

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY.

Commencement

DECEMBER 14, 2019



The Star-Spangled Banner

Lyrics by Francis Scott Key

Music by John Stafford Smith

C Am E Am D G C



O say, can you see by the dawn's early light what so proud - ly we

7 G C Am E



hailed at the twi-light's last gleam - ing? Whose broad stripes and bright stars thro' the

12 Am D G C G C



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

17 G7



stream-ing? And the rock - ets' red glare, the bombs burst-ing in air, gave

22 C G C D G C F A7



proof thro' the night that our flag was still there. O say, does that star - spang - l'd

28 Dm G C Am D C G7 C



ban - ner yet wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Fall Commencement

108th ACADEMIC YEAR

Saturday, December 14, 2019

9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Murphy Athletic Center, Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, Tennessee



Middle Tennessee State University has graduated 145,994 students since its inception in 1911. These students have received associate's, bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees. Our first Doctor of Arts degrees were conferred on December 22, 1972, the first Educational Specialist degrees on December 20, 1974, the first Doctor of Philosophy degrees on May 10, 2003, and the first Doctor of Education degrees on August 6, 2016.

There have been 399 Doctor of Arts degrees, 1,899 Educational Specialist degrees, 345 Doctor of Philosophy degrees, and 26 Doctor of Education degrees awarded.



Program

Saturday, December 14, 2019

9:00 a.m.

Processional: "Pomp and Circumstance" by Edward Elgar

*Audience, please remain standing for the processional,
presentation of colors, singing of the National Anthem, and moment of silence.
Men, please remove hats for the singing of the National Anthem and the moment of silence.*

Presentation of Colors (morning and afternoon)	ROTC Cadet Color Guard
National Anthem	
Moment of Silence	
Presiding.....	Dr. Sidney A. McPhee <i>President</i>
Morning Address.....	Mr. Chris Young <i>Multi-Platinum Singer, Songwriter, and Entertainer</i>
Afternoon Address	Dr. Belle S. Wheelan <i>President, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges</i>
Presentation of Candidates for Degrees.....	Dr. Mark Byrnes <i>University Provost</i>
Conferring of Degrees.....	Dr. Sidney A. McPhee
Recipients	listing begins on page 13
Alma Mater (morning).....	Dr. Christine Isley-Farmer <i>Professor, School of Music</i>
Alma Mater (afternoon).....	Dr. Jennifer Vannatta-Hall <i>Associate Professor, School of Music</i>
Retirement of Colors (morning and afternoon)	ROTC Cadet Color Guard

Recessional: "Hornpipe" from Water Music by G. F. Handel

Audience, please remain standing until the procession has left the arena floor.

Program

Middle Tennessee State University Brass Ensemble

Morning Ceremony

Dr. David Loucky, Conductor
Abigail Strayer and Grace O'Connell, trumpets; Holly Smith, horn;
Jack Marlow, trombone; Cole Whittenburg, tuba

Afternoon Ceremony

Dr. David Loucky, Conductor
Bryan Sanders and Abigail Strayer, trumpets;
Sean Brabston, horn; Michael Triplett, trombone;
Brady Grippin, tuba

Organist.....Mr. Windell Little

Announcing the Graduates (morning and afternoon) Dr. Kevin Donovan
Professor, Department of English

Dr. Heather Hundley
Professor and Department Chair, Communication Studies

Assisting with Diplomas..... Ms. Sherry Preston
Legal Assistant, Office of the University Counsel

Commencement Marshal

Dr. Laurie Witherow
Associate Vice Provost for Admissions and Enrollment Services

Heralds

Ms. Yvonne Elliott, Ms. Anne Ford, Dr. Tyler Henson,
Ms. Allison McGoffin, Ms. Pat Thomas

Interpreter

Jaclyn Kollar
Bridges for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

***Commercial photographers will photograph each diploma presentation.
These pictures will be available to graduates for purchase. No additional
photography will be allowed on the floor of Murphy Center.***

Board of Trustees

Mr. J.B. Baker
Owner and CEO, Sprint Logistics

Mr. Thomas R. "Tom" Boyd
*Investment Advisor Representative,
Decker Wealth Management LLC*

Mr. Pete DeLay
Principal, Lynwood Ventures LLC

Mr. Darrell Freeman Sr., Vice Chair
Executive Chair, Zycron Inc.

Mr. Joey A. Jacobs
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Ms. Christine Karbowskiak
*Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Risk
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Vice Chair, Board of Directors of
Bridgestone Americas Inc.*

Mr. Stephen B. Smith, Chair
*Chair of the Board, Haury and
Smith Contractors*

Ms. Pamela J. Wright
Founder, Wright Travel

Dr. Mary B. Martin, Faculty Trustee
*Professor, Department of
Mathematical Sciences*

Ms. Samantha Eisenberg, Student Trustee
Master's Candidate, Clinical Psychology

Alumni Association President

On behalf of the Middle Tennessee State University National Alumni Association, I congratulate you on joining a very special group. With today's ceremony, you move from being a student to joining more than 140,000 MTSU alumni. As an alum, you are a vital part of the Middle Tennessee State University family. We count on you to represent us to this nation and the world. We hope that your experiences as a student will serve you well in the future.

Always be proud of your alma mater and stay connected to your University. To be involved in the Alumni Association, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 1-800-533-MTSU (6878) or visit mtalumni.com.

Welcome to the future and to your National Alumni Association.

