreditation Commission.

**Laura M. Buckner***Department of Marketing**Promoted to Senior Instructor Coordinator*

Laura M. Buckner is the internship coordinator and an instructor in the Department of Marketing. As internship coordinator, she works with students to secure real-world work experience with businesses throughout the middle Tennessee area. Buckner serves on the

IGNITE Professional Development Program committee, supports student organizations, and participates in the Faculty Learning Community for Career Oriented Courses. In addition to teaching in the areas of professional preparation and professional sales, she was among the first to become a trainer for Jones College's Dale Carnegie Communications and Human Relations Seminar.

Buckner was a 2017–18 faculty fellow, earned the EXL Outstanding Faculty Award in 2019, has served as interim director for the IGA Office of Professional Sales, and led study abroad trips to Finland, Sweden, and Estonia. In 2015, she was the first recipient of the E.W. "Wink" Midgett Distinguished Service Award.



Diane R. Edmondson

Department of Marketing

Promoted to Professor

Diane R. Edmondson received her Ph.D. in Marketing from the University of South Florida. She also has a B.S. in General Business Administration and an M.B.A. Edmondson's primary research interests involve sales-related constructs, especially emotional exhaustion and support; however, she also has published multiple meta-analyses and articles on nonprofit marketing and boundary spanning personnel. Edmondson has been published in a variety of journals such as the *Journal of Business Research*, *Journal of Marketing Theory and Practice*, *Journal of Global Scholars of Marketing Science*, *Journal of Marketing Education*, *Journal of Managerial Issues*, and *Journal of Personal Selling and Sales Management*. She has presented her work at over 30 marketing conferences, receiving numerous "Best Paper in Track" awards. Edmondson was named the E.W. "Wink" Midgett Distinguished Research Award Recipient from the Jones College of Business in 2016. In 2019, she was one of seven women featured in *MTSU Research's* Women in Research issue. Edmondson specializes in teaching professional selling, sales management, marketing research, principles of marketing, and services marketing. She participates in MTSU's Experiential Learning (EXL) and MT Engage programs and recently received the 2018–19 Outstanding EXL Faculty Award.

Outside of MTSU, Edmondson has been actively involved with two academic associations. For the Society for Marketing Advances (SMA), an international marketing association, she has served as president, program chair, and director of placement services. She currently chairs the SMA Board of Governors. Edmondson also has been president and program chair for the Atlantic Marketing Association, and she continues to serve on this association's Board of Directors. In addition, she is on multiple editorial review boards and is guest editor for two separate issues of the *Journal of Managerial Issues*. Finally, for over seven years, Edmondson has volunteered her time with the Civil Air Patrol.



Rebecca A. Foote

Department of Accounting

Promoted to Senior Instructor Coordinator

Rebecca A. Foote has a B.S. in Home Economics Education from Ohio State University and an M.S. in Accounting/Information Systems from Middle Tennessee State University. She currently holds the Accounting Advisory Board Outstanding Professorship.

Foote joined the Department of Accounting faculty in Spring 2006 and serves as the accounting instructional coordinator for the department. She earned her Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license in 2004 while employed with Dempsey, Vantrease & Follis PLLC, a Murfreesboro CPA firm. Her license remains active in the state of Tennessee, and she holds membership in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Tennessee Society of CPAs, and Tennessee Society of Accounting Educators. Foote teaches Principles of Accounting II for Accounting majors.

In addition to her teaching responsibilities, she coordinates all aspects of the Intermediate Readiness Initiative, a program that has twice been identified as a "best practice" by AACSB's Accounting Accreditation Team. Foote also coordinates the CPA Exam Review courses that are required in the M.Acc. program for graduate students who are studying and sitting for the CPA Exam. She has been the recipient of several teaching awards since joining the faculty at MTSU, including the MTSU Outstanding Teacher Award. Additionally, Foote is a recipient of the Jones College E.W. "Wink" Midgett Distinguished Teaching Award and four-time recipient of the Jones College Gamma Iota Sigma Outstanding Professor Award.



Kimberly H. Honaker

Department of Accounting

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Kimberly H. Honaker is a Certified Public Accountant who holds a Doctor of Business Administration with an Accounting concentration from Kennesaw State University. She earned a Master of Accountancy and a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of

Tennessee. Honaker is a member of the Tennessee Society of CPAs, American Accounting Association, American Taxation Association, and National Taxation Association. Prior to completing her doctoral studies, she worked as a tax director for publicly traded companies, where she focused on accounting for income taxes.

Honaker currently teaches income tax accounting courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels and serves as faculty advisor for MTSU's Zeta Gamma Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, an honor organization for financial information students and professionals. Her research, published in both practitioner and academic journals, addresses relevant concerns of the accounting profession including corporate tax avoidance, the purchase of auditor-provided tax services, and the impact of regulation on corporate tax outcomes. Honaker was recently named the LBMC Outstanding Professor of Accounting by MTSU's Accounting Advisory Board.



Melinda L. Korzaan

*Department of
Information Systems and Analytics
Promoted to Professor*

Melinda L. Korzaan received a B.S. in Computer Information Systems and an M.B.A. from Missouri State University. She earned her Ph.D. in Business Administration with an emphasis in Information

Systems from the University of Arkansas. Korzaan has over 10 years industry experience as a software developer and enjoys incorporating relevant industry knowledge in the classroom. As a faculty member of the Information Systems and Analytics (ISA) Department, she teaches Advanced Web-Enabled Application Development (ISA undergraduate senior capstone course) and graduate courses in Information Technology (IT) project management. Korzaan was awarded two Instructional Technologies Development Grants for the use of innovative technologies in the classroom, and she received the Bridgestone/Firestone Distinguished Assistant Professorship Award as an MTSU assistant professor.

Her current research interests include IT project management, human factors in IT, and commitment and motivation in project teams. Korzaan has published in journals such as *Journal of Computer Information Systems*, *Information Resources Management Journal*, *Journal of Information Systems Applied Research*, *Computers in Human Behavior*, and *Information Systems Education Journal*. Her research has generated over 500 citations by other authors. Korzaan also has contributed to the profession as an editorial board member and as an associate editor for peer-reviewed journals. She serves in key roles for Assurance of Learning at MTSU to ensure and maintain compliance with quality standards of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Colleges and the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.



Daniel L. Morrell

*Department of Management
Promoted to Professor*

Daniel L. Morrell earned his Ph.D. in Business Administration from the University of South Carolina with an emphasis in Organizational Behavior and Human Resource Management. He received both a Bachelor of Business in Economics and an M.B.A. from

Western Illinois University. Morrell teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Principles of Management, Organizational Behavior, and Human Resource Management, along with the Applied Management Project capstone course for the M.S. in Management program. He has conducted research and has published papers on the topics of leadership, employee motivation, personality, cultural differences, and millennials in the workplace. Morrell's research appears in the *Journal of Leadership and Organizational Studies*, *Ethics and Behavior*, *Management International Review*, *Journal of International Business Studies*, *Human Resource Development Quarterly*, and *Compensation and Benefits Review*, among others.

He has served the University and the Jones College of Business on the Academic Appeals, Faculty Governance, Assurance of Learning, and Graduate Curriculum committees. Morrell also has participated in membership and leadership for multiple Department of Management curriculum, student writing, business and community relations, and mission committees. In addition, he has taken part both as member and chair of multiple faculty search committees. Administratively, Morrell has been graduate program director for the M.S. in Management since the program began in 2013. Prior to coming to the academic world, he accrued over 10 years of managerial and entrepreneurial experience running small businesses.

**Deana M. Raffo***Department of Management**Promoted to Professor*

Deana M. Raffo earned her B.A. in Psychology from Marshall University, M.A. in Psychology from Middle Tennessee State University, and Ed.D. in Administration and Supervision from Tennessee State University. Prior to joining the faculty, she served as an academic

advisor and then as director of leadership development at MTSU. Raffo teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in leadership. In addition to her duties as director of MTSU's Institute of Leadership Excellence, she is the coordinator for leadership studies. Her teaching accolades include MTSU's Bob Womack Distinguished Teaching Award and the Association of Leadership Educators' Outstanding Program Award.

