

I AM *true*
BLUE

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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FOUNDATION AWARDS AND FACULTY RECOGNITIONS

FALL FACULTY MEETING
AUGUST 19, 2021

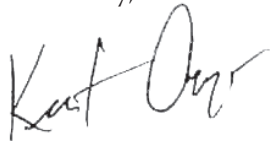
To the faculty and staff:

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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "A".

Kent M. Ayer, '99
President, MTSU Foundation

FOUNDATION AWARDS

Blue Horseshoe
A symbol for tradition
and good fortune for
Middle Tennessee State University

ERECTOR OF THE BLUE HORSHOE
WILL BE GRANTED CASH AWARD

May annually be used to honor
students, faculty and staff members
who have made significant contributions
to the University's educational foundation.

Adopted October 22, 1955



Odie Blackmon

*Department of Recording Industry
Outstanding Teaching Award*

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

Songwriter in 2005 and was lauded for his Grammy-nominated, Academy of Country Music Awards’ Association 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 hit 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 is an associate professor in MTSU’s Department of Recording Industry and the coordinator for the Commercial Songwriting concentration. He has raised over \$60,000 in funding for the songwriting 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, the Experiential Education Rising Leader Award from the National Society of Experiential Education in 2018, and the True Blue Citation of Distinction for Achievement in Education from the MTSU Alumni Association in 2020.

After previously holding a seat on the board of the Music and Entertainment Industry Educators Association and serving on the Library of Congress/U.S. Copyright Office’s Mechanical Licensing Collective, Blackmon currently is a board member for the Association for Popular Music Education.



Tiffany D. Rogers

*Department of Psychology
Outstanding Teaching Award*

Tiffany D. Rogers joined MTSU in 2015 as a lecturer and took her current position as an assistant professor in 2019. She earned a B.S. in Psychology at Lipscomb University in 2006. She earned her M.S. in Experimental Psychology (2009) and her Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology with a concentration in Behavioral

Neuroscience (2012) from the University of Memphis. Rogers took a postdoctoral fellowship in the Psychiatry Department at Vanderbilt University, where she worked in a molecular and cellular neuroscience lab. She completed a second postdoctoral fellowship in the Pharmacology Department at Vanderbilt and worked as scientific director of the Conte Center Behavioral Core before coming to MTSU.

Rogers teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in neuroscience, pharmacology, and research methods. She fosters a classroom environment in which students can apply their own experiences openly, ask questions, and identify areas in which they need help without reservation. Rogers has also pursued training to hone her teaching skills, including becoming a Faculty Fellow in Lipscomb University's Professional Studies Department, through which she gained formal training on various types of assessments and using online and open-access teaching tools.

Rogers' research program also allows students to actively engage in learning both in and out of the classroom. She heads the Social and Affective Neuroscience Laboratory at MTSU. Her lab explores mouse models of autism and the neurobiological underpinnings of typical and anomalous social behaviors in rodents. Rogers serves as a research mentor to multiple undergraduate and graduate students every semester. She utilizes examples from her research and her knowledge of the field during classroom instruction. Additionally, students can gain course credit through hands-on training and research in the lab. Rogers has served as the advisor on multiple master's theses and undergraduate Honors theses. Multiple students have been awarded Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity grants to complete research in the lab with Rogers as their mentor. Rogers has also linked students with research opportunities with other in-state neuroscience labs.

She has published multiple papers in the field of pharmacology and behavioral neuroscience and has given peer-reviewed presentations with students both regionally and internationally. Rogers also volunteers in the community, including as a consultant with an addiction recovery center where she provides information to participants on the neurobiology of addiction.



Dianna Z. Rust

*Department of University Studies
Outstanding Teaching Award*

Dianna Z. Rust earned her master's degree in Mass Communication from Middle Tennessee State University and her Ed.D. from Tennessee State University. She is a professor in University College and program coordinator for the Bachelor of Science in Integrated Studies and Bachelor of Science in

Professional Studies. She has regularly taught online and on-ground classes including Honors University Seminar and Interdisciplinary Research and Senior Capstone for students majoring in Integrated Studies and Professional Studies.

Her teaching philosophy is rooted in providing students with an encouraging, engaging learning environment. She believes that learning is most likely to occur when students become personally engaged with the material and perceive the information to be directly relevant to their current situation or their future goals. Her involvement in MT Engage was a natural extension of her teaching philosophy, providing students with ample opportunities to reflect on their learning and practice integrative thinking through ePortfolio development. She has also incorporated service-learning experiences in two of her courses to assist students in applying their learning during a service experience. Rust supports student growth in the classroom by providing opportunities for peer review and incorporating drafts and extensive revision of larger writing assignments.

Beyond the classroom, Rust mentors students by regularly acting as an Honors thesis advisor and through her involvement in student organizations. She serves on the MTSU Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Board and as faculty advisor for the MTSU Chapter of Colleges Against Cancer and World Outreach Church College Ministry at MTSU.

Her research interests are related to student success for both traditional and nontraditional student populations, interdisciplinary studies, and the scholarship of teaching and learning. In addition to articles and presentations on these topics, she serves on the editorial board for the *Journal of Continuing Higher Education*. At MTSU, she serves on the Leadership Team and Oversight Committee for the University's Quality Enhancement Plan, MT Engage.



Kim Cleary Sadler

Department of Biology

Outstanding General Education Award

Kim Cleary Sadler is a professor of Biology Education. She earned a B.S. and M.S. in Biology, and an Ed.S. in Curriculum and Instruction from Middle Tennessee State University. Her doctorate is from Tennessee State University in Curriculum and Instruction, with an emphasis in science education. Sadler has been teaching at MTSU since 1989, becoming tenure-track faculty in 2002. Although she teaches a range of biology courses, from freshmen to graduate level, she primarily teaches the department's General Education course, BIOL 1030/31. Sadler has served as BIOL 1030 course coordinator for 15 years and until recently served as BIOL 1031 laboratory coordinator for 12 years.

She also teaches courses in the Mathematics and Science Education doctoral program. Sadler is an Experiential Learning, Honors, and Graduate faculty member.

Sadler experienced the value of General Education as an unfocused college sophomore with an undeclared major. Her biology professor not only was passionate about biology but also challenged the class to think critically and engage in course content through multiple learning experiences. The opportunity to learn biological concepts through collaborative and interesting laboratory activities, supported by lectures that made sense, changed her academic trajectory. Her MTSU students have a professor who understands that while the course may not seem immediately interesting, it does present topics with relevance to students' lives. In class, Sadler engages students through conversations and writing assignments designed to support critical thinking. In the laboratory, students explore questions, test their ideas, analyze data, and formulate conclusions. These collective experiences introduce students to the scientific process.

Sadler acknowledges that biology doesn't exist in isolation: MTSU's General Education curriculum develops a well-rounded scholar through more than 13 courses. She credits her students and colleagues from all disciplines throughout MTSU with most of what she knows about effective teaching. Honored to be selected for this award, she extends a heartfelt thanks to the awards committee and all those who have supported her on her journey.



Keith Jacks Gamble

*Department of Economics and Finance
Outstanding Achievement in
Instructional Technology Award (2019–20)*

Keith Jacks Gamble has an A.B. in Economics from Harvard College and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley. 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, he 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 won an Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology Award. He has served as an Honors thesis advisor, dissertation committee member, or dissertation chair for many students. He is currently a professor of Finance and a member of MTSU's Positive Aging Consortium.



Frank P. Lambert

*Womack Educational Leadership Department
Outstanding Achievement in
Instructional Technology Award*

Frank Lambert, originally from London, Ontario, received his bachelor's in Honours History, master's in Library and Information Science, and doctorate in Library and Information Science, all from the University of Western Ontario. It was there during his doctoral studies that he began his teaching career, working as a teaching assistant, lecturer, and assistant professor. Prior to coming to MTSU, Lambert worked in academic libraries at Huron College, King's University College, University of Western Ontario Libraries, and McMaster University Libraries in reference and cataloging positions.