Shawn Johnson ('93)
President, MTSU National Alumni Association Board, 2019–20

Morning Speaker

Mr. Chris Young Multi-Platinum Singer, Songwriter, and Entertainer



By his 34th birthday this year, RCA Records Nashville entertainer Chris Young had accumulated an impressive list of accomplishments, including membership in the iconic *Grand Ole Opry*, 2 billion on-demand streams, 12 million singles sold, 11 career No. 1 singles, 17 RIAA-certified Gold/Platinum/Multi-Platinum projects, and multiple Grammy, Country Music Association, and Academy of Country Music nominations.

Young is a prolific creator, giving fans seven studio albums in 12 years, with *Losing Sleep* his third recording project in less than two years. The title track is certified Platinum, while “Hangin’ On” is his ninth No. 1 as a songwriter. *Losing Sleep* and *I’m Comin’ Over* both debuted at No. 1 on *Billboard’s* Top Country Albums Chart, and “I’m Comin’ Over” became Young’s first two-time Platinum single.

Young, a non-degreed alumnus and benefactor to Middle Tennessee State University, has been called “one of his era’s finest traditionalists” by the Associated Press. The vocalist has quickly become an international ambassador for country music, performing to capacity crowds around the world, such as the sold-out C2C Festival in the United Kingdom.

His *Losing Sleep* 2018 World Tour—with a hit-packed set that highlights back-to-back No. 1 songs “Losing Sleep,” “Sober Saturday Night,” “Think of You,” and “I’m Comin’ Over”—included his first hometown headlining stop at Nashville’s Bridgestone Arena, where he played to 14,000 fans, friends, and family members.

In 2019, Young has produced new music, “Raised On Country” and the intensely personal “Drowning,” along with a new headlining tour, *Raised On Country World Tour 2019*. The tour visited more than 45 cities through November, with stops in Charlotte, Boston, Philadelphia, Dallas, Las Vegas, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Phoenix, and San Diego, among others.

After attending MTSU in 2005, Young has maintained his True Blue ties to the University by funding an annual scholarship for recording industry students beginning in 2016 and donating a selection of his touring audio equipment in 2012. Earlier this year, MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee announced a newly renovated live entertainment venue on the campus, named the Chris Young Café to honor the Murfreesboro native’s continued support of his alma mater.

Afternoon Speaker

Dr. Belle S. Wheelan
President, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges



Dr. Belle S. Wheelan, currently president of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), is the first African American and the first woman in this capacity. Her career spans over 40 years and includes the roles of faculty member, chief student services officer, campus provost, college president, and Virginia secretary of education. In several of those roles, she was the first African American and/or woman to serve in those capacities.

Wheelan earned her bachelor's degree from Trinity University in Texas (1972) with a double major in Psychology and Sociology; her master's from Louisiana State University (1974) in Developmental Educational Psychology; and her Ph.D. from the University of Texas (1984) in Educational Administration, with a special concentration in Community College Leadership.

She has received numerous awards and recognition including six honorary degrees; the Distinguished Graduate Award from Trinity University (2002) and from the University of Texas College of Education (1992); *Washingtonian Magazine's* 100 Most Powerful Women in Washington, D.C. (2001); the AAUW Woman of Distinction Award (2002); and the Suanne Davis Roueche National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development's Distinguished Lecturer Award (2007). Wheelan also was given the John E. Roueche National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development's International Leadership Award (2010); American Association of Community Colleges' Leadership Award (2011); John Hope Franklin Award from *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* for outstanding leadership in higher education; and Educational Testing Service (ETS) Terry O'Banion Prize in Education from the League for Innovation in Community Colleges. In 2017, Central Virginia Community College named her president emerita.

Wheelan holds and has held membership in numerous local, state, and national organizations, such as Rotary International; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., and Project GOALS (Gaining Online Accessible Learning Through Self-Study). She has served on the board of directors for the AACC (American Association of Community Colleges); American College Testing Inc.; Lumina Foundation for Education; National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame; *Excelencia in Education*; and National Student Clearinghouse. Additionally, Wheelan was appointed to the President's Round Table of the National Council on Black American Affairs; National Society of Collegiate Scholars' Community College Honorary Board; and Next Generation Learning Challenges Advisory Panel.

She attributes her success to hard work, endurance, tenacity, and being in the right place at the right time. Wheelan recognizes that prayer and support from family and friends make anything possible. She is the mother of an adult son, Reginald.

Platform Party

Saturday, December 14, 2019

Dr. Sidney A. McPhee
President

Mr. Stephen B. Smith
Chair, MTSU Board of Trustees

Mr. Darrell Freeman Sr.
Vice Chair, MTSU Board of Trustees

Dr. Mark Byrnes
University Provost

Mr. Chris Young (morning speaker)
*Multi-Platinum Singer, Songwriter,
and Entertainer*

Dr. Belle S. Wheelan (afternoon speaker)
*President, Southern Association of
Colleges and Schools Commission
on Colleges*

Mr. Alan Thomas
Vice President for Business and Finance

Mr. William J. Bales
*Vice President for University
Advancement*

Mr. Bruce Petryshak
*Vice President for Information
Technology and Chief
Information Officer*

Dr. Debra K. Sells
*Vice President for Student Affairs
and Vice Provost for Enrollment
and Academic Services*

Mr. Andrew Oppmann
*Vice President for Marketing
and Communications*

Dr. Cheryl B. Torsney
Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

Dr. David L. Butler
*Vice Provost for Research and
Dean, College of Graduate Studies*

Dr. Richard Sluder
*Vice Provost for Student Success and
Dean, University College*

