



*Celebrating Our  
Summer 2020 Graduates*





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108th ACADEMIC YEAR

Middle Tennessee State University  
Murfreesboro, Tennessee



*Middle Tennessee State University has graduated 147,644 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, 1,958 Educational Specialist degrees, 374 Doctor of Philosophy degrees, and 34 Doctor of Education degrees awarded.*





To the True Blue Class of 2020:

At MTSU, we'll never forget our class of Summer 2020 graduates.

Like past graduates, you stayed up half the night preparing for exams, felt the self-satisfaction of finishing a paper you never thought you could write, and no doubt walked cross-campus in the rain from the only parking spot you could find.

But unlike most past graduates, you endured a true crisis to cross your educational finish line.

The suddenness of the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent transition to online learning meant you never returned from spring break to tell your vacation stories in person. You completed your college career online and remotely, likely staring into a Zoom grid. Regrettably, you missed out on triumphant shared experiences like receiving well-deserved congratulations from a trusted professor at the end of your final course, or a hug from a longtime classmate, or, perhaps most poignantly, the formal ceremony to commemorate your achievement.

Instead, your college career ended with a virtual signoff and a mouse click.

We're truly sorry for your circumstances. This was supposed to be your time to shine in front of everyone. Frankly, it's unfair. You were robbed.

Just know that you are not forgotten. And that your hard work did not go unnoticed.

Here's something else we noticed: During the crisis, you displayed great sacrifice and leadership. Your selfless embrace of a dire situation helped navigate these dark times. You were resilient and innovative, and your savvy use of technology and social media in particular helped teach a nation how to ingeniously stay connected, make progress, and stay safe. (Not to mention helped your older professors navigate a digital landscape!)



In a nutshell, you did more than complete your education online; you helped us all survive and flourish amidst a crisis. We will not soon forget the contributions you specifically made. Nor your selflessness.

You handled a major disruption in your life with maturity and optimism. Each of you made a difficult situation manageable. In no uncertain terms, you made history. And you did it while one of the most momentous periods in human history was unfolding.

As you emerge from this experience and enter the next chapter of your life, there is much uncertainty still. But it is the very resiliency, innovation, and community spirit that you valiantly expressed during these strange times that will now make you successful in the professional world.

These are the very characteristics that we as a society need from you in the times ahead. You helped show us all how to stay social in a time of isolation. How to progress in a time of shutdown. How to help in a time of helplessness.

We need you more than ever. We need your skills and experience. We need what you have learned both inside and outside of the classroom. Your calm, respect for others, community spirit, and even your sense of humor are exactly what the world needs right now.

You're ready. We're counting on you.

While your great accomplishment cannot be celebrated in person at this time, it is being recognized. We salute you as the special group of individuals that you are and who deserved better than what you got, but who never complained and who crossed the finish line with grace and composure.

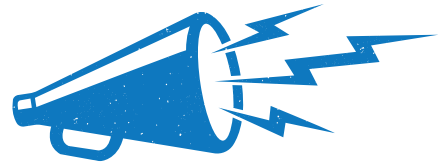
Life doesn't always turn out the way you planned. It certainly didn't in this case. Embrace the difference. It's just another example of what makes you so special.



Dr. Sidney A. McPhee, President



# What would you say to the Class of 2020?



In the midst of the COVID-19 crisis this spring and summer, MTSU still had seniors wrapping up their college careers. MTSU alumni took the time to share a note of congratulations or a piece of advice for the Class of 2020.

Pamela C. '89

## **Congratulations, Graduates** 🎓.

MTSU is one of the best educations anywhere.

Jennifer L. '08

## **Congrats, class of 2020!**

What an amazing accomplishment you have reached! Best of luck in your future endeavors! I look fondly on my days at MTSU and I hope you can as well. Make us proud, grads!

Tanya L. '94, '97

To the class of 2020...you knew you were a special class and this time in history proves it. You are strong and resilient. You have worked hard and you deserve it all. Know that you will have a **True Blue Family Forever** and the friendships you made on campus will last a lifetime. Go out and make your MTSU family proud. 💙

Rebecca S. '78

Take time to remember this exciting time in your life. What an accomplishment!

**You made it, all your hard work will pay off!**

Jerry O. '65

You might have missed the ceremony, but the congratulations, encouragement, and guidance will be found in these messages.

**Opportunity abounds to make the world a better place** while fulfilling your potential. Just do it. You can.

Melinda P. '80

## **Congratulations Class of 2020!**

You stuck it out and accomplished your goal despite unforeseeable challenges. Now go out there and live your dreams!

Adam F. '12

Remember that the chaos of today is the story of tomorrow and that the lessons you learn in the midst of the crisis will help make you a better leader. You got this. **You are True Blue!**

Lorraine S. '70, '71, '75

Today you received the keys to your future. Use wisely. Congratulations and remain **True Blue!**

Donna '84

## **Way To Go, Blue Raiders! CONGRATULATIONS!**

This moment in time is unprecedented and you will never forget what you have persevered in order to graduate! This hard work, will, and determination will carry you through your life as you realize that great work/study ethics make you stronger and prepare you for all aspects of life's uncertainties! I feel so sad that you may not have the opportunity to pick up that diploma but you will never forget why. You will never forget what happened. You WILL succeed and endure as long as you keep the Faith and you have this in you because you are a GRADUATE! LOVE AND MANY BLESSINGS!!