Lambert made his way to MTSU's Master of Library Science (M.L.S.) program in August 2016 after a tenure-track academic appointment at Kent State University's School of Information. He took over as MTSU's M.L.S. program director following the retirement of his predecessor in May 2017. Since then, the M.L.S. program has doubled in enrollment and has been accepted for pre-candidacy for accreditation by the American Library Association (ALA) while being recognized as one of the top 20 best online Master of Library Science programs in the United States by Intelligent.com (2021) and one of the most affordable online M.L.S. programs by College Choice (2018).

Lambert has published and presented in a variety of scholarly national and international journals and conferences that focus on the library and information sciences. He is very grateful for the unwavering love and support he has received at home from his wife, Keri, and children, Daevlynne and Reggie, that has led to him being recognized with this prestigious award. He also extends his warm thanks to his College of Education colleague Joan Boulware for her nomination.



Amy Elleman

*Department of
Elementary and Special Education
Distinguished Research Award*

Amy Elleman earned a B.S. in Psychology at the University of Maryland University College. She has worked as a teacher and administrator in programs serving students with learning and behavior difficulties. She earned her M.Ed. and Ph.D. in Special Education

at Vanderbilt University, where she became interested in the early identification and treatment of reading comprehension difficulties.

Elleman's research focuses on the examination of factors central to reading comprehension including vocabulary acquisition, inference generation, and knowledge development. She has expertise in conducting meta-analyses and examining the efficacy of reading interventions through randomized controlled trials. Her current research includes examining factors related to vocabulary acquisition in adolescents, conducting a meta-analysis of comprehension intervention studies from the last 100 years, and examining the efficacy of a multicomponent inference intervention for adolescents with reading comprehension difficulties.

Elleman has published 27 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. Her publications can be found in highly ranked journals including *Journal of Educational Psychology*, *Scientific Studies of Reading*, and the *Journal of Learning Disabilities*. Her articles have been featured as the most read and cited in journals such as the *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness* and *Policy Insights from Behavioral and Brain Sciences*.

Elleman joined the Literacy Studies Ph.D. program and the Elementary and Special Education Department in 2011. Since then, she has served as the chair of 18 dissertations and as a member of more than 25 dissertation committees. Over the past year, she served as the interim chair of the Elementary and Special Education Department and is currently the interim director of the Literacy Studies Ph.D. program.



Philip Edward Phillips

*University Honors College and
Department of English*

Distinguished Research Award

Philip Edward Phillips earned his B.A. in English, with minors in Latin and Philosophy, at Belmont University and both his M.A. and Ph.D. in English at Vanderbilt University. He studied French language and literature at the Université Catholique de l'Ouest (Angers, France)

and completed the Management Development Program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He has held research fellowships at the Newberry Library, the W.T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire and Modern French Studies, and the Boston Athenaeum.

Phillips' current research examines the significance of place in the life and works of Edgar Allan Poe, with an emphasis on Boston and the other major publishing centers of antebellum America. Phillips is the author, editor, or coeditor of eight academic books related to Poe, John Milton, Queen Elizabeth I, and Boethius. He has published over 25 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters in such collections as *Edgar Allan Poe in Context* (Cambridge University Press), *The Oxford Handbook of Edgar Allan Poe*, and *Anthologizing Poe* (Lehigh University Press), as well as an annotated bibliography for *Oxford Bibliographies Online*. He has written numerous book reviews for such publications as *Poe Studies*, *The Edgar Allan Poe Review*, *Carmina Philosophiae*, and *Choice Connect*. As a member of the Poe Foundation of Boston, he participated in the selection of the artist for the statue Poe Returning to Boston and took part in its unveiling on the corner of Boylston and South Charles streets.

Phillips' recent collection of essays, *Poe and Place*, which was published in Palgrave's *Geocriticism* and *Spatial Literary Studies* Series, received the Poe Studies Association's 2018 J. Lasley Dameron Award. A past president of the Poe Studies Association, Phillips currently serves on the editorial board of *The Edgar Allan Poe Review* and as the program committee chair of the 2022 International Edgar Allan Poe Conference to be held in Boston.



Ben Stickle

*Department of Criminal Justice Administration
Distinguished Research Award*

Ben Stickle, associate professor of Criminal Justice Administration, holds a B.A. in Sociology from Cedarville University and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Justice Administration from the University of Louisville. His research interests include policing (use of force and administration), property crime (metal theft

and burglary), and emerging crimes (package theft and crime in the sharing economy). Stickle's theoretical focus is crime opportunity and rational choice with a specialization in qualitative methods. His research has appeared in the *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, *Police Practice and Research*, *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, and *Policing: An International Journal*. He is the author of *Metal Scrappers and Thieves* (Springer); co-editor of *Policing Behavior, Hiring, and Crime Fighting: An International View* (Routledge); and editor of *Field Studies in Environmental Criminology* (Routledge); and has authored over 20 book chapters, reviews, and encyclopedia entries. His research has garnered national and international attention, including media interviews (e.g., *New York Times*, *Good Morning America*, *NBC Investigative Reporting*), presentations in six countries (including twice at the United Nations in New York and Geneva), and across numerous practitioner outlets.

In addition to his research, Stickle has over 20 years of experience in the criminal justice field, including service as a police officer, crime scene investigator, and private security officer. He is a two-time past president of the Kentucky Peace Officers' Association and a council member of the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council. A graduate of the National Forensic Academy (Session XXII), Stickle holds multiple professional certifications and has served as an expert witness on police administration matters. Currently, he incorporates his experience as a practitioner and his research interests into service as a program evaluator or primary investigator for multiple Bureau of Justice grants totaling over \$1.5 million with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Rutherford County Correctional Center, and others focused on justice mental health responses, offender reentry, human trafficking, and crime statistics.



Meg Brooker

Department of Theatre and Dance

Distinguished Creative Activity Award

Meg Brooker is artistic director of Duncan Dance South and associate professor and director of Dance at Middle Tennessee State University, where she also serves on the Women's and Gender Studies faculty. She is a founder and steering committee member of the Isadora Duncan International Symposium; chair of the Isadora Duncan

Archive Committee; and a former member of Lori Belilove & Company, Isadora Duncan Dance Foundation, in New York City. Brooker holds an advanced certification in Duncan dance, and her additional teaching certifications include Noyes Rhythm and Zena Rommett Floor-Barre. She serves on the board of directors for the Noyes School of Rhythm Foundation and for the Tennessee Association of Dance; as dance chair for the Hellenic Institute of Cultural Diplomacy; and as dancer laureate for the city of Murfreesboro.

Brooker has performed in national and international venues including the National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian Museum, Harvard University's Center for Hellenic Studies, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, the Blanton Museum of Art (Austin, Texas), the Art Monastery (Italy), Erarta Museum of Contemporary Art (St. Petersburg), American Center of Moscow, PROJEKT Fabrika (Moscow), the People's Friendship University of Russia/RUDN (Moscow), the Tchaikovsky Museum (Votkinsk), the ancient Greek ruins at Chersonesos (Crimea), Kalamata International Dance Festival as a guest with Isadora Duncan Dance Group London/Paris (Greece), the Dora Stratou Theatre as a guest with the Isadora Duncan Dance Company (Greece), and the Ruth Page Center for the Arts and Joffrey Theatre as a guest with Duncan Dance Chicago. In Tennessee, Brooker has appeared with Duncan Dance South at the Parthenon in Centennial Park in Nashville (2018) and at the Hunter Museum of American Art in Chattanooga (2019, 2020). Her work has been featured in publications including *Arts + Culture Texas*, *Austin Chronicle*, *Austin-American Statesman*, *Nashville Arts Magazine*, *The Pulse* (Chattanooga), and *Dance Teacher Magazine*.