Dr. Robert Fischer
*Dean, College of Basic and
Applied Sciences*

Dr. Harold Whiteside
*Dean, College of Behavioral
and Health Sciences*

Dr. David Urban
*Dean, Jennings A. Jones
College of Business*

Dr. Lana Seivers
Dean, College of Education

Dr. Karen Petersen
Dean, College of Liberal Arts

Dr. Zeny Panol
*Interim Dean, College of Media
and Entertainment*

Dr. John R. Vile
Dean, University Honors College

Dr. Jason Martin
Interim Dean, James E. Walker Library

Mace and Chain of Office

Originally a medieval knight's weapon, the mace evolved into a symbol of royal scepters in various crown jewel collections. Large versions of the scepter have come to represent the power and authority of institutions such as our University. The mace measures 50 inches in length and is made of Tennessee cherry wood embellished with sterling silver and lapis lazuli. The Tennessee flower, the iris, denotes the public the University serves who, by their loyalty, give it strength and power. The leaves form a crown to symbolize the ennobling achievements of our graduates. Tennessee freshwater pearls, the official state gem, suggest the inestimable value of inquiring minds. The streamer on the wooden shaft carries the names by which the University has been known since its founding. The finial at the base of the mace is a stylized nut, representing the seed from which springs the mighty tree of those committed to lifelong learning.

The chain of office worn by the president is made of sterling silver. The lapis lazuli gems, mounted on scroll shapes, represent the colleges within the University. The knotted components depict the interdependence of knowledge and the various academic programs of MTSU. The lapis lazuli and sterling represent the University colors of blue and white. The Great Seal of the State of Tennessee embellishes the medallion suspended from the chain, representing the University as part of the Tennessee higher education system.

These unique emblems of authority were designed and crafted by Professor Klaus Kallenberger, formerly of the Art Department. The mace and chain of office are a generous gift to the University from the MTSU Foundation.

MACE BEARER

Morning

Dr. Vishwas N. Bedekar joined Middle Tennessee State University in Fall 2013, was promoted to associate professor starting Fall 2019, and was appointed as interim chair of Engineering Technology for 2019–20. 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 a 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 teaches several courses at MTSU, is a member of the graduate faculty and the faculty fellow program, and has served on the Graduate Council. Bedekar has mentored several graduate and undergraduate students in research related to energy harvesting. He also used several technology tools, such as TopHat, AudioNote, and Panopto BLTI, in Tennessee Board of Regents-sponsored grants to offer course content online to ENGR 1210.

Bedekar has represented the Engineering Technology Department on the Faculty Senate since Fall 2017. For the 2018–19 academic year, he received the MTSU Foundation's Outstanding Teaching Award. Additionally, Bedekar has been cited multiple times as a faculty member who makes a difference. He is a member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME), chair-elect of SME Chapter 43 of Nashville, and faculty advisor of SME Student Chapter S239 at MTSU. Since 2016, Bedekar has mentored students at the National Robotics Challenge, where MTSU teams have won multiple awards in robotics competitions.

Afternoon

Dr. Kate L. Pantelides holds 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 co-director of General Education English at MTSU and teaches both undergraduate and graduate writing classes.

Pantelides believes that writing is always creative, whether crafting a memo, a technical writing manual, or a poem. Her courses are designed to foster risk-taking and innovation in all students, from those taking composition to those writing theses and dissertations. Pantelides supports such work by designing challenging writing opportunities (often showcased in the annual Celebration of Student Writing, which she co-founded), 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 how students understand 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* and is conducting a study on the impact of plagiarism accusations.

Academic Regalia

The black gowns and colorful hoods traditionally worn in Middle Tennessee State University commencement ceremonies have their origins in the Middle Ages.

A statute in England in 1321 required that all “Doctors, Licentiates, and Bachelors” wear gowns. In the second half of the 14th century, the statutes of certain colleges forbade “excess in apparel” and prescribed the wearing of a long gown. Scholars were often clerics as well, and they adopted costumes similar to those of monastic orders. While the special attire covered rank or social status, thus lending a uniform look to ceremonies, it also served another purpose: warmth in drafty, unheated buildings.

As the universities began to pass from the control of the church, colors often were added to the somber robes and hoods, eventually signifying the degree and specialization.

The cut of the gown, which is usually black, also varies with the degree held—pointed sleeves for the bachelor’s degree; long, closed sleeves with a slit in the arm for the master’s degree; and round, open sleeves for the doctoral degree. While the bachelor’s and master’s gowns have no ornamentation, the doctoral gown is faced down the front with velvet and has three velvet bars across the sleeves.

At Middle Tennessee, hoods are worn by holders of the master’s and doctoral degrees, with the latter being longer. Hoods are lined with the official colors of the university that conferred the degree; thus holders of degrees from MTSU wear hoods lined in blue and white. The velvet edging on the hood, and often the velvet edging on the gown, represents the candidate’s major academic field. Further, the velvet bars on the sleeves may be either black or the same color as the discipline color of the hood. Colors associated with various subjects follow:

- Agriculture** - Maize
- Arts, Letters, Humanities** - White
- Commerce, Accountancy, Business** - Drab
- Criminal Justice** - Midnight Blue
- Economics** - Copper
- Education** - Light Blue
- Fine Arts** - Brown
- Home Economics** - Maroon
- Journalism** - Crimson
- Law** - Purple
- Library Science** - Lemon

- Music** - Pink
- Nursing** - Apricot
- Oratory (Speech)** - Silver Gray
- Philosophy** - Dark Blue
- Physical Education** - Sage Green
- Science** - Golden Yellow
- Social Work** - Citrine

The black cap, either a mortarboard or a tam, is customarily worn. There is no general rule for the position of the tassel. In practice at Middle Tennessee State University, the tassel is worn on the right. It may be shifted to the left after the degree is awarded. Men may remove their caps during prayer, the playing of the alma mater, and the commencement address.