Mina H. '05

Congratulations to the **True Blue Class of 2020!** Even during an unprecedented time, you were able to accomplish your goal! May God bless you all!! Go be great in this world!

Anna S. '18

## **Congratulations, Grads** 🎓. Even though

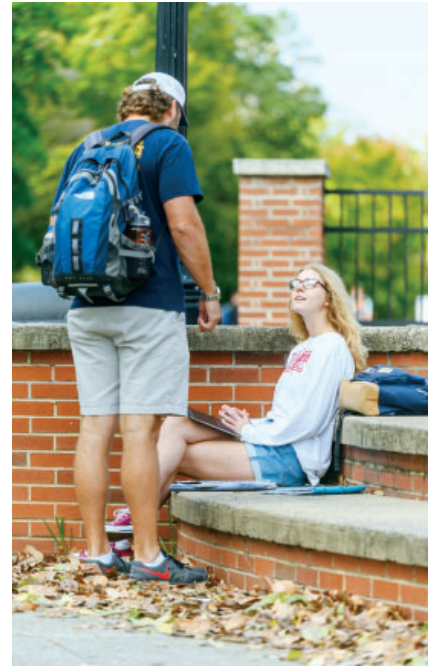
it may not seem like it right now, all your hard work will pay off!!! Y'all got this!!!!







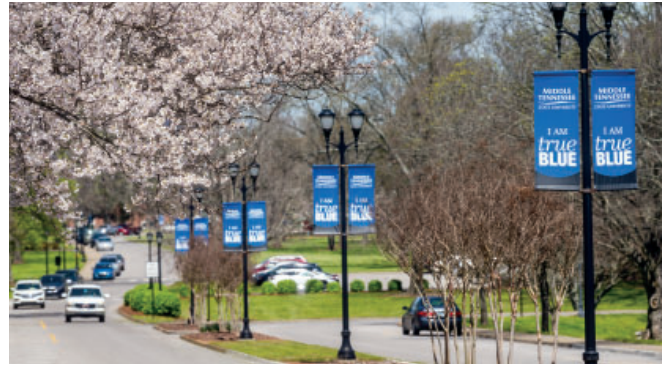
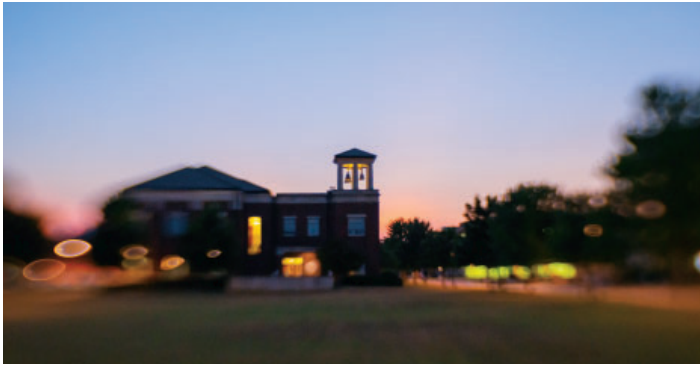
*I miss . . .*













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## *Alumni Association President*

On behalf of the Middle Tennessee State University National Alumni Association, I congratulate you on joining a very special group. You have now moved 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](http://mtalumni.com). Welcome to the future and to your National Alumni Association.

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

## *University Executives*

Dr. Sidney A. McPhee  
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## *University Deans*

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

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

Dr. Rick Vanosdall, Interim Dean  
*College of Education*

Dr. David Butler, Dean  
*College of Graduate Studies*

Dr. Karen Petersen, Dean  
*College of Liberal Arts*

Ms. Beverly Keel, Dean  
*College of Media and Entertainment*

Dr. Rick Sluder, Dean  
*University College*

Dr. John R. Vile, Dean  
*University Honors College*

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



# Commencement Speaker

*August 2020*

**Dr. Justin Gardner**  
**2019–20 Faculty Senate President**  
**Associate Professor, School of Agriculture**



**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.

Gardner's research interests involve diverse focus areas including the economic and environmental impacts of genetically modified crops, agricultural cooperatives, farmers' markets, agricultural risk, 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. Gardner earned his bachelor's from the University of Tennessee–Martin and a master's from the University of Tennessee. In his free time, he designs and builds his own speakers.

## *Special Thanks*

National Anthem and Alma Mater .....MTSU May 2020 Graduates, Women's and Men's Chorale  
Ms. Katherine Aydelott, Ms. Hannah Feathers, Ms. Mattie Ford,  
Ms. Kailyn Juday, Ms. Juliet Lang, Ms. Emma Miller,  
Mr. Bryan Sanders, Ms. Virginia Tipps, Ms. Cassie Trabucco,  
Mr. Nicholas True, Ms. Mayce Vaughan, and Ms. Peri Watson  
*Directed by Ms. Angela Tipps, School of Music*

Musical selections recorded by Ms. Angela Tipps  
at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

# 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.

## HONORARY MACE BEARER

**Dr. William 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 in Physics from Purdue University. 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. Despite no previous background in acoustics and dubious musical skills, Robertson 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 work on optics.

Robertson also placed a special emphasis on developing a research program with undergraduate students as key participants. 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.





# 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. August 2020 graduates have received an MTSU blue tassel with 2020 drop to recognize their unique place in MTSU history.