Raffo's research interests include leadership education and the introspective qualities in leadership, particularly related to authenticity and reflection, as well as online learning. She was twice awarded the Distinguished Innovative Practice Paper with the Association of Leadership Educators, has presented more than 25 papers at national conferences, and has served in leadership roles in state, regional, and national professional associations. Her research has been published in numerous journals, including the *Journal of Managerial Issues*, *Journal of Leadership Education*, *Journal on Excellence in College Teaching*, *Journal of Online Teaching and Learning*, *Journal of Management Development*, *Gender in Management*, and *Strategy and Leadership*. Raffo also contributed to the book *Leading with Spirit, Presence, and Authenticity*.



Adam D. Rennhoff

*Department of Economics and Finance
Promoted to Professor*

Adam D. Rennhoff has a B.A. in Economics and Political Science from Bucknell University as well as an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Virginia. He began his academic career at Drexel University before moving to Middle Tennessee State

University in 2007. During his time at MTSU, Rennhoff has taught courses at the undergraduate, master's, and doctoral levels and served on numerous doctoral dissertation committees.

For the past four years, he also has been director for the master's and doctoral graduate programs in Economics. Rennhoff has published numerous peer-reviewed journal articles as well as authored several studies for the Federal Communications Commission. He recently completed a four-year term as co-editor for an academic journal.



Jean R. Wilson

Department of Management

Promoted to Senior Instructor Coordinator

Jean R. Wilson began her career at MTSU in August 1999 as an adjunct instructor and in 2005 became coordinator of career planning in the Management Department. She has a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Illinois State University and an M.B.A. from Western Illinois University. Prior to becoming an instructor, Wilson worked as a first-line manager at State Farm in Jacksonville, Florida. While at MTSU, she has taught 12 different classes; three of the four courses she typically instructs have been converted to Experiential Learning (EXL)/MT Engage. Wilson is currently an advisor of the Jones College of Business professional development program, IGNITE, and has advised or co-advised four departmental student organizations (Students in Free Enterprise/Enactus, Pi Sigma Epsilon, Modern Woodmen Fraternal Chapter of MTSU, and Mu Kappa Tau), which included taking students to regional and national competitions.

In 2010, Wilson's passion for hands-on learning shifted to public service projects. She has written and received MTSU EXL grants, MTSU Public Service Grants, and external grants with Lowe's. Three of her class projects were highlighted (Spring 2012, 2013, 2014) by the Office of Community and University Partnerships to help MTSU earn the designation of President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. During the period of Spring 2012–15, Wilson led her students to the completion of 10 public service projects; earned six matching fund awards from Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial; and raised (not including grants) nearly \$33,000 to benefit six local nonprofits. In August 2014, she also focused her attention on becoming a certified trainer of the Dale Carnegie program, earning that certification in August 2016, and is the only trainer representing the Management Department. In April 2018, she was selected as the 2017–18 Outstanding Dale Carnegie Trainer.



Nancy G. Caukin

*Department of Womack Educational Leadership
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Nancy G. Caukin, Ed.D., is an associate professor and the Secondary Ready2Teach program director in the College of Education's Womack Educational Leadership Department. As a teacher educator, she prepares future teachers in the undergraduate and graduate programs.

Caukin also teaches in and chairs dissertations in the Assessment, Learning, and School Improvement (ALSI) doctoral program. She began her career working in outdoor education as a camp director for seven years before her 15-year tenure as a high school science teacher.

Caukin's research efforts have been in the areas of teacher candidates' beliefs, the nature of field experiences, teaching philosophy statements as professional development for teacher candidates, the effect of problem-based learning in a residency course on teacher candidates' self-efficacy, and the use of science writing heuristics in secondary chemistry courses. She engages teachers and teacher leaders in K–12 public schools by providing personal and professional learning opportunities.

Heather K. Dillard*Department of Womack Educational Leadership**Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Heather K. Dillard earned her B.S. in Geosciences Education from Middle Tennessee State University in 1997. She began her teaching career as a high school social studies teacher with Metro Nashville Public Schools. She later earned an M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction and an Ed.S. in Curriculum and Technology, both from MTSU. Upon moving to a middle school in Rutherford County Schools, Dillard began working with student teachers. This led her to complete an Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Tennessee State University so that she would be qualified to continue that work in higher education.

Since arriving at MTSU in 2013, she has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in the Womack Educational Leadership Department and in the College of Education's Assessment, Learning, and School Improvement doctoral program. Partnering with local school systems to effectively prepare teacher candidates and to offer support to current teachers and administrators is a great joy for her. Dillard maintains extensive affiliations through national, state, and local professional organizations and presents at numerous education conferences. Her main research interests involve professional learning communities and support for novice teachers.



Katherine A. Mangione

*Department of
Elementary and Special Education
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Katherine A. Mangione has a B.A. in Elementary Education from Hendrix College, an M.S.E. in Gifted and Talented Education from the University of Central Arkansas, and a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Arkansas. She spent nearly a decade in elementary classrooms in northwest and central Arkansas as well as in inner-city St. Louis. Mangione spent five years teaching pre-service teachers at the University of Central Missouri before coming to Middle Tennessee State University eight years ago.

Her research interests include investigating alternative conceptions in earth and space sciences and supporting English language learners in the science classroom. Mangione actively serves the campus and community via her work on committees, as the K–5 program coordinator, and through her work with Lions Clubs International both at MTSU and in nearby Woodbury. She is happiest engaging students in activities to support their craft or exploring Tennessee’s beautiful state park system.



Mark E. Doyle

Department of History

Promoted to Professor

Mark E. Doyle holds a B.A. from Tulane University and a Ph.D. from Boston College. Prior to coming to Middle Tennessee State University in 2009, he held post-doctoral positions at the University of Pennsylvania and Amherst College. At MTSU Doyle teaches undergraduate courses in British, Irish, and world history and graduate courses in modern European and imperial history. From 2016 to 2019, he served as the director of graduate studies in the MTSU History Department.

Doyle's research interests include religious and ethnic violence, policing, migration, and popular music in Britain, Ireland, and the British Empire. He is the author of three books (one publishing this year) and the editor of the two-volume *The British Empire: A Historical Encyclopedia* (ABC-CLIO, 2018). Doyle's second book, *Communal Violence in the British Empire: Disturbing the Pax* (Bloomsbury, 2016), won the Stansky Prize for the best work of post-1800 British history by a North American scholar from the North American Conference on British Studies. His current research focuses on the history of African and Asian migrants to Ireland during the 19th century.



Meredith H. Dye

*Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Promoted to Professor*

Meredith H. Dye has a B.A. from Erskine College (Behavioral Science, 1998), an M.A. from the University of North Carolina–Greensboro (Sociology, 2001), and a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia (Sociology, 2008). She joined the Sociology faculty at MTSU in 2008 and is currently the undergraduate program director in her department and the Criminology minor advisor. Dye has taught courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels in general sociology, crime and deviance, statistics, and quantitative research methods. She also teaches courses for and serves the University Honors College and the Women and Gender Studies program.

Dye's research focuses on the effects of incarceration, suicide in prison, long-term sentences, and women lifers. In addition to journal publications in these areas, she is the co-author of the book *Women Lifers: Lives Before, Behind, and Beyond Bars* with Ronald Aday. Dye has served on dozens of Sociology M.A. theses as well as Honors theses and Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity projects. She received the MTSU Foundation's Outstanding Teacher Award in 2012 and the Outstanding Advisor Award from the College of Liberal Arts in 2013. Along with teaching, Dye has served on a variety of college and MTSU committees, including the Faculty Senate and the President's Commission on the Status of Women.



