

A photograph of a university campus during autumn. In the background is a large, multi-story brick building with a central entrance featuring tall columns and large glass windows. Several trees with vibrant red and orange autumn foliage are scattered throughout the scene. In the foreground, there is a paved plaza area with low brick walls and a black lamppost on a brick base. The sky is clear and blue.

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY

FOUNDATION AWARDS AND FACULTY RECOGNITIONS

FALL FACULTY MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2020

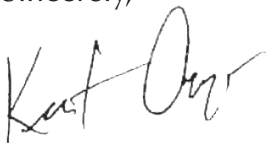
To the faculty and staff:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent Ayer", with a stylized, flowing script.

Kent M. Ayer, '99
President, MTSU Foundation



Blue Horseshoe
A symbol for tradition
and good fortune for
Middle Tennessee State University
ERECTOR: DONALD W. BLUE
FORGEMAN: DONALD W. BLUE
PAINTED: DONALD W. BLUE
The University of Middle Tennessee
College of Arts and Sciences
1400 College Station
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
The University of Middle Tennessee
College of Arts and Sciences
1400 College Station
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

FOUNDATION AWARDS



Erin Anfinson

Department of Art and Design Outstanding Teaching Award

Erin Anfinson is an associate professor in the Department of Art and Design. She earned her B.A. from the University of Northern Iowa and her M.F.A. from the University of Connecticut. She primarily teaches Foundations-level courses in drawing and recently developed a new core curriculum course,

Foundations of Digital Art and Design. Anfinson also serves as the Foundations area coordinator and is an MT Engage program faculty member. Her creative work and research interests involve a cross-pollination of media and processes, but she specializes in working with encaustic-infused paper, collage, and animation. Her studio practice is often inspired by an interest in science, natural history, and reflection on the discovery, awareness, and loss of diminishing native ecosystems.

Anfinson regularly exhibits her work nationally and internationally in galleries, museums, and film festivals. She is the recipient of several awards and grants from the International Encaustic Artist Organization and the Tennessee Arts Commission. Anfinson was a National Park Service (NPS) Artist-in-Residence in 2017 at Herbert Hoover National Historic Site in West Branch, Iowa, and again in 2018–19 at Stones River National Battlefield in Murfreesboro. In addition to her creative activities, she is also regularly invited to teach mixed media encaustic workshops at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

Anfinson enjoys developing experiential learning opportunities for students in her Foundations courses. Since 2012, her students have participated in numerous field trips and guest artist workshops and have collaboratively created installations of artwork in partnership with the Walker Library, Linebaugh Library, and Turnip Green Creative Reuse in Nashville. Most recently, she's shared her experience as an NPS Artist-in-Residence with her students by leading them on field trips to Stones River National Battlefield, where they meet with park staff, collect field sketches, and create drawings of their observations that are later displayed in the Art in the Parks program at the Visitor Center. She regularly mentors undergraduate research projects (URECA) and University Honors theses, and has served as a faculty leader for the Student Art Alliance and other student organization activities.



Carmelita L. Dotson

*Department of Social Work
Outstanding Teaching Award*

Carmelita L. Dotson joined MTSU in 2004 and is a lecturer in the Department of Social Work teaching undergraduate and graduate courses. She earned a B.S. in Sociology at Tennessee State University, an M.S.S.W. with a concentration in Administration and Planning at the University of Tennessee, and an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership at Tennessee State University. Dotson has co-authored peer-reviewed articles, completed book reviews, presented with students, and given peer-reviewed presentations regionally and nationally. Her research studies the effect of various learning formats on student achievement, the impact of service-learning strategies on teaching, and culture versus climate relationship in organizational settings.

Dotson believes that students are lifelong learners who need a stimulating academic environment to grow physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, and academically. This notion is undergirded by Ujima (collective work and responsibility), part of her personal value base. She serves as faculty advisor for MTSU's student chapter of the National Association for Black Social Workers and the Department of Social Work's student cooperative committee, Ujima. She also mentors many students and faculty. Through the Division of Student Affairs, Enrollment and Academic Services, she has been regularly recognized by students as a faculty member who makes a difference. She was named the 2020 Tempest Award honoree by the American Association of University Women-Murfreesboro chapter for her work uplifting women throughout her career.

Dotson co-facilitated an inclusive teaching faculty learning community, facilitated the department's professional learning community, is a member of the curriculum committee, and is instrumental in the department's MT Engage major pathway. She engages in innovative course development, which includes service learning, connecting with professional practitioners in the community, and connecting theory to practice. Dotson is active in her community, including volunteering with nonprofit organization The Build Up Foundation, helping prepare over 400 Metro-Nashville students in grades 7–12 for college entry and success.



Christine Eschenfelder

*School of Journalism and Strategic Media
Outstanding Teaching Award*

Christine Eschenfelder joined MTSU in Fall 2015 as an assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Strategic Media. She received her Ph.D. in Mass Communication from the University of Florida. Eschenfelder brings to the classroom more than a dozen

years of professional experience working in television news as a reporter, anchor, and producer. She is the recipient of several broadcast news industry awards, including the Edward R. Murrow Award.

The courses Eschenfelder teaches at MTSU include Ethics and Mass Communication, Video Reporting and Editing, Television News Producing, and a variety of special topics courses. In 2019, she led a study abroad class to London, Normandy, and Paris with a group of her journalism students to cover the 75th anniversary of D-Day. As part of the class, her students produced an award-winning television and online special about the D-Day anniversary. She is the co-creator and faculty advisor of *Middle Tennessee News*, a live broadcast and online local news program that gives students hands-on television news experience.

Eschenfelder is a recipient of the School of Journalism and Strategic Media Edward Kimbrell Teaching Excellence in Journalism award. She was a 2017 Academy of Teaching Excellence Faculty Fellow. She has been awarded the MTSU President's Commission on the Status of Women summer integration grant and a National Association of Television Program Executives faculty development grant. Eschenfelder is certified by Mental Health First Aid USA and completed MTSU Safe Zone training.

Her research focuses on broadcast journalism education, newsroom diversity, and women in broadcasting. Eschenfelder's work has appeared in the *Journal of Media Education* and *Journalism and Mass Communication Educator* and in a chapter of *Beyond Princess Culture: Gender and Children's Marketing*. She is a co-author of the forthcoming textbook *A Complete Guide to Television, Field and Digital Producing*.



Jenna Gray-Hildenbrand

*Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies
Outstanding Teaching Award*

Jenna Gray-Hildenbrand joined the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at MTSU in Fall 2012 as an assistant professor of Religious Studies and also as a member of the Women's and Gender Studies faculty. She earned a B.A. in Religion and Women's Studies from Western Michigan University, an M.A. in Religious

Studies from the University of Colorado, and a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the University of California-Santa Barbara. Gray-Hildenbrand's research focuses on religion and law in the United States, with a specialization in the criminalization of religious practice. When she is not in the classroom, you may find her doing ethnographic research in the mountains of Appalachia in small Christian churches that practice serpent handling.

Immediately upon her arrival at MTSU, Gray-Hildenbrand began developing the Religious Studies program with the goal to provide students with a religious literacy that is invaluable in our diverse society. To that end, she created a general education course, RS 2030: Religion and Society. This course utilizes both in-class activities and site visits to local religious communities to provide MTSU students firsthand experience of the religious diversity in middle Tennessee. This religious literacy helps students better serve their future patients, students, clients, co-workers, and neighbors. Together with Rebekka King, Gray-Hildenbrand created the B.A. and B.S. programs in Religious Studies at MTSU. In addition to serving as program coordinator of the Religious Studies program, Gray-Hildenbrand directed student theses, independent studies, URECA research projects, and Scholars Week presentations. In 2017, she won the MTSU Experiential Teaching Outstanding Faculty Award, and she consistently is recognized by graduating seniors as a faculty member who makes a real difference.

In addition to conference presentations and publications, Gray-Hildenbrand has earned two multi-year, external collaborative grants in support of pedagogical advancements. The first \$30,000 grant, "Building Bridges Across New, Multidisciplinary Religious Studies Programs in the South" (2016–18), aimed to share intellectual resources among three new Religious Studies programs (Clemson, University of North Florida, and MTSU) to cultivate valuable classroom learning experiences that produce measurable learning outcomes for institutional and regional stakeholders. The second \$30,000 grant, "Under Pressure: Teaching Critical Religious Studies" (2019–present), is a learning community of 12 undergraduate professors seeking to bring disciplinary critiques in Religious Studies and the scholarship of teaching and learning into dialogue.



Michael V. Paulauskas

Department of History

Outstanding Teaching in General Education

Michael V. Paulauskas is senior instructor of History. He received his Ph.D. and M.A. in History from the University of North Carolina. He received his B.A. in History from Temple University. Since he began working at MTSU in 2012, Paulauskas has taught survey courses on U.S. history and Western civilization and graduate courses on Russian history and the Cold War. He is a

member of the History Department General Education Committee, serves as an adjunct member of the graduate faculty, and has taken part in several faculty learning communities through the LT&ITC, including as co-facilitator of the faculty learning community on plagiarism in 2014–15.

Paulauskas is dedicated to inspiring all students, regardless of background and academic interests, to engage with history and develop critical thinking skills. He tells students that his role is to challenge their ideas, help them to critically analyze their assumptions and conclusions, and improve their ability to support their ideas with appropriate evidence and analysis. He aims to help all students to gain confidence in the practice of “doing history” and to learn what an MTSU degree in History can do for their career.

In 2014–15, Paulauskas was part of the faculty work group to develop history-reading corequisite courses at MTSU, and he has worked as one of the faculty members from the History Department dedicated to these classes full-time since they began. This high-impact program, designed for students who enter the University with ACT Reading scores of less than 19, pairs regular sections of Survey of US History II with classes taught by reading instructors from the University Studies Department. As part of this program, Paulauskas pioneered history-reading classes devoted to international students, catering to the specific issues that they face coming to American universities. With the aid of tutors, graduate teaching assistants from the History Department, a dedicated reading lab, and additional attention from faculty members, students are provided with the necessary support to excel in History 2020 and thrive at MTSU in future semesters.

Paulauskas also has taken a prominent leadership role in his department’s online general education program, having assumed the position of course co-developer for both surveys of US History I and II. As part of this effort, he aided History Department faculty who were new to online education make the transition to remote learning in the Spring 2020 semester. In accepting this award, Paulauskas is grateful to the wonderful students he has been privileged to work with over the past eight years at MTSU.



Tracey Huddleston

*Department of Elementary and Special Education
Outstanding Public Service Award*

Tracey Huddleston was born in Oklahoma City. When she was a child, her family lived in Midland, Texas; Chicago; and finally Chattanooga. Experiencing school in all three states helped form her strong interest in curriculum and the process of learning. During her middle school years, several teachers collaborated to implement a grade-level project involving all subject areas. Assignments from math, social studies, science, and English all revolved around this project for several months. Huddleston remembers her interest deepening in all subject areas, resulting in higher achievement for that grading period. She credits this experience as her first involvement with what research now refers to as integrated curriculum and project-based learning.

From elementary school through high school, Huddleston was involved in several extracurricular activities, including the tennis team, youth group at church, and working at the local YMCA. After graduating from Hixson High School, Huddleston attended Middle Tennessee State University, where she graduated with a B.S. in Early Childhood Education. While teaching elementary school in Metro Nashville Public Schools, she earned her master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

Huddleston joined the MTSU faculty in 1992 in the Elementary Education Department. Her department chair at the time was developing an interdisciplinary curriculum for a specific cohort of students. Due to Huddleston's experience and interest in integrated curriculum and project-based learning, he invited her to participate in this project. Since then, she continually seeks research and service that involve teachers, students, and problem-based learning.

The most significant integrated problem-based learning work of Huddleston's career is her 28 years as the co-creator of the Invention Convention, which brings together fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade students who have invented a new game or a way to make life easier. The annual Invention Convention at MTSU has hosted approximately 10,000 students, as well as over 2,500 teachers from over 50 schools in middle Tennessee. Due to her years of experience with invention education, Huddleston was invited to serve on the National Invention Convention Advisory Board.

Through several local partnerships, she also influenced countless elementary teachers in the field through continued public service projects.



Holly Spooner

Mary Miller Chair of Excellence in Equine Health Outstanding Public Service Award

Once proclaimed a “jack of all horse trades,” Holly Spooner is heavily involved in all facets of the horse industry. A first-generation college student, Spooner completed her B.S. and M.S. at Texas A&M University and her Ph.D. at Michigan State University. After completing her Ph.D., Spooner was named assistant professor and extension horse specialist at West Virginia University, developing a new undergraduate equine program and revitalizing extension programming for horse owners throughout the state. In 2012, Spooner was recruited to Middle Tennessee State University as associate professor in the Mary Miller Chair in Equine Health.

At MTSU, Spooner directs the nation’s only M.S. in Horse Science program, which has since graduated more than 34 students from 17 states. She has advised 27 M.S. students, who applaud her mentorship and passion. She also instructs courses in Equine Evaluation and Selection, Stable Management, Introduction to Horse Care and Use, and Equine Exercise Physiology. Spooner’s research interests focus on nutritional and exercise interventions to improve performance of the equine athlete, but have spanned all aspects from bone health to glycemic response to perceptions of equine welfare, with more than 35 manuscripts or abstracts to date.

Spooner is committed to public service, having overseen establishment of MTSU’s Center of Equine Recovery for Veterans (CERV), a therapeutic horsemanship program, as well as directing numerous outreach endeavors for 4-H and other extension programs. She led the first national conference focusing on Uniting Higher Education with EAAT (Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies) in 2014. In 2021, she will serve as the host of the American Youth Horse Council’s Symposium to be held in Murfreesboro for the first time in its history. Spooner previously coached the MTSU Stock Horse Team, 2017 ASHA Reserve National Champions. She currently coaches the MTSU Horse Judging Team, including hosting horse judging contests and educational events for 4-H and FFA students statewide. She has served 13 years on the AQHA’s Equine Research Committee, as an AQHA and POAC judge, and on the board of the Tennessee Stock Horse Association and Tennessee Pony of the Americas (POA) Club and chairs the research committee of the American Youth Horse Council. In her free time, she enjoys showing horses with her husband, Scott, and daughters Grace and Gentry.