Undergraduate Latin honor graduates are distinguished by the stoles added to their gowns based upon the inclusive GPA: gold for those graduating summa cum laude, 3.90 to 4.0; silver for magna cum laude, 3.75 to 3.89; and white for cum laude, 3.50 to 3.74.

Graduating from the University Honors College is an additional merit awarded to students who have completed the Honors program, defended a thesis, and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or higher. Graduates of the University Honors College who have completed at least 29 hours with a 3.25 average in the Honors program will receive blue and white cords. Those who have maintained a minimum average of 3.65 in the Honors program are graduating the University Honors College with distinction.

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.

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

Military veteran students are distinguished by specially designed red stoles 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.

### **HONORARY BANNER CARRIERS**

#### **College of Basic and Applied Sciences**

**Dr. Terrence A. Lee** received his B.S. in Chemistry from Florida Institute of Technology in 1979 and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Akron in 1986 and 1991, respectively. He joined MTSU as assistant professor in 1991, receiving tenure in 1997 and promoted to associate professor in 1998.

Lee has publications covering many areas of chemistry, including environmental analysis, food composition, amino acid and protein analysis, and principle component analysis. He has written one textbook on mass spectral interpretation and several laboratory experiments for BlueDoor publishing. Lee is currently a member of the American Chemical Society's Committee on Analytical Reagents.

#### **College of Behavioral and Health Sciences**

**Dr. Barbara Turnage** is associate dean of the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences and a professor of Social Work at Middle Tennessee State University. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Social Work (1982) and Master of Social Work (1987) degrees at the University of Nebraska–Omaha and her Doctor of Philosophy degree (1998) at Tulane University's School of Social Work, where she was awarded a four-year Regents Fellowship.

As a practitioner/educator, she has (1) educated parents about child development; (2) taught students how to develop community programs and evaluate program and clinical effectiveness; (3) provided assistance to families with physical and mental health needs and taught clients/patients how to manage their long-term physical and mental health illnesses; and (4) provided clinical services to methadone clients and individuals who were at risk of harming themselves and/or someone else. Turnage is an active mentor, and her mentees include both students and colleagues across five universities and numerous states. Currently she serves on the Mental Health Action Initiative of Rutherford County as co-chair for the Systems Design and Data Collection Committee.

#### **Jennings A. Jones College of Business**

**Dr. Stephen D. Lewis** received his Ph.D. in Business and Vocational Education from the University of North Dakota and joined the MTSU faculty in 1977. In addition to teaching responsibilities, he served one year as interim chair of the Department of Information Systems and 11



years as chair of the Department of Business Communication and Entrepreneurship. He received the Certified Data Processor designation in 1985 while teaching in Information Systems.

Lewis' current teaching interests are in business communication and research in business and marketing education. He is a member of the National Business Education Association (NBEA) and the Association for Business Teaching and Research. Lewis previously served two years as editor of the *Journal of Research in Business Education* and is the current senior managing editor for the *Business Education Forum*, an NBEA publication. His published research has appeared in the *Delta Pi Epsilon Journal*, *National Association for Business Teacher Education Review*, and *Business Communication Quarterly*, among other journals. Lewis has edited, written, and reviewed for the *NBEA Yearbook*.

## College of Education

**Dr. Eric Oslund** is an associate professor in the Department of Elementary and Special Education and the Ph.D. in Literacy Studies program. He completed his B.S. at California Polytechnic State University and his M.A. in School Psychology at West Texas A&M. Oslund earned his Ph.D. in Educational Psychology with an Advanced Research Methodology certificate from Texas A&M University. He teaches graduate courses in statistics and assessment and has chaired or been a committee member for numerous dissertations and theses in the Ph.D. in Literacy Studies, Mathematics and Science Education, and Psychology programs.

His research interests include using advanced applied statistical techniques to better understand the complex theoretical models of reading, evaluate the effectiveness of reading interventions, and examine data-based decision-making and educational assessment. Oslund has collaborated on interdisciplinary grants and received over \$1 million in funding. He has won national and international awards for his research and is a board member for the Mid-South Educational Research Association.

## Faculty Senate

**Dr. Nita Brooks** is a professor in the Information Systems and Analytics 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. She currently teaches business intelligence and analytics in the undergraduate program and information systems security analytics in the graduate program. Brooks has been the recipient of the Bridgestone/

Firestone Distinguished Assistant Professorship Award, Kathy and Bill Jones Outstanding Faculty Award, and E.W. “Wink” Midgett Award of Excellence.

Her current research interests include the information systems workforce, security and privacy, information systems education, and student retention. Brooks' research has been published in several journals, including *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. She is the incoming Faculty Senate president and serves as a program evaluator for the ABET Computing Accreditation Commission.

## College of Graduate Studies

**Dr. Charles Apigian** is a professor and director of MTSU's Data Science Institute (DSI) and teaches courses in Data Science, specifically in machine learning and predictive analytics. The DSI works to partner business and academics to solve real problems and create a data-driven approach to analytical problem-solving as well as to fund research in several areas that incorporate the use of big data. Apigian has helped develop the Data Science Initiative at MTSU, which includes a new B.S. in Data Science and a Graduate Certificate in Data Science, as well as several initiatives that create a pipeline for data science from K–12 to career-ready. He previously chaired the Computer Information Systems Department at MTSU, which has over 400 undergraduate and 100 graduate students majoring in Information Systems.