Brooker has presented scholarship on early modern dance and somatics for Society of Dance History Scholars, Congress on Research in Dance, Dance Studies Association, National Dance Education Organization, and International Somatic Movement Educators and Therapists Association. Her creative work with MTSU dancers has twice been selected by national adjudicators for the American College Dance Association Regional Gala Concerts, as well as for the Women in Dance Leadership Conference. Brooker holds an M.F.A. from the University of Texas at Austin and a B.A. from Yale University.



Timothy R. Graeff

*Department of Marketing
Career Achievement Award*

Timothy R. Graeff earned his Ph.D. in Marketing from Penn State University in 1992. Since then, he has taught courses in principles of marketing, consumer behavior, services marketing, and marketing research at MTSU. He is also director of the Office of Consumer Research.

Graeff has received numerous external and internal awards during his tenure at MTSU. He was named Reviewer of the Year for *Marketing Education Review* (2018), was named as a fellow for the Marketing Management Association (2015), and received the Master Teacher Award presented through the Marketing Management Association (2005). In the Jones College of Business, he received the State Farm Excellence Professorship (2005), the E.W. “Wink” Midgett Distinguished Teaching Award (2017), and the Outstanding Faculty Award (2003, 2008). He also received the MTSU Outstanding Teaching Award three times (1999, 2009, 2017), the MTSU Outstanding Public Service award twice (2002, 2011), and the MTSU Distinguished Research Award (2001).

He is committed to improving teaching excellence and student learning. He has chaired and coordinated the MTSU Teaching Mentoring program since its inception in 2004. This program, affiliated with the LT&ITC Faculty Fellows, pairs Fellows with experienced faculty members for professional development.

Graeff has served on many committees designed to develop pedagogical efforts on campus, including those that developed the LT&ITC and the MT Engage program. He currently serves on the MT Engage Oversight Committee and the MT Engage Scholarship Award Committee.

He has published articles on such topics as teaching effectiveness and student learning; how consumers comprehend product information and form inferences for missing information; sports marketing, sponsorships, and cause-related marketing efforts; consumer confidence and consumer privacy issues; the role of brand and self-image congruence on consumers’ attitude and purchase intentions; and uninformed response bias in survey research. According to Google Scholar, other researchers have cited his articles more than 2,550 times. His textbook, *Marketing Research for Managerial Decision Making: Data Analytics Using Microsoft Excel* (2021), is published by Kendall Hunt Publishers and is now in its seventh edition.

In 2000, he created the Office of Consumer Research (OCR) at MTSU to conduct quarterly surveys of both Tennessee residents and Tennessee business

leaders, measuring their outlook on the economy. These types of surveys have been shown to be very predictive of key economic indicators such as inflation, interest rates, and consumer spending. The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta has used his survey as one of its economic indicators. Reports from these surveys are published on the OCR website (mtsu.edu/consumer). Graeff has written and published more than 114 research reports summarizing results from these surveys. The OCR generates positive exposure for MTSU in various news media across the state. Graeff has spoken at various Tennessee Chamber of Commerce events and appeared on numerous radio interviews to discuss these surveys and to promote MTSU.

EMERITI



Teaching

Research

Service



Ronald H. Aday

*Professor Emeritus
Sociology and Anthropology*

Ronald H. Aday joined MTSU in 1980 and established himself as a teacher-scholar and public service leader in gerontology, crime and corrections, and evaluation research. Following a bachelor's degree in Social Science Education at Oklahoma State University, Aday earned an M.A. in Sociology at the University of Tulsa and a Ph.D. in Sociology at Oklahoma State University. He has been strongly committed to curriculum development, serving on committees to develop graduate certificate programs in Health Care Administration, Gerontology, and Applied Social Research. An exemplary teacher, Aday has offered over 20 courses in his specialty areas, helping prepare countless students for successful careers.

A frequent research presenter at regional and national professional conferences, the breadth of his research spans intergenerational attitudes, successful aging, food insecurity in older adults and aging prisoners, and women lifers. He has published over 40 peer-reviewed articles in major scholarly journals and 20 book chapters, many at the request of editors seeking his expertise on aging prisoners. His books on *Crime and the Elderly* (1988) and *Aging Prisoners: Crisis in American Corrections* (2003) have received national and international recognition. He has also co-authored *Group Work with Elderly* (2001), *Women Aging in Prison: A Neglected Population in the Correctional System* (2011), and *Women Lifers: Lives Before, Behind, and Beyond Bars* (2019).

During his tenure at MTSU, Aday has provided important leadership in the department and the community. In addition to serving as department chair, graduate program director, and director of Aging Studies, he has served as president of the Tennessee Federation on Aging, executive director of the Tennessee Association of Gerontology/Geriatric Education, vice president of Hospice of Murfreesboro, and as chair of the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability.

Aday's distinguished career has helped shape what once was an emerging field into the widely respected academic discipline of gerontology. His work has had significant public policy consequences in local, state, and national arenas. He has received numerous awards recognizing his contribution to the field, including the MTSU Outstanding Public Service Award, the MTSU Distinguished Research Award on two occasions, the National Council on Aging Distinguished Research Award, Outstanding Gerontologist Award for Tennessee, and the MTSU Career Achievement Award.

**Foster K. Amey**

*Professor Emeritus
Sociology and Anthropology*

Foster K. Amey, a demographer by training, received his Ph.D. from Bowling Green State University. He joined the Sociology faculty at MTSU in 1999 and served with distinction for over 20 years. He has taught courses in introductory sociology, social problems, population and society, urban and community studies, research methods, peoples and cultures of africa, data analysis, senior seminar, quantitative research methods, social statistics, and special topics courses in statistical packages for data analysis, sociology of disasters, and perspectives on human migration. He directed nine master's theses and one Honors thesis and served on more than 20 thesis committees.

Amey's service to the department, University, and the profession has been extensive. He served two terms as undergraduate program director and on numerous committees. He also served terms as both the department and College of Liberal Arts representative to the Faculty Senate. At the University level, Foster served on the Faculty Appeals Committee, Faculty Development Committee, Academic Appeals Committee (two terms), and University Curriculum Committee (two terms including a year as chair). His professional service included serving as a reviewer for 11 academic journals, reviewing a textbook, and serving as an external reviewer for tenure and promotion. His public service involved many invited lectures and engagements as a demography expert.

In addition to his teaching and service accomplishments, Amey maintained an active research agenda. His scholarly accomplishments include publishing 14 articles and research reports as well as numerous presentations at professional conferences.



Martha E. Balachandran

*Professor Emerita
Marketing*

Martha Balachandran loves to teach and has been doing so for more than 40 years. Being called a “teacher’s teacher” is among the nicest compliments she has ever received.

In 1999, Balachandran was hired as a tenure-track associate professor in the Business Education, Marketing Education, and Office Management Department, which has undergone substantial change. She recently retired as a professor in the Department of Marketing.

Before coming to MTSU, she taught at two other universities, Southeastern Louisiana University and Delta State University, and at two middle Tennessee high schools. Each position provided rewarding experiences for Balachandran and the students. They learned in a professional environment with challenging content from a rigorous teacher with high expectations for their success. These students clearly appreciated and profited from Balachandran’s high bar and belief in their abilities.

Besides teaching, Balachandran has been involved in research and service activities. Her publications include 10 peer-reviewed articles in international, national, and state journals (co-authored); three chapters in National Business Education Association Yearbooks (co-authored), and four practical articles (sole and co-authored). She has made about 60 presentations including training seminars/workshops and research presentations at national, regional, and state conferences and for the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Division for the Tennessee Department of Education.

Balachandran’s service activities include serving on over 30 University committees (including Faculty Senate), 14 college committees, and over 40 departmental committees. She also assisted in planning, coordinating, and judging Future Business Leaders of America and DECA regional and state conferences and competitions and worked with two grants: Project Communicate with Bank of America and Middle Tennessee Business Educator with the CTE Division of the Tennessee Department of Education.