Diane Cummings Turnham

MT Athletics

Outstanding Public Service Award

Diane Cummings Turnham, now in her 38th year with MTSU, is the senior associate athletic director and senior women's administrator. Voted MTSU's administrative employee of the year for 2001–02, Turnham has served two stints as the department's interim athletic director and was elected into the Blue Raider Hall of Fame in 2012. She is currently serving her fifth of five years on the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Committee, which selects the 64 teams invited to the NCAA Women's Basketball Championship. She was elected to chair the committee this year. She also has been the faculty sponsor for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at MTSU for over 30 years and has been an integral part of the Bleed Blue to Beat WKU Blood Drive for the last 10 years. This is the largest blood drive in Rutherford County and has had the potential to save over 19,000 lives in our community and the WKU community during its tenure.

In the spring of 2010, Turnham received the King Hampton Award, which is presented to the employee who makes significant contributions to improve the status of women on our campus. She worked for over 13 years as an assistant women's basketball coach, but she also agreed to serve as the women's volleyball head coach during this same time. In 1994, after training in higher education administration at MTSU and with the HERS Institute for Women in Higher Education, she asked to assist the athletics director as the first and only senior women's administrator at MTSU.

In 1995, she became an assistant athletic director for compliance and developed the department's NCAA Compliance program. She was named an associate athletic director in 2002, assuming supervision of the women's sports for the University.

In January 2014, Turnham was promoted to her current position as senior associate athletic director. She oversees women's sports in addition to handling the department's personnel issues and serves as administrator for women's basketball, volleyball, and softball as well as deputy Title IX coordinator for athletics.

Turnham has also served as the chair of the Sun Belt Conference's Senior Women's Administrators and as a member of the league's executive staff committee. Additionally, Turnham is a former member and chair of the NCAA Division I Women's Soccer and Volleyball committees.



Thomas W. Brinthaup

Department of Psychology
Distinguished Research Award

Thomas W. Brinthaup holds a Ph.D. in Social and Personality Psychology from the University of Pittsburgh. He is professor in the Department of Psychology and the director of faculty development for the learning, teaching, and innovative technologies center. He began working at MTSU in 1990. Over the past five years, he

has published two books, 43 peer-reviewed articles, and nine book chapters, and he has presented three invited or keynote research talks. During this time, he also served as major advisor, committee member, or mentor for 12 high school senior theses, five undergraduate Honors theses, 21 master's theses, and five dissertations.

Over his career, Brinthaup has published seven books and more than 110 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. He also has presented at over 100 local, regional, national, and international conferences and supervised more than 150 student conference presentations. While at MTSU, he has received over \$315,000 in internal and external funding, as well as more than \$14,000 in student-related funding. His primary areas of research include personality psychology and self and identity. He is an internationally recognized expert on the psychology of self-talk. Brinthaup is also a nationally recognized expert on best practices for online teaching and the scholarship of teaching and learning.



Angela DeBoer

School of Music

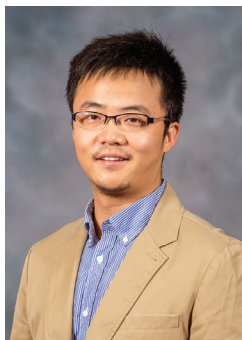
Distinguished Creative Activity Award

Angela DeBoer joined the faculty at Middle Tennessee State University in 2007. She has been an active performer in the region, holding positions as second horn with both the Chattanooga and Huntsville symphonies and third horn with the Nashville Opera. She performs regularly with the Nashville Symphony

Orchestra and maintains a presence in Nashville recording studios, where she has recorded over 75 soundtracks for film, television, and video games. In January 2019 DeBoer appeared as a soloist with the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, performing Schumann's demanding *Konzertstück* for Four Horns and Orchestra. In October 2018 she performed at New York's Carnegie Hall in sold-out concerts with internationally renowned Studio Ghibli film composer Joe Hisaishi. In October 2017, DeBoer was selected to play principal horn with the Hollywood Film Music Orchestra for its tour to China.

An active performer on campus, DeBoer presents annual solo recitals and performs with the Stones River Chamber Players. She also enjoys playing period instruments, having performed on the baroque and natural horns in several recitals around the country, as well as with the Atlanta, Music City, and Indianapolis Baroque orchestras. Prior to her work in middle Tennessee, she held positions in and performed with many orchestras across the country, including the Tulsa, Milwaukee, and Grant Park symphonies and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago.

DeBoer earned a Master of Music from Northwestern University and a Bachelor of Music from DePaul University, and studied in the Orchestral Performance program at the Manhattan School of Music. She has served on the faculty for the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts since 2011. Alumni of her studio at MTSU have gone on to have successful careers, including orchestral and academic positions in both the United States and Europe.



Song Cui

*School of Agriculture
Special Projects Award*

\$49,320 for “MTSU Precision Agriculture Initiative”

Song Cui, principal director, and MTSU colleagues Samuel Haruna, Nate Phillips, Iris Gao, Justin Gardner, and Jessica Carter (School of Agriculture) and Kevin Corns (Department of Aerospace) were recently awarded the MTSU Foundation Special Project Award

to help launch a precision agriculture research/education program at MTSU through course creation/renovation, equipment requisition, and research enhancement.

The collaborative team aims to:

- 1) rapidly establish two new courses in the School of Agriculture, including PLSO 3700 Fundamentals of Precision Agriculture and AGRI 4000 Agroecosystem Remote Sensing using unmanned aircraft systems, based on existing precision agriculture software donated by EFC Systems Inc. and new precision soil mapping system requisition from Veris Technologies
- 2) launch a multi-disciplinary Precision Agriculture minor available for all students on campus
- 3) use the support from this program as a seed grant to compete for external state/federal funding



Mary B. Farone

*Department of Biology
Career Achievement Award*

Mary B. Farone is a professor of Biology and a faculty member in the Molecular Biosciences doctoral program. A Kentucky native, she earned her B.A. in Biology from Thomas More University in Kentucky. Farone received her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Microbiology at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where she investigated viral proteins as anti-tumor agents. She completed post-doctoral research at the Harvard School of Public Health in the Respiratory Biology and Physiology program, working on projects related to bacterial and viral inflammation of the respiratory tract. While in Boston, she also entered the clinical lab science program at Northeastern University to train as a clinical microbiologist. Farone began at MTSU in 1996 as an adjunct professor in Biology and joined the department as a faculty member in 2003.

Farone primarily teaches courses in microbiology to all levels of students and serves as coordinator for the microbiology laboratories. Her research interests in host-pathogen interactions in animals and the environment led to the discovery of two novel bacteria by Farone, her Biology colleagues Anthony Newsome and Anthony Farone, her students at MTSU, and colleagues at Tennessee Technological University. Farone had the privilege of naming the new bacteria. She is also collaborating with Scott Handy in Chemistry to investigate novel therapeutics for pathogenic bacteria and fungi. Farone, her students, and collaborators have had 12 publications in the past 10 years in journals, including *BMC Microbiology*, *PLoS One*, *International Immunopharmacology*, and *Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters*. Farone has received extramural research funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Homeland Security, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). She is currently the principal investigator for two grants, one from the National Institutes of Health to study her novel bacteria and the other from the USDA to investigate the role of protozoa in harboring foodborne pathogens on packaged produce.

Farone was also a co-principal investigator for \$3 million in funding for six years from the National Science Foundation for a GK-12 grant to support graduate students in STEM disciplines with developing communication skills to more broadly prepare them to translate scientific research to the public. The grant teamed graduate students with high school teachers in Rutherford and Davidson counties to introduce more research into high school classrooms. Farone and the team also made several trips to Santiago, Chile, through a partnership with the

Chilean National Research Council to assist teachers with introducing research into high school classrooms.

Farone's career has been guided by a commitment to sharing her passion for research. She is grateful for the mentoring and research opportunities she was provided, beginning with her high school service club and continuing in college. It was as a graduate teaching assistant in microbiology labs that she began to appreciate how much active learning in the laboratory impacted student comprehension and interest. She continues using a hands-on approach in both the classroom and laboratory, structuring her courses around her own clinical training and involving students in research in courses and her laboratory. She has mentored over 75 students in undergraduate research, including Honors theses. Farone has served as thesis advisor for eight Biology M.S. students and has mentored four students in the Molecular Biosciences doctoral program. She also serves as a research mentor for graduate students in the Professional Science M.S. in Biotechnology and as a student thesis research advisor for Central Magnet high school students. She continues to actively encourage the interest of young people in science as a Science Olympiad middle school team coach for the past 15 years and through participation in the MTSU Expanding Your Horizons program for over 20 years. At MTSU, Farone is also part of the URECA committee and advocates for undergraduate research on campus. She is a member of the American Society of Microbiology and has served as an officer for the Kentucky-Tennessee branch and as a councilor on the national board. Farone is honored to have also received MTSU Foundation Awards for Outstanding Teaching and Distinguished Research.



EMERITI

Teaching

Research

Service



Jackie Eller

*Professor Emerita
Sociology and Anthropology*

Jackie Eller joined the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at MTSU in 1985 and has served the University with distinction for 35 years. During that time, she developed and taught more than 45 undergraduate and graduate courses, including online courses, Honors courses, study abroad, and courses in

Women's and Gender Studies. Eller directed more than 30 thesis projects and served on innumerable thesis committees. She also served on five dissertation committees. Eller has received the MTSU Outstanding Teacher Award and CLA Outstanding Mentor award in recognition of her exceptional teaching and mentorship.

In addition to her outstanding teaching accomplishments, Eller's service to the department, University, and the profession has been extensive. In the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, she served as department chair, graduate program director, undergraduate program director, department representative to the Faculty Senate, and as member or chair of numerous departmental committees. At the university level, she has served as Director of Women's Studies, chair of Graduate Council, chair of FRCAC, Faculty Senate Executive Committee member, Fulbright Scholars liaison, interim vice provost for research, and associate dean and interim dean, College of Graduate Studies. Her professional service includes service as co-editor of *Sociological Spectrum*; president and other leadership positions of Mid-South Sociological Association, board member with the Pamlico Rose Institute for Sustainable Communities, and academic program reviewer for five sociology programs across the nation.

In addition to her extensive commitment to teaching and service, Eller has maintained her scholarship and research, publishing more than 20 articles and book chapters, one book, and several encyclopedia entries. Several of these publications were with graduate students. Additionally, she obtained several small internal grants but most notably was a member of a research team that obtained a National Science Foundation grant for "A Catalyst to ADVANCE the Participation and Advancement of Women in Academic Science and Engineering Careers in Middle Tennessee."

Eller's leadership in teaching, service, and research has earned her many awards, including the MTSU Trailblazers Award, King-Hampton Award for Outstanding Leadership for Women, and Ayne Cantrell Award for Outstanding Leadership in Women's Studies, the Thomas Calhoun Mentorship Award, and MSSA Career Award in Sociology. She has participated in the HERS/Bryn Mawr Summer Leadership Program and been nominated for an Athena International award.



Jackie Heigle

*Professor Emerita
Media Arts*

Jackie Heigle joined MTSU's tenure-track faculty in 2004 and immediately became the founding advisor for the MTSU Photo Society and continued in this role until 2017. This commitment to student centeredness has been the theme for her entire career at MTSU.

The hallmark of her accomplishments has been providing students enriching and engaging opportunities inside and outside the classroom. She organized student trips to Atlanta and Chicago to visit museums, galleries, and graduate schools. She accompanied MTSU Photo Society student members (funded by the Student Government Association) to annual Society for Photographic Education (SPE) Conferences from 2005 to 2017. In 2008 and 2015, she led eight Photography students on four-week camping tours of art, culture, and national parks in New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Colorado. For the Blue Skies Project 2014, she and two MTSU seniors taught photography at an orphanage in Uganda. The trio then toured Croatia the following two weeks to witness a stark contrast in privilege and war recovery.

As a member of the Society for Photographic Education, she was elected regional board member for eight years and served as portfolio reviewer and presenter at national and regional conferences for 15 years. She co-chaired a sold-out SPE Southwest Regional Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in Fall 2011. These activities increased the national visibility of the MTSU Photography program.

In 2017, she was appointed curator of the Baldwin Photographic Gallery, where she curated 13 exceptional exhibitions and organized associated visiting artist lectures, receptions, and student workshops. In 2018, she planned the new Baldwin Photographic Collection and Archive at the Miller Education Center along with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Her creative activity includes group exhibitions across the U.S. In 2010, she was honored with a \$15,000 purchase award from the New Mexico Acclaimed Artist Series for Desert Dreams, a suite of eight pinhole camera photographs of the Southwest.

She has served on numerous committees, including the *Collage* advisory board, which honored her for eight years of continuous service.



John Hill

*Professor Emeritus
Recording Industry*

John Hill joined the Department of Recording Industry in 1992 as an associate professor. He quickly attained tenure and was promoted to professor in 1998.

During his 27 years of service to the University, he has worked with hundreds of aspiring students to help them start their music recording and production careers. Many of these students, including multiple-Grammy Award winners Reid Shippen and Jason Hall, started their studies at MTSU under his tutelage. They have cited his teaching and guidance as being important to their success.

In 2011, Hill's own professional recording work was recognized when he garnered two Grammys for the *Metropolis Symphony* project he engineered for the Nashville Symphony. This recognition has attracted significant attention to the Recording Industry program and to MTSU more broadly. Some of the department's finest recent graduates were attracted to the Recording Industry program specifically to study with Hill.

Hill initiated and developed important classes in critical listening, which have become a cornerstone of the Audio Production curriculum. He also worked for many years as faculty advisor to the RI student section of the Audio Engineering Society (AES). Under his guidance, student teams have been recognized several times at the Nashville AES's Student Mixer competition and at other regional events. In addition to his affiliation with the AES, he is a member of the National Association of Recording Arts & Sciences (NARAS) and its Producers and Engineers wing.

Hill retired from full-time service to MTSU in 2020 but will continue to teach part-time in the Recording Industry Department until 2023.