Apigian's focus and passion are on research in data science and working with the Nashville community to be a leader in technology and data science. He has authored and co-authored over 30 papers and presentations in technology- and manufacturing-related journals, including *Information and Management*, *Computer Information Systems*, *Omega: The International Journal of Management Science*, and *Journal of Information Systems Education*. Apigian serves on several advisory boards for tech companies, such as Hytch Rewards, and nonprofits Project Maslow and Special Kids Inc. He recently won the Nashville Technology Council IT Community Leader of the Year (2018) and the Nashville Technology Council Data Scientist of the Year (2020).

## College of Liberal Arts

**Ms. Sisavanh Phouthavong Houghton** is a professor of painting in the Department of Art and Design at MTSU. 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, and

the Reece Museum, with upcoming exhibitions at the Minnesota Museum of American Art and Gadsden Museum of Art. Her work is in permanent collections that include the Hunter Museum of American Art; American Embassy, Paramaribo, Suriname; Legacies of War Office, Washington, D.C.; Tennessee State Museum; and Pinnacle Bank, Memphis and Nashville.

Born in Vientiane, Laos, in 1976, Houghton earned her B.F.A. from the University of Kansas and her M.F.A. from Southern Illinois University. She was a recipient of the 2017 Tennessee Arts Individual Artist Fellowship for 2D and the 2019 Artfield's winner for the painting category. Houghton's work has been featured in *The Wall Street International*, *Click\_Bait*, *Create Magazine*, *Studio Visit Magazine*, *The Tennessean*, *The Pinch Journal Publication*, *Voices of America*, and *The Next Door Neighbor*.

## College of Media and Entertainment

**Mr. Robert Gordon** is an associate professor who has been teaching multi-camera television program production, such as sporting events, television concerts, newscasts, and award shows, at MTSU for the past 13 years. He earned his B.F.A. in Broadcasting and M.B.A. in Marketing from the University of Cincinnati. Gordon also has been a national television producer for many years, producing a wide range of programming for Cinemax, PBS, CMT, TNN, GMC, The Family Channel, syndication, and home video. Gordon's students produce live 10-camera football, basketball, volleyball, and soccer games for ESPN+ and for broadcast. They also have produced TV concerts for Bonnaroo, the Nashville Symphony, Nashville Fashion Week, Capitol Records, and professional acts at the Franklin Theater.

Gordon is the program coordinator for the Video and Film Production program, faculty advisor for the student-run MT10 television station, executive producer for the student-staffed Media Arts Productions, and a member of the Faculty Senate and Senate Steering Committee. He produces and directs WNPT's *The Songwriters* for the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame and MTSU, a student-staffed TV series on more than 120 PBS stations across the country that has won three international awards. Gordon has taught as exchange faculty at the University of Salford in Manchester, England; guest-lectured at the University of Cincinnati; and was selected as a Fulbright Award alternate to teach at the Baltic Film, Media, Arts, and Communication School at Tallinn University in Estonia. He received the Outstanding Experiential Learning (EXL) Faculty Award for 2017–18.

## University Honors College

**Dr. E. Anthon Eff** is a professor in the Department of Economics and Finance, having joined the faculty in 1990. He received his Ph.D. degree in Economics from the University of Texas (1989) and a B.A. degree in Anthropology from the University of Louisville (1981).

His research interests lie in the history of economic thought, urban and regional economics, and economic anthropology. He received the Outstanding Honors Faculty Award in 2001 and the Honors College Exemplary Service Award in 2019.

## University College

**Dr. Vivian Alley** is a professor teaching prescribed mathematics courses in the University Studies Department. She graduated from Middle Tennessee State University with her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees both in Mathematics and with her Specialist in Education degree. She earned her Doctor of Education at Tennessee State University. Alley has made numerous presentations at the state and national levels and has published several articles in professional journals.

She serves as coordinator over the mathematics area in her department, as a member of numerous departmental and University committees, and as faculty advisor of Alpha Omega (a Christian student organization). Alley is a member of the Tennessee Association of Student Success and Retention, where she was membership chair for 11 years and treasurer for six years. She received the Educator of the Year Award from the Tennessee Association for Developmental Education and the National Association for Developmental Education Award for Outstanding Service to Developmental Education Students.

## James E. Walker Library

**Ms. Mary Ellen Sloane** is the user services librarian for Basic and Applied Sciences. She is responsible for library collection development in the sciences, scholarly communications advising, liaison services, and reference and instruction services. Sloane holds an undergraduate degree in Philosophy focused on logic, ethics, and epistemology and a graduate degree in Library and Information Science focused on library administration, organization of information, archives, and library reference and instruction services.

She has written and presented on collection development, library consortia, web applications for electronic resources, website development, library instruction, and distance education. Sloane's research interests are collection development, scholarly communication, electronic resources management, website usability, and information literacy.