Richard D. Barnet

Professor Emeritus

Recording Industry

Richard D. Barnet, professor and former department chair of Recording Industry, received his Bachelor of Music degree from Illinois State University, his Master of Music degree from Ithaca College, and his Ph.D. from Arizona State University. Before coming to MTSU, Barnet was associate dean of the School of Humanities

at California State University–San Bernardino. He has been a faculty member and administrator at California State University, The Ohio State University, Arizona State University, James Madison University, and Middle Tennessee State University.

Barnet served as director of Concert and Support Services at James Madison University and toured major arenas in the U.S. and Canada as a touring conductor/music director. His other experience in the live entertainment industry includes co-owning a regional booking agency, managing several concert venues, and managing a summer music festival.

At MTSU, Barnet taught concert promotion and touring, advanced concert promotion, music industry ethics, and special events production. His publications include *Student's Guide to the Music Listener*, *Controversies of the Music Industry*, *The Story Behind the Song: 150 Songs that Chronicle the 20th Century*, and *This Business of Concert Promotion and Touring*. He also wrote entries for *Women in Music Since 1900, an Encyclopedia*; *The Macmillan Encyclopedia of Communication and Information*; and the *Encyclopedia of Appalachia*.

President of the Association for Concert Industry Education, Barnet also served on the board of directors for the Music and Entertainment Industry Educators Association and is a past president and founding officer of NAMM Affiliated Music Business Institutions. He is a former member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (Grammys) and the Nashville Entertainment Association Advisory Board. He is a 1993 graduate of Leadership Music and is an officer and board member for the Urban Music Conference. Appointed to three consecutive terms on the Advisory Board of the Tennessee Film, Entertainment, and Music Commission by the governor, Barnet also served on the Board of Governors for the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (Emmys) Mid-South Chapter.



Peter H. Cunningham

Professor Emeritus

Health and Human Performance

Peter Cunningham came to MTSU in 1991 to lead an accreditation effort in the former Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Safety. Over the next 29 years he served MTSU as a professor of Health and Human Performance, special assistant to the University provost, associate dean of the College of Graduate

Studies (twice), and vice provost for Academic Programs.

As a faculty member, Cunningham created 10 new courses, established the first MTSU study abroad course in the College of Education, served on the Faculty Senate and the General Education Committee, chaired the Graduate Council and Career Achievement Award Committees, and served as the director of the Ronald McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program. He is a member of numerous professional organizations and served as president of the Society of Park and Recreation Educators. He received the John R. Endwright Distinguished Alumni Service Award from Indiana University and the Dora Lancaster Award for Innovation in Distance Education from the Tennessee Board of Regents.

He has been awarded external grants and contracts totaling almost \$2 million from the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of Education, the state of Tennessee, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and Council of Graduate Schools. He has authored or co-authored more than 20 peer-reviewed publications as well as over 100 technical research reports and has delivered invited lectures in Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador, Canada, Ukraine, and China.

As associate dean of the College of Graduate Studies and vice provost for Academic Programs, he was instrumental in establishing the Minority Dissertation Fellows program, the International Student Scholarship, the Regional Scholars program, the Academic Common Market expansion, and the winter academic term. He was also blessed with the opportunity to support talented faculty and administrators across the University as they conceived, developed, and implemented new academic programs including undergraduate majors in Data Science, Mechatronics Engineering, Actuarial Science, Religious Studies, Africana Studies, Animation, Video and Film Production, Tourism and Hospitality Management, Fermentation Science, and Forensic Science; graduate degrees in Professional Science, Public Health, Physician Assistant Studies, Social Work, Finance, Management, Horse Science, Library Science, International Affairs, and Recording Arts and Technology; as well as doctoral programs. Mostly, he values the many friendships he has enjoyed and the kindnesses extended to him over his career at MTSU.

**Lawanna S. Fisher***Professor Emerita**University Studies*

Lawanna S. Fisher served as a professor in the University Studies Department teaching mathematics for 26 years. She earned her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Mathematics from Middle Tennessee State University and her Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Tennessee State University. She was a recipient of the MTSU Outstanding Teacher Award and has been named Educator of the Year by the Tennessee Association for Developmental Education. She has received the MTSU Distinguished Educator in Distance Learning Award and has been recognized by MTSU for her Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology.

Fisher has developed and taught both traditional classes and online classes. Her research agenda focuses on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. She has co-authored multiple articles in refereed journals and has presented at numerous state and national conferences. Fisher is also actively involved on campus, where she has served as a member of the MTSU Faculty Senate, has represented her department and college on numerous committees, and served as a mentor to tenure-track faculty in her department. She has also served as a faculty advisor for a student organization.



Nancy Sloan Goldberg

Professor Emerita

World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Nancy Sloan Goldberg has had many significant moments in her 32-year career at MTSU. In 2015, the University recognized her research and international reputation as an expert on World War I with its Distinguished Research Award. This honor validated her two scholarly books on the French literary experience in the Great War as well as the more than 20 articles published in peer-reviewed journals that have appeared in six countries and in three different languages. One of those articles appeared in a collection that cited her “pioneering” work on neglected writers of the years 1914–1918.

For many years she has received requests from young scholars in this country and abroad seeking assistance with their research in topics related to hers. She has advised Ph.D. students from France, England, and the United States and is currently working with a student on the last stages of her dissertation. She is always pleased to be able to share her knowledge with the next generation of teachers and scholars in, as she sees it, a continuing chain of intellectual endeavor to uncover new or neglected literary works.

Goldberg’s research has always informed her teaching, which has included more than 20 courses on subjects related to France, its literature, and its culture. Her teaching career at MTSU has allowed her the privilege of impacting the lives of hundreds of students, many of whom have gone on to great success in graduate school and a variety of academic as well as other careers. Some of that influence resulted from the 15 summers Goldberg supervised MTSU’s study abroad language immersion program in Normandy, France, where she and her students visited Amiens, Cherbourg, Saint-Lo, and Caen.



Michael R. Hinz

*Professor Emeritus
Philosophy and Religious Studies*

Michael Hinz joined the Department of Philosophy at MTSU in August 1990. That year saw a 40 percent increase in the department's full-time faculty to accommodate MTSU's booming growth. In his first few years, Hinz developed three new upper-level courses while teaching 12-hour loads and finishing his Ph.D. at the University of Kansas in 1992. He was promoted shortly thereafter to a tenure-track assistant professor position. Among his early distinctions are the publication of his book *Self-Creation and History* and an invitation from Oxford University in England in 1994 to speak on the work of R.G. Collingwood, for which he presented a paper that July. Hinz was promoted to associate professor in 1998.

Hinz was one of the co-founders of the Applied Philosophy Lyceum, now a hallmark of the department, and he was responsible for bringing to the Lyceum in February 2011 perhaps its most famous speaker, Bart Ehrman, who spoke to an overflow crowd. During the years immediately following the 2008 recession, Hinz was instrumental in helping to secure the survival of the department and major program, which had been marked for elimination. Having served with the U.S. Marines, he always made himself available to assist and advise student veterans.

Hinz never failed to teach a 12-hour course load every semester during his 31 years at MTSU, even during the 1999–2000 academic year, when he was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma and underwent treatment. Rather than being driven by professional ambition, he has worked principally for the human good that can be attained only through humane education. Above all, this was demonstrated in his commitment to the value of teaching as a practice without which there can be no free and civilized life.



Robert K. Kalwinsky

Professor Emeritus

Media Arts

When Bob Kalwinsky joined the MTSU faculty in 2000, he immediately helped launch a new digital media program now known as Interactive Media, which offers its own B.S. degree. Kalwinsky's interest in contemporary media has helped the Department of Media Arts maintain the visionary perspective that has fueled the department's

evolution and growth. His interest in both theory and practice has inspired the Media Arts faculty to find and maintain a balance of those two perspectives.

As an instructor, he has taught both regularly scheduled courses, such as international cinema, basic filmmaking, media history, America Media and Social Institutions, and special topics classes, such as online analytics. He has also taught in many formats, such as lectures, labs, large sections, small sections, undergraduate classes, graduate classes, Honors classes, and Honors theses. He was an early adopter of online instruction, developing and teaching courses for MTSU Online.