Sean E. Foley

Department of History

Promoted to Professor

Sean E. Foley specializes in the history of the Middle East and socio-political trends in the broader Islamic world. Since coming to Middle Tennessee State University in 2006, he has taught both graduate and undergraduate courses on historiography along with Middle East history, U.S. history, World history, and

World War I. Previously, Foley taught at Georgetown University, where he earned an M.A. in Arab Studies in 2000 and a Ph.D. in History in 2005. He graduated with a B.A. in History from the University of California-Berkeley in 1996. Foley has held Fulbright fellowships with Damascus University in Syria, Istanbul University in Turkey, and the International Islamic University Malaysia. In addition, he has held special research fellowships while living for extended periods in Australia, with the Australian National University, and in Saudi Arabia, with King Saud University.

Foley has published widely and delivered papers in Arabic and English to dozens of international academic conferences and leading universities throughout the world. He is a global authority on Saudi Arabia and the other Arab oil-producing monarchies in the Persian Gulf, having authored two monographs on the subject: *Changing Saudi Arabia: Art, Culture, and Society in the Kingdom* (2019) and *The Arab Gulf States: Beyond Oil and Islam* (2010), published by Lynne Rienner Press. He is currently working on a third monograph on the history of cigarette smoking in the Muslim World over the past century. Foley has commented on issues related to the Middle East and the broader Muslim World for the *Atlantic*, Voice of America Television, Al-Jazeera, *The Tennessean*, and other media organizations.



Frances D. Henderson

Department of English

Promoted to Senior Instructor

Frances D. Henderson has a B.S. in Psychology from Vanderbilt University, an M.A. in English from Xavier University in Ohio, an M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration from Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, and a Ph.D. in English from Vanderbilt.

The arc of her professional career has bent toward education and social advocacy work. Henderson worked for the Centers for Disease Control at one of its 11 Regional Training Centers coordinating continuing education seminars for physicians and nurse practitioners, most of whom served at-risk and low-income patients. Later, she became the administrator of a student summer internship program at Vanderbilt that partnered students with community-based organizations throughout the Southeast to help address local environmental justice issues. While earning her Ph.D., she worked in the Division of Student Life at Vanderbilt overseeing the Intercultural Affairs and Diversity Education Program.

Prior to joining MTSU's Department of English in 2009, Henderson was director of student services for the Adult Studies Program at Aquinas College in Nashville, where she held the rank of assistant professor of English. She was selected as Faculty of the Year at Aquinas and has been nominated twice for Faculty of the Year in lower-division English at MTSU, where she teaches African American Literature and writing courses. Henderson has been recognized as a "faculty member who made a difference to a graduating senior." She is a fervent advocate for students and has served on numerous committees, including the Black Faculty and Staff Association, Black History Month Committee, Intercultural Affairs Board, and the President's Commission on the Status of Women. Her professional mission is to reach and teach as many students as she possibly can and to ignite in them a passion for lifelong learning and service to others.

Jarrold J. Houghton*Department of Art and Design**Promoted to Senior Instructor*

Jarrold J. Houghton attended the University of Kansas, where he received his B.F.A. degree in Sculpture with distinction in 1999. With a full-tuition scholarship from Southern Illinois University, Houghton received his M.F.A. degree in Sculpture in 2002. He is currently a senior instructor in foundations. Houghton has exhibited nationally in Alabama, California, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, and New York and internationally in Canada, Mexico, and New Zealand.

In his ongoing body of work about the human landscape, Houghton is investigating the visual ideas of human actions creating a dystopian future world, not so much in the future that we cannot see ourselves in it, but just enough to act as a possible eye-opening, voyeuristic endeavor by the viewer. In the process of creating small worlds, he also looks inside his own mind as he tries to condense time into a single moment. Every object is contemplated, scrutinized, and controlled to lead the viewer through his narrative.



Sisavanh Houghton

Department of Art and Design

Promoted to Professor

Sisavanh Houghton is a professor of painting in the Department of Art and Design. She won an MTSU Outstanding Teaching Award in 2014 and was awarded one of two prestigious Tennessee Arts Individual Artist Fellowships for 2D in 2017. She recently won the Best Painting Award at ArtFields in Lake City, South Carolina.

Houghton earned her B.F.A. from the University of Kansas and her M.F.A. from Southern Illinois University. Currently her body of work is inspired by the nonprofit organization Legacies of War mission statement: “to raise awareness about the history of the Vietnam War-era bombing in Laos and advocate for the clearance of unexploded bombs.” For refugees and immigrants, the processes of connecting and disconnecting with a place or community are abstracted ideas of migration. Houghton continues to give back to the refugee community by partnering with the Frist Center for the Visual Arts’ Educator for Community Engagement, Oasis Center, and Center for Refugees+Immigrants of Tennessee.

Her paintings have been exhibited nationally at venues such as the Hunter Museum of American Art, Lauren Rogers Museum of Art, Huntsville Museum of Art, Reece Museum, and Flying Solo Nashville Airport. Houghton’s work has been featured in *Wall Street International*, *Click_Bait*, *Create Magazine*, *Studio Visit Magazine*, *The Tennessean*, *The Pinch Journal Publication*, *Voices of America*, and the *Next Door Neighbor*. Permanent collections include the Hunter Museum of American Art, Chattanooga; American Embassy, Paramaribo, Suriname; Legacies of War Office, Washington, D.C.; Tennessee State Museum; and Pinnacle Bank, Memphis and Nashville. Her research has been funded numerous times by the Tennessee Arts Commission and the generous support of MTSU grants. Houghton is represented by Tinney Contemporary gallery in Nashville.



Jennifer W. Kates

Department of English

Promoted to Master Instructor

A native of middle Tennessee, Jennifer W. Kates earned her B.A. in Creative Writing from Rhodes College, her M.A. in Creative Writing from the University of Southern Mississippi's Center for Writers, and her Ph.D. in Creative Writing from Georgia State University.

She has taught both General Education and Creative Writing classes in MTSU's English Department since 1997, during which time she has won both the Outstanding Public Service Award (2011–12) and Outstanding Teaching in General Education Award (2015–16). Kates has taught in Raider Learning Communities, M.A. in Liberal Arts graduate courses, and dual enrollment and Honors courses. She has developed MT Engage courses and regularly mentors graduate students in the graduate teaching assistant shadowing program.

Kates's teaching philosophy is to respect students and the discipline and to always keep growing. Additionally, she directs MTSU Write, the low-residency certificate program in Creative Writing, and edits *SHIFT: A Publication of MTSU Write*. In this capacity, she mentors student writing interns and graduate student assistants, and she has brought numerous award-winning writers to campus for master classes, conferences, and readings. Kates also serves as the current executive director of the Southern Literary Festival. Additionally, she is a member of the Rutherford County Arts Alliance and a passionate advocate for literary arts in her community.



Rebekka King

*Department of
Philosophy and Religious Studies*

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Rebekka King holds a Ph.D. from the University of Toronto, an M.A. from Queen's University, and a B.A. from Bishop's University. Prior to coming to MTSU, she was a post-doctoral fellow at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. King teaches courses on religion and public life, global Christianity, receptions of Jesus, women and gender studies, and ethnographic methods. Her research and publications focus on religious hybridity within contemporary North American Christianity. She also publishes and presents regularly at conferences on the topics of pedagogy and program design in regards to the academic study of religion.

King serves as vice president of the North American Association for the Study of Religion and as co-chair of the American Academy of Religion's Sociology of Religion program unit. She is an editor for *Critical Research on Religion* and a fellow of the Center for Critical Research on Religion in Boston. King has won numerous awards, including an MTSU Outstanding Teaching Award, MTSU Outstanding EXL Faculty Award, American Academy of Religion Individual Research Grant, and "Teaching Against Islamophobia" Fellowship from the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion.