# THE COLLEGE OF *Graduate Studies*

## *Doctor of Education*

### **Jacob Dewayne Brown**

M.Ed., University of Alabama–Huntsville  
B.S., United States Air Force Academy  
B.Ed., Athens State University  
“A School-Wide Approach: Teachers’ Perception of Teaching English Language Learners in the Mainstream Classroom”  
*Hooded by: Kevin Krahenbuhl*

### **Marla Mechelle Nivens**

M.A., Tennessee Technological University  
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“The Value of Self-Regulated Learning: A Study of Teacher Practices and Student Self-Regulated Learning in an Afterschool Setting”  
*Hooded by: Lando Carter*

## *Doctor of Philosophy*

### **Jordan O’Neal Alexander**

M.A., Liberty University  
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“Subtle Revolutionist: The Life and Political Career of Senator Edward W. Brooke”  
*Hooded by: Louis Kyriakouides*

### **Nan Chen**

M.S., Middle Tennessee State University  
B.E.E., Hangzhou Normal University  
“Design, Modeling and Simulation of Piezoelectric and Magnetoelectric Devices for Multimodal Energy Harvesting Applications”  
*Hooded by: Vishwas Bedekar*

### **Gheda Abdulaziz Alsaif**

M.S., Middle Tennessee State University  
B.S., King Saud University  
“A Study of How Two Potential Anticancer Agents Affect Major Cancer Hallmarks: Apoptosis and Metastasis”  
*Hooded by: Elliot Altman*

### **Lindsey Marie Fisher**

M.A., Youngstown State University  
B.S., Youngstown State University  
“Ignored Stories, Missed Opportunities: Women’s Representation in the Early-to-Mid Nineteenth Century Historic House Museums”  
*Hooded by: Brenden Martin*

### **Saham Saad Alzahrani**

M.S., Middle Tennessee State University  
B.S., King Abdulaziz University  
“Numerical Approximations for the Fractional Laplacian in Space-Fractional Reaction-Diffusion Equations”  
*Hooded by: Abdulgayyum Khaliq*

### **Natalie Melia Griffin**

M.Ed., Vanderbilt University  
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“The Impact of Growth Mindset Intervention on Vocabulary, Comprehension, and Persistence”  
*Hooded by: Amy Elleman*

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M.S., Middle Tennessee State University  
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“Acinetobacter Baumannii’s Global Transcription Response in the Presence of Gallium Protoporphyrin IX”  
*Hooded by: Paul Kline*

### **Amy Alayne Harris-Aber**

M.S., Kansas State University  
B.S., Emporia State University  
“Cooking in Mennonite Country: An Analysis of Fundraiser Cookbooks and Discourse Communities in South Central Kansas”  
*Hooded by: Julie Myatt*

### **Jessica Jamila Brown**

M.S., University of Tennessee  
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“The Influence of Engagement in Practical Work on Middle School Students’ Alternative Conceptions Regarding Biodiversity”  
*Hooded by: Kim Sadler*

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M.S., Middle Tennessee State University  
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“Methods of Electrostatic Analysis for Biomolecular Structures”  
*Hooded by: Joshua Phillips*

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 “The Impacts of Student-Level and School-Level Factors  
 on Students’ Reading Achievement: An Application of  
 Hierarchical Linear Modeling”  
*Hooded by: Jwa Kim*

**Rita Hope Whitaker**

M.S., Middle Tennessee State University  
 B.B.A., Middle Tennessee State University  
 “The Exploration of Place Attachment and Future  
 Behavioral Intention through Festival Satisfaction  
 of the 55th Annual Frontier Days Festival”  
*Hooded by: Joey Gray*

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M.A., Middle Tennessee State University  
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 “The Counternarratives of Doña Lucha: Popular Politics,  
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 Peripheries of Guadalajara, Mexico (1965–1994)”  
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Dylan T. Dickey  
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Micayla Rose Edler  
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Kristen Jane Wagner  
Kate Ward  
Fahmo Abdisamad Warsame  
Peri S. Watson  
Rachel Michelle Winesberry-Brown

Kane Anthony Wolnik  
Jessica T. Wood  
Emily Joy Wuebker  
Chyna Malini Xayvong  
Katelynn M. Yates

## **BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK**

Harley Hope Henley

# JENNINGS A. JONES COLLEGE OF *Business*

## **BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

Kamal Adhikari  
Sarahi Elizabeth Aguilar  
Khamphasong R. Akhom  
Abdulaziz Saud Alamro  
Muath Abdullah Albishi  
Mustafa Ali Alkhridah  
Trey Austin Allen  
Ibrahim Mustafa Alsalman  
Oreoluwa O. Aweda  
Jennifer DeeSharon Baker  
Adam J. Barrett  
Jordan A. Blake  
Kayla Denise Boals  
Erick William Booth  
Robert Ethan Bowers  
Dakota R. Butler  
Kevin Dale Butler Sr.  
Bain Wilkinson Carpenter Jr.  
Josue Castillo  
Jordan Lee Cervantez  
Abbigale M. Clouse  
Rodney James Coleman  
Seth Cost  
Elena Crews  
Kayla Ruth Cunningham  
James Matthew Day  
Kerry-Anne Elizabeth DeCamp  
Dylan Austin Delesk  
Nishi Hiten Desai  
Camille A. Dewaratanawanich  
Jackson Hiley Durham  
Joshua David Elmore  
Dae-Lynn Everett  
Nida Fatima  
Chris P. Ferran  
Zachary Richard Fetzer  
William Dillon Finch  
Gustin N. Fiveash Jr.  
Ariana Nichole Fulwood