Christine Isley-Farmer

*Professor Emerita
Music*

Christine Isley-Farmer retired this spring as professor and coordinator of vocal studies in the MTSU School of Music. A soprano, she has taught voice and the Alexander Technique, and courses in diction, vocal literature, and opera. She has had extensive performing experience, appearing in opera houses and concert

halls in Austria, Italy, Switzerland, England, and Ireland. Operatic experience in the United States includes the Des Moines Opera Festival, Chautauqua Opera, Central City Opera, the Colorado Lyric Opera, and the New York City Opera at Lincoln Center. Roles that she has sung include Lucia in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute*, Liu in *Turandot*, and Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro*. She has presented recitals in Alabama, Kentucky, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Tennessee, Ohio, New York, and Colorado.

Since 1997, Isley-Farmer has been a certified teacher of the Alexander Technique, training at the Alexander Alliance in Philadelphia, earning certification with Alexander Technique International, and conducting Alexander Technique workshops throughout the southeastern United States. In 2003, her article on Alexander Technique and singing appeared in the widely distributed *Journal of Singing*, published by the National Association of Teachers of Singing. Students of Isley-Farmer have won and placed in the finals of both regional and national competitions, including the Metropolitan Opera Regional Auditions, the National Opera Association Vocal Competition, the Orpheus National Vocal Competition, and the Grace Moore Vocal Competition.

Her students have entered prestigious graduate programs in the United States and abroad. Former students have earned doctoral degrees, taught at the university level, and pursued professional singing careers. Isley-Farmer also taught the first MTSU student to be awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for study in Europe. She holds Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro and the D.M.A. in Performance and Literature from the University of Illinois.



David Kelly

*Professor Emeritus
Psychology*

David Kelly earned a B.A. from Georgetown University, an M.S. in Clinical Psychology from Oklahoma State University, and a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Texas Tech University. He completed a one-year internship in clinical psychology at the Nashville Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the Vanderbilt Counseling Center.

He served for several years as a consultant, supervisor, and psychotherapist at the Dede Wallace Mental Health Center in Nashville. Kelly also was a consultant for the state Medicaid program and was an examiner for the state psychology licensing board. Kelly was a member of a group of U.S. psychologists who visited China as part of a cultural exchange program.

Since joining MTSU in 1985, Kelly has taught undergraduate and graduate classes in psychological testing, professional issues and ethics, psychological interviewing and intervention, psychopathology, practicum in clinical psychology, and abnormal psychology. In addition, he has twice served as director of the Clinical Psychology graduate program. Kelly has served on a wide variety of University committees. He has been a member of the Psychology Department long-range planning committee since its inception and has been the chair of a number of department search committees to hire new faculty.

In his work mentoring undergraduate and graduate students, Kelly has co-authored published articles with 19 MTSU students and co-presented with 17 MTSU students at regional and national professional meetings. He has chaired 24 master's theses and been a committee member on over 100 theses. He has published research in peer-reviewed journals on subjects including psychological testing, issues in education, chronic self-destructive behavior, and child abuse. At psychology conferences, Kelly has presented on diverse topics such as student academic success, crisis intervention, risk-taking in college students, substance abuse, and psychological assessment.



Don Morgan

*Professor Emeritus
Health and Human Performance*

Don Morgan is a professor in the Department of Health and Human Performance and founder and director of the MTSU Center for Physical Activity and Health in Youth, a university-community partnership aimed at improving the physical fitness and activity levels of Tennessee youth. A past-president of the North American Society for Pediatric Exercise Medicine, Morgan is a fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) and the American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine, and has served on the editorial boards of *Pediatric Exercise Science* and the *ACSM Health and Fitness Journal*. He is also a fellow of the National Academy of Kinesiology, a professional organization limited to 165 active American scholars who have made significant and sustained contributions to the field of kinesiology through scholarship and professional service.

Morgan's primary research efforts, which have been funded by USA Track and Field, Nike, the National Institutes of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, have focused on identifying factors that influence the energetic demands of human locomotion, enhancing mobility and physical function in persons with physical challenges, and evaluating the impact of physical activity and sedentary behavior on health across the lifespan. He also has made over 130 presentations to local, national, and international lay audiences promoting the benefits of adopting and maintaining a physically active lifestyle.



Alan Musicant

*Professor Emeritus
Psychology*

During Alan Musicant's 20-year tenure at MTSU, he regularly taught Sensation and Perception, General Psychology (including an Honors section), and Human Brain, Behavior, and Consciousness. He also regularly acted as a research mentor for many undergraduate and graduate psychology students in the Experimental and Quantitative Psychology master's programs. Several of the students he mentored went on to pursue their doctoral degrees at prestigious institutions (for example, Northwestern University).

In addition to serving on many departmental committees, including Long-Range Planning, he served as the department graduate coordinator and as an advisor for international transfer students for several years. He also served on the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and the University Technology Access Fee (TAF) Committee and was a lead coordinator on College of Behavioral and Health Sciences' TAF proposals for many years. In this latter role, his ability to work productively and cooperatively with numerous constituencies within the college vying for a limited share of funds was key to many successful TAF proposals. During the planning stages for the new Academic Classroom Building, he was instrumental in establishing acoustic and electromagnetic standards of shielding for the EEG labs.

Musicant's research was focused on auditory perception, the relationship between auditory localization and visuo-spatial skills, and the contribution of spectral cues to auditory spatial localization accuracy. He is an author and co-author of 36 peer-reviewed journal articles (for example, *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, *Hearing Research*, *Perception* and *Psychophysics*), book chapters, and conference presentations with more than 1,200 citations and a Hirsch index of 17. He is an active member of the Acoustical Society of America.



Kenneth Scherzer

*Professor Emeritus
History*

A native of New York City, Kenneth Scherzer earned his bachelor's degree at Columbia University and his master's and doctoral degrees at Harvard University. He taught at Colgate University, Whitman College, and California Polytechnic State University before joining the faculty at Middle Tennessee State University in 1988.

Scherzer was tenured and promoted to the rank of associate professor in 1992 and promoted to the rank of professor in 1998. At MTSU, Scherzer developed and taught a wide range of courses, including HIST 2010 Survey of United States History I, HIST 2020 Survey of United States History II, HIST 3150 Twentieth Century Global History, and HIST 4670 American Urban History.

Scherzer's research has focused on the history of municipal finance, the history of New York City neighborhoods, and the use of social science methodology in historical research. His book *The Unbounded Community: Neighborhood Life and Social Structure in New York City, 1830–1875* (Duke University Press, 1992) was named an Outstanding Academic Book by Choice and was a finalist for the Robert Park Award for the best book in urban sociology in 1993. Scherzer is currently conducting research for a book-length study of patterns of seasonality and urban activity, "A City for Some Seasons: Rhythms of Urban Life in New York City, 1790–1930." In his 32 years at MTSU, Scherzer has served as the faculty advisor for Phi Alpha Theta history honor society and on the Faculty Senate, the University Graduate Council, and the College of Liberal Arts Tenure and Promotion Committee. He also was president of the MTSU chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and on several committees of the Tennessee State Conference of the AAUP.



Linda G. Seward

*Professor Emerita
Communication Studies*

As a first-generation college student from a family of modest means, Linda G. Seward began her college education at McLennan Community College in Waco, Texas. After two years of study, she joined the U.S. Air Force, where she served first in an intelligence wing at Strategic Air Command Headquarters in Omaha,

Nebraska, and then at the Pentagon. When her enlistment ended, Seward used the G.I. Bill to complete her bachelor's degree at North Texas University (now UNT) and continue work on her master's degree from San Diego State University. Her doctorate was earned at Purdue University, and her first tenured position was at John Carroll University. For the 1992–93 academic year, however, Seward took a year's leave to teach at Loyola's Rome Center in Italy.

She continued pursuing opportunities to increase her firsthand experiences with other cultures, and in 1995 she was awarded a Malone Fellowship by the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations. The fellowship included a two-week study tour of Saudi Arabia and Oman. A year later she was one of 10 participants selected from a national pool of applicants for the ASIANetwork Japan Seminar funded by the Ford Foundation. This program took place over two summers, one of which was conducted in Japan. While at John Carroll University, Seward developed courses in intercultural and multicultural communication and helped develop orientation sessions for Japanese exchange students studying in the U.S. and American students who would study in Japan.

Her second tenured position began in 2002 at Middle Tennessee State University. In addition to teaching on campus, she has taught summer courses abroad in Italy (2006), England (2007), and France (2008). Seward served as the coordinator for MTSU's newly developed Middle East Center from 2008 to 2011 and was the coordinator for communication Studies (former Department of Speech and Theatre) from 2010 to 2014. In 2010 she was promoted to professor.

Seward was an active participant in the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language and Gender (OSCLG). In 2006 she was elected to the Executive Board and in 2008 she planned and hosted the national conference for OSCLG in Nashville, the first time the conference was held in the state. It was particularly memorable for participants as the annual awards ceremony was held in the Parthenon, with awards given literally at the feet of Athena. Seward served on the Advisory Board for the *Women and Language* journal from 2010 to 2013. In the spring of 2020, she retired from MTSU and returned to Texas.



Vincent W. Smith

*Professor Emeritus
Marketing*

Vincent W. Smith, recently retired Department of Marketing chair and professor at MTSU, received his B.S. and M.B.E. degrees in business education from MTSU and his Ed.D. degree in Human Resource Development from Vanderbilt University. Smith joined the MTSU faculty in 1985. He is actively involved in the business education community on local, state, and national levels. He has served as treasurer, president-elect, and president of the Tennessee Business Education Association; member of the Delta Pi Epsilon National Publications Committee and co-sponsor of the Gamma Eta local chapter; teacher educator from 1997 to 2005 with the Tennessee Department of Education, Division of Career and Technical Education; and business core and internship coordinator with the Master of Science in Professional Science program at MTSU.

In 2006, Smith became a certified online instructor. As such, Smith taught several classes online in the department and through the TN eCampus program in addition to traditional face-to-face classes. He has also designed and delivered numerous professional development seminars related to business education and technology. He has published in the areas of court reporting, business education, office management, and technology.

Smith has been recognized at the university level as the recipient of the 2012 Southern Business Education Association Collegiate Teacher of the Year, the 2010-2011 Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology Award at MTSU, the 2007 Distinguished Educator in Distance Learning Award from MTSU, and the 2007 Tennessee Business Education Association Postsecondary Business Teacher of the Year Award.



Karen Ward

*Professor Emerita
Nursing*

Karen Ward, professor of Nursing, earned her B.S.N. and an M.S.N. in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing from Vanderbilt University. She received her Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from Cornell University.

Ward joined the School of Nursing at Middle Tennessee State University in 1974 but left in 1981 to pursue her doctorate. Although tenured at the time, she thought that Nursing should be held to the same educational standard as other disciplines at the University. Ward returned to MTSU in 1995 after holding two other teaching positions. She served as assistant professor at Lycoming College (Williamsport, Pennsylvania) and professor at Valdosta State University (Valdosta, Georgia), where she pioneered distance education for RN-to-BSN students. During her academic career, Ward primarily taught undergraduate and graduate courses in nursing research and psychiatric/mental health nursing, as well as other courses such as professional role development and nursing theory. She advised RN-to-BSN and M.S.N. students and served in a variety of administrative roles. Ward was instrumental in developing the first entirely online program at MTSU (the RN-to-BSN program) and enjoyed seeing it grow from about 10 students to as many as 225.

Ward has presented and published in a variety of areas, including child abuse and neglect, various mental health issues such as dealing with stress, cross training in a general hospital, and antidepressant treatment. She has made presentations for numerous conferences at many local, state, regional, national, and international sites. Most recently, Ward wrote a book for nurses employed in general health care settings. It focuses on assisting those nurses who have patients with mental health issues better understand how to work effectively and more comfortably with them. She particularly enjoyed using her experience with presenting and publishing to assist both faculty and students in getting their own ideas disseminated.



Ken Paulson

Dean Emeritus

Ken Paulson served as the dean of the College of Media and Entertainment from 2013 through 2019. During his tenure, the college's name was changed from the College of Mass Communication, and the program's national visibility grew steadily with extensive media industry partnerships.

The college also saw progress with an infusion of new technology and the relaunching of WMOT as a highly successful radio station with a format that has engaged students and the community.

Paulson joined MTSU after a career as a journalist and lawyer. He combined those roles as an advocate and expert on the First Amendment. He is now the director of the Free Speech Center at MTSU.

Paulson is the former editor-in-chief of *USA TODAY*, where he remains a columnist writing about First Amendment and media issues. He has been the editor or managing editor of five newspapers and was the host of the Emmy-honored *Speaking Freely* television program.

He is also the former president of the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University and the Newseum.

Paulson has a J.D. degree from the University of Illinois College of Law and a bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Missouri. He also has received honorary doctoral degrees from American University and Buena Vista University.



Lana C. Seivers

Dean Emerita

Lana C. Seivers joined MTSU in February 2010 as dean of the College of Education. Prior to that she was appointed Tennessee's commissioner of education in January 2003 by Gov. Phil Bredesen.

At MTSU, she led efforts to develop and gain approval for a unique doctoral degree in Assessment, Learning and School Improvement, which began in 2013 and transitioned to Assessment, Learning and Student Success with the addition of a Higher Education concentration in 2019. The Ready to Teach redesign of teacher preparation was implemented in Fall 2013. MTSU consistently leads Tennessee in the total number of teachers produced and is among the top producers of teachers who show the highest overall level of effectiveness, are employed upon program completion, are racially diverse, and hold endorsements in high-demand subjects.

As commissioner, Seivers assisted the governor in reforming the state's system of funding schools, increasing teacher salaries to the Southeastern average, adopting more rigorous state standards and the Tennessee Diploma Project, and implementing the Voluntary PreK program. Tennessee received the Award for Education Innovation from the Education Commission of the States and was acclaimed a national leader in PreK, for which she received the PreK[Now] Champion award.

Seivers is past chair of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Tennessee Committee and recipient of the SACS Distinguished Education Leadership Award. She was inducted into the MTSU Teachers Hall of Fame with the Lifetime Achievement award and received the MTSU Distinguished Alumni Award for Professional Achievement. Board service included the Cognia Tennessee Advisory Council, Michael Dunn Center, Borderless Arts Tennessee, Murfreesboro City Schools Foundation, and Discovery Center, where she was the 2015 Kids First honoree.