**Lori A. Kissinger***Department of Communication Studies**Promoted to Senior Instructor*

Lori A. Kissinger has a B.S. in Marketing from the University of Southern Indiana, an M.S. in Library Science from Indiana University, and an M.A. in Communication from Indiana State University. She left the public sector and began her teaching career in 1998 at the University of Southern Indiana. In 2001,

Kissinger's family moved to Tennessee, and she began teaching at MTSU in the Communication Studies Department. Her classroom teaching has included Raider Learning Communities, EXL courses, MT Engage courses, and online, hybrid, and dual enrollment courses. Kissinger has actively participated in both Faculty Learning Communities and in the Faculty Fellows program.

Her awards have included the MTSU Outstanding Teaching in General Education Award, MTSU Public Service Award, Tennessee Communication Association (TCA) Outstanding Communication Educator Award, TCA Communicator of the Year Award, MTSU EXL Faculty Award, Tennessee Campus Compact Award for Service Learning, MTSU Disabled Student Services Service Award, and Sertoma Service to Mankind Award. Kissinger works extensively with people with disabilities and serves as the director of Borderless Arts Tennessee.

Francis Koti

Department of Global Studies and Human Geography
Tenured

Francis Koti has a B.Ed. in History and Geography from Kenyatta University and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Geography from West Virginia University. He came to MTSU from the University of North Alabama (UNA), where his teaching and research focused on urban development, community resource use and access, the built environment, and community health. Koti was recognized with a Teaching Excellence Award and has published extensively in the field, particularly related to urban development, residential space, and spatial exclusion in Africa.

Administratively at UNA, he served as chair of the Department of Geography starting in 2012, receiving the Outstanding Department Chair Award in 2016, and as interim associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 2017–18. He has designed and led multiple education abroad opportunities in Tanzania, was executive secretary of the Kenya Scholars and Studies Association, and served on the Florence (Alabama) Planning Commission.



Darren E. Levin

Department of Theatre and Dance

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Darren E. Levin holds a B.F.A. in Theatre Design and Technology from Missouri State University and an M.F.A. in Theatre Design (Lighting Design concentration) from the University of Texas. Prior to joining the MTSU faculty, he served as assistant technical director and lighting supervisor for McCain Auditorium at Kansas

State University. Levin also is currently an associate artist with Nashville Repertory Theatre, where his lighting design credits include *Avenue Q*, *Topdog/Underdog*, *Smart People*, *Posterity* (regional premiere), *Good Monsters* (world premiere), and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*. In addition, he designs extensively with Black Hills Playhouse, Green Mountain Opera Festival, Theatre West Summer Repertory, and Mountain Rep Theatre, with credits including *Side Show*, *Footloose*, *9 to 5*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *The Rape of Lucretia*, *La Cenerentola*, and *She Loves Me*.

Levin previously has worked with and designed for Cedar Point Live Entertainment/Cedar Fair Entertainment Corp. and Juanita K. Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts, and he toured with Feld Entertainment's Disney on Ice. He is a member of the United States Institute of Theatre Technology, where he serves as vice commissioner for communications of the Lighting Design and Technology Commission and as a council member for the Essential Skills for the Entertainment Technician program. Levin is a proud member of United Scenic Artists 829 (USA829) and the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) Local 205-Austin, Texas.



Natonya D. Listach

Department of Communication Studies

Promoted to Senior Instructor

Natonya D. Listach received her B.A. with a double major in Communication Studies and Political Science from Belmont University and her M.A. in Communication Studies from Western Kentucky University. She is currently working on her Ph.D. in Communication Studies with a focus on Rhetoric at the University of Memphis.

Listach also serves as assistant director of the award-winning MTSU Debate Team. She is a member of and has presented her work at the annual conferences for the Southern States Communication Association, Tennessee Communication Association, National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa Inc., and Pi Kappa Delta Forensics Honor Society.



Janet K. McCormick

*Department of Communication Studies
Promoted to Professor*

Janet K. McCormick earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in Communication from Eastern Illinois University (1987, '88) and her Ph.D. in Communication (emphases in Interpersonal/Organizational) from Southern Illinois University ('95). She taught at

Spalding University in Louisville, Kentucky, before spending seven years teaching abroad in London, Buenos Aires, and Singapore. McCormick joined MTSU in 2002 as an intercultural communication specialist and is a recipient of the MTSU Outstanding Teacher Award twice, Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award, Outstanding Academic Advisor Award, Outstanding EXL Faculty Award twice, and the Distinguished Educator in Distance Learning Award. She regularly conducts regional communication seminars/workshops on such subjects as listening, intercultural communication, gender and communication, interviewing skills, leadership skills, and group dynamics. McCormick effectively incorporates experiential learning pedagogy into all of her on-ground and online courses for undergrad and graduate students as well as the CLA Lifelong Learners.

She recently presented her "High Impact Teaching Strategies for Capstone Courses" in California; a session on "Incorporating EXL into Graduate Level Courses" in Florida; a session on "Powerful Listening Skills" in Dublin, Ireland; and another session on "Listening Effectively in a Variety of Organizational Contexts" in Vancouver, Canada. Her publications to date focus on preparing communicators for a global workforce. McCormick is internationally recognized as the inaugural chair of the Global Communication Certification Council launched by the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) in a 2013 meeting in Manhattan and Toronto before receiving the Rae Hamlin International Leadership in Service Award in Atlanta for these efforts in 2016. She is co-founder of the MTSU Institute of Experiential Learning, a current nominee for the National Society of Experiential Educators Outstanding Faculty award, and a member of numerous professional organizations including the International Literacy Association, IABC, National Society for Experiential Education, Academy of Management, National Communication Association, Tennessee Communication Association (recent past-president), and American Association of University Women.



Adam L. McInturff

Department of English

Promoted to Senior Instructor

Adam McInturff earned his bachelor's degree from Tennessee Wesleyan College and his master's in English from Middle Tennessee State University. He began at MTSU as an adjunct instructor in 2008. Since 2011, McInturff has been a full-time faculty member, teaching General Education courses and working primarily with international and developing writers. After teaching Experiential Learning (EXL) courses for many years, he focuses his coursework on helping students adapt to real and changing rhetorical situations. Students must utilize various forms of technology and multimodal communication, and his classes are built around student interaction and open discussions that enhance in-class writing, workshoping, and research.

In 2014, McInturff received the Outstanding Full-time/Tenure Track (FTT) Teaching in General Education English Award, and in 2015, he received the Outstanding Teacher Foundation Award. Currently, he serves the English Department in various capacities while acting as a faculty advisor for Sandbox, an MTSU creators' club designed to unite talented students in various disciplines through discussions and group projects. As a faculty advisor for Sandbox, McInturff has created a thriving community of artists, writers, musicians, computer programmers, and poets. This organization has enjoyed two first-prize wins at the Southern Festival in the e-zine category, and it has also designed video games for and competed in both the Hack-MT and Vandy Hacks events. Moving forward, McInturff will continue to examine intersections between technology, composition, creativity, and analysis while serving MTSU's diverse and engaging student populations.

Candace B. Moonshower*Department of English**Promoted to Senior Instructor*

Candace B. Moonshower holds a B.A. with Distinction in University Honors in English and Philosophy and an M.A. with Honors in English, both from Middle Tennessee State University. She is currently pursuing an M.F.A. at Seton Hill University in Pennsylvania. As an undergraduate student at MTSU, Moonshower received the Richard C. and Virginia Peck Award, a Paul Martin Scholarship, and Honors Senior of the Year recognition. In 2004, she sold her master's thesis, a novel for young people entitled *The Legend of Zoey*, to Random House. Published in 2006, the book won the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators' Most Promising New Work Award and was named a Volunteer State Book Award nominee.