Cody Gentile  
Cassandra Jean Gregory  
Zachary M. Hager  
Ryan D. Hall  
Melanie J. Halmon  
Rebecca Hastings  
Kristin Brooke Hawkins  
Morgan Leigh Hayes  
Beshoy S. Henin  
Dylan Wesley Henry  
Antoinette Nikita Hightower  
Caleb M. Hogan  
Clarissa Monae Howard  
Austin Hudson  
Judith A. Husk  
Jonathan Jacob  
Ubon Inthongxay  
Javier Davon Jackson  
Shiteya Charnae Jackson  
Dan Johnson III  
Lauren Elizabeth Johnson  
Slater Alan Jost  
Kevin Kamphouthasak  
Alexander G. Key  
Benjamin Tracy Kimball  
Dylan Wesley King  
Gareth Oliver Laffely  
William Andrew Lenz  
William Rich Lyday  
James K. Mathis  
London John McAllister  
Nathan Lynn McCormick  
Robert Keith McElroy  
Austin Dale Melton  
Frank Samuel Merlock  
Tayla Mone' Middleton  
Jake Nicholas Morgan  
Nathaniel J. Morton  
Tanner Wade Moss  
Anuradha Danushka Nugawela  
Obaro Ogbaide  
Anjali Patel

Dhruval Harshadkumar Patel  
Nirali Nitinbhai Patel  
Sahaj Patel  
Shreya Pankaj Patel  
Tejash Kaushikbhai Patel  
Hannah Alexis Patterson  
Calista Carlene Pew  
Trynia Erin Pillow  
Alicia Piper  
Alison Elizabeth Potterfield  
Andrew T. Potts  
Hanitry Ny Miora Rasamison  
Szilvia Etelka Riss  
Cedric D. Robbins Jr.  
Detrayce D. Sawyers  
Hallie Marie Scott  
John J. Scully  
Genesis Vanessa Serrano  
Harold L. Shannon Jr.  
Sherrese Marshae Silvels  
Kassandra Renae Smith  
Stephen A. Smith  
Rafal Ahmed Sobahi  
Carrie Elizabeth Stokes  
Matthew Rogers Stout  
Jeanine Nicole Stovall  
Anthony Taylor  
Lesley Dawn Tincher  
Madison N. Tremper  
Rontae C. Weaver  
Laangela Wells  
James Lawrence Whitworth  
Johnny P. Wilds III  
Karin E. Williams

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

Edward Fred Adom  
Angela M. Beltran  
Joshua S. Bull  
Jackson Cain  
Jacob Edward Calvert

Delia Escobar  
Jon Gillingham  
Noah Robert Green  
Cynthia Renae Jensen

Michael Lacey  
Margaret G. Oramas  
Luiz Emil Orantes  
Christopher Darien Prewett

Doneisha Michelle Smith  
Makala A. Smith  
Nicholas John Weng  
Charles Coby Wilson

## COLLEGE OF *Liberal Arts*

### **BACHELOR OF ARTS**

Allyson Jessica Capuano  
Hannah A. Caruana  
Qiqi Chen  
Payton Doherty  
Charles Joseph Holcomb  
Eriny Samy Labib  
Alivia K. Lingle  
Tammy Pamela Nunez  
Tre'wana Louminque Ogilvie  
Lena A. Russomanno  
Tara Salvati  
Emma Elisabeth Sullivan  
Abigail F. Williams

### **BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS**

Megan Nicole Bolerjack  
Paige M. Bollinger  
Lauren E. Coffey  
Justin Blake Culberson  
Stephen Philip Dahl  
Kevin R. Faulkner  
Emma Jane Goodwyn  
Olivia Leigh Jackson  
Ryan Alexander Jernigan  
Mary Caitlin Murphy

### **BACHELOR OF MUSIC**

Michael Alexander Triplett  
Zach E. Tyler

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

Nelson Maxwell Arent  
Alyssa M. Baldwin  
Michelle K. Boudreaux  
Ashton Kain Brachey  
Nathaniel Cook Bumpus  
Emily Jane Butler  
Delaney R. Chandler  
Courtney Rose Corcoran  
Nicholas Jacob Cowan  
Patrick Cruz  
Kristin L. Demonbreun  
Michael Fraser Doolittle  
Jackson Stewart Gibson  
Reana Renee-Tarelli Gibson  
Jocelyn R. Golden  
Simone Ann Hackney

Kevin M. Haroulakis  
Zaadia R. Harris  
Brittini Marie Herron  
Ashley Ann Hobbs  
Kathryn T. Jevin  
Thomas Micheal Jones  
Melania J. Khan  
Mark Nelson Marchan  
Meylin Solimar Melendez  
Estefania Olvera  
Janice Marie Penny  
Cody William Pyle  
Bailey Ashton Redmon  
Antonique Janna Seats  
Bryson A. Simmons  
Sierra NaShane Smith  
Nabeel Ahmed Sulais  
William H. Thaw  
John Thomas  
Grayson H. Tomchak  
Will Watson Vest  
Abigail F. Williams

## COLLEGE OF *Media and Entertainment*

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

Taylor Je'nai Adams  
Cole T. Alsup  
Samantha Avalos  
James Robert Bessire  
Makayla Rhiannon Boling  
Melanie Elizabeth Brown

Gabrielle Connolly Brunner  
Tory Shonyelle Bryant Sr.  
Noah Zane Carlson  
Earnest D. Cartwright Jr.  
Sloan Renae Carver  
Peri Lynn Chapman  
Joseph Christopher Chmura