Seivers was appointed to the Education Commission of the States by Gov. Bill Haslam and to the Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities by governors Ned McWherter and Don Sundquist. She served on the Tennessee Board of Regents, University of Tennessee Trustees, and the U.S. Department of Education task force on growth models. As a member of the Council of Chief State School Officers, she testified before the U.S. Senate Education Subcommittee for K-12 Education.

Upon graduating from MTSU in 1972, Seivers was a teacher, director of early childhood education, and principal in Oak Ridge Schools and was appointed director of Schools in Clinton in 1988. She earned her master's degree and doctorate from the University of Tennessee. A native of east Tennessee, she has one son, Matthew.



FACULTY
TENURED AND PROMOTED

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



James Hart

Department of Mathematical Sciences
Promoted to Professor

James Hart earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics with High Honors from Hendrix College in 1986, a Master of Science in Mathematics from Vanderbilt University in 1988, and a Ph.D. in Mathematics from Vanderbilt University in 1991. Hart joined the Department of Mathematical Sciences at

MTSU in 1991 and has taught courses ranging from college algebra to graduate seminars, including the calculus sequence, linear and abstract algebra, Boolean algebra, and topology. He has directed eight master's theses and currently serves as department graduate program coordinator.

Hart, who places great importance on actively engaging his students in the learning process, was one of the recipients of the 2017–18 MTSU Foundation Outstanding Teacher Award. He trains upper division and graduate students in the science and art of formal reasoning and proof through one-on-one interaction, small group work, peer-to-peer disputation, and direct participation in his research. Hart has recently published papers on information systems and the interface between graph theory and lattice theory jointly with master's students Zack French and Brian Frazier. He also co-directed an Honors thesis for undergraduate Marilin Kelley, who presented her findings at the 2019 meeting of the Research in Undergraduate Mathematics Education.

Hart helped pioneer the use of the inquiry-oriented Pathways to Calculus precalculus materials at MTSU in 2014 and remains active in the mentoring and professional development of precalculus instructors. He used this experience to create inquiry-based materials for the undergraduate courses Abstract Algebra I and II and for the graduate course Sets and Logic. Hart is currently developing inquiry-based Calculus I and II courses that build upon Pathways to Calculus and embody the principles and research behind this text. He is also a writer for the National Science Foundation-funded project Methods of Doing, Understanding, Learning and Educating Secondary Schools (MODULES2) directed by Jeremy Strayer and Alyson Lischka.



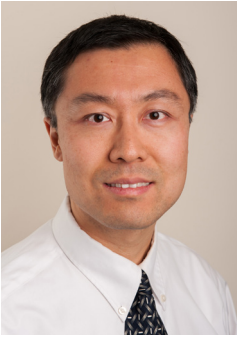
Jon Huddleston

*School of Concrete
and Construction Management*

Promoted to Clinical Associate Professor

Jon Huddleston is currently the director of the Concrete Industry Management (CIM) program at Middle Tennessee State University. He received both his B.S. in Concrete Industry Management (2006) and his M.B.A. (2009) from Middle Tennessee State University. Before joining MTSU as an assistant professor, he instructed students and conducted research for the CIM department as the lab manager from 2007 to 2014.

Huddleston currently teaches CIM courses at the junior and senior level, including Concrete Construction Methods, Understanding Concrete Construction, Concrete Industry Internship, Management of Concrete Production-Facilities/Ordering, Management of Concrete-Cement, Senior Concrete Lab, Decorative Concrete, and Production Sales and Service Capstone. He has been involved in numerous industry field studies and research grants for the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). 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. He can often be seen around the campus, as his Decorative Concrete and Constructions Methods classes have been responsible for a number of on-campus concrete pours and decorative applications including the Raider Walk. Huddleston also has promoted experiential learning with his students by leading study abroad trips to the United Kingdom's National Construction College at Bircham Newton, where students build a scaled replica of a cable-stayed concrete bridge.



Lei Miao

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

Lei Miao earned a Ph.D. from Boston University and master's and bachelor's degrees from Northeastern University of China, in 2006, 2001, and 1998, respectively. From 2006 to 2009, he was with Nortel Networks in Billerica, Massachusetts, and developed ultra-high-speed ethernet routing switches and several

IEEE protocols, including IEEE 802.1ah provider backbone bridges. From 2009 to 2011, he was a visiting assistant professor at the University of Cincinnati. From 2011 to 2014, Miao worked as a senior wireless networking and software engineer at NuVo Technologies/Legrand North America in Hebron, Kentucky. In this role, he designed, optimized, and tested NuVo wireless whole-home audio systems. From 2014 to 2015, he was an assistant professor at the State University of New York in Farmingdale. Miao joined Middle Tennessee State University in 2015 as an assistant professor in the newly established Mechatronics Engineering program.

Miao has had over 15 years of research and development experience in systems control and optimization, computer networking, and intelligent transportation systems (ITS). He has had one book and over 30 publications in refereed conferences and journals, including *IEEE INFOCOM*, *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*, and *IEEE Transactions on Control of Network Systems*. Miao has served six technical conferences as the general chair, the session chair, or the track chair. He has been a reviewer for a number of renowned technical journals, including *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*, *IEEE Transactions on Control of Networked Systems*, and *Discrete Event Dynamic Systems: Theory and Applications*.



Joshua L. Phillips

Department of Computer Science

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Joshua L. Phillips has a B.S. in Computer Science (2002) from Middle Tennessee State University, an M.S. in Computer Science (2004) from Vanderbilt University, and a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (2012) from the University of California-Merced.

He worked as a Nicholas C. Metropolis Post-Doctoral Fellow at Los Alamos National Laboratory before joining the Department of Computer Science at MTSU in 2014 as an assistant professor.

Phillips' research interests are in artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, and computational biophysics. Particular examples include neurobiologically inspired models of working memory for robust AI, unsupervised machine learning applied to computational electrostatics for protein engineering and HIV vaccine development, and AI-inspired methods for accelerating in silico protein folding. Phillips has collaboratively helped secure over \$3.5 million in funding from the National Science Foundation for student scholarships, undergraduate research, and applied machine learning research. He also helped develop MTSU's new B.S. in Data Science program, and he continues to aid development of Data Science programs at the graduate level.



Nate Phillips

School of Agriculture

Promoted to Professor

Nate Phillips earned a B.S. in Horticulture followed by a Ph.D. in Plant Science from Utah State University. He has been a faculty member at Middle Tennessee State University in the School of Agriculture since 2007. He teaches a wide variety of horticulture classes and serves

as the program coordinator for the Plant and Soil Science program.

Phillips' primary research interests focus on the environmental influences impacting plant propagation, establishment, and growth in horticultural crops. He is an enthusiastic supporter of undergraduate research, having mentored 17 funded undergraduate research projects, including one awarded the best undergraduate research poster at the national American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS) meetings, and three that took top honors at the Southern Region ASHS meeting. Another was awarded first place in the biology section of the Tennessee Academy of Sciences meeting.

Phillips has published articles in a wide range of journals, including *HortScience*, *Flora*, *Acta Horticulturea*, the *Journal of the American Pomological Society*, *Field Crops Research*, *Seed Technology*, and the *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society*. He is an active long-term member of the national ASHS and the Southern Region ASHS.

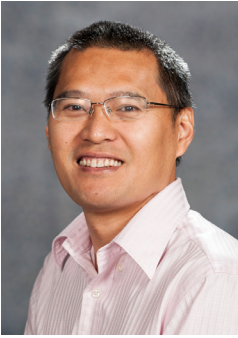
Phillips serves as an advisor to the MTSU Plant and Soil Science Club, coaches the horticulture team, and manages the horticulture center greenhouses and the annual plant sales. He has volunteered with the Rutherford County Sheriff's Department Gardens of Hope, gives gardening talks locally, was the advisor for the National Association of Collegiate Horticultural Clubs, and served as the chair of the ASHS Collegiate Activities Committee. He is currently the advisor for the Southern Region ASHS Association of Collegiate Clubs and is responsible for organizing and running the student activities and competitions at the annual conferences.

**Kelly C. Strong**

*School of Concrete
and Construction Management
Tenured*

Kelly C. Strong joins MTSU in the fall as a professor and director of the School of Concrete and Construction Management. He received his baccalaureate degree in Civil Engineering from Iowa State University, an M.B.A. from the University of St. Thomas, and a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado. He has been teaching project management-related courses for over 25 years at Michigan Technological University, Iowa State University, Colorado State University, and the University of Northern Iowa.

Strong has acted as principal investigator on numerous research projects involving case study research, survey research, expert panel/expert opinion research, and database queries and analysis. He has delivered numerous final reports for state, regional, and national research sponsors. Strong has completed a range of research projects in the areas of risk assessment and mitigation, work zone safety, project management, workforce development, and innovative contracting and financing for public infrastructure projects. He has been active in numerous professional organizations in the construction industry, including Associated General Contractors and Design Build Institute of America.



Qiang Wu

*Department of Mathematical Sciences
Promoted to Professor*

Qiang Wu earned his Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from City University of Hong Kong in 2005 and received postdoctoral training in statistics and machine learning at Duke University from 2005 to 2008. He joined the Department of Mathematical Sciences at MTSU in 2011 and was promoted to associate professor in 2015. Wu is

also a faculty member of MTSU's Computational Science Ph.D. program, with two students having earned their doctorates under his supervision.

Wu's research interests include computational learning theory and high dimensional data mining. His research has focused on the mathematical foundations of support vector machines, regularization kernel methods, information theoretical learning, and distributed learning for big data. He has also developed feature selection and dimension reduction algorithms and applied them in stylometry and biomedical data analysis. Wu has published more than 60 peer-reviewed journal/conference papers. His publications can be found in highly ranked applied mathematics and machine learning journals such as *Applied and Computational Harmonic Analysis*, *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, and *IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing*. As of July 2020, his publications have been cited more than 2,100 times.

Wu has been awarded several external grants. He was the principal investigation (PI) of an SOA Educational Institution Grant and a Collaboration Grant for Mathematicians from Simons Foundation, and co-PI of a Tennessee Board of Regents research grant, a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant, and the Tennessee Health Rate Review Project. Wu also received five internal grants.



V. Paige Youngkins

*Department of Physics and Astronomy
Promoted to Senior Instructor*

V. Paige Youngkins received her B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Tennessee Technological University and her Ph.D. in Physics from Texas Christian University. During her time at Tennessee Tech, she received a fellowship from NASA for a research project on engine health of the space shuttle main engine. During graduate

school, she continued her association with NASA by earning a fellowship from the Texas Space Grant Consortium.

Youngkins later worked at Lockheed Martin in Fort Worth, Texas, performing operations analysis during the research and design phase of the F-35 aircraft. After moving to Tennessee, she worked as a senior software engineer for Schneider Electric for several years before joining the Physics and Astronomy Department at MTSU in 2007. Youngkins has since been involved with curriculum development for the algebra-based Physics sequence and D2L development for Astronomy laboratories. She was promoted to instructor in 2018.



Kathryn G. Blankenship

*Department of Health and Human Performance
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Kathryn G. Blankenship has a B.S. in Communication Disorders from the University of Houston, an M.S. in Communication Disorders from the University of Texas–Dallas, and a Ph.D. in Speech and Hearing Sciences from Vanderbilt University. She has worked clinically as a speech language pathologist with both

adults and children with hearing loss and intellectual disabilities in a variety of settings in Houston and Nashville prior to coming to MTSU in 2014.

Blankenship teaches courses in the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology program (SLPA). She teaches courses in typical language and literacy development from birth to adolescence, aural rehabilitation in children and adults, research methods in communication disorders, and communication disorders in pop culture. Additionally, she provides clinical supervision to undergraduate students in the SLPA program.

Blankenship's research interests include children with hearing loss, language and literacy development in children, vocabulary learning in college students, clinical supervision, and teaching pedagogy. She has published research in a variety of scholarly journals and presented her work at numerous national conferences. Blankenship is most proud of her work mentoring undergraduate students' research projects in the areas of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Psychology, which has led to both publications and presentations.



Beverly K. Clanton

*Department of Health and Human Performance
Promoted to Master Instructor Coordinator*

Beverly K. Clanton earned a B.S. in Physical Education, an M.S. in Health, and a Ph.D. in Human Performance from Middle Tennessee State University. She has spent the last 15 years of her professional life at MTSU, where she serves as the senior instructor coordinator of graduate teaching assistants (GTAs) and adjuncts and the activities program in the Department of Health and Human Performance (HHP).

As senior instructor coordinator, Clanton works with GTAs and adjuncts in the areas of Exercise Science, Health, Leisure and Sport Management, and Physical Education and is responsible for their work schedules, training, and professional development. In her role as the activities coordinator, Clanton oversees all physical activity courses, including scheduling, instructor assignment, and curriculum revision. Clanton has developed four online courses, was co-principal investigator for three grants, and was the director for the MTSU Special Operations Dive Training Program. In addition to her role as senior instructor coordinator, she teaches upper-division courses in Health and Physical Education.



Catherine Crooks

Department of Psychology

Promoted to Master Instructor

Catherine Crooks is a master instructor in the Department of Psychology at Middle Tennessee State University. Her research and teaching expertise is in the area of health behavior. Crooks received her undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University Baylor College of Dentistry, her M.Ed. from the University of Houston, and her Ph.D. in

Health Education from the University of Tennessee.

Crooks has published numerous peer-reviewed articles and is the author of one book. Her past research focused on breast cancer prevention and community-based smoking cessation interventions. More recently, she and a colleague received external funding from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation and the Baptist Healing Trust to design and implement health literacy programs in the community.

Crooks values experiential and service learning and has implemented service learning in all of her upper-division classes. One of her experiential learning projects is a unique, collaborative service project between students in Crooks' health psychology class and a colleague's research methods class. Crooks has received many teaching awards at MTSU: Outstanding Experiential Learning (EXL) Faculty, 2017; Outstanding Honors Faculty, 2006–07 and 2007–08; and the MTSU Outstanding Teaching Award, 2003.