Moonshower also has published a biography for the school library market and continues to work on novels for children, young adults, and adults. In her freelance career, she has accumulated 150-plus publication credits. After working as a freelance writer and children's author for many years, Moonshower entered academia as a lecturer in 2009 and was immediately motivated to put her skills to use. She teaches freshman- and sophomore-level English courses and enjoys helping students get over their fear—and sometimes hatred—of writing. In addition, Moonshower has developed online courses for MTSU Online, serves as a course mentor for online instructors, and recently created and began teaching a new 2020 Literature course, "Happily Ever After": The Modern Romance Novel. In 2018, Moonshower was appointed to the position of instructor, and she is a senior instructor as of this August.



Kate L. Pantelides

Department of English

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Kate L. Pantelides has a B.A. in English from Bowdoin College, an M.A. in English from the University of Louisville, and a Ph.D. in English with a concentration in Rhetoric and Composition from the University of South Florida. She is the co-director of General Education English at MTSU and teaches both

undergraduate and graduate writing classes. The foundations of her teaching philosophy are rooted in empathy and an ethic of care. Pantelides believes that writing is always creative, whether crafting a memo, a technical writing manual, or a poem; because of this, her primary goal for students—from first-year students through graduate students—is to foster risk-taking and innovation in their writing.

Pantelides supports such work in the classroom by designing challenging writing opportunities (like the annual Celebration of Student Writing, which she co-founded with Julie Myatt), modeling experimentation in her own writing, and encouraging extensive revision of formal writing projects. Her pedagogically-oriented research in Writing Studies includes the award-winning article “‘So what are we working on?’ Pronouns as a Way of Re-Examining Composing,” which considers student understandings of authorship. She regularly publishes with her students, most recently co-authoring “Like So Many Maps Under Foot: Using Holographic Thinking to Unflatten a Celebration of Student Writing” with Jacob Castle and Katherine Musick for the edited collection *Radiant Figures*. Pantelides is currently developing a co-authored textbook entitled *Research Methods for Writers* for Bedford Macmillan Publishing and is conducting a study on the impact of plagiarism accusations. (Any students or faculty who would like to participate in the study should contact her!)

Michael V. Paulauskas*Department of History**Promoted to Senior Instructor*

Michael V. Paulauskas received his Ph.D. and M.A. in History from the University of North Carolina and his B.A. in History from Temple University. He began working at MTSU in 2012. Paulauskas has been a member of the History Department General Education Committee since 2014. Additionally, he was part of the team that developed the Reading-History Initiative and has been an instructor in this program since its inception in 2015.

Paulauskas has taught survey courses on U.S. history and Western civilization as well as undergraduate and graduate courses on Russian history. His research examines the role of the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C., in conducting superpower relations during the tenure of Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin from 1962 to 1986.

Ashley Riley Sousa

Department of History

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Ashley Riley Sousa earned her B.A. in History from the University of California–Davis and her Ph.D. from Yale University. After teaching for six years at West Valley College in California, she came to MTSU in 2013 and has taught Native American History, North American Borderlands, History of the Pacific World, United States History, and the History of Murder. Sousa looks forward to taking on the role of graduate director in the History Department this semester. As a member of the MTSU History Department, she has served in many capacities, including the General Education Committee, Undergraduate Committee, and Strickland Visiting Scholar Committee and as faculty advisor for the History Club and Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society.

Sousa's past research has explored relations between Native Hawaiians and California Indians in 19th-century California, the communities they formed in the Central Valley after the gold rush, and the development of Hawaiian Indian identity. Her current research examines the notorious Black Dahlia murder. She hopes to better understand the public response to the Black Dahlia murder as a window onto anxieties about race, gender, class, and mobility in 1940s Los Angeles. Sousa's work has appeared in the journal *Ethnohistory* and the *Journal of Genocide Research*. She currently serves on the editorial board of the journal *Ethnohistory*, as a member of the executive council of the American Society for Ethnohistory, and as chair of the Trennert-Iverson Scholarship Committee for the Western History Association.



Nicholas H. Satinover

Department of Art and Design

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Nick Satinover holds B.F.A. and M.F.A. degrees in Studio Art from Wright State University and Illinois State University, respectively. Prior to joining MTSU's Department of Art and Design, he served as a visiting assistant professor at the University of Minnesota for two years. While there, Satinover mentored undergraduate and graduate students in the printmaking program. During his time at MTSU, he has established a robust visiting artist program and residency, bringing artist/educators from around the United States to campus to work with students and community members, provide lectures, and exhibit their work. Satinover is active in curriculum development and finding pathways to better prepare and support students in their field of practice.

He also maintains a rigorous research and professional activity agenda. Satinover's work has been exhibited widely in national solo and juried exhibitions and has been collected by several international organizations. He has been an artist-in-residence at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, Frans Masereel Centrum in Belgium, and the Kala Artist Institute in Berkeley, California. Satinover's scholarship on the relationship of space and place as experienced through works of print media and audio recording has garnered him invitations to present at international arts conferences and institutions of higher education multiple times per year. His methodology of lithographic printing processes has made him a sought-after visiting artist to lead technical demonstrations and workshops at peer institutions nationwide.

Benjamin W. Sawyer*Department of History**Promoted to Senior Instructor*

Benjamin W. Sawyer has served in MTSU's Department of History since completing his Ph.D. at Michigan State University in 2013. In his six years at MTSU, he has taught more than 2,000 students and won many awards for his contributions to the University, including MTSU Faculty Member of the Year (Fraternity and Sorority Life, 2019), the John T. Bragg Sr. Distinguished Service Award (Student Government Association, 2016), and the Influential Educator Award (Phi Kappa Phi, 2016). Outside the classroom, Sawyer has a strong record of service to the University, including five years as a member of MTSU's Fulbright Committee, two years as faculty sponsor to Alpha Chi Omega fraternity, four appearances as welcome speaker at MTSU's Preview Day recruitment events, and speaking at MTSU's 2019 Alumni College.

At the same time, Sawyer has maintained an active research agenda publishing articles in top journals in the field of Russian history and business/economic history. His research has also earned him a Fulbright fellowship in Russia (2011–12). Sawyer is currently working a history of tsarist-era Russian debt in American markets following the Russian Revolution. Since 2016, he has collaborated with The Avett Brothers' Bob Crawford on *The Road to Now* podcast, which received more than a quarter-million downloads in 2018 alone. Sawyer also has been interviewed by and appeared in multiple popular media outlets, including *Forbes*, Sirius XM POTUS, Roll Call, and Crooked Media. Earlier this month, he was a panelist at the National Conference of State Legislators' Legislative Conference, discussing the power of storytelling and history.



Kathryn L. Sikes

Department of History

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Kathryn L. Sikes has been a Registered Professional Archaeologist since 2003. She holds a B.A. from Syracuse University, an M.A. from Florida State University, and a Ph.D. in Historical Archaeology awarded from the College of William and Mary. Her

professional work outside the academy has included heritage legislation compliance, research excavations, and public education and outreach for the National Park Service, Colonial Williamsburg's Research Division, and several cultural resource management firms. Prior to joining the MTSU's Public History program, Sikes taught interdisciplinary courses in anthropology, archaeology, world studies, and history for the College of William and Mary, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Flinders University.

Her academic research examines the ways in which historical patterns of material culture and landscape reflect social interactions between groups of people divided by race, ethnicity, class, language, or religion. Sikes has directed research excavations and public outreach projects spanning the 17th through 19th centuries that examine interethnic colonial encounters, the interpretation of early modern material symbolism, colonial and postcolonial constructions of identity, and the archaeological ethics that inform present-day efforts to decolonize museums and other institutions of public history. Her published work appears in journals such as *Post-Medieval Archaeology*, *American Antiquity*, *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology*, *Journal of Maritime Archaeology*, and *The Public Historian*.

Suzanne Sutherland

Department of History

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Suzanne Sutherland received her Ph.D. in Early Modern European History from Stanford University. She has won a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend as well as a Fulbright fellowship and other grants for her research into European war, politics, and culture. Her manuscript exploring the long, troubled history of military contracting and its political and cultural impact, *Empire of War: Military Contractors, Power, and Knowledge in Habsburg Europe*, is currently under review for publication with Cornell University Press.