Kalwinsky's record of service has included important roles and committees at the department, college, University, and local/national/international community levels. Some notable examples include four years on the Faculty Senate, three of which he served on the Liaison Committee; four years as director of the M.S. in Mass Communication program; one year as interim associate dean of the College of Mass Communication; more than 30 committees across campus; and many more services to the community from local to international levels.

He has maintained an admirable record of scholarly research as evidenced by his publications and journal reviews treating his many special interests. He has published, served on committees, and provided public service on health care communication. His interest in international culture helped bring Japanese culture through anime to our campus. The evolution of contemporary media, essential to the growth of the Department of Media Arts, unifies his broad interests.

**Jwa K. Kim***Professor Emeritus**Psychology*

Jwa K. Kim joined the MTSU Department of Psychology in 1989 after receiving his Ph.D. in Quantitative Psychology from the University of Oklahoma. He taught psychological statistics and psychometrics for 21 years. In 1997, he, along with other Psychology faculty, developed the Quantitative Psychology master's program; Kim served as the program coordinator. In 2010, he was appointed director of the Literacy Studies Ph.D. program. Under his leadership, the Literacy Studies Ph.D. program has grown from six students to 40 active students in fall 2021, graduating 42 Ph.D.'s over the past 10 years. He has chaired 12 dissertation committees and served on numerous dissertation committees for the Literacy Studies program, as well as for other MTSU doctoral students. Kim has published work in various theoretical and applied journals such as *Psychometrika*, *Decision Support System*, and *Annals of Dyslexia*.

He will enjoy retirement with his wife, Weon, on their new farm, close to their three children and their families.



Stephen D. Lewis

*Professor Emeritus
Marketing*

Stephen D. Lewis is a professor in the Department of Marketing. He came to MTSU in 1977 after completing a B.S. in Business Administration at Tennessee Tech, an M.Ed. at Memphis State University, and a Ph.D. at the University of North Dakota. He began his teaching career in the Department of Business Education,

Distributive Education, and Office Management. His 44-year career at MTSU included four years in the Department of Computer Information Systems, where he served one year as interim chair.

Throughout his tenure at MTSU, Lewis taught myriad courses preparing undergraduate and graduate students for careers in business teaching and office administration. His primary teaching interests were always in business education and business communication. He became chair of the Department of Business Communication and Entrepreneurship in 2004, a position he held for 11 years before returning to full-time teaching.

Lewis' professional accomplishments include co-authoring *Secretarial Administration and Management*, a textbook published by Prentice-Hall. He has published articles in more than 30 different periodicals, including peer-reviewed journals and yearbooks.

More recently Lewis transitioned into editing. He served three years as editor of the *Journal of Research in Business Education*, a premier research journal in business education. For the last six years he has edited the "Business Education" section of the *Business Education Forum*, a practitioner's publication of the National Business Education Association (NBEA).

Lewis has been recognized professionally by his peers at the local, state, regional, and national levels. Recent recognitions include the 2012 Distinguished Supervision Service Award presented by the Southern Business Education Association and the 2012 NBEA Distinguished Service Award. The award he cherishes most is the 2019 John Robert Gregg Award presented by NBEA, which recognizes career achievement and contributions to the advancement of business education.

Steve and his wife, Linda, have an adult son and daughter, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.



Yuri A. Melnikov

*Professor Emeritus
Mathematical Sciences*

Yuri A. Melnikov's career as a mathematician has spanned 50 years, the last 29 of which have been spent at MTSU. Melnikov received his M.S. in Mechanical Engineering (1963) and his Ph.D. in Differential and Integral Equations (1971) from Dnepropetrovsk State University, USSR, and his Dr.Sc. in Computational Mechanics from Moscow Civil Engineering Institute in 1982.

Melnikov has published six books and over 200 peer-reviewed research papers in mathematics, over 50 of which he published since joining MTSU in 1992. Melnikov won the Outstanding Research Award from the MTSU Foundation in 1996, and he won the Distinguished Research Award from the MTSU Foundation in 2001. Melnikov has supervised 17 dissertations, including two Ph.D. dissertations in the Computational Sciences program at MTSU.

His many invited research presentations include papers at the International Conference on Integral Equations and Modeling of Applied Problems, Chişinău, Moldova, 2005; Fourth International Conference of Applied Mathematics and Computing, Plovdiv, Bulgaria, 2007; International Conference on the Memory of Professor Mossakovsky, Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, 2008; and the Plenary Address to SCON International Convention on Astro Physics, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 2019.

In addition to his research awards at MTSU, Melnikov won a Distinguished Research and Teaching Award from Dnepropetrovsk State University, USSR (1987), and the AllNation Distinguished Teacher Award, Ministry of Higher Education, USSR (1989). He was named a research fellow at Nagoya Institute of Technology, Japan (1999); a fellow at Wessex Institute of Great Britain (2003); and a senior fellow at City University of Hong Kong (2008). Melnikov was awarded an honorary doctorate from Dnepropetrovsk State University, Ukraine (2008).

Melnikov has remained committed to students and active in research throughout his career, including publishing a paper and mentoring MTSU math majors as recently as 2020.



Deborah E. Mistrón

*Professor Emerita
World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures*

Deborah Mistrón earned her B.A. in Spanish from SUNY Albany in 1972, her M.A. in Spanish from Purdue University in 1975, and her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature—Hispanic Literature, Modern Fiction, Latin American Studies, and Film Studies—from Indiana University in 1981. She was an assistant professor of

Spanish at The Ohio State University (1981–86) before continuing her career at Bradford College (1987–2000), where she was a professor of Spanish and served as the chair of the Humanities Division.

Mistrón joined MTSU in 2000, chairing the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures until 2007. In addition to her effective leadership of the department, she served on a number of University committees, participated actively in the selection of MTSU students applying for Fulbright scholarships, and taught in several summer programs through the Kentucky Institute for International Studies (Costa Rica, Spain and Mexico). She was also a member of both the Graduate and Honors faculty.

Several faculty development grants enriched the Latin American classes she enjoyed teaching so much, and she also published a book and a textbook, as well as several articles on Latin American culture, focused on Mexican film.

Mistrón taught primarily advanced-level and graduate courses in the Spanish language and in Latin American literature and civilization, and she advised many Spanish majors. The hundreds of students she impacted benefited greatly from her expertise and her dedication.

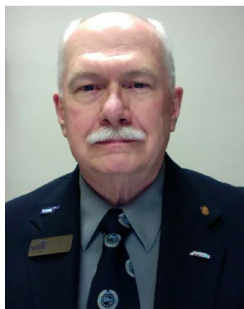
Her positive attitude, sense of humor, and collegiality will be missed, as will her service and dedication to students; the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; the College of Liberal Arts; and the University.

**Sandra M. Neal***Professor Emerita**Health and Human Performance*

Sandy Neal earned her bachelor's (1976) and master's degrees (1977) from MTSU. She is licensed through the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing. She has been a role model and mentor for numerous faculty and students throughout her tenure in the Health and Human Performance department.

She also has been instrumental in developing and revising new health programs and curriculum.

Neal was a four-year letter winner for the Lady Raider tennis team. In 1972, she made the team as a walk-on and improved to the point that she played No. 1 singles and doubles. In 1975, Neal received one of the first athletic scholarships MTSU awarded to female athletes. After graduation, she became the head coach of the women's tennis team. During her leadership (1976–92), the Lady Raiders won three Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) regular-season and tournament championships (1980, 1982, 1990). Neal was named OVC Coach of the Year five times (1980, 1982, 1989, 1990, 1991). During her tenure she coached 16 All-Conference players and one All-American. Neal also coached the women's volleyball team during its first two seasons and is credited with starting the program. After retiring from coaching, Neal continued to serve her alma mater by teaching in the Department of Health and Human Performance.