Crooks teaches mindfulness meditation on campus, in the community, and at the Osher Center for Integrative Medicine at Vanderbilt. She recently completed advanced training and certification in facilitating Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) from Vanderbilt University.



Thomas J. Jurkanin

*Department of Criminal Justice Administration
Promoted to Professor*

Thomas J. Jurkanin is a professor in the Department of Criminal Justice Administration. Jurkanin has more than 45 years of experience in the field of criminal justice. He was hired as a deputy sheriff in a small county in Illinois at the age of 19. While working full-time, Jurkanin completed his bachelor's, master's and doctoral

degrees, graduating with a Ph.D. in Social Justice and Education at age 28 from Southern Illinois University.

Jurkanin worked for several Illinois law enforcement agencies. At age 36, he became the youngest agency director in Illinois state government, when he was appointed executive director of the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board. In this capacity, he oversaw the training of more than 40,000 Illinois law enforcement and correctional officers, directed the administration of eight training academies, and implemented many innovative programs to professionalize criminal justice agencies and personnel. Jurkanin served as executive director for 17 years, worked for four governors, and retired from the position in 2009. Upon his retirement, Jurkanin received the High Sheriff Award from the Illinois Sheriffs' Association. He is one of only three individuals to receive this distinguished award in the 100-year history of the Illinois Sheriffs' Association.

Jurkanin is founder and editor-in-chief of the *Law Enforcement Executive Forum*. He is the author of four books on policing and has published numerous journal articles.

Jurkanin has been a faculty member at MTSU for 12 years. He teaches courses in policing, criminal theory, and management and leadership. In addition, he has established and maintains a collaborative research and study program with the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration in Vladimir, and has traveled, studied, and lectured in Russia for the past 20 years.



Jasmine Kwon Vu

Department of Human Sciences

Promoted to Professor

Jasmin Kwon Vu has been with MTSU since 2007. She has a B.S. in Apparel and Textiles from Yeungnam University and an M.S. and a Ph.D. in Fashion Marketing from Kyoungpook National University in South Korea. After earning her degrees, she conducted her post-doctoral research at the University of Kentucky. Prior

to joining MTSU, she taught at the University of Kentucky.

Her research program addresses questions of the e-fashion industry, consumers' seasonal shopping behavior, and materialism, and she has been invited to speak in Australia, Germany, South Korea, Spain, Thailand, and Turkey. Strong student evaluations, a total of 13 "person who made a difference" letters from graduating students, being recognized as an inspirational faculty by MT Phi Kappa Phi, being nominated for the MTSU outstanding teacher, and joining the MT Engage faculty community reflect her passion for teaching.

Kwon Vu has been a member of many professional organizations, including the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE), American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, the International Vocational Education and Training Association, and the American Association of University Women. She served as an IFHE representative at the 66th United Nations DPI/NGO conference for Education for Global Citizenship in South Korea in 2016.

She has volunteered her time for Habitat for Humanity, Nashville Korean School, MT Korean Club, and the Fashion and Design Student (FADS) organization. She has organized and led several international fashion study abroad programs to Belgium, England, France, Italy, and Spain, and numerous fashion industry field trips with the Textiles, Merchandising, and Design majors.

Her hobbies include walking the dog and playing piano and violin.



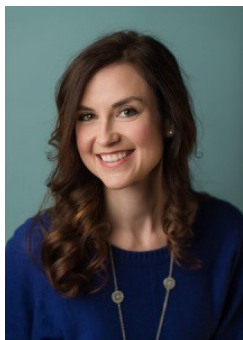
Chandra R. Story

*Department of Health and Human Performance
Tenured*

Chandra R. Story has a B.S. in Medical Technology from the University of Tennessee, Master of Health Science (Health Promotion) from Boise State University, and a Ph.D. in Community Health Education from the University of Tennessee. She is also a Master Certified Health Education Specialist. Her career began with clinical work as a certified medical technologist in diverse settings across five states.

After receiving her Master of Health Science, Story served as a statewide grant project coordinator and communications manager for U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration projects. In 2013, Story was appointed as an assistant professor of Health Education at Oklahoma State University. During this time, she delivered a TEDx talk on cultural social support and wellness. In 2017, Story was appointed as an associate professor with the MTSU Department of Health and Human Performance.

Since then, Story has published numerous articles and conducted presentations on the topic of health disparities. Her primary research focus is the use of culturally responsive assessment and program evaluation to promote health equity. Story's evaluation portfolio includes mental health, women's health, and HIV/AIDS advocacy programs. She provides consultation for program evaluation on several projects and is an alumnus of the American Evaluation Association fellows program. In spring 2020, Story was appointed to the Tennessee Office of Minority Health, Health Disparities Task Force. She also received an influential faculty award from the Tennessee chapter of Phi Kappa Phi. Currently, Story serves as graduate director for the Department of Health and Human Performance.



Bethany Wrye

*Department of Health and Human Performance
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Bethany Wrye, Ph.D, MCHES, has a B.A. in both Biology and Spanish from Lipscomb University and an M.S. in Experimental Psychology and a Ph.D. in Health and Human Performance, both from Middle Tennessee State University. Prior to MTSU, she held faculty positions at Belmont University and Tennessee State

University. Previously, she has served as the chair of Tennessee Public Health Association's Academics Section and the program vice president for the Murfreesboro chapter of the American Association of University Women. Wrye has spoken at several professional gatherings, including the Coalition for Healthy and Safe Campus Communities' Partners in Prevention Conference, the Southern States Communication Association's Annual Conference, and the Tennessee Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance Annual Conference.

In addition to being committed to supporting students in their own research interests, her scholarly focus is two-pronged. First, Wrye is interested in the use of technology to improve pedagogy, particularly through the use of ePortfolio. She led a professional learning community centered on the implementation of MT Engage, MTSU's Quality Enhancement Plan, which involved incorporating ePortfolios at the program level, and she is currently working on projects designed to facilitate successful implementation of ePortfolio-based assignments and to measure the impact of this implementation. Additionally, she is involved in a project that explores the relationship between moral disengagement and adverse childhood experiences. Wrye currently serves as a reviewer for several professional journals, including *Health Promotion and Practice*, *Education + Training*, and the *Journal of Interprofessional Care*, and she directs the undergraduate Community and Public Health program.



Joshua R. Aaron

Department of Management

Promoted to Professor

Joshua R. Aaron holds the Pam Wright Chair of Entrepreneurship at Middle Tennessee State University. Originally from Lenoir City, Tennessee, he has a Ph.D. in Strategic Management (2008), an M.B.A. in Strategic Management (2003), and a B.S. in Accounting (2001), all from the University of Alabama. He held academic positions at Georgia State University and East Carolina University before arriving at MTSU in 2014. Prior to academia, he was an auditor at Ernst and Young LLP in Birmingham, Alabama. He currently serves on the board of directors for the Small Business Institute and for Locally Owned Murfreesboro.

Aaron teaches Strategic Management at both the undergraduate and M.B.A. levels and serves as the chair of the M.B.A. committee. He has consulted with several for-profit businesses, nonprofits, and civic organizations. His research focuses on executive compensation for large and small firms, leadership, strategic issues facing small and medium enterprises, and corporate reputation.

Aaron serves as an associate editor for the *Journal of Small Business Strategy*. He has published 28 peer-reviewed articles in journals such as *Journal of Business Research*, *Journal of Management Education*, *Journal of Small Business Strategy*, *International Journal of Organizational Analysis*, *Journal of Education for Business*, *Nonprofit Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, and *Corporate Reputation Review*.



Stoney Brooks

*Department of Information Systems and Analytics
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Stoney Brooks has a B.B.A in Marketing, a B.S. in Computer Information Systems from Mesa State College, an M.S. in Computer Information Systems from Colorado State University, and a Ph.D. in Management Information Systems from Washington State University.

Before earning his doctorate, he operated his own computing business and worked as a systems developer for Avanade. In 2014, Brooks was hired as an assistant professor with MTSU's Department of Information Systems and Analytics. Since coming to MTSU, he has created custom software for local businesses and provided training on database querying.

His research accomplishments have focused on the effects of social media use on individuals, negative psychological outcomes of technology-related overload, social media use in entrepreneurial endeavors, and other technological areas. In 2018, Brooks was recognized as the 2018–19 Bridgestone Americas Distinguished Lecturer and received the E.W. "Wink" Midgett Research Award. He has served as a reviewer for numerous journals such as *Management Information Systems Quarterly*, *Information Systems Journal*, and *Computers in Human Behavior*. He has served on the editorial team for the *International Conference on Information Systems*, *Americas Conference on Information Systems*, and *European Conference on Information Systems*. He currently serves as the executive treasurer for the Society to Advance Information Systems within MBAA International. Whenever possible, he enjoys traveling. He has been to 49 states and 37 countries so far.



Laura Buckner

Department of Marketing

Promoted to Master Instructor Coordinator

Laura Buckner is the senior internship coordinator and an instructor in the Department of Marketing. As the internship coordinator, she works with students to secure real-world work experience with businesses throughout the middle Tennessee area. Buckner serves on the IGNITE professional development program committee, supports student organizations, and participated in the faculty learning community for Career-Oriented Courses. In addition to teaching in the areas of professional preparation and professional sales, she was among the first to become a trainer for the Jones College of Business' Dale Carnegie Communications and Human Relations Seminar.

Buckner was a 2017–18 Faculty Fellow, earned the EXL Outstanding Faculty Award in 2019, served as the interim director for the IGA Office of Professional Sales, and led study abroad trips to Finland, Sweden, and Estonia. In 2015, she was the first recipient of the E. W. "Wink" Midgett Distinguished Service Award. She is currently working to secure the Quality Matters Teaching Online Certificate.



Leigh Anne Clark

*Department of Management
Promoted to Professor*

Leigh Anne Clark has a Ph.D. in Business Administration (Organization Studies) from Southern Illinois University, a J.D. from Emory University, and a B.A. in Psychology from Mississippi State University. Believing that most people want to contribute in a meaningful way through their work and relationships, she focuses on the impact that strong leadership and management have on others.

Most recently, Clark has worked with Deanna Raffo to develop an applied, hands-on leadership development training intensive course that explores Kouzes and Posner's *The Leadership Challenge*. Participants, no matter where they are in their leadership journey, identify the next steps and tools to get them to where they want to go. Clark is also serving as the Jones College of Business' inaugural Tolbert Faculty Fellow in Business Ethics. In this role, she serves as the champion for business ethics activities and initiatives, including developing an applied business ethics initiative and coordinating the Tom and Martha Boyd Ethical Leadership Week.

In 2018, Clark received the E. W. "Wink" Midgett Distinguished Service Award in Jones College for her service to the University and community. She has served as the coordinator of the Department of Management's Excellence in Nonprofit Leadership and Social Innovation Initiative and has been key to graduate and undergraduate curriculum development in these areas. Clark also is the advisor for the minor in Nonprofit Management.

Her research is guided by her work experience and legal background. She has published papers on leader credibility, privacy and technology, and the ethics of employer online background checks. One of her articles was re-published in *Ethical Issues in Business (2nd Edition)* to generate discussion about online character checks.

Prior to pursuing a Ph.D., Clark was an attorney in Georgia focusing on disability and aging issues. She worked for the Georgia Attorney General's Office, AARP, and the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities; ran her own consulting practice; and was the executive director of the Disability Law and Policy Center of Georgia.



Rebecca A. Foote

Department of Accounting

Promoted to Master Instructor Coordinator

Rebecca A. Foote has a B.S. in Home Economics Education from Ohio State University and an M.S. in Accounting/Information Systems from Middle Tennessee State University. She joined the faculty of the Department of Accounting in Spring 2006 and was promoted to senior instructor coordinator in August 2019. Foote earned her Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license in 2004 while employed with Dempsey, Vantrease & Follis, PLLC, a Murfreesboro CPA firm. Her license remains active in the state of Tennessee, and she holds membership in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Tennessee Society of CPAs, and Tennessee Society of Accounting Educators. Foote teaches Principles of Accounting II for Accounting majors.

Foote is also the instructor of record for and coordinates the CPA exam review courses that are required curriculum in the M.Acc. program for graduate students who are studying and sitting for the CPA exam. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, she coordinates all aspects of the Intermediate Readiness Initiative, which has twice been identified as a “best practice” by AACSB’s accounting accreditation team. She has received several teaching awards since joining the faculty at MTSU, including the MTSU Outstanding Teacher Award. Additionally, Foote is a recipient of the Jones College E.W. “Wink” Midgett Distinguished Teaching Award and four-time recipient of the Jones College Gamma Iota Sigma Outstanding Professor Award.



Keith Jacks Gamble

*Department of Economics and Finance
Promoted to Professor*

Keith Jacks Gamble has an A.B. in Economics from Harvard College and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California. After earning his degrees, he continued his research as a Whitebox post-doctoral fellow at the Yale School of Management and his teaching as a lecturer at Yale College. In 2009, Gamble

joined the Department of Finance at DePaul University as an assistant professor. In 2016, Gamble was hired as the chair of the Department of Economics and Finance at MTSU. His research interests are in financial decision-making and behavioral finance.

His most impactful research has been in the area of aging with a focus on the financial decision-making of seniors, including the consequences of cognitive decline and financial fraud. Gamble has taught courses in Economics and Finance across four universities from the undergraduate to the Ph.D. level. He employs versatile teaching methods that can translate to on-ground, hybrid, and online classroom formats. His recent development of an online course in personal financial planning was nominated for the Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology Award. Gamble has served as an Honors thesis advisor, dissertation committee member, or dissertation chair for many students. He currently serves the University as the chair of the Council of Chairs and a member of the Positive Aging Consortium.



Andrea Seaton Kelton

Department of Accounting

Tenured

Andrea Seaton Kelton holds a Ph.D. in Accounting from the University of Tennessee and a B.B.A. and M.S. in Accounting from James Madison University. She worked as an auditor for KPMG LLP in Washington, D.C., and Denver, before entering academia. Kelton teaches courses in accounting analytics, accounting information systems, and forensic accountancy and fraud auditing. She also serves as an academic advisor for the Master of Accountancy program.