In addition to publishing peer-reviewed essays, Sutherland has co-edited a book, *The Renaissance of Letters: Knowledge and Community in Italy, 1300–1650* (Routledge, 2019); participated in a collaborative, interdisciplinary digital humanities research project, Mapping the Republic of Letters (republicofletters.stanford.edu); and currently serves as an editor on the digital *Routledge Encyclopedia of the Renaissance World*. She teaches courses on Western Civilization and European history, where she focuses on enhancing and promoting digital projects in the classroom. Sutherland enjoys exploring centuries' worth of human experience alongside students in order to gain unique perspectives on modern life.

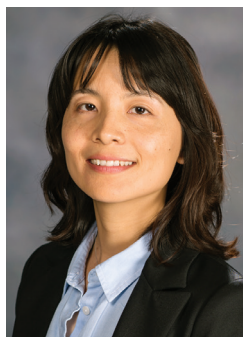


Warren Tormey

Department of English
Promoted to Master Instructor

Warren Tormey has taught in the English Department at Middle Tennessee State University since 1995. A scholar of Medieval and Early English Renaissance Literature, he also maintains interests in Milton studies, the epic tradition, economic history, scientific and technical history, ecocriticism, and popular culture. Tormey teaches survey classes in Medieval and Renaissance English Literature and special topics courses on American Nature Writing, American Environmental Literature, and Science Literature. He also taught in the Great Books in Tennessee Prisons program between 2007 and 2014.

Tormey has publications in *English Literary Renaissance* on John Evelyn, in *Medieval Perspectives* on Edmund Spenser's *Faerie Queene*, in the *Critical Insights* series on John Milton's *Paradise Lost*, and in *Studies in Popular Culture* on Rachel Carson. In addition, he has articles in the four of the five most recent volumes of the *Fundamentals in Medieval and Early Modern Culture* series (DeGruyter Press, 2017–19) and served as co-organizer of the Baseball in Literature and Culture Conference at MTSU from 2006 through 2015. In that capacity, Tormey produced (with Ronald E. Kates) and contributed to three edited volumes, the final of which was published as *Baseball and Social Class: Essays on the Democratic Game That Isn't* (McFarland Press, 2012).



Zhen Wang

*Department of
Political Science and International Relations
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Zhen Wang received her Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Minnesota in 2013. She also holds a master's degree in Public Administration from Northern Arizona University and a B.A. in English Language and Literature from the University of International Relations (Beijing, China). Wang's research and teaching interests include Chinese and East Asian politics, along with comparative politics.

Her current research examines the adaptability of the Chinese Communist Party with a particular focus on its institutions of personnel management, especially the performance evaluation system. She has published articles in *The China Quarterly*, *East Asia: An International Quarterly*, and *Chinese Political Science Review* as well as a methodological case study in *SAGE Research Methods Cases* and a book review in the *American Journal of Chinese Studies*.



Gretchen R. Webber

*Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Promoted to Professor*

Gretchen R. Webber earned her Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Texas. She received an M.B.A and a B.S in Mathematics with distinction from the University of Oklahoma, where she was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. Webber joined MTSU's Sociology and

Anthropology Department faculty in Fall 2007. She is also a member of the graduate faculty and Women's and Gender Studies faculty. In her first semester at MTSU, Webber was selected as an Early Career Work-Family Scholar through the Sloan Work-Family Research Network. She has developed many traditional and online courses and teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in sociology. Webber also serves as the advisor for the Family Studies minor and has supervised multiple Honors theses, M.A. theses, independent studies, and internships. Additionally, she served as research associate on MTSU's National Science Foundation ADVANCE grant examining STEM faculty experiences.

Webber's research and teaching interests include gender, work, family, and qualitative methods. Her current research projects examine competing stereotypes about women's working relationships with other women. Webber also is conducting a new study involving a content analysis of multiple "success at work" advice books marketed toward women. Both studies raise compelling questions about gender inequality at work and generate recommendations for improving equity. She has published articles in multiple journals, including *Gender & Society*, *Qualitative Methods*, *Symbolic Interaction*, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, *Men and Masculinities*, and *Sociology Compass*. Webber's research published in *Gender & Society* earned finalist status in the Rosabeth Moss Kanter Award for Excellence in Work-Family Research competition, given annually by the Center for Families at Purdue University, and the Boston College Center for Work and Family. She is also on the editorial board of *Sociological Spectrum*.



Frank C. Baird

Department of Recording Industry

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Frank C. Baird has a B.S. in Communications from Slippery Rock University and an M.A. in Education from Belmont University. He has toured internationally as a professional audio engineer, working with artists such as Elton John, Madonna, and Clay Walker. As an educator, Baird has taught at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh and at Belmont. He also served as the music facilities manager at Belmont, overseeing 10-plus venues with over 700 concerts/events a year. After 15 years there, he accepted the assistant professor position at MTSU, where he teaches Sound Reinforcement. Baird additionally has introduced new courses such as Advanced Sound Reinforcement and Live Entertainment Production, which incorporates event safety. He currently is involved in the development of the newly named Chris Young Café live-performance venue on campus as well.

Baird is certified in OSHA 30 and the Event Safety Alliance's ESAT, certification courses that are available for MTSU faculty, staff, and students of MTSU. These concepts are used at the Town of Nolensville's Star-Spangled Celebration with support from The Event Safety Shop in Bristol, England, providing weather-hazard prediction software. On campus, Baird has brought together various departments for the spring's End of the Semester Show, where students run lights, sound, video, and perform. He received International Economic Development Council grants three times and has garnered support from rehearsal studios and insurance companies to attend safety conferences. Nominated as an Outstanding EXL Faculty member and an Artificial Intelligence semifinalist, Baird also has served on University Rules, Public Service, and department and college curriculum committees.

Edward N. Bowen*Department of Media Arts**Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Edward N. Bowen is a teacher and an award-winning filmmaker with a 25-year career crewing, writing, producing and directing features, television programs, and over 1,000 TV commercials and spots.

He has worked with the Department of Defense as well as filmmakers David Lynch, Peter Bogdanovich, Taylor Hackford, and George Stevens Jr. Bowen once had a lovely dessert with Burt Lancaster. His most recent film, *In Search Of*, starring John Schuck and Denice Hicks and crewed by MTSU Media Arts alumni and students, has been an official selection in a dozen national and international film festivals.



Trevor O. de Clercq

Department of Recording Industry

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Trevor O. de Clercq holds a B.A. in Music Theory and Composition from Cornell University, an M.M. in Music Technology from New York University, an A.A.S. in Electronics Engineering Technology from the Cleveland Institute of Electronics, and an M.A./Ph.D. from the Eastman School of Music at the University of

Rochester. Prior to his doctoral study, de Clercq worked in the recording industry around New York City. He gained experience at Sony Music Studios, Greene Street Recording, and Jarvis Studios before working as the senior technical engineer at Right Track Recording, where he supported albums by artists such as Mariah Carey, Britney Spears, Pat Metheny, Nas, the Kronos Quartet, Rod Stewart, and James Taylor. In addition to his academic and technical background, de Clercq has written music for film, stage, and radio, including pieces for National Public Radio and Public Radio International.

In the Recording Industry Department at MTSU, he coordinates the commercial musicianship curriculum and teaches coursework in audio theory and music technology. De Clercq's research centers on the theory and analysis of popular music, often conducted via an empirical approach involving statistical tools and computational methods to study large datasets of encoded music. His Nashville Number System Fake Book was published by Hal Leonard in 2015. De Clercq has given over 40 presentations at conferences or invited lectures, and he currently has over 30 publications in print or forthcoming, including articles in *Music Theory Spectrum*, *Music Theory Online*, *The Journal of Music Theory*, and *Music Theory and Analysis*. He is currently an editorial board member of *Musicae Scientiae*, the journal of the European Society for the Cognitive Sciences of Music, and webmaster for the South Central Society for Music Theory. De Clercq has previously taught at Ithaca College, Hofstra University, Adelphi University, the Eastman School of Music, and the University of Rochester.