Leah B. Chollman  
Megan Lee Hodge Cole  
Joshua Alan Cottrell  
Hailee Grace Ellis  
Tanner L. Evans  
Keenan V. Froedden  
Kuamii Joelle Gandy-Jenkins

Stephen Emanuel Handy Jr.  
 Austin R. Hardy  
 Kyneesha LaSha Holley  
 Alexis Samone House  
 Kristi Morgan Hughes  
 Shane Patrick Hunt  
 Myia J. Jones  
 Khalil M. Jordan  
 Khaila Rhea King  
 Shanna Elaine Love  
 Ryan John Maher  
 Sydney M. Marshburn  
 Cassidy Rose McDaniel

Ryan Anthony Miller  
 William Thomas Moore Jr.  
 Samuel C. Murphy  
 Nathaniel Davis Nichols  
 David Lee Overstreet  
 Dakota Christian Payne  
 Emily Linda Peacock  
 Abigail Lee Perkins  
 Garian Alexandra Lee Powe  
 Joel R. Powell  
 Shannon Leah Trinity Proper  
 Katherine Anne Reid

Oliva Roque  
 Ella Maria Rowen  
 Tony T. Sanders  
 Kell G. Shaffer  
 Ethan David Smith  
 Trevor Alan Sweeten  
 Gabrielle Reece Swenson  
 Colby Tatum  
 Ashlee Waldrep  
 Jacob West  
 Deidra A. Wheeler  
 Briana Patrice Zackery

## University College

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Halben Nazar Arif  
 Kelli S. Bailey  
 Aleesha Kelci Bandy  
 Ashley Christine Barnes  
 Karlton Lamon Braden  
 Hannah Rebecca Brennan  
 Jennifer Lea Brewer  
 Ethan Carter  
 Brittney Karinne Case  
 Montrea Kilani Clark  
 Kemysha Cross  
 Sabrina Faithe Deberry  
 Deborah Diane Dockins  
 Trenton C. Duffer  
 Kinsey Spencer Dunn  
 Charles Albert Dycus  
 Elizabeth M. Dye  
 Lisa Faye Eddy  
 Alexis Dominique Exum  
 Jennifer Lee Farley  
 Lori Lynn Flicke  
 Patricia Ford  
 Eden Ann Fryar  
 Selina Mae Gallegos  
 Emiley Reanna Gardellini  
 Kendrick Andre Gladney Jr.  
 Christian Desmond Graham  
 Galyna Harris

Kiarra Saree Hayslett  
 DeAnna Lynnette Herod  
 Kara Grace Higham  
 Addie Elizabeth Hill  
 Matthew Ryan Hill  
 Kathlena L. Hodges  
 Brittany N. Holt  
 Andrew Robert Horsefield  
 Julie Elizabeth Hunter  
 Kara Beth Hurst  
 Shakeel Rahman Jahan  
 Latisha Fontale James  
 Zane Jeffries  
 Michael Gatwec Joak  
 Breiana Vashawn Johnson  
 Kelly Kaanjanabout  
 Jacob William Keplinger  
 Nakitra Danielle Langford  
 Brandon M. Lawson  
 Kayla Michelle Lee  
 Jared LaTavius Liner  
 Kener A. Mahmud  
 Shalamar A. Mays  
 Ashley Dawn McLemore  
 Paris Renee McNeal  
 Michele Lynn Meade  
 Natalie Meiszer  
 Catherine Ann Estelle Michael  
 Cameron R. Moorner

Patricia L. Morgart  
 Kaelyn Nicole Morris  
 Yasmine A. Mukahal  
 Jeremy O. Neely  
 Logan Nevada Noah  
 Rachel Gene Parham  
 Tracie Anne Peoples  
 Savannah Pamela Petry  
 Amanda Denise Potts  
 Thomas Justin Rigsby  
 Kilani Lynn Rivera  
 Philip Wendell Roberts  
 Kristin F. Roddy  
 Kaylee Sierra Sadler  
 Jay Sanchez  
 Brian Seabolt  
 Mygarrienne Thomauntez Shannon  
 Nargiz H. Shemssulldin  
 Alizabeth Nouananonh Sirikoun  
 Brady Alan Smitley  
 Kendall Deanne Stewart  
 Brandi Nicole Sweet  
 Theresa Tomforde  
 Brandi Kaylor Turney  
 Hillary Anne Tyson  
 Sarah Elaine West  
 Kammie Jane Wilhoite  
 Alexandra Frances Wright  
 Arriana Lovette Young



# Honor Graduates

## CUM LAUDE (3.50–3.74 INCLUSIVE GPA)

### COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Fahad Hassan K. Adam  
Abdolrahman Waleed Almansouri  
Rena Layne Andrews  
William T. Davis  
Ashleigh N. Garry  
Kristy M. Harmison  
Thomas Charles Keene  
Christal Lillian McClure  
Tammy Pamela Nunez  
Tia Shutes

### COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Mahlet Mesfin Aklile  
Charnise L. Alexander  
Mohammed Jaber Alqahtani  
McKayla Morgan Bain  
Alayshia S. Clark  
Gracen L. Crosslin  
Kaitlyn D. Gilliam  
Novi Tri Granda  
Christian Levi Guzman  
Lisa R. Hardie  
Tabetha C. Harrell  
Michael Allen McCafferty  
Jordan Leslee Miller  
Caroline Grace Moore