Kelton's research investigates how characteristics of accounting systems impact the usefulness of accounting information and, ultimately, decisions made by market participants. Her research has been published in top academic journals, including *Accounting, Organizations and Society*, *Journal of Information Systems*, *Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory*, *Journal of Accounting and Public Policy*, and *International Journal of Accounting Information Systems*. Kelton's research has been recognized with Best Paper awards from two academic journals and a Notable Contribution to the Literature Award from the Accounting Information Systems Academy. Her research has also been highlighted in media outlets such as the *Wall Street Journal*, *Fortune*, and *The Atlantic*.

Kelton serves on the editorial boards of three academic journals: *Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory*, *The Journal of Information Systems*, and *Current Issues in Auditing*. Prior to joining MTSU, she was a faculty member at Wake Forest University and the University of South Florida.



Audrey N. Scarlata

Department of Accounting

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Audrey N. Scarlata holds a Ph.D. in Accounting from the University of Kentucky and an M.B.A. and B.B.A. from Morehead State University. Prior to joining Middle Tennessee State University, Scarlata taught accounting information systems and managerial accounting at the University of Louisville. At MTSU she has taught internal

audit and currently teaches both managerial and cost accounting. Scarlata has served as the coordinator of the Internal Audit Education Partnership (IAEP) program as well as advisor to the student chapters of Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) and Institute of Management Accountants (IMA). She currently serves as the Director of the Master of Accountancy (M.Acc.) program.

Her primary area of research focuses on accounting and audit technology and how technology and knowledge interact to affect decision outcomes in financial analysis and audit tasks. Another key area of focus is the characteristics of the internal audit profession and factors impacting the size of the internal audit function, as well as technology use in internal audit. Scarlata also conducts research on the current and future state of the accounting profession, critical thinking in education, and mentor relationships in accounting. Previous articles have been published in journals such as *Accounting Horizons*, *Critical Perspectives on Accounting*, and the *Journal of Information Systems*.



Rajesh V. Srivastava

Department of Management

Promoted to Professor

Rajesh (Raj) V. Srivastava has a B.E. in Production Engineering and an M.B.A. and Ph.D. in Marketing from the University of North Texas. After finishing his Ph.D., he joined the University of Louisiana–Lafayette as an assistant professor of Marketing, earning tenure and promotion to associate professor. He was awarded the Col. Migiliorino and Lt. Col. Piccione Faculty Award for Research Excellence (2002–03) and was also named Acadiana Bottling Endowed Professor in Marketing (2004–05). He joined Middle Tennessee State University’s Jones College of Business in 2005 as an associate professor of Marketing and earned tenure in 2010. He has taught several marketing courses at the undergraduate and graduate level at MTSU.

Srivastava represented the Department of Marketing in MTSU’s Senate for the last two years and was a member of the Steering Committee of the Senate for the past year.

Srivastava has been very active in the field of marketing. He has published 29 journal articles, a third of which are ranked as A-level journals by the ABDC. He has presented his research in 42 conferences and has served as track chair in several of those conferences. He has been active as a reviewer for several journals and conferences for the past 20 years. He is also guest co-editor for an upcoming issue of *Journal of Managerial Issues*.



Cheryl B. Ward

*Department of Management
Promoted to Professor*

Cheryl B. Ward received her Ph.D. in Marketing from the University of Kentucky. Her undergraduate degree is in Journalism with an emphasis in Public Relations/Advertising, and she also has a Master of Business Administration. Her primary areas of research include gender roles, dyadic decision-making, ethics, attitudes,

and higher education.

Ward has published 24 articles in journals such as *Journal of Marketing for Higher Education*, *Journal of Product and Brand Management*, the *Association for Consumer Research*, the *Academy of Marketing Studies Journal*, *Journal of Consumer Marketing*, the *Journal of Applied Business Research*, and *Services Marketing Quarterly*. She has presented papers at more than 30 academic conferences, where she has received a number of research awards. Additionally, she has received six research grants and has served as a guest co-editor for a special edition of the *Journal of Managerial Issues*. For many years, Ward has actively participated in the Society of Marketing Advances, where she served as director of academic placement services for three years.

Ward's primary teaching interests are consumer behavior, international marketing, and principles of marketing. She is a member of the MTSU graduate faculty and has been cited as an "MTSU Person Who Makes a Difference" numerous times. Additionally, she has developed two online classes and participates in MTSU's MT Engage program. Recently, she has channeled her love of consumer behavior and international travel into study abroad programs to London and Dublin. Ward was awarded the Distinguished Assistant Professorship Award by the Jones College of Business Professional Advisory Board.



Tammy R. Waymire

Department of Accounting

Tenured and Promoted to Professor

Tammy R. Waymire, Ph.D., CPA, has a passion for governmental and nonprofit accounting, which is reflected in all facets of her academic career: teaching, research, service, and engagement with the profession. Her professional experiences, prior to pursuing a Ph.D., include auditing governmental and nonprofit entities, investigating and testifying in Medicaid fraud cases, and analyzing and testifying in public utility ratemaking proceedings.

Waymire's research has been published in the *Journal of Governmental and Nonprofit Accounting*; *Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting & Financial Management*; *Issues in Accounting Education*; *Public Budgeting & Finance*; *Nonprofit Management and Leadership*; *Journal of Emerging Technologies in Accounting*; *Journal of Government Financial Management*; *Journal of Accounting Education*; *Journal of Public Affairs Education*; *Nonprofit Policy Forum*; *Advances in Management Accounting*; and *CPA Journal*. She serves on the editorial boards of three journals: *Journal of Governmental and Nonprofit Accounting*, *Issues in Accounting Education*, and *Journal of Accounting Education*.

Waymire is past president of the American Accounting Association Government and Nonprofit Section (2018–19). She is currently serving a four-year term as the sole academic member of the Financial Accounting Standards Board's Not-for-Profit Advisory Committee. She serves on the XBRL U.S. State and Local Government Disclosure Modernization Working Group.

Waymire is the author of two Bloomberg portfolios—*Governmental Accounting: Fundamental Principles* and *Accounting for Mergers and Acquisitions of Not-for-Profit Entities*. This year, she joins the second edition of the Cambridge Business Publishers textbook, *Accounting for Governmental & Nonprofit Organizations*. She routinely makes presentations at academic and practitioner conferences, including the American Accounting Association, Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, Tennessee Society of CPAs, Intergovernmental Audit Forum, Government Finance Officers Association, and the Association of Government Accountants.

At both MTSU and Northern Illinois University, where she began her academic career, Waymire has earned awards for excellence in teaching and research. She holds a B.S. in Accounting from Arkansas Tech University, an M.B.A. from Harding University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas.



Kelly L. Williams

Department of Accounting

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Kelly L. Williams earned her Ph.D. in Accounting, with a minor in Management Information Systems at the University of Mississippi. She received both her M.B.A. and B.S.A. from Christian Brothers University in Memphis. Also a CPA, she previously worked in public accounting, specializing in automobile dealerships, and private accounting, specializing in risk and insurance. Williams has held instructor and lead instructor positions for Becker Professional Education. In 2014, she was hired as an assistant professor with the MTSU Department of Accounting.

Williams is now the lead author of the “Technology Q&A” column of *Journal of Accountancy*. She has published in other journals, such as *Issues in Accounting Education* and *Advances in Accounting Behavioral Research*. Williams has won the Outstanding Author Contribution in the 2019 Emerald Literati Awards and the 2019 Barbara D. Merino Award for Excellence in History Publication for her book *William A. Paton: A Study of His Accounting Thought*.

Williams is passionate about teaching and her students. Currently, she teaches Accounting Information Systems, Principles of Accounting, and Accounting Information for Managers for the Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) program. In addition to her other service activities, she is proud to serve as faculty advisor for the National Association of Black Accountants.



Jean Wilson

Department of Management

Promoted to Master Instructor Coordinator

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

In 2010, Wilson's passion for hands-on learning shifted to public service projects. She has written and received MTSU EXL grants, MTSU public service grants, and external grants from Lowe's. Three of her class projects were highlighted (Spring 2012, 2013, 2014) by the Office of Community and University Partnerships to help MTSU earn the designation of President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. During the period of Spring 2012–15, Wilson led her students to complete 10 public service projects; earned six matching fund awards from Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial; and raised (not including grants) nearly \$33,000 to benefit six local nonprofits.

In August 2019, she was promoted to senior instructor coordinator. Since August 2014, she has focused her attention on becoming a certified trainer of the Dale Carnegie program, earning that certification in August 2016, and is one of two trainers representing the Management Department. In April 2018, she was selected as the 2017–18 Outstanding Dale Carnegie Trainer, and in May 2020, Wilson earned her Dale Carnegie Accelerated Online Trainer Certification.



Shannon Harmon

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

Shannon Harmon earned her B.A. in Communications from Mississippi State University, her M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Mississippi, and her Ed.D. in Elementary Education from the University of Mississippi. In 2013, she joined MTSU where she works within the K–5 Elementary Education

program as an undergraduate professor teaching courses related to theory to practice, classroom management, and assessment. Harmon also serves as the K–5 Residency 1 coordinator, which allows her the opportunity to mentor teacher candidates and partner with schools in Rutherford and surrounding counties in middle Tennessee.

Harmon's research examines field-based experiences and aims to support teacher candidates in implementing instruction that meets the needs of all learners. This research supports the residency program as it seeks to produce candidates who are better prepared for the teaching field. She has been recognized for her work by the Tennessee Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, Association of Teacher Educators (ATE), and the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). Harmon's service activities include a three-year term on the Faculty Senate and Steering Committee, serving as a TDOE and CAEP site visitor for state and national accreditation, and co-chairing the 2020 ATE Clinical Fellows Symposium. In 2015, she was named MTSU's Favorite Professor in the 21st annual Ruthies Awards.



Kevin S. Krahenbuhl

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

Kevin S. Krahenbuhl has a B.A. in Education and History, as well as a Master of Liberal Studies with an emphasis on Borders: Migration and Culture from Arizona State University. During his undergraduate work, Krahenbuhl studied for a semester at Cambridge University focusing on medieval history. He worked as a secondary social studies teacher and athletic coach at Hamilton High School in Arizona as well as an adjunct professor of History for Chandler-Gilbert Community College. In addition to these experiences, Krahenbuhl ran the Arizona Interscholastic Association's girls golf state championships for several years. While working in these roles, he completed his Ed.D. from Northern Arizona University in Educational Leadership, including an emphasis on Higher Education.

In 2012, Krahenbuhl earned his doctorate and accepted a position as assistant professor of Social Studies Pedagogy at Dakota State University. For the next three years he supervised student teachers, worked with local school leadership to evaluate and improve instructional practices of practicing teachers, and began to build a research agenda focusing on teaching history, effective integration of technology, and enhancing learning in the classroom. Krahenbuhl was awarded the institutional service award for his service to the university, community, profession, and state in 2015.

Krahenbuhl joined Middle Tennessee State University in 2015 as assistant professor in the Womack Department of Educational Leadership and moved into a position of interim director for the Assessment, Learning, and School Improvement Ed.D. Program within the College of Education. Krahenbuhl has many publications, including his first book in 2018, *The Decay of Truth in Education*, published by Cambridge Scholars. He serves on the board of directors for the National Council for History Education and as a peer reviewer for the *Journal of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*, and *Applied Environmental Education and Communication*, and *Teaching History: A Journal of Methods*.



Eric Oslund

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

Eric Oslund is an associate professor in the Department of Elementary and Special Education and in the Literacy Studies Ph.D. program. He completed his B.S. at California Polytechnic State University and his M.A. in School Psychology from 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 member of numerous doctoral dissertation and thesis committees in the 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 dollars in funding. He has won national and international awards for his research and is a board member for the Mid-South Educational Research Association.



Michelle C. Stevens

*Womack Department of Educational Leadership
Promoted to Professor*

Michelle C. Stevens, Ph.D., LPC-MHSP, is a counselor educator, licensed professional counselor, and diversity and cultural competency educator. Stevens instructs master's level students in the necessary knowledge and skills to become clinical mental health and school counselors. She also teaches Black Psychology, a cross-listed course in the Africana Studies and Psychology undergraduate programs at MTSU. She is the principal investigator of the MTSU College of Education and Murfreesboro City School Cultural Competency Collaboration.

In addition to increasing cultural competency and proficiency, other areas of interest include the study of cultural issues and historical trauma in the Black community and mentoring throughout the pipeline. She is the author of a book chapter discussing historical trauma in the U.S. surrounding the Trayvon Martin tragedy, is co-author of book chapters highlighting counseling issues and development over the lifespan, and is the co-author of articles related to the experiences of immigrant college students. Stevens has presented at multiple national, regional, and local conferences discussing cultural competency issues as they relate to psychological well-being and has conducted many trainings focused on cultural competency and awareness, anxiety, and trauma. Additionally, Stevens has conducted several diversity and cultural awareness educational sessions and multiday trainings for mental health agencies, school systems, universities, and nonprofit organizations.

Stevens is a supervising licensed clinical mental health counselor in the state of Tennessee and has a small private practice in a nearby community. Her practice is focused on strength-based interventions, cognitive behavioral therapy, and LGBT+ affirming practices.



Priya Ananth

*Department of World Languages,
Literatures, and Cultures*

Promoted to Professor

Priya Ananth holds a B.S. from the University of Delhi, an M.A. from Jawaharlal Nehru University, and a Ph.D. in East Asian Languages and Literatures from Ohio State University. She joined the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures in 2008 and was

tenured and promoted to associate professor in 2014. She has taught all levels of Japanese language courses, in addition to creating and teaching courses in professional Japanese, Japanese and foreign language linguistics, and Japanese culture, and leading study abroad. As program coordinator, Ananth has been instrumental in developing the Japanese program curriculum through creating a Japanese major concentration as well as a Japanese language minor. She received the Outstanding Advisor Award from the College of Liberal Arts in 2012.

Ananth's scholarly work encompasses areas that are both disciplinary and interdisciplinary. Her works have appeared in peer-reviewed publications such as the *Journal of Japanese Linguistics*, *Theory and Practice of Second Language Acquisition Journal*, *Journal of the Canadian Association of Japanese Language Education*, *Kyoto University Linguistic Research Journal*, *Practical Assessment Tools for College Japanese*, and *Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Psychology*. In 2019, she co-edited a book, *Incorporating Foreign Language Content in Humanities Courses*, published by Routledge Press. She also has presented at numerous conferences at the national, regional, and state levels.