David A. Otts

Professor Emeritus

University Studies

David A. Otts, Ed.D., served MTSU for 35 years (1986–2021), rising to professor in the University Studies Department. He taught a variety of courses, including study skills, writing, three levels of developmental mathematics, College Algebra (MATH 1710), Mathematics for General Studies (MATH 1010), Senior Capstone (PRST 4995), and Capstone Project (PRST 6998). He also designed and piloted Research Methods (PRST 6300) for University College students in the Master of Professional Studies program. He served as the director of the Writing Lab for its transition from the English Department during the 1987–88 academic year.

Otts represented the University College for a three-year term (2015–18) on the Faculty Senate and served on the Senate Liaison Committee (2016–18). His other service includes membership on the Forrest Hall Rename Committee; SACSCOC Evaluator for the Quality Enhancement Program for Angelina Community College, Lufkin, Texas; Faculty Sick Leave Bank trustee for two terms; and membership on numerous MTSU, University College, and University Studies Department committees.

Otts served the National Organization for Student Success (NOSS), previously the National Association for Developmental Education (NADE), as chair for several committees, as Technology SPIN coordinator, and for 10 years as a member of the NADE Accreditation Commission. Other professional service included one term as president of TNADE, later Tennessee Association for Student Success and Retention (TASSR), and several terms as secretary of the TNADE/TASSR Executive Board. He also was an article reviewer for and an original associate editor of the *Journal of Student Success and Retention*. He presented his research at state and national conferences. He has authored and co-authored articles for journal publications. He is a graduate of the University of Alabama and a fellow of the Kellogg Institute.



Chrisila C. Pettey

*Professor Emerita
Computer Science*

Chrisila Pettey began her teaching career at MTSU in the Mathematics Department in 1981. After leaving to get her Ph.D. in Computer Science from Vanderbilt, she returned to MTSU in 1992 as an assistant professor in the Computer Science Department, where she taught both undergraduate and graduate courses. In addition to teaching several existing courses, she developed and taught the two senior/graduate-level parallel processing courses and CSCI 1010.

In 2010, Pettey became the interim chair of Computer Science, and from 2012–18 she served as the permanent department chair. During her time as chair, she spearheaded changes to the curriculum, engaged more actively with industry, revamped assessment, and developed the current five-year plan.

Pettey's reason for going into education was to help students achieve their goals. To that end, throughout her 30-year tenure at MTSU, Pettey focused most of her grant work on helping students. She was senior personnel and later principal investigator on two National Science Foundation (NSF) grants that provided scholarships and mentoring for computer science, engineering, and mathematics students. She was co-principal investigator on two NSF Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement grants to develop software tools for introductory computer science courses. She is currently co-principal investigator on another NSF grant that provides scholarships and mentoring for computer science students. In addition to the grant work and teaching, Pettey also spearheaded the institution of HackMT, an annual event that brings industry professionals and students together for 36 hours of intense learning and interactions. 2021 marked the sixth year for HackMT.

Pettey has seen teaching evolve from having almost no students with access to personal computers to having students attending class remotely during a pandemic. Her time at MTSU has been an adventure.



James O. Rust

Professor Emeritus

Psychology

The second of four children, James Rust was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was a “lifer” at Shady Side Academy, studying and playing sports from kindergarten through 12th grade. After graduating from Lehigh University, Rust attended the University of Richmond and the University of Virginia for graduate school in Psychology and School Psychology. While in Richmond, he taught special education and was fortunate to meet and marry his wife of 50 years, Jane Bacon Curle. After Rust completed his internship and Ph.D., Jane spearheaded filing 70 job applications, including one to MTSU. It was there that they found their home and farm in Readyville.

Rust’s assignment at MTSU was to start a program in School Psychology. From the beginning he felt supported by administrators (including the Graduate College and the Development Office), faculty, students, graduates, secretaries, grant-writing staff, and the local schools. Colleagues from the Department of Psychology helped write the program even though they were busy with their own classes and research. Three current colleagues work to maintain the program’s national approval rating (1991–2021). Rust is particularly pleased with the program’s 300 graduates, most of whom practice locally. Others work from Alaska to Cyprus and from California to Florida. A few are in faculty positions or are leading administrators for school districts and state governments.

Rust’s community involvement includes membership on the boards of Cannon County S.A.V.E., the Exchange Club Family Center, the MTSU Presbyterian Fellowship, and the Rust Foundation.

As the School Psychology program continues to mature, Rust is confident that current and future faculty members will keep it strong. He hopes they will enjoy School Psychology and MTSU as much as he has.



Constance R. Schmidt

Professor Emerita

Psychology

Constance R. Schmidt has taught for the Department of Psychology since 1988. During her first six years, she taught regular and Honors sections of general psychology and child psychology. In later years, she also taught regular and Honors sections of developmental psychology, for which she wrote the course proposal. Her student evaluations consistently exceeded departmental, college, and University averages.

Schmidt has served and chaired numerous department (Undergraduate Curriculum, Promotion and Tenure) and University committees (University Curriculum, Honors Council, Dean Search).

Schmidt has published 14 articles in major psychology journals, including four articles since 2012. She was first author on nine of her publications. These articles have been cited 432 times, according to Google Scholar. She has an RG score of 20.86 on Research Gate and an h index of 11 on Google Scholar.

Director of the Center for Educational Media at MTSU from 1995 to 2012, Schmidt was also a principal investigator, co-investigator, or project manager for external grants, contracts, and subcontracts totaling more than \$5 million while serving as director.

Schmidt produced 560 live, interactive television programs for K–12 teachers and students as director of the Center for Educational Media, including *Family-Centered Community Building*, a telecourse featuring former Vice President Al Gore. Schmidt was executive producer for over 300 hours of satellite and online training for Tennessee social workers in collaboration with the Tennessee Center for Child Welfare. Additionally, she was co-producer, scriptwriter, and/or executive producer for six educational videos, including three which received national Telly awards for excellence in television and video production. To recognize all these accomplishments, she received a MTSU Public Service award in 2012.



Stephen R. Schmidt

*Professor Emeritus
Psychology*

Stephen R. Schmidt, who joined the Department of Psychology in 1988, was promoted to the rank of professor in 1996. He has excelled in teaching, research/scholarship, and service. His accomplishments include the highest teacher ratings among Psychology faculty teaching basic statistics. Throughout his career, mentoring students has always been very important. He chaired three Honors theses and eight master's theses, and each semester, five to 10 students worked in his research lab. Over 100 undergraduate and graduate students have appeared as Schmidt's co-authors. He has written 225 letters of reference for students.

Schmidt has published two books, 26 articles (20 as first author) in refereed journals, and four book chapters. All of his publications have been heavily cited. For example, *Can We Have a Distinctive Theory of Memory* has been cited by 310 colleagues.

Schmidt has actively served his department and MTSU. Early in his MTSU career, Schmidt created the Research Participant Pool (RPP), for which he served as the coordinator for more than 10 years. He also secured funds for and created/coordinated the first Department of Psychology Statistics Research Computer Lab. For 26 years, from 1994–2020, Schmidt served as the coordinator of the Experimental concentration. He has also served on several department committees, most significantly as a member of the Graduate Curriculum Committee (26 years), member of the Department Promotion and Tenure Committee (numerous times), member of the Long-Range Planning Committee (numerous times), and member and chair of multiple search committees.

Schmidt's service to MTSU includes chairing and serving as a member of the University Tenure Committee and serving as a member of the University Computer Resource Committee.



Lance Hamilton Selva

Professor Emeritus

Criminal Justice Administration

Lance Selva began his 41-year teaching career at Middle Tennessee State University in 1979. He earned a Juris Doctor from the University of Alabama in 1975, and a master's (1977) and a Ph.D. (1985) in criminology from Florida State University. He has served as a professor of the Department of Criminal Justice Administration and

later as department chair.

Selva was a legal clerk for U.S. Attorney Ira DeMent in 1975, and practiced law as a criminal defense attorney in Murfreesboro from 1985–2009. He also served as a juvenile court magistrate from 1990–1998.