Emma Katherine Nelson  
Madison J. Powell  
Cindy K. Prieto  
Courtney Anne Smith  
Nicholas Jordan Kenneth Taylor  
Samantha J. Vance

### JENNINGS A. JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Mustafa Ali Alkhridah  
Erick William Booth  
Dylan Austin Delesk  
Chris P. Ferran  
Judith A. Husk  
Lauren Elizabeth Johnson  
Kevin Kamphouthasak  
London John McAllister  
Frank Samuel Merlock  
Hanitry Ny Miora Rasamison  
Szilvia Etelka Riss  
Matthew Rogers Stout

### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Alyssa M. Baldwin  
Paige M. Bollinger  
Michelle K. Boudreaux  
Nathaniel Cook Bumpus  
Kevin R. Faulkner  
Simone Ann Hackney

Kevin M. Haroulakis  
Kathryn T. Jevin  
Melania J. Khan  
Tammy Pamela Nunez  
Tre' yana Louminque Ogilvie  
William H. Thaw

### COLLEGE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

Samantha Avalos  
Alexis Samone House  
Sydney M. Marshburn  
Ella Maria Rowen

### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Deborah Diane Dockins  
Selina Mae Gallegos  
Galyna Harris  
Matthew Ryan Hill  
Patricia L. Morgart  
Tracie Anne Peoples  
Thomas Justin Rigsby  
Philip Wendell Roberts  
Kendall Deanne Stewart  
Theresa Tomforde  
Arriana Lovette Young

## MAGNA CUM LAUDE (3.75–3.89 INCLUSIVE GPA)

### COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Carissa Marie Gashaw  
Cong Huan Ngoc Nguyen  
Alison B. Smith  
Elisabeth A. Torok  
Tsenga Yeshitela Tsahai

### COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Lillian J. Beck  
Matthew Len Boyett  
Tori A. Burton  
Kimberly Marie Coleman

Mari Claire Crass  
Morgan B. Frame  
Tristan P. Haney  
Savannah Faith Kelley  
Emily Elizabeth Rouse  
Gabrielle H. Saliba  
Erica DeShae Vanzant  
Peri S. Watson  
Katelynn M. Yates

### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Emma Jane Goodwyn  
Brittni Marie Herron  
Eriny Samy Labib  
Tara Salvati

### COLLEGE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

James Robert Bessire  
Megan Lee Hodge Cole  
Hailee Grace Ellis  
Gabrielle Reece Swenson

### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Ethan Carter  
Catherine Ann Estelle Michael  
Rachel Gene Parham

## SUMMA CUM LAUDE (3.90–4.00 INCLUSIVE GPA)

### COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Dylan T. Dickey  
Christopher Emil Kashif  
Daniel Frederick Wright

### COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Anthony Wayne Berry  
Devan Monroe Clark  
Jamilia Latisha Leake  
Athena Leigh Magdaong  
Kevin Dwayne Martin  
Jenna B. Russ

### JENNINGS A. JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Kayla Ruth Cunningham  
Gareth Oliver Laffely  
Anuradha Danushka Nugawela  
Calista Carlene Pew

### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Emma Elisabeth Sullivan  
Abigail F. Williams

### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Andrew Robert Horsefield  
Kaylee Sierra Sadler

## *University Honors College*

### UNIVERSITY HONORS

Tia Shutes

### UNIVERSITY HONORS WITH DISTINCTION

Megan Lee Hodge Cole  
Chris P. Ferran  
Lisa R. Hardie  
Gareth Oliver Laffely  
Emily Elizabeth Rouse

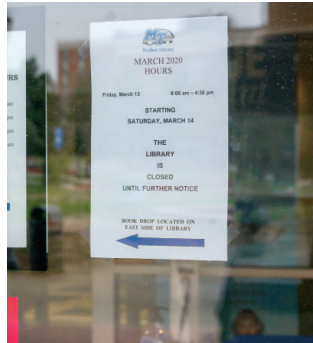


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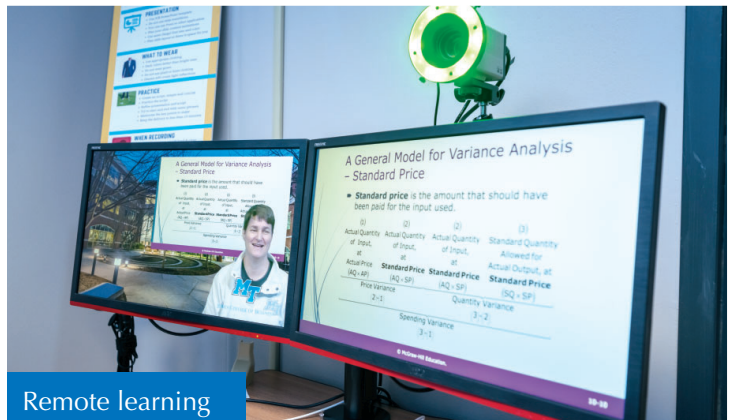
# STAY ON COURSE

## Still teaching. Still learning.

During the COVID-19 closure . . .



Computer and technology checkout in Cope



Remote learning



Holding campus events live and online



Taking our meals to go



I AM *true*  
**BLUE**™