Undergraduate honor graduates are distinguished by the stoles added to their gowns: gold for those graduating *summa cum laude*, 3.90 to 4.0 (overall grade point average); silver for *magna cum laude*, 3.75 to 3.89; and white for *cum laude*, 3.50 to 3.74. Graduates with University Honors wear blue and white cords and have completed at least 31 hours with a 3.25 average in the Honors program, a curriculum of special classes designed for superior students. Those who have maintained a minimum average of 3.65 in the Honors program are graduating with Distinction in University Honors. Honor graduates and persons graduating with University Honors, along with those who have been commissioned as second lieutenants in the United States Army, are listed in this program after the degree recipients.

Some academic honor societies and programs may provide cords, ribbons, medallions, or lapel pins designating the achievement and involvement of their members.

Since 1993, graduates of the University Honors College have received the official Honors medallion in recognition of their final thesis defense and completion of special requirements of the college. The medallion is a replica of the official seal of the University Honors College and depicts a lighted torch, three Ionic columns, and a lightning bolt. Respectively, these symbolize the search for truth and knowledge, the stability and unwavering commitment to pursuing knowledge, and the flash of enlightenment or creative energy.

Military veteran students are distinguished by specially designed red stoles and red, white, and blue cords in recognition of their admirable service to their country.

Experiential Learning Scholars are distinguished by blue, silver, and white cords. These scholars completed EXL-designated hands-on learning courses, an off-campus service activity, an on-campus service activity, and a portfolio of reflections on their EXL activities. The EXL program provides students with opportunities for hands-on experience, valuable networking, and an opportunity to explore career paths through real-world experience.

MT Engage Scholars are distinguished by royal blue, white, and gold cords. These students completed MT Engage-designated courses that promote active learning and integrated their learning by reflecting on connections across disciplines and between their academic and cocurricular experiences. MT Engage students showcased their integrative learning in an

ePortfolio that documented their community and campus involvement as well as the academic knowledge and skills they gained during their time at MTSU.

International students may wear colorful sashes that represent their country of origin. Each sash symbolizes, in color and design, their country's flag.

Most American colleges and universities have adopted a uniform code. However, at any academic gathering, costumes often are worn that are not described by these guidelines. Some of these may be from foreign universities, with others from American institutions that have preferred to remain with the European tradition of allowing each school to determine its own costume. Silver medallions worn by faculty denote 15 years of service, and gold medallions represent 25 years.

Academic Banners

The banners carried and displayed at commencement represent the University; its nine colleges (Basic and Applied Sciences, Behavioral and Health Sciences, Business, Education, Liberal Arts, Media and Entertainment, Graduate Studies, University College, and University Honors); Walker Library; and the Faculty Senate. Art Professor Janet Higgins, her student Kristi Baughman, and Darrell Callis Burks, designer in Creative Marketing Solutions and 2000 B.F.A. graduate, designed and executed the banners. The colors used in each banner represent disciplines within the colleges. The University seal appears in the center of each banner, symbolizing that the whole is greater than any of its parts.

BANNER CARRIERS

College of Basic and Applied Sciences

Mr. Jon Huddleston is an assistant professor in the Concrete Industry Management (CIM) program. He previously instructed students and conducted research for the department as lab manager from 2007 to 2014. Huddleston earned his Bachelor of Science in Concrete Industry Management in 2006 and his Master of Business Administration in 2009, both from Middle Tennessee State University.

He currently teaches CIM courses at the junior and senior level, which include Concrete Construction Methods, Understanding Concrete Construction, Concrete Industry Internship, Management of Concrete Production-Facilities/Ordering, Management of Concrete-Cement, Senior Concrete Lab, and Production Sales and Service

Capstone. Huddleston has been involved in numerous industry field studies and research grants for the Tennessee Department of Transportation. His current research includes pozzolanic materials and their effects on concrete properties and performance, and the use of microfiber treatment with fiber strand fibrillation in concrete.

College of Behavioral and Health Sciences

Dr. William Whitehill received his doctorate from the University of Alabama in Human Performance and was hired at MTSU in 1993 to develop the undergraduate program in Athletic Training. Currently, MTSU is home to the only public undergraduate program in Athletic Training in the state of Tennessee. In 1995–96, he was awarded a sabbatical to work as the program manager for athlete care at the centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1996. Through that relationship, Whitehill was asked to work at the 2000 Sydney Summer Olympic and the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. Whitehill was active in the drug testing of world-class athletes for 20 years and traveled the world in that capacity. He also took a group of students to the Dominican Republic to compare that nation's health care to the health care offered in the United States.

Jennings A. Jones College of Business

Dr. Deana Raffo, professor of Management in the Jones College of Business, earned her B.A. in Psychology from Marshall University, M.A. in Psychology from MTSU, and Ed.D. in Administration and Supervision from

Tennessee State University. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in leadership. In addition to serving as director of MTSU's Institute of Leadership Excellence, Raffo is 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 focus on leadership education and the introspective qualities in leadership, particularly related to authenticity and reflection, as well as online learning. She was twice awarded Distinguished Innovative Practice Paper by 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 journals such as *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 has contributed her work to the book *Leading with Spirit, Presence, and Authenticity*.