Throughout his teaching career, Selva made over 17 academic presentations at conferences and published 10 articles in legal journals. In addition, he gave several public lectures, served on numerous public service and University committees and participated in several panel discussions related to criminal justice.

Selva's professional affiliations have included membership in the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Tennessee State Bar, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, and the Southern Criminal Justice Association.

Selva served as either a thesis chair or reader on 29 graduate theses, and as department chair, Selva directed efforts for student recruitment and engagement in the Department of Criminal Justice Administration.

Selva's impact on criminal justice students from MTSU has been significant as he influenced current lawyers, law enforcement officers, and criminal justice reform agents in the criminal justice system. After Selva announced his retirement, the department received numerous congratulatory emails and letters from students thanking him for his influence on their careers.



Elaine Bouldin-Tenpenny

*Professor Emerita
Mathematical Sciences*

Elaine Bouldin-Tenpenny, associate professor of Mathematics, taught at MTSU for 33 years. After earning her B.S. in Mathematics from David Lipscomb College, she worked in industry for several years before returning to middle Tennessee. Bouldin-Tenpenny became an MTSU alumna when she received her M.S. in

Mathematics (1987) and her Educational Specialist degree (1992).

Bouldin-Tenpenny has been dedicated to her students, making every effort to encourage their development mathematically and individually, and advising them about future courses, study practices, and decisions about major selection. She regularly recruited future Mathematics majors, benefiting the student and the department. Tenpenny's receipt of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences Outstanding Teacher Award in 1996 further highlights her colleagues' acknowledgment of her students' appreciation.

Throughout her career, Bouldin-Tenpenny personified the well-rounded academic citizen. In addition to her exemplary teaching and her willingness to teach multiple preparations and different courses at a moment's notice, she worked tirelessly on multiple department committees, curricular work, and University committee assignments every semester. Her scholarly and creative activity ranged from new course design and curricular development, developing online courses and designing course evaluation processes, to being a principal investigator and major contributor to two NSF grants promoting student development in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math).

She has served MTSU consistently with distinction and honor for longer than three decades. She has also promoted the mission of MTSU, proving invaluable to her students, colleagues, and department, and exceeding all expectations of her rank.



Shelley Thomas

Professor Emerita

World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Shelley Thomas received her B.A. in French Literature from Clemson University in 1976 and attended the Sorbonne in 1977. She received her M.A. from the University of South Carolina in French Literature in 1983 and taught at the University of Grenoble in France in 1986. She received her Ph.D. in French Literature from Purdue University in 1991, when she began teaching at MTSU.

Since joining MTSU, Thomas has chaired National Women's History Month, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Committee, and the Loan and Scholarship Committee. In addition, she has served as a member of the Undergraduate Research, Scholarships, and Creative Projects (URSCP) Task Force and coordinated study abroad and summer exchange programs to France. Currently, Thomas serves on the MTSU Fulbright Committee and is a member of both the Graduate and Honors faculty.

Her articles and book reviews on 19th century authors appear in the *Gale-Thomson Encyclopedia on Short Story Criticism*, *Romantic Review*, *L'Esprit Créateur*, and *Philosophy and Literature*, and her current research on brain-based learning has been presented at international, national, and regional conferences and published in the *International Journal of Foreign Language Teaching*.

Thomas is the founder and director of the Center for Accelerated Language Acquisition (CALA), a center for the research and application of brain-based methods of learning. Housed in the MTSU University Honors College, CALA provides language classes in multiple languages on a year-round basis using comprehensible input techniques.

CALA has formed local and international partnerships for language classes and teacher training with the Tennessee Department of Children's Services, the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute, the Webb School, and the Isha Foundation, a nonprofit organization in southern India. Learn about these and other CALA partnerships at mtsu.edu/cala.

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.*



Salvador E. Barbosa

Department of Computer Science

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Salvador E. Barbosa is a veteran of both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force. He initially joined the Army as an artilleryman and was stationed in Washington state and then in Germany before becoming a paratrooper and jumpmaster at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He left the Army and entered the Air Force ROTC program

at the University of North Carolina–Pembroke, where he received a B.S. in Mathematics and Computer Science and was commissioned into the Air Force. He was an Air Force officer for 21 years as a bomber aviator, software engineer, electronic warfare test director, and Pentagon force structure analyst, eventually commanding an Air Force ROTC detachment before retiring.

While in the Air Force he earned an M.S. in Computer Science from the University of Idaho. Upon retiring, he enrolled in the Computer Science Ph.D. program at the University of Alabama in Huntsville and worked as a researcher at its Center for Modeling, Simulation, and Analysis (CMSA); he was awarded the Ph.D. in Computer Science in 2014. After graduating, he remained at CMSA as a senior research scientist and continued doing work on research projects for the Army, the Air Force, and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) before coming to Middle Tennessee State University as an assistant professor in 2015.

He is currently a co-principal investigator on a National Science Foundation grant for an instructional augmented reality project and serves as a Faculty Senator. His primary areas of research are artificial intelligence (AI) and natural language processing (NLP). At MTSU he has mentored many students on projects, has guided thesis work, and has led a small student research group focused on AI/NLP. He is an associate editor for *Simulation* journal.



Kevin Downs

*School of Agriculture
Promoted to Professor*

Kevin Downs received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Animal Science from the University of Florida and his Ph.D. in Poultry Science from Auburn University. Downs has been on faculty in the School of Agriculture at MTSU since August 2000. At MTSU he teaches primarily undergraduate courses in poultry science, animal nutrition, and animal physiology. Downs coordinates the MTSU Poultry Science program, which includes the minor in Poultry Science. He is advisor to the MTSU Poultry Science Club and coaches the MTSU collegiate poultry judging team. He teaches seven poultry science specific courses. Because of these efforts, MTSU is the only college or university in the state of Tennessee with a designated academic program in poultry science.

Downs believes that students learn best by doing and follows that philosophy in his teaching. He pushes students to remain open-minded about their learning experiences and career goals. He believes that a university should be a place to develop critical thinking skills, while also preparing for a successful career. As such, he is highly engaged with student career placement in the poultry industry. In addition to his efforts on the academic side, Downs also maintains an active research program in poultry nutrition and engages many undergraduates with opportunities to gain research experience. Some recent projects have focused on the use of kudzu as an alternative feed ingredient in broiler diets and the impact of varying corn particle size in broiler feeding.

During his time at MTSU, Downs also has worked with youth development poultry programs in Tennessee and also assists many individuals with backyard poultry flock development and management. In 2020, Downs received the College of Basic and Applied Sciences Teaching Excellence Award. His most cherished accomplishments, however, are the many professionally successful students whom he has mentored during his tenure at MTSU.



Rachael El Kadiri

Department of Geosciences

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Rachael El Kadiri's research revolves around water resources through studies in the following interdisciplinary themes: (1) investigating climate change impacts on the water-climate-food nexus, (2) assessing and predicting water-driven natural hazards, and (3) understanding natural and anthropogenic forces on hydrological processes. Her research relies heavily on emerging technologies such as machine learning, geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, and surface/groundwater hydrological modeling.

Since joining MTSU, El Kadiri's teaching responsibilities have included all course levels (from General Education to graduate level) in a wide range of topics such as earth sciences, hydrogeology, and environmental sciences. El Kadiri has demonstrated a noteworthy level of dedication through continuous improvements of all her courses content and pedagogical tools, such as obtaining MT Engage certification for her courses and being awarded an educational grant to improve student information literacy skills in selected environmental science courses.

El Kadiri has been very active in applying for and securing funding to support her research. She submitted more than 20 external grant proposals and secured more than \$1.3 million in external funds. She is currently the principal investigator on three research projects totaling \$900,000 funded by the National Park Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, NASA, and National Science Foundation (NSF). These research activities generated funded opportunities for several graduate and undergraduate students, enhancing their academic experiences at MTSU.