Ananth chaired the Hamako Ito Chaplin Memorial Award Committee, a national committee administered by the Association of Asian Studies that recognizes excellence in Japanese language teaching. She was conference chair for the 2017 Southeastern Association of Teachers of Japanese annual conference hosted at MTSU. Additionally, she served on the steering committee for the Tennessee Area Japanese Speech Contest for the past 12 years. Ananth was recognized by the Southeastern Association of Teachers of Japanese as the 2019 SEATJ Teacher of the Year for her outstanding teaching and leadership in the field of Japanese language education.



Meg Brooker

Department of Theatre and Dance

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Meg Brooker, director of Dance at MTSU, is an artist and scholar specializing in early modern dance. She is artistic director of Duncan Dance South, archive director for the Noyes School of Rhythm Foundation, a founder of the Isadora Duncan International Symposium, and a former company dancer with Lori

Belilove & Company/Isadora Duncan Dance Foundation (New York City), holding over 50 original Isadora Duncan choreographies in her repertory. Brooker has danced in national venues in Austin, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, New York, and Washington, and internationally in Austria, England, Greece, Holland, and Russia, where she traveled with MTSU dancers for three years.

Her award-winning Dancestry project was recognized as "Best of the Arts in Austin." In Tennessee, Brooker has appeared with Duncan Dance South at the Parthenon in Centennial Park, Nashville, and at the Hunter Museum of American Art in Chattanooga. As an educator, Brooker teaches master classes and stages Duncan work for university dance programs, performing arts high schools, and private pre-professional training programs. Her choreography has twice been selected by a panel of national adjudicators for inclusion in the American College Dance Association Regional Gala Concerts, and in 2016 she was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance grant for her work with the Noyes School of Rhythm Foundation Archives.

Brooker has presented scholarship on early modern dance for the Dance Studies Association, Society of Dance History Scholars, Congress on Research in Dance, National Dance Education Organization, and Women in Dance Leadership. She serves on the editorial board of *Dance Education in Practice*, and her writing has been published in *Theatre Topics*, *Dance Research Journal*, *Journal of Practical Psychologist* (trans. Russian), *Dance Studio Life*, and *Dance Teacher Magazine* (online). She holds an M.F.A. from the University of Texas and a B.A. from Yale.



Adam Clark

School of Music

Promoted to Professor

Praised for his artistry and intelligence as a soloist, chamber musician, and concerto soloist, Adam Clark has been heard throughout the United States, as well as in Belgium, Italy, Sweden, Australia, and South Korea. His performances have been broadcast on WPLN in Nashville, WMUK in Michigan, and MBC National

Television in South Korea.

A prize winner in numerous competitions, Clark has performed in venues such as Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall (New York), the Sejong Arts Center (South Korea), the Aronoff Center (Cincinnati), the Royal College of Music (Stockholm), and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music (Australia). He has performed with orchestras including the Manhattan Chamber Orchestra, Holland Symphony Orchestra, and San Luis Obispo Symphony, and he has collaborated with conductors Michael Nowak, Eduard Zilberkant, Richard Piippo, and Johannes Müller-Stosch, among others.

As a chamber musician, Clark has worked with members of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Nashville Symphony, Lexington Philharmonic, Austin Symphony, and the Weimar Staatskapelle. He has been featured on the acclaimed Grand Rapids Art Museum recital series and the Chamber Music Festival of Saugatuck, and is currently a member of MTSU's Stones River Chamber Players. He also has performed, recorded, and premiered works with the noted brass ensemble SymbiosisDuo.

Clark's students have garnered recognition for notable awards and performances. They have worked in master classes with renowned artists and pedagogues, won awards at local and state levels, performed major works with orchestra, and have been admitted to outstanding undergraduate and graduate programs in music across the country.

Clark holds degrees from the University of California–Santa Barbara, the University of Texas, and the University of Cincinnati College–Conservatory of Music. His former teachers include Charles Asche, Nancy Garrett, and Eugene and Elisabeth Pridonoff.



Andrew Dix

Department of Communication Studies
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Andrew Dix earned his Bachelor of Arts from Western Illinois University, his Master of Arts from Southern Illinois University–Edwardsville, and his Ph.D. from the University of Southern Mississippi. He came to Middle Tennessee State University in 2011 as a full-time instructor. His teaching philosophy centers on striking a balance between being an educator and an entertainer. Dad jokes and references to rap music from the late 1990s are staples in his lectures.

Dix is the sole author of 12 academic journal articles since coming to MTSU. His research investigated interpersonal attraction and the communication of humor and now focuses on the intersection of communication and sport. His most recent line of scholarship has concentrated on exposing socio-cultural issues in the world of intercollegiate athletics. More specifically, Dix uses statistical methods to uncover patterns of referee bias that have placed minority groups at a disadvantage in the field of play.

His publication in the *Howard Journal of Communications* uncovered evidence that referees disproportionately penalized women's college basketball players from historically black colleges and universities. The newsroom team at Taylor and Francis created a media release of his research. Several popular media outlets published the findings of his study, including diverseeducation.com, insidehighered.com, dailymail.com, the *Nashville Post*, Nashville Public Radio, *HBCUDigest*, and globalsportsmatters.com. His study in the *Howard Journal of Communications* is in the 98th percentile in terms of Altmetrics tracking of research outputs. His other sports communication research has examined athletes who have been linked to performance-enhancing drugs, and he has looked at the communication of deaf college basketball players.



Mary A. Evins

*Department of History/Honors College
Promoted to Research Professor*

Mary A. Evins earned her Ph.D. and A.M. in Anthropology from the University of Chicago and her M.A.T. in History and Sociology and her B.A. in History and Anthropology from Vanderbilt University. She conducted international research supported by the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago; Semitic

Museum, Harvard University; French National Center of Scientific Research, Paris; and American Research Institute in Turkey, Ankara. Before coming to MTSU, she held fellowships for five years at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Evins has been a faculty member of the MTSU Department of History since 2005 and resident faculty in the Honors College since 2017. She became coordinator of the MTSU American Democracy Project in 2009 and serves on the American Democracy Project national steering committee for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. She was co-facilitator of the long-running MTSU faculty learning community on civic learning, co-professor of a nine-year Raider Learning Community organized around citizenship, and principal investigator of the National Endowment for the Humanities statewide Bridging Cultures in Tennessee program, 2015-17, assisting Tennessee Board of Regents faculty in all disciplines in incorporating civic learning and democratic engagement into coursework across the curriculum. Evins was awarded an MTSU women's Trailblazer award in 2019 and the Honors College Exemplary Faculty Service award in 2020.

Her history research currently centers on Tennessee women's social, political, and economic agency at the turn of the last century. She edited the 2013 anthology *Tennessee's New Women in the New South during the Progressive Era* and is co-editing a companion volume on the activism and advocacy of Tennessee women leading up to the 19th Amendment.



Kelly A. Kolar

Department of History

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Kelly A. Kolar has a B.A. in History and Russian Studies, a Master of Library and Information Science, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Russian History from the University of California–Los Angeles. Before coming to Middle Tennessee State University, Kolar worked as an archivist and museum curator at the UCLA Performing Arts

Special Collections, University of Southern California Special Collections, and the Wende Museum of the Cold War. She has published and presented on archives and libraries in Russia and the Soviet Union in both the history and archival science fields and received a Fulbright-Hays award to support her research. Her most recent research project on the use of archives in state-sponsored historical revisionism in Putin-era Russia is supported by U.S. State Department Title VIII funding.

Kolar directs the archives specialization for the MTSU History Department's Public History M.A. and Ph.D. programs. She teaches courses on archives, museum collections management, and digital history. With her students, Kolar has overseen or co-created dozens of archival and collections projects, policy documents, and digital history products for local, regional, and national historical institutions. Since she began teaching at MTSU in 2013, Kolar's former graduate students have been employed at over 40 archives, libraries, and museums across the country. In addition to consulting work with local historical institutions, Kolar also has served the profession nationally as the chair of the History Section of her field's leading professional organization, the Society of American Archivists.



Leah Tolbert Lyons

*Department of World Languages,
Literatures, and Cultures
Promoted to Professor*

Leah Tolbert Lyons is an alumna of Middle Tennessee State University who went on to earn her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in French from Vanderbilt University as a Provost's Fellow. Since joining the MTSU faculty in 2001, she has taught French language, literature, and film at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Lyons has demonstrated a strong commitment to general education teaching throughout her career, regularly teaching a humanities general education course on foreign literature known as "Crazy Love." She has developed and offered courses that contribute to the Africana Studies program, African Studies minor, Film Studies minor, Humanities minor, and Master of Arts in Liberal Arts. During her time at MTSU, Lyons also has taught as a visiting professor in Cherbourg, France.

Lyons' academic expertise is in the area of francophone literature and film from Africa and its diaspora. More specifically, Lyons specializes in women writers and gender theory, as well as questions of madness, identity, mother-daughter relationships, and representations of romantic love. Within this field of specialization, Lyons has presented her research across the United States and abroad. She has published in English and in French, contributing to work from notable international presses. Her most recent scholarly work is a co-edited volume entitled *Incorporating Foreign Language Content in Humanities Courses*, published by Routledge.

Lyons has been selected to participate in faculty development seminars in Montreal, Canada, and Dakar, Senegal. She is also a graduate of the Higher Education Resource Services (HERS) Leadership Institute. Lyons was honored as the recipient of the 2020 John Pleas Award for excellence in teaching, research, and service. In addition to her faculty role, Lyons has held various positions, including interim department chair and director of the Master of Arts in Liberal Arts. She currently serves as an associate dean in the College of Liberal Arts.



Joseph E. Morgan

School of Music

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Joseph E. Morgan studied classical guitar and European history at the University of Pittsburgh, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts. At the University of Maryland, he earned his master's degree with a thesis titled "Five Depictions of Chaos" from the 18th Century. He moved to Boston, where he earned his Ph.D. in Historical

Musicology from Brandeis University writing on Carl Maria von Weber's Romanticism and particularly his last opera *Oberon*. He has served on the faculties of Boston University, Brandeis University, Johnson and Wales University, Montgomery College, New England Conservatory, the Walnut Hill School for the Arts, and Harvard University.

His primary research focuses on the dramatic music, theory, and aesthetics of Germany in the early 19th century. He has presented research on E.T.A. Hoffmann, Robert Schumann, Richard Wagner, Giacomo Meyerbeer, and Carl Maria von Weber at various regional, national, and international conferences and published in the *Indiana Theory Review and Notes* and *Sineris: Revista de Musicologia*.

His first book, *Carl Maria von Weber: Cosmopolitanism in the Early German Romantic*, published by Rowman & Littlefield, reassesses Weber's work and aesthetics not just for their influence but also as an expression of the aesthetics and cosmopolitanism that underlie the early Romantic and Nationalist movement in Germany. His second book is a biography of Weber with a special emphasis on his historical context as a figure in the emerging German Nationalist identity. Most recently, he edited a collection of essays under the topic *Tyranny and Music*, published by Lexington Press in 2017.



Julie Myatt

Department of English
Promoted to Professor

Julie Myatt earned a B.S. in Secondary Education and an M.A. in English at Tennessee Technological University before completing her Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Composition at the University of Louisville.

Since joining the Department of English in 2008, Myatt has served as co-director of general education English, coordinator of graduate teaching assistants in English, organizer of the Peck Research on Writing Symposium, and co-president of WPA Midsouth, an affiliate of the Council of Writing Program Administrators. She teaches undergraduate writing and literature courses and graduate courses in rhetoric and composition. In 2017, she received an MTSU Foundation Award for Outstanding Teaching in General Education. Myatt is an author, conference presenter, and workshop leader about writing studies and pedagogy. Her publications appear in *Bad Ideas about Writing*, *Composing Feminist Interventions*, and the forthcoming collection *Failure Pedagogies*. She currently directs MTSU's Quality Enhancement Plan, MT Engage.



Andrew R. Polk

Department of History

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Andrew R. Polk has a B.A. in History from Lipscomb University, an M.A. in Biblical Studies from Hazelip School of Theology, an M.A.R. in American Religious History from Yale University, and a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Florida State University. He started his career as an assistant professor of History and director of

Social Studies Education at Arkansas State University in 2013; he came to MTSU a year later. A former high school teacher, Polk directs the history and social studies education initiatives for the Department of History and College of Liberal Arts. He also works alongside the College of Education on several state initiatives and CAEP licensing standards. He is the director of the Middle Tennessee History Day competition, which brings over 300 middle and high school students to MTSU every year.

Polk teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on American religious history, history pedagogy, and 20th-century America. He teaches using the “History Labs” model, which emphasizes primary source analysis, group projects, and investigations over traditional lectures. In 2019, he won both the Faculty Teaching Award from the College of Liberal Arts and the University’s Outstanding Teaching Award. He is a scholar of American religious history and has published articles and essays in numerous academic journals, including *Church History* and *Presidential Studies Quarterly*. His first book on the religious propaganda campaigns of presidents Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and Dwight Eisenhower is under contract with Cornell University Press, with an expected publication date of spring 2021. He is currently hard at work on his second book, a biography of civil rights worker, author, and rogue preacher Will D. Campbell.



Robert Summers

*Department of World Languages,
Literatures, and Cultures
Tenured*

Robert Summers joined MTSU this summer as vice provost for international affairs and holds the rank of professor in the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. He earned a B.S. in History and in French from Tennessee Technological University, a M.A.T. in French from Middle Tennessee State University, and a Ph.D. in Second Language Acquisition from the University of South Florida.

Summers most recently served as the assistant provost for global engagement at SUNY (State University of New York) Buffalo State, where he oversaw the institution's international student and scholar services unit, international education (study abroad) unit, intensive English program, international recruitment, and the Center for China Studies.