College of Education

Dr. Charles Milligan is an associate professor with the Womack Educational Leadership Department and also serves as co-director for the MTeach program. Milligan teaches classes in research methodology, school law, and supervision of instruction at MTSU. A first-generation university graduate, he has served in elementary, secondary, and higher education as a teacher and/or administrator. Milligan was selected Administrator of the Year in 1993 by California State University–Fullerton, where he also received the Hollis P. Allen Award of Excellence in Education Administration. In 2006, Milligan was named on The Manhattan List of Top 100 Educators. Milligan earned his Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate School, studying Quantitative Analysis. In addition, he has a history of working with diverse populations throughout his career, including an in-depth understanding of second-language acquisition as evidenced by his Cross-cultural Language and Academic Development Credential from California.

Faculty Senate

Dr. Justin Gardner started his career at MTSU in 2007. In addition to serving as Faculty Senate president, he is an associate professor of Agribusiness in the School of Agriculture, where he teaches a wide variety of classes covering topics such as agricultural finance, policy, international trade, economics, commodity futures markets, cooperatives, agribusiness management, and value-added agriculture. His research interests include

diverse topics such as the economic and environmental impacts of genetically modified crops and student success in online classes. Gardner serves as an ex-officio board member of the Tennessee Council of Cooperatives, and he holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Consumer Economics from the University of Illinois.

College of Graduate Studies

Dr. John Maynor joined the Department of Political Science and International Relations in 2004 and was promoted to professor in 2013. He earned his B.A. in Political Science from Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi; his M.A. in Political Science from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.; and his D.Phil. in Political Philosophy from the University of York in England. Maynor previously taught at the University of Sheffield and at Oxford Brookes University in the United Kingdom. Between his master's degree and his doctorate, he worked in Congress for a U.S. representative from his home state of Mississippi before being appointed by President Bill Clinton to a position in the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

At MTSU, Maynor serves as program director of the department's M.A. in International Affairs and teaches courses in political philosophy and human rights. He has published and presented his research in national and international scholarly journals and conferences and is the author of *Republicanism in the Modern World* and co-editor of *Republicanism and Political Theory*. Maynor's main areas of research are contemporary political philosophy and the history of political thought. His current research focuses on how new media and information technology affect political and civic engagement.

College of Liberal Arts

Dr. Erica Cirillo-McCarthy is an assistant professor in the English Department and director of the Margaret H. Ordoubadian University Writing Center (UWC). Founded in 1978, the UWC provides exceptional support for all MTSU students, from freshmen to Ph.D. candidates, on writing and communication in any genre and from any discipline. Last year, the UWC held 5,519 one-to-one tutoring sessions, including 659 online appointments. Cirillo-McCarthy earned a Ph.D. in Rhetoric, Composition, and the Teaching of English from the University of Arizona. Her research and teaching interests include writing center studies, feminist rhetorical theory and praxis, and archival research methods.

College of Media and Entertainment

Mr. Matt Taylor is an assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Strategic Media. His teaching and research are informed by more than a decade of professional communication experience concentrated primarily in the areas of nonprofit education and health. Before joining the faculty at MTSU, Taylor taught courses at the University of North Carolina, George Washington University, and Mount St. Mary's University.

Taylor received his doctorate in Mass Communications at the University of North Carolina, where he was a Roy H. Park Ph.D. Fellow. He is a member of the Kappa Tau Alpha National Honor Society. His research interests include nonprofit advocacy communication, public interest communication, and mass communication pedagogy. Taylor is a member of the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action and the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

University Honors College

Dr. Ashleigh McKinzie holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Georgia and is an assistant professor of Sociology and Anthropology. She researches violence against women, social inequality, and housing and displacement. McKinzie is currently writing two academic books and has published 12 peer-reviewed articles. At MTSU, she teaches classes on racial inequality, sociological theory, the sociology of religion, and the sociology of disasters.

University College

Mrs. Pam Elliott, currently in her fifth year of full-time service at MTSU, is a lecturer of mathematics in the University Studies Department and a 2019–20 MTSU Faculty Fellow. She formerly was a learning support mathematics instructor at Nashville State Community College for two years, had her own math tutoring business for two years, worked as a high school math teacher with Rutherford County Schools for eight years, and taught middle and high school math at the Webb School in Bell Buckle for two years.

Elliott is a Blue Raider alumna twice over, with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics in 1999 and a Master of Science in Teaching in Secondary Mathematics Education in 2005. She is currently working toward her Educational Specialist degree at MTSU as well. Elliott is a veteran of the United States Air Force as well as a retired captain of the Tennessee Army National Guard. She is a proud alumna of MTSU ROTC's Blue Raider Battalion, receiving her commission as an Army officer in 1999. Elliott has given her time back to the True Blue community with activities such as the MT Engage Math Game Night, veterans' mid-term and final exam prep, the Middle Tennessee STEM Innovation Hub, and Expand Your Horizons—a conference for middle and high school girls interested in pursuing STEM careers.

James E. Walker Library

Mrs. Suzanne Mangrum earned her B.A. from Harding University and her M.L.I.S. from the University of Southern Mississippi. She has 13 years of experience at MTSU and previously worked as the acquisitions librarian at Christian Brothers University in Memphis. Mangrum is head of the Acquisitions Unit at Walker Library and is serving as interim chair of Collection Development and Management.