**Tammy R. Donham***Department of Recording Industry**Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Tammy R. Donham, who began teaching at MTSU in Fall 2013, received a B.S. in Marketing from Western Kentucky University and her M.B.A. from Middle Tennessee State University. She previously served as vice president of marketing for the Country Music Association (CMA), where she oversaw all marketing and creative services efforts for the CMA Awards, CMA Music Festival, and CMA Country Christmas events and television specials. Donham also oversaw the organization's research efforts and directed all branding strategies. At MTSU, she teaches classroom, online, and web-assisted undergraduate courses in Marketing of Recordings and Digital Strategies for the Music Business (EXL).

Donham also developed and teaches an Entertainment Branding class with the Marketing Department for the Music Business concentration for the M.B.A. in MTSU's Jennings A. Jones College of Business. Additionally, she is currently co-authoring the fourth edition of *Record Label Marketing*, "Music Marketing in the Digital Age." Donham contributed a chapter on branding to the third edition of the book, which has been adopted by numerous music business programs nationally. She is a graduate of the 2012 Leadership Music class and is a member of the CMA and the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, which produces and presents the Emmy Awards.



Katherine A. Foss

*School of Journalism and Strategic Media
Promoted to Professor*

Katherine A. Foss earned her Ph.D. in Mass Communication from the University of Minnesota in 2008. She has worked at MTSU for 11 years, developing and teaching courses in health communication, television, and gender studies, along with the Media Studies concentration in the School of Journalism and

Strategic Media. Foss also holds faculty status with Graduate Studies, the Honors College, and Women and Gender Studies. Her research examines the history of media and epidemics, breastfeeding discourse, and parasocial interactionism, with previous studies on gender and victimization, deafness and hearing loss, television theme songs, and pioneer medicine in television.

Foss is the author of *Breastfeeding and Media: Exploring Conflicting Discourses That Threaten Public Health* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017) and *Television and Health Responsibility in an Age of Individualism* (Lexington Press, 2014). She is editor of *Beyond Princess Culture: Gender, Marketing, & Media* (Peter Lang, 2019) and *Demystifying the Big House: Exploring Prison Experience and Media Representations* (Southern Illinois University Press, 2018). Foss has produced more than two dozen publications that include reviews, book chapters, encyclopedia entries, and peer-reviewed articles in *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*, *Health Communication*, *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, and other journals. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Association of Education in Journalism and Mass Communication as the head of the Council of Divisions and on the editorial boards of *Health Communication* and the *Image of the Journalist in Popular Culture*.



Robert D. Gordon

Department of Media Arts

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Robert D. Gordon has an M.B.A. in Marketing from the University of Cincinnati and a B.F.A. in Broadcasting from the College Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. He has taught television production at MTSU for the past 12 years, garnering international awards for his college, himself, and his students. Gordon has deep and broad service records with his department, college, and University, including many committees at all levels and a seat on the Faculty Senate. In addition, he manages the student-staffed television production unit, Media Arts Productions, producing up to 24 MTSU sporting events for ESPN+ and ESPN3 per year, and advises the student-run television station, MT10. Gordon also produces and directs the 48-episode, student-crewed *The Songwriters* series seen on 128 PBS stations nationwide. For the fifth summer, he has supervised his classes' television production efforts at Bonnaroo.

Gordon also has taken students to the National Association of Broadcasters convention and to rehearsals for the CMA Awards in Nashville and the Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas. He is working with NBC to send students to intern at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. Gordon has been a television producer and director for the past 42 years, producing programs for broadcast, home video, syndication, and networks such as Cinemax, PBS, CMT, TNN, The Family Channel, and The Gospel Music Channel. He was appointed as an alternate for a Fulbright scholarship to the University of Tallinn in Estonia for 2018, was a guest professor at Asbury University and the University of Cincinnati, and taught as an MTSU exchange professor last October at the University of Salford in Manchester, England. Gordon was awarded the Outstanding Experiential Faculty Award in 2017 and a University Special Projects grant in 2016 for 360-degree video production. He has published articles in international peer-reviewed journals and chaired several panels at the annual Broadcast Education Association Conference.



Leslie G. Haines

*School of Journalism and Strategic Media
Promoted to Professor*

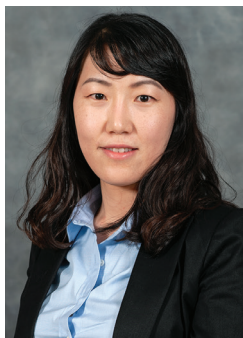
Leslie G. Haines received an M.F.A. in Graphic Design from Marywood University, an M.A. in Advertising Design from Syracuse University, and a B.S. in Graphic Design from Buffalo State College. She joined MTSU in 2013 to teach Visual Communication in the School of Journalism and Strategic Media. Prior to that, Haines served 12 years as the chair of Graphic Design and Advertising programs at the Art Institute of Tennessee-Nashville and at Watkins College of Art & Design. Before academia she worked in the design, advertising, and publishing industries in Syracuse and Nashville. Haines received the American Advertising Federation (AAF) 7th District Donald G. Hileman Memorial Award for excellence in teaching and industry leadership and the student-nominated Dallas Society of Visual Communicators' Golden Apple Educator of the Year Award. With another faculty member, she has brought the AAF National Student Advertising Competition (NSAC) to MTSU. The competition involves a national client and a team of cross-disciplinary students working together to create an advertising pitch. The 2019 team placed fourth in the district.

Creative pursuits include her "Animal Abecedary" series of digital collages which have exhibited at the Frist Art Museum and Nashville International Airport and in Cairns, Queensland, Australia. The series is now available as a book, *Animal Abecedary: A One-of-a-Kind Animal Alphabet*. Haines' current project, "The Real Wonder Women," is a series of empowering portraits of breast cancer survivors in partnership with the YMCA's After Breast Cancer program to raise awareness and as a fundraiser for the program. Haines has run her own graphic design business since 1995, working with such clients as MTG/Kenney Chesney, MakerWear, Target, *The Tennessean*/Gannett, and the Metro Nashville Arts Commission. For MTSU she has created logos and promotional designs for WMOT 89.5, the Center for Popular Music, and the Immersive Storytelling Lab. Nonprofit clients include Nashville Cares, World Relief Fund, and the Tennessee Breast Cancer Coalition. Her work has been honored by the AAF, University College Designers Association (UCDA), and *HOW Magazine*, among others.

**Todd O'Neill***Department of Media Arts**Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Todd O'Neill has a B.A. in Communications from William Paterson University and an M.S. in Television Programming from Brooklyn College-City University of New York. Prior to MTSU, he spent more than 25 years in industry working in video production for corporations and other organizations; multimedia design for business and consumer products (Artist FKA Prince Interactive); content management and search engine consulting at a Fortune 200 financial services firm; and social media, content consulting, and web development for nonprofits in south Texas.

O'Neill has won numerous awards for his work, most recently the Best of Competition award from the Broadcast Education Association and the Gold Hermes Award for the College of Media and Entertainment Wall of Fame. His research interests include content development by students and access to broadband telecommunication services by underserved communities as it relates to freedom of speech.



Hanna Park

*School of Journalism and Strategic Media
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Hanna Park received her bachelor's degree with top honors and her master's degree in Mass Communication from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (Seoul, South Korea). She earned another master's degree with distinction in Public Relations and a doctoral degree in Mass Communication from the University of Florida (2012). At MTSU, Park teaches public relations, case studies, strategic communication research, and campaigns. Before joining the School of Journalism and Strategic Media faculty, she taught public relations and mass communication courses at the University of Florida and Hankuk University. She has received the 2018 Ed Kimbrell Excellence in Journalism Teaching Award (2018), MTSU Outstanding Experiential Learning Faculty Award (2017–18), URECA Summer Research Team Award (2018), and several grants including EXL, Faculty Research and Creativity Activity, and Instructional Evaluation and Development grants.