Summers brings more than 20 years of experience in higher education both as a member of the faculty and administration. During this time, his career has garnered national and international recognition. He is a certification commissioner for the American International Recruitment Council (AIRC) and served as a board member of Study New York (the largest state consortium in the nation dedicated to international student recruitment). Summers spearheaded efforts that led to the 2019 Senator Paul Simon Spotlight Award for Campus Internationalization sponsored by NAFSA: Association of International Educators. Moreover, his team was recognized by AIRC as the 2019 Institution of the Year for its commitment to innovation and excellence in the field of international student recruitment.

Summers has authored and co-authored numerous manuscripts, and he regularly speaks at national and international academic meetings. He has a special interest in neo-Vygotskian language assessment, socially responsive pedagogies, and comprehensive internationalization.



Laura White

Department of English

Promoted to Professor

Laura White earned her M.A. in English from the University of Delaware and her Ph.D. from Binghamton University. After completing her graduate studies, she joined the English Department at MTSU.

Over the past 10 years, her research focusing on environmental themes in contemporary global literature has appeared in journals such as *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment* and in edited collections such as *International Perspectives in Feminist Ecocriticism*. Her monograph, *Ecospectrality: Haunting and Environmental Justice in Contemporary Anglophone Novels*, was published by Bloomsbury Academic in May 2020. *Ecospectrality* analyzes ways that hauntings make the dispersed temporal and geographic scales of environmental threats narratable and urgently present for readers. These hauntings allow for an expanded awareness of human cohabitation with and responsibilities to others across national, generational, and species borders. White is working on a new book project that investigates how contemporary writers depict the movement of emotion, as well as states of emotional suspension, when they narrate stories of extinction.

Eager to share her research with students, she has developed a range of new global literature courses from a general education course focused on outlaws in Australian literature to an undergraduate seminar examining haunted landscapes in contemporary global novels to a graduate seminar on postcolonial ecocriticism. White is also active in the Women's and Gender Studies program, where she teaches courses including Sexuality Studies and Feminist Theory, and the Africana Studies program where she teaches Contemporary African Literature. She has embraced a range of service opportunities across the University, while in her field she has served as reviewer for publications including *ISLE*, *PMLA*, and Routledge's Environment and Sustainability series. In Spring 2020, she became graduate advisor for students in the English Department.



Charles "Odie" Blackmon

Department of Recording Industry

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Charles "Odie" Blackmon earned his B.S. in Recording Industry Management from Middle Tennessee State University and his M.L.A.S. with certifications in Creative Writing, Creative Arts, History, and Humanities Teaching and Learning from Vanderbilt University.

Blackmon was named *Billboard's* No.1 Hot Country Music Songwriter in 2005 and lauded for his Grammy-nominated, Academy of Country Music Awards' Single of the Year "I May Hate Myself in the Morning." His songs have been recorded and performed by artists such as Lee Ann Womack, John Legend, and Martina McBride and include No. 1 singles by Gary Allan and George Strait, resulting in over 31 million units in combined sales across multiple genres.

While maintaining his presence on Music Row as a writer, producer, and publisher, Blackmon was appointed to the position of assistant professor for MTSU's Department of Recording Industry in 2014. In addition to teaching, Blackmon is the department's Commercial Songwriting concentration coordinator, raising \$40,000 in funding for the program's growth. He was awarded the Outstanding Faculty Award from MTSU's Experiential Learning Scholars program in 2016, the Distinguished Creative Activity Award from the MTSU Foundation in 2017, and Experiential Education Rising Leader Award from the National Society of Experiential Education in 2018. After previously holding a seat on the board of the Music and Entertainment Industry Educators Association, Blackmon currently is a board member for the Association for Popular Music Education in addition to serving on the Library of Congress/U.S. Copyright Office's Mechanical Licensing Collective.



Ken Blake

*Department of Journalism and Strategic Media
Promoted to Professor*

Ken Blake earned his doctorate in Mass Communication from the University of North Carolina and joined the faculty of Middle Tennessee State University's School of Journalism and Strategic Media in 1996. He co-founded and directed the MTSU Poll, a twice-annual, statewide, scientifically valid public opinion survey that generated state, national, and international media coverage, as well as nine datasets curated by the Roper Center's international poll data archive at Cornell University. His publications include *Data Skills for Media Professionals: A Basic Guide* and scholarly articles in the areas of media education and health communication.

An early adopter of online instruction, Blake teaches graduate courses in empirical media theory and quantitative research methods, as well as undergraduate courses in media writing, reporting, and MTSU's only course in data journalism. He has chaired seven master's thesis committees and served on a dozen more.

A former newspaper reporter, he has done data consulting work pro bono for local news media outlets and the Tennessee Coalition for Open Government. He also maintains a website offering free, video-based tutorials in data journalism techniques. Blake and his wife, Amy, reside in Murfreesboro and have two sons, the older of whom is a student at MTSU.



Gloria E. Green

Department of Recording Industry

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Gloria E. Green earned her B.S. degree in Psychology and a master's degree in Mass Communication from the University of South Carolina. During her time in graduate school, she worked in the university's Sports Information Office and in the South Carolina lieutenant governor's office, where she originally contemplated

pursuing a career in either sports or political public relations.

After a short stint as a writer with the South Carolina Forestry Commission, Green worked as the public information officer for South Carolina State Parks before moving to Nashville to work in the entertainment industry.

Before teaching at Middle Tennessee State University, Green was a music agent at the William Morris Agency, where she negotiated deals with buyers and booked concert tours and festivals for a diverse roster of music artists and comedians.

In 2012, Green began teaching full-time at MTSU in the Music Business program, with a primary focus on live entertainment, including artist management, concert promotion, and the talent agency business. She has remained active in the music industry and has spoken multiple times at the Music Biz conference. In 2017, Green presented a paper at the Music & Entertainment Industry Education Association Summit, and prior to cancellation due to COVID-19, she was scheduled to present another paper at this year's Summit event. Earlier this year, she participated in an educational panel at the National Association of Music Merchants conference. In October, she is scheduled to present a paper on "Students, Mental Health, and Working in the Music Industry" at the College Music Society conference.

Green is a longtime member of several organizations: the Gospel Music Association (GMA), where she served for nine years on the GMA Foundation Board of Directors; the International Entertainment Buyers Association's Educational Outreach Fund Board of Directors; and the Nashville chapter of the National Association of Black Female Executives in Music and Entertainment.



John Merchant

Department of Recording Industry

Promoted to Professor

John Merchant studied music engineering at the University of Miami (Florida). While still in school, he began working as an intern at Middle Ear Studios on South Miami Beach, owned by Barry, Robin, and Maurice Gibb of the Bee Gees, where he advanced from studio assistant to chief engineer. In 2004, he opened his own studio in Miami, RedDoor, to produce new and established acts.

Over the course of his career, Merchant has had the opportunity to work with an amazing collection of musicians, songwriters, producers, and engineers. His credits include Barbra Streisand, Michael Jackson, R. Kelly, Toni Braxton, Celine Dion, and Lenny Kravitz, as well as producers Arif Mardin, David Foster, Russ Titelman, Dave Cobb, Phil Ramone, and many others. This year, Merchant recorded an album with Barry Gibb featuring some of the biggest stars in Nashville, including Dolly Parton, Keith Urban, Alison Krauss, Miranda Lambert, Jason Isbell, Sheryl Crow, and Brandi Carlile.

In 2007, Merchant produced a top-selling DVD on audio mixing techniques for Multiplatinum Productions, and in 2008, he was nominated for a Grammy as producer for the artist Mika. Since 1989, he has toured internationally and worked on some of the biggest stages in the world, including the Glastonbury Music Festival with Coldplay in 2016 and Barry Gibb in 2017.

After completing his M.F.A. in Recording Arts and Technologies at MTSU, Merchant has served as the director of the newly renovated Chris Young Café performance venue and the co-director of the Immersive Storytelling Lab. He has recently been named chair of the Department of Recording Industry.



Allie Sultan

Department of Media Arts

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

A graduate of the M.F.A. in Cinema program at San Francisco State University (and an MTSU Recording Industry alum), Allie Sultan has 20 years of experience working as a picture and sound editor for films, documentaries, reality TV, and visual effects.

Sultan has worked with some of the San Francisco Bay Area's finest film companies and organizations, including American Zoetrope/ZAP, Berkeley Sound Artists, the Bay Area Video Coalition, ESPN, and Tippet Studio. She also worked on studio features, television series, and independent documentaries before returning to Nashville in 2007. Her award-winning films have screened in over 90 film festivals worldwide, including the Slamdance, Sarasota, Nashville, Cucalorus, and Sidewalk film festivals.

In 2014, she returned to MTSU as an assistant professor of Video and Film Production with the Department of Media Arts, where she teaches film/video production, editing, and web series production to the next generation of independent filmmakers.



Deborah L. Wagon

Department of Recording Industry

Promoted to Professor

Deborah L. Wagon earned her J.D. from Stanford Law School in Palo Alto, California, where she studied in a joint degree program in the Law and Communication schools; her M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Goddard College; and her B.S. with highest honors from the School of Management at Georgia Tech. First joining the Recording Industry faculty in 1994, Wagon returned as full-time associate professor in 2011. She specializes in intellectual property and international entertainment transactions, serves as graduate faculty for M.F.A. and Music Business M.B.A. courses, and provides thesis mentoring for RI students in the Honors College.

Prior to MTSU, Wagon was general counsel for Landmark Entertainment Group in North Hollywood, overseeing a 400-employee international leader in projects ranging from music, film, and theater production to theme park installations for Universal Studios, as well as World Expos and large-themed projects in Japan, South Korea, and Spain. Wagon later represented some of the most prominent names in the global entertainment industry, including Gloria Estefan, Olivia Newton-John, and others, with major law firms in Los Angeles, Atlanta, and Nashville. She ultimately formed Portia Entertainment Group LLC as a practicing attorney/advisor to entertainment and intellectual property clients.

Wagon is the founder/faculty leader of the International Classroom Initiative, a global intellectual property/entertainment industry immersion program focusing upon infrastructure building in developing I/P markets of Belize and Guatemala. In 2018, she established a partnership with acclaimed Universidad Francisco Marroquin (Film and Law) in Guatemala City. Wagon is author of four books, including the series *ICI Journal, Belize, Central America (Vol. 1)* and the authorized biography of Belizean business icon Marie Sharp, *Made In Belize*.



Melissa A. Wald

Department of Recording Industry

Promoted to Professor

Melissa A. Wald began her undergraduate studies at Baylor University as a Piano and Music Education major; she then transferred to Belmont University to complete her Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Music Industry. She earned a master's in Adult Education and Distance Learning from the University of

Phoenix and has served on the MEIEA International Board of Directors; Wald is a member of the Leadership Music class of 2011, a professional member of The Recording Academy, and a member of SOURCE Nashville.

Before her teaching career began at MTSU, she worked with several music publishing companies representing songs and songwriters from country music and contemporary Christian music in Tennessee and Texas. Throughout her career, Wald has represented artists including Alan Jackson, Amy Grant, Keith Urban, Steven Jones, AyRon Lewis, and Jim McBride, as well as television shows such as *Barney* and *The Wiggles*.

She continues her involvement in the industry by providing consulting and administrative services to several artists and songwriters in the areas of licensing and royalty calculation and collection. Last year, Wald's company won a BMI award for representation of one of the music publishers for "Most People Are Good" as recorded by Luke Bryan. This June, she was recognized as a BMI Trailblazer of Gospel Music for her representation of the music of Lewis.

Wald currently teaches Music Publishing and Music Publishing Administration and serves as the Music Business internship coordinator for the Department of Recording Industry.



Gina E. Johnson

Department of University Studies

Promoted to Senior Instructor

Gina E. Johnson began her college career in aerospace engineering, shifting some years later to pre-allied health. She has an A.S. in Pre-Physical Therapy from Columbia State Community College, a B.S. in Exercise Science from the University of Tennessee–Chattanooga, and an M.S.T. in Mathematics Education from Middle

Tennessee State University.

Johnson worked 10 years in health care in fields such as physical therapy and cardiac rehabilitation before transitioning to higher education in 2001. She worked for 10 years at Columbia State as a math tutor, coordinator of tutoring in the Teaching and Learning Center, academic advisor for freshman orientation and for all athletes, and adjunct for developmental mathematics and study skills classes. After finishing her master's degree, Johnson was hired at MTSU in 2011 to teach math in the University Studies Department. She soon took on her current role as coordinator for math tutoring.

Johnson received the award for Outstanding Non-Traditional Student Faculty Support by MTSU's Student Government Association and the June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students for 2014–15. She continues to support students in various programs on campus, such as MTSU's notable Scholars Academy and S.T.A.R.S, Math Game Night sponsored by MT Engage and University Studies, and faculty advisor for the MTSU chapter of Gamma Beta Phi honor society.



Karen Dearing

Department of User Services

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Karen Dearing received a B.A. in Geography from the University of North Alabama and a M.L.S. from the University of Alabama. After earning her degrees, she worked for 20 years in public and academic libraries. Her academic research focused on using technology in library instruction and finding innovative ways to

actively engage students in information literacy. In 2020, she received the James E. Ward Instruction Librarian Award given by the Tennessee Library Association.



Ashley Shealy

Department of User Services

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Ashley Shealy holds a B.A. in English from Appalachian State University, an M.A. in English from Clemson University, and an M.S. in Library Science from the University of North Carolina. Before joining the library faculty at MTSU, she worked as a freshman composition instructor at Clemson, a graduate research assistant at

UNC's Wilson Special Collections Library, and as a reference and instruction librarian at Wingate University.

Since 2014, she has served as a reference and instruction librarian in Walker Library's User Services Department. In this position, Shealy teaches library instruction sessions in information literacy concepts and research strategies. She also provides students and faculty with research help at the library's reference desk and one-on-one research assistance for students in several academic departments.

While at MTSU, her research has focused on library instruction assessment, student engagement with online information literacy modules, and pedagogy in the library classroom. For a number of years, Shealy served as assistant editor for *Tennessee Libraries* (the official academic journal of the Tennessee Library Association) and as a member of the TLA editorial board. Since 2015, she has served as the primary faculty administrator and editor of Walker Library's online FAQ platform Ask Us!, a service that provides remote assistance to the campus community through a searchable bank of frequently asked questions and answers.

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