El Kadiri has made significant service contributions to the department, college, university, and the community. She served as the chair for the College of Basic and Applied Sciences research committee and on multiple review panels for NASA and NSF, and she organized events for the community about water resources and the impacts of urban pollutants on local wetlands. Currently, in addition to other service responsibilities, she is the vice chair of the U.S. National Chapter of the Early Career Hydrogeologists Network of the International Association of Hydrogeologists and as the coordinator for the Environmental Sciences major.

She earned her combined B.S. and M.S. from Mohammed V University–Agdal in Rabat, Morocco, and her Ph.D. from Western Michigan University.



Ying (Iris) Gao

School of Agriculture

Tenured and Promoted to Professor

Iris Gao received her Ph.D. in Plant Molecular Biology from Peking University and was a visiting scholar at Yale University. She joined MTSU as a research assistant professor and a founding member of the Tennessee Center for Botanical Medicine Research in 2011. She is the founding director of the International Ginseng Institute at MTSU. Prior to joining MTSU, Gao had been an application scientist at Thermo Scientific.

Gao's research focuses on various biological and pharmaceutical properties of medicinal plants and their anti-cancer, antioxidant, cardiovascular protective, and neuroprotective activities for the development of new therapeutic agents. Her interests also include the conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants. She has published approximately 30 peer-reviewed research articles in *Plant Cell*, *Plant Physiology*, *Plant Molecular Biology*, *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, *International Journal of Oncology*, *Planta Medica*, *Journal of Functional Foods*, and others. She has filed three international patents for potential therapeutic agents and was awarded the Distinguished Research Award of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences in 2021.

Gao serves the broader research community as an editorial board member for *Springer Nature/Scientific Reports* and as a reviewer for more than 20 scientific journals. She was appointed to the board of advisors for the Smithsonian Institution's 2020 American Folklife Festival program "American Ginseng: Local Knowledge, Global Roots." She hosted and co-organized the 2019 Symposium on the Science, Traditions, and Economics of Tennessee Ginseng at MTSU.



Jennifer J. Kaplan

Departmental of Mathematical Sciences

Promoted to Professor

Jennifer J. Kaplan is director of the Ph.D. program in Mathematics and Science Education (M.S.E.), with her tenure home in the Department of Mathematical Sciences. She earned a B.A. in Mathematics from Brandeis University and taught high school mathematics for 10 years, first in public schools in the Boston area and

later at the Istanbul International Community School and Colegio Internacional de Caracas, where she served as the K–12 Mathematics Department chair. Kaplan returned to the U.S. and completed an M.S. in Mathematics (specialization in statistics) and a Ph.D. in Mathematics (specialization in statistics education) at the University of Texas at Austin.

Kaplan's research field is statistics education, specifically the study of learning and teaching of statistics at the undergraduate level. She has a passion for research that helps create a statistically literate citizenry. Her first academic appointment was at Michigan State University, in the Department of Statistics and Probability and the Division of Mathematics and Science Education. Prior to her arrival at MTSU, Kaplan was an associate professor in the Department of Statistics at the University of Georgia, where she taught service statistics courses for graduate students across the science disciplines, trained graduate students in statistics, and trained pre-service mathematics teachers to teach statistics. Kaplan has been the principal investigator on three National Science Foundation-funded grants, all of which used research on student learning in statistics to provide faculty or graduate students professional development for teaching statistics. She has graduated four Ph.D. students and eight M.S. students and has published 25 peer-reviewed publications, 10 with her graduate students as co-authors. In addition, Kaplan has given 40 talks at regional, national, and international conferences and currently serves as the editor of the *Statistics Education Research Journal*.



Suman Neupane

*Department of Physics and Astronomy
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Suman Neupane received his Ph.D. in Physics from Florida International University in 2014. He spent 18 months at Morgan State University before joining MTSU as an assistant professor in 2015. At MTSU, he teaches introductory and upper-level undergraduate physics courses and has served as a Graduate faculty member since 2019. Neupane was cited as a “person who makes a real difference to MTSU students” by graduating students in May 2019.

Neupane’s research focuses on the synthesis and characterization of nanomaterials including carbon nanotubes, graphene, iron oxide, and others. He is primarily interested in studying the electrical, magnetic, and chemical properties of the novel nanomaterials for various physical applications. Ongoing investigation of electronic transport, chemical, optical, and mechanical properties is aimed at the use of nanomaterials for energy storage and other functional applications. He has mentored the research of more than 25 students at MTSU, resulting in five undergraduate theses and one master’s thesis. His research has resulted in more than 20 peer-reviewed publications in international journals. He currently serves as an associate editor of *RSC Advances*.



Anatoliy Volkov

Department of Chemistry

Promoted to Professor

Anatoliy Volkov earned a B.S. and an M.S. in Geology specializing in Geochemistry, Mineralogy, and Crystallography from St. Petersburg State University in Russia and a Ph.D. in Physical and Computational Chemistry from the University at Buffalo, State University of New York. Volkov began his teaching career when he

joined MTSU in 2007. He teaches undergraduate physical chemistry courses and laboratories and serves as a physical chemistry laboratory coordinator in the Department of Chemistry. A member of the Graduate faculty and of the MTSU Computational and Data Science Ph.D. program, Volkov teaches the applied computational science course. He received the MTSU Foundation's 2009 Special Projects and 2016 Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology awards. Recently, Volkov's research interests extended to developing state-of-the-art stereoscopic 3D visualization teaching technologies and methods to improve spatial skills and content learning. This technique developed by Volkov has the potential to improve learning in a range of courses and disciplines, including architecture, astronomy, biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, mathematics, medicine, and physics.

Volkov's research includes theoretical quantum-mechanical and experimental X-ray diffraction studies of chemical bonding in molecules and crystals. He has published two book chapters and more than 40 peer-reviewed articles in prestigious scientific journals. Volkov's computer program, DenProp for quantum-chemical density analysis, has been requested by several international research groups. He is also a co-author and one of the leading developers of the computer program package XD2016.



Cindy Ayers

Department of Human Sciences

Promoted to Senior Instructor

Cindy Ayers has a B.S. in Agriculture (Animal Science) and an M.S. in Agriculture (Food Science and Technology) from the University of Tennessee. Ayers is uniquely qualified to teach food science from all aspects. She still lives on her family's farm and raises livestock. She worked in the food science field for over

30 years, first in research and development for a retort processing company making MREs for the military. Ayers then had an opportunity to move closer to home and worked a variety of positions at a major player in the chain restaurant industry. Specifically, she managed the food safety training aspect for well over 300 company restaurants and supervised the company's coordinated response to foodborne illness. During this time, she served on several national food safety boards. In 2005, after the birth of her sons, she worked as a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) coordinator for a small barbecue company.

While working as the HACCP coordinator, she was also an adjunct professor in the School of Agriculture for nine years. In 2014, this led to her full-time position in the Human Sciences Department teaching the food science courses. Ayers has assisted with the development of a new Food Industry concentration in Nutrition and Food Science, for which she manages the Foods Lab. Ayers also updated the food safety courses and developed the Food Laws and Regulations course. She currently serves on the Tennessee Food Safety Task Force. Ayers is especially proud of her students, who make major contributions to the food industry in Middle Tennessee and beyond.



Helen M. Binkley

*Department of Health and Human Performance
Promoted to Professor*

Helen M. Binkley received her B.S. and M.S. from the University of Delaware and Ph.D. from Temple University. Certified as an athletic trainer since 1988, Binkley has had several educational experiences and a variety of clinical experiences at all divisional levels of the NCAA and in a hospital setting. As the athletic

training director for the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE), she submitted annual reports and self-studies and hosted the accreditation reviewers. She has developed a curriculum proposal for a Master of Science in Athletic Training to begin in the summer of 2023. Binkley has been awarded the Tennessee Athletic Trainers Society's Jerry Robertson Educator Award and the Southeast Athletic Trainers Association's Education/Administration Athletic Trainer Award.

Binkley has published two book chapters, 24 articles, and two abstracts. She has made