Saturday, December 14, 2019

THE COLLEGE OF *Graduate Studies*
Doctor of Education

Ila Marie Blevins

Ed.S., Middle Tennessee State University
M.Ed., University of North Florida
B.S., Florida State University
Dissertation: "The Impact of Professional Development
Concerning Student Ownership on Classroom Practices"
Hooded by: Lando Carter

Tamera D. Crews

M.A., Nova Southeastern University
B.S.Ed., University of North Alabama
Dissertation: "A Qualitative Study on the Pedagogical
Changes Teachers Experience When They Embrace
Project Based Learning and Develop a Transformational
Learning Pedagogy"
Hooded by: Lando Carter

Meagan Camille McManus

M.A., Middle Tennessee State University
B.A., Middle Tennessee State University
Dissertation: "Exploring Dual Enrollment Course Design
for Composition Courses and Student Success"
Hooded by: Chris Quarto

Desiree Eady Vannatta

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Sandra Diane Hanson
Ashley Marie Hargrove
Ashley Nicole Harrell
Karlee Y. Harris
Ericca Elexus Henderson
Denisha L. Hester
Lauren Blair Higgins
Kevin W. Hill
Elizabeth Patrese Holman
Cody A. Hoosier
Latoria Latrece Huff
Brittany Carol Hughes
Chelsey Anne Hughes
Kirsten T. Inman
Tyland J. Jackson
Emily Lewis Jenkins
Lisa Jennings
Marquis Tavon Johns
Dawn Johnson
Gernae Johnson
Jasmine Nicole Johnson
Octavis Creshan Johnson
Jamonica Jones
Marie Nicole Jones
Jason Edward Kelley
Catherine Mary Klingelhoets
Lauren Elizabeth Kouba
John Richard Lawrence Sr.
Christopher Brian Lee
Mary C. Losey
Marissa Leigh Lusz
Tanasha Ayana Lyew
Jilriale Q. Lyle

Bianca Anais Malone
Charity Nicole Marin
Christina M. Matthews
Jennifer Maxey
Jessica Lauren Mcalister
Martavius Deshun McBride
David Keith McCafferty
Jalen Rose McCain
Sylvester LaVonté McCaulley III
(posthumously)
Howard Wesley McCoy Jr.
Corteshia Rose McInnis
Carisa LaShae McKay
Brittany Sherril McKee
Ashley Dawn McLemore
Asya Nicole McNeal
Kevin Alberto Mendez
Taylor Francis Mihalick
Jaden S. Miller
Benjamin Scott Montgomery
Kennedy Elizabeth Moorman
Dalivus Rhys Morgan
Lacey Anne Murphy
Holly Nicole Myers
Lee Forest Nash
Kimberly D. Newbould
Alexander Corbin Nicely
Kelsey Elise Nicholson
Logan Nevada Noah
Christopher Michael O'Donnell
Brandon H. Otey
Jacqueline Michelle Payne
Brooklyn Alexis Pendergrast
Heather Christine Pendygraft
Kendra Renee Peoples
Kasie-Lynn Perry
Treyton Campbell Peters
Ivy Grace Pevahouse
Briana Dorsel Phillips
Cheri L. Plunkett
Makayla A. Plymouth
Robert Webster Proudfoot
Tyler T. Reeves
Ramez Magdy Refaat
Matthew Henry Reynolds
Patrick James Riccittelli
Madison C. Riley
Ethan Blake Roberts
Gayla Diane Roden
Leslie Leroy Rolle

Michael Allen Ronan
Kevin Jardany Sabillon
Jonathan David Scott
Robert Scribner
Gavin Lajoseph Sesley
Mangal Kishor Shrestha
Carol Crutchfield Siflinger
Stuart Singleton
Andrea S. Smith
Ebyni L. Smith
Robert Anthony Sneed
Madysen Stover

Abanob Yakoub Tadres
Chelsey M. Thomas
Jina N. Thomas
Tavares Mandell Thomas Jr.
Aundria Kay Thorne
Thomas Everett Tolbert
Abigail Nichole Troutman
Casey C. Tune
Jerome Turner
Cecilia My Vu
Alexis Z. Wafford
Felisha Kay Walker

Terry Ward
Earl Floyd Webb Jr.
Craig A. West
Wendell F. White
Demerrius LaShawn Whitsell
Shanika C. Wilder
Sarah Willard
Frank G. Williams
Tierra Renique Clay Williams
Lauren Elizabeth Williamson
Amanda Scott Woof

Honor Graduates

CUM LAUDE (3.50–3.74 GPA)

COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Hannah G. Abid
Virginia Lynn Benefield
Jessica Lynn Berthume
Michael S. Bull
Ryan Mitchell Butler
Jonathan D. Cannon
Junyu Chen
Christopher Habib Clouse
Tiler C. Crowder
Grant C. Davenport
Anna Marie Duchac
Johnathon Charles Dunn
Bailey Elizabeth Felts
Zachary Austin Forbes
Juan Jesus Garcia Mendez
Merna Abdelmalak Ghobrial
Chad Mark Gibson
Elman Otniel Gonzales Hernandez
Lucas Wayne Griggs
Neal Aaron Halper
Avery Jordan Hinton
Aubrie A. Huddleston
Marina Sherif Ibrahim
Sharifa Karwandyar
Nicholas C. Kilburn
Lucas Grayson McKinney
Nzubechukwu Ugochukwu Molokwu
Martina L. Nikic
Allison Marie Parker
Miranda Faye Pewitt
Luke John Philipose
Stephanie A. Saloom
James Quenton Alexander Schnepel
Cyerrha R. Sengaroun
Matthew Tyler Stevens
Jessica Anne Tinnel
Robert M. Trenholm
Grace Anne Tyson
Jeffrey L. Tyson
Tyler Christopher Watkins
Brice Matthew Whitlow
Emily T. Xaysongkham
Weining Zhang

COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Aderonke Ademola
Haneen Emad Ahmad
Wala Ahmed H. Ajaj
Stuart Miller Armstrong
Donna Kaye Beaman
Jessica F. Bell
Landon T. Burgess
Bonnie Marie Carroll
Haley Layne Creek
Callie Megan Curtis
Carolina de Carvalho Silva Pinto
Kiara A. Elias
Adrienne Michelle Foreman
Trevor R. Fredrickson
Kianna Jeaneen Garner
Elnora Patricia Gartung
Alex Thanh Hoang
Tanner L. Holley
Randall Logan Hollingsworth
Bridgette Nicole Huckaba
Keri Allen LaPrairie
Ashley P. Linder
Maddie Nicole Handley Martinez
Aundria Diona McCadney
Joshua Mcelroy
Will Thomas Mitchell
Alyssa M. Nielsson
Tobiloba Mayokun Opeke
Shelby Briann Pace
Amanda Joyce Parsons
Kandra Nicole Preston
Justin A. Sandefur
Haley N. Seagroatt
Edith Marie Stephens
Kevin B. Thomas
Heather N. Watkins
Markedra Wilkes
Zeydi M. Zambrano Zamorano

JENNINGS A. JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Karina Alexandra Aguirre Medina
Zainab Abdullah Alabdrabalnabi
Mosa Aldhumayri
William Johnathon Barrett

Jacob Tyler Brown
Lorren Baylee Cannon
Curtiss Clinton Cavitt
Daniel B. Cheek
Victoria Ann Lorrain Darrell
Alison A. Devine
Brittany N. Dickerson
Taylor D. Flagg
Mohamed H. Gure
Joshua J. Kroeger
Rakshya Kunwar
Spencer Bryant Melton
Ashley N. Nipper
Lindsay Rae Stephens
Cheryl Summers
Meena Swaminathan
Amalie Lie Tjervaag
Nhi T. Tran

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Abigail Anne Clark
Carlieann E. Hardy
Marisela V. Hernandez
Kelly Diana Morgan
Kathryn Lorene Starling
Kayla N. Turner
Cassandra R. Vaughan

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Madison Gwen Arnold-Nevil
Arthur Tut Bangphaxay
Diana Teresa Basurto
Kipper Isaiah Capley
Ryan S. Cluff Jr.
Allison Grace Cooper
Frank William Dremel
Jacinda M. Drenckpohl
Anna Marie Duchac
Denisse Nicole Giler Condo
Kelsey Kay Goodwin
Caroline D. Gunter
Brooke Marion Hughes
Brooklynne M. Jones
Grant Robert Keel
Aleena Sue Keohavong-Denton
Ashley Jordan Landers
Steven William Matthews

Mileah Lynley Milstead
Nathaniel Chase Paul
Hannah Danielle Pielak
Nancy B. Quinones
Haley N. Seagroatt
Kathryn Aleyce Thomas
Lauren Ashley Tootle
Diana E. Toss
Taylor Mychun Walton
Morgan G. Westerbeck
Hannah Michelle Williams
Ronald Glenn Wilson

COLLEGE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

Majed Daifallah M. Abusheeba
Tyler Aldridge
Anika R. Boyce
Katherine Mary Cherichello
Jacob Arthur Cohen
Allison Grace Cooper
Frank William Dremel
Wesley Reed Eccleston
Anna Grace Estes
Ian M. Fell
Kaylee M. Flores

Abigail Elizabeth Gibson
Cooper Moss Gilliam
Brian David Goepfert
Charles Alexander Harpe
Jonathan Haynes
Emily A. Heim
Elliot D. Levy
Rowan Casey Lewis
Zachary James Mannion
Shannon Elisabeth McNeal
Andrew Steven Miles
Sarah Catherine Munson
Ngoc Chi Mai Nguyen
Brandon Andrew Noble
Nancy Layne Prescott
Carlie Cathleen Pride
Luis Fernando Salcedo
DeAnna Scarpelli
Brenna M. Sharpe
Calvin Andrew Smith
Molly Keller Smith
Yeseul Son
Jessie T. Steele
Autumn Leigh Stone
Thomas R. Troutman
Hannah Zari Vandermeer

Bailey Morgan York

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Genie Michelle Deckard
Keele N. Dillon
Alyson Grace Forsyth
Bernarderge Florence Francois
Denisha L. Hester
Kirsten T. Inman
Charity Nicole Marin
Ethan Blake Roberts
Casey C. Tune

MAGNA CUM LAUDE (3.75–3.89 GPA)

COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Abdulrahman Aleryani
Hussain Alkhalifa
Phoebe E. Barber
Bethany Janae Betancourt
Gabriela Maria Castillo-Rivera
Abby R. Duckworth
Emily Lawra Gleason
Taylor Scott Head
Naili Binti Huszainey
Eva Elizabeth Jeter
Cody Matthew Keck
Joel Benjamin Killian
David William Mathis
Piro Andrugá Meleby
Cody Eugene Mingle
Conner Robinson Reed
Benjamin C. Schroeder
Eddie Ramoan Sims
James D. Summers
Morgan M. Vickers
Ashraf Nabeel Ahmad Yaseen
Sarah Zakaria

COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Anzlee Cecile Adams
Parker Chase Bell
Gaelan Alexandra Berlinsky
Lesley Chinos
Kelsey M. Dennis
Greice dos Santos de Sa
Jordan M. Greer
Jenni M. Hepler
Molly Grace King
Olivia Danielle King
Olivia S. Longwell
Savannah Grace Oudomsouk
Katelyn Reahna Rackley
Matthew A. Rowlett
Brianna Nicole Shelton
Abigail Joyce Sweat
Amos Z. Tan
Antonia Leah Wagner
Michael B. Walker

JENNINGS A. JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Ethan Kyle Bates
Jack Ellsworth Bowden IV
Brittany D. Cook
Jackson R. Gillis
Gary Allen Hawkins
Katherine McKenna Kallaher
Carlos Monroy Horlando Landeros
Fernando J. Leon
Leah R. Schoen
Cassandra Jane Sickels
Kylan Tremain Stribling
Samantha Jo Sweat
Ollie Phillip Vincent III
Kelle Melissa Wadley
Allison P. Wheeley
Leslie Brooke Wiss

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Kristen M. Bennett

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Nicole Alduenda
Adam Robison Baali
Simone Ann Hackney
Kerry R. Keitzman
David Edwin Kohr
William C. Lynch
Imaan Fatima Malik
Kathryn Rynea Modine
Maria Elizabeth Lucinda Prosser
Corey J. Scanlon
Lauren N. Thomas
William E. Wood III

COLLEGE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

Kimberly Kay Allen
Emily Erin Butch
Faith A. Cotto
Cassandra Lee Gerard
Katharine Golan
John Leslie Hollingsworth
Chloe Pauline Kimes
Stephen Tyler Lamb
Paul Gordon Roque Marcelo
Lucas B. McCaffrey
Chandler Maclain McGlohon
Ho Yan Pak
Bailea Erin Persinger
Kevin James Peterson
Virginia Lake Petty
Steven M. Quinn
Hannah R. Ranchino
Madison Ashley Rutland
Tijana Simic
Frances E. Stewart
Luke A. Stone
Jessica Taylor Sullivan
Dalton Edward Tracy
Garrett Daland Victor

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Dawn Johnson
Holly Nicole Myers

SUMMA CUM LAUDE (3.90–4.00 GPA)

COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Avraz Faek Anwar
Kallie Danae Attig
Isabella Charlie Barnett
Danielle Boudreaux-Ogletree
Connor Smith Burnard
Benjamin J. Cuomo
Peter Saad Doksh
Rachel Michelle Elrod
Pola M. Ghatas
Joseph P. Gulizia
Jonathan B. Howland
Rema Yasin Kanakrieh
Luis Morillo Diaz
Payal Daxa Patel
Alyssa L. Pickens
Samuel William Remedios
Destiny Brooke Weeks

COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Chantel G. Clark
Abigail Renee Coco
Regan Maris Harlow
Rachael Rebecca Krasnow
Kellie Danielle Payne

JENNINGS A. JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Monica Ambriz Contreras
Caleb Philip Ammen
Courtney Lynn Ellis
Victoria Lea Herring
Phuong Le
Joseph Bradley Madigan
Natalie Jade Massengale
Gina Vi Nguyen
Amanda Joy Obara
Alexandra Lynne Painterl

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Caitlin Elizabeth Miller
Abigail Powers Parsley

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Devin Lee Adcox
Julien Rose Baker
Rebecca Ann Derner
Dominic Peter Holan
Ariellah Lyn Huisinga
Megan Diane Illenberg
Seth Wallace Jones
Vanisa Khemanivong

Marisa Celeste Montany
Maria Teresa Pagan
Breanna Sue Parker
Madison M. Pitts
Cara Marynn Robinson
Summer B. Shipley
Yvette D. Swain
Joshua Ezekiel Terrell
Nathan Matthew Watkins

COLLEGE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

James Allen Chatham
Francis Grace DeGuzman
Austin Jens Forsberg
Bennett Alexander Norris
Collin Andrew Prather
Shannon Jo Vitt

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Nicole Elyse Balcarce
Sarah Willard

University Honors College

UNIVERSITY HONORS

Anna Marie Duchac
Meena Swaminathan

UNIVERSITY HONORS WITH DISTINCTION

Devin Lee Adcox
Isabella Charlie Barnett
Bethany Janae Betancourt
Bonnie Marie Carroll
Daniel B. Cheek
Jacinda M. Drenckpohl
Merna Abdelmalak Ghobrial
Emily Lawra Gleason
Marina Sherif Ibrahim
Kerry R. Keitzman
Payal Daxa Patel
Steven M. Quinn
Allison P. Wheeley

ROTC Commissionees

Neily Hazel Jimenez
Ethan Blake Roberts
Rachel Elizabeth Teufert



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Alma Mater

words and music by Charles Douglas Williams (B.M. '54)

We sing thy prai - ses faith - ful guide of youth;

The first system of musical notation for the song 'Alma Mater'. It consists of a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'We sing thy prai - ses faith - ful guide of youth;'.

Through all the a - ges af - firmed and strong in truth.

The second system of musical notation. The melody continues in the treble clef, and the accompaniment continues in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'Through all the a - ges af - firmed and strong in truth.'.

Al - ma Ma - ter Mid - dle Ten - nes - see

The third system of musical notation. The melody continues in the treble clef, and the accompaniment continues in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'Al - ma Ma - ter Mid - dle Ten - nes - see'.

We proud - ly of - fer our hearts in loy - al - ty.

The fourth and final system of musical notation. The melody concludes in the treble clef, and the accompaniment concludes in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'We proud - ly of - fer our hearts in loy - al - ty.'.

I AM *true*
BLUE™