Park is currently vice president of the Korean American Communication Association (2019–21). Her research interests include corporate social responsibility, crisis management, philanthropy, and social media. Park's work has appeared in the *Journal of Marketing Communications*, *Korea Observer*, *Korean Journal of Advertising*, *PRism*, *Public Relations Journal*, *Public Relations Review*, and the *Review of Public Administration and Management*. She also is the author of *Engaging Youth in Philanthropy* (Korea Scout Association). Park has consulted for the Korea Scout Association's Youth Philanthropy campaign and the 25th World Scout Jamboree. She also worked at KPR, one of the top public relations firms in South Korea. During the 2017–18 academic year, Park advised the MTSU Public Relations Student Society of America chapter and the Bateman Competition team competing in a national case study competition for public relations students.

**Pamela D. Morris***Department of University Studies**Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Pamela D. Morris has a B.S. in Secondary Mathematics and an M.S. in Applied Mathematics from Auburn University as well as M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Economics from MTSU. She has taught undergraduate mathematics as a faculty member at Tuskegee

University, Mississippi State University, and MTSU. Morris has taught for the Department of Economics and Finance at MTSU. She also was a faculty member and later served as Department of Finance and Accounting chair at Kaplan University, where she actively helped to develop a master's in Finance program and an online tutoring program for the School of Business.

Morris joined MTSU's University College as a University Studies faculty member and graduate director of the Master of Professional Studies program, teaching undergraduate and graduate Professional Studies courses and serving on several University and departmental committees. During her career, she has worked with colleagues to make over 30 research presentations at international, national, and state conferences and published two sole author and 14 collaborative journal articles. Her research focuses on economics, finance, education, distance learning, non-traditional learners, high-impact practices, and student success.



Dianna Z. Rust

*Department of University Studies
Tenured and Promoted to Professor*

Dianna Z. Rust earned her master's degree in Mass Communication from Middle Tennessee State University and her Ed.D. from Tennessee State University. She has regularly taught online and on-ground classes, including the Honors University

Seminar and Career Development Seminar, Interdisciplinary Research and Problem Solving, and Senior Capstone for students majoring in the Integrated Studies and Professional Studies bachelor's programs. In addition to teaching, Rust is program coordinator for these two degree programs and oversees all internships. She previously was University College associate dean and directed MTSU's academic outreach and distance-learning efforts.

Rust currently serves on the Leadership Team and Oversight Committee for the University's Quality Enhancement Plan, MT Engage, and as faculty advisor for the MTSU Chapter of Colleges Against Cancer. Her research interests are related to student success for both traditional and nontraditional student populations, interdisciplinary studies, and the scholarship of teaching and learning. In addition to articles and presentations on these topics, Rust serves on the editorial board for the *Journal of Continuing Higher Education* and as the "Prior Learning Assessment" section editor. She is a past-president of MTSU's Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

Grover C. Baker III*James E. Walker Library User Services**Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Grover C. Baker III earned his Bachelor of Music in Church Music from Belmont University and an M.C.M., with a second major in conducting, from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. His areas of performance include voice, piano, and trumpet. Baker earned his M.S. in Information Sciences from the University of Tennessee. He began working in music libraries at Belmont University in 1995 (Music Services/Education Services assistant) and was the librarian at MTSU's Center for Popular Music during 2006–13, prior to taking his current position as visual and performing arts librarian in the James E. Walker Library. In this role, he serves as liaison to the School of Music and the departments of Art, Theatre and Dance, and Recording Industry, providing reference service, bibliographic instruction, and collection development in each of these areas.

Baker has published articles in *Music Reference Services Quarterly* and *Tennessee Libraries* and co-authored the "Mainstream Popular Music" chapter in the fourth edition of *A Basic Music Library: Essential Scores and Sound Recordings*. He is an active member of the Music Library Association (MLA) and its Southeast chapter (SEMLA). One of his principal areas of interest is providing instruction in music librarianship for other librarians and paraprofessionals who have music responsibilities but who may not be trained in those areas or who may not even be musicians. In conjunction with SEMLA, he has organized several day-long workshops at universities throughout the Southeast, including Duke University, Vanderbilt University, Louisiana State University, the University of Alabama, and Tulane University. Each workshop treats the topics of cataloging music materials, developing music collections, and providing music reference. An active church musician, Baker sings in his church choir, occasionally serving as baritone soloist; regularly plays piano in services; and performs with his church's brass ensemble.



Beverly J. Geckle

*James E. Walker Library
Collection Development and Management
Promoted to Professor*

Beverly J. Geckle earned her M.L.S. from the University of Maryland and an M.A. in Historical Studies from the University of Maryland–Baltimore County. She is the continuing resources librarian in the Collection

Development and Management Department at Walker Library, managing the unit responsible for acquiring print and electronic information resources.

Geckle has been a faculty member at MTSU since 2006 after several years at the University of Baltimore Law Library.

Early in her career, Geckle initiated and managed a project to make microfilm copies of the MTSU campus newspaper, *Sidelines*, to preserve the newspaper and enable its digitization, making it more accessible and available to future users. She has presented at national conferences and is an active member of NASIG, a professional organization committed to improving the management of information resources. Geckle served as NSAIG treasurer in 2013–16 and was co-chair of the planning committee for the 2012 NASIG annual conference held in Nashville. Her current research interests include the role of learned societies in scholarly publishing.

**Karen N. Reed***James E. Walker Library User Services**Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Karen N. Reed holds a B.A. in Modern Foreign Language from James Madison University, a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Information Systems from Virginia Commonwealth University, a Master of Library and Information Studies from UNC–

Greensboro, an M.S. in Education from Radford University, and a Ph.D. in Literacy Studies from MTSU. Her career in information retrieval and organization spans over 20 years. Reed began with her work as a computer programmer within the banking industry, then transitioned into librarianship in 2008, working as a middle school librarian at a Title I designated school in rural southwestern Virginia. In this environment, she developed a practical understanding of the wide range of reading comprehension proficiency among students as well as the factors that contribute to student academic success.

Her experience in K–12 librarianship prepared her to become Walker Library's education librarian in 2013. In this role, Reed serves as both the manager of a library unit, the Curriculum Collection, as well as the library's academic liaison to the College of Education. She has published in leading journals in her field, including *School Library Research* and *Practical Academic Librarianship*. Reed also has presented at the state, national, and international level and will present a paper this October at the International Association of School Librarianship conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia. She currently serves on several committees within the Association of College and Research Libraries and has served on the University Curriculum Committee and General Education Committee.



Jason M. Vance

*James E. Walker Library User Services
Promoted to Professor*

Jason M. Vance is an information literacy librarian in the James E. Walker Library's User Services Department. He teaches students to do bibliographic research and manage information sources. In addition to his teaching, Vance has been a leader in the campus's MT Engage program, Scholars Week, and in various faculty learning communities. His research interests involve information literacy, library instruction, and faculty development. Vance's researched papers and essays have been published in *The International Journal of the Book*, *The Journal of Library Administration*, *Communications in Information Literacy*, *Library & Information History*, *Reference Services Review*, and *College and Research Libraries News*. His grant-funded historical research on pack horse librarians was featured in a story on National Public Radio's *Morning Edition*.

Vance has presented at both national and regional library conferences and is a regular academic book reviewer for *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*. He also served two terms as an appointed legislative advocate for Tennessee through the Association of Colleges and Research Libraries. Additionally, he served five terms as a member of the Tennessee Library Association's Board of Directors and four terms as the organization's legislative monitor. Vance earned his B.A. from Western Kentucky University and an M.S. from Simmons University in Boston. He is a member of Beta Phi Mu, the International Library and Information Studies Honor Society, and was named to the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels in recognition for his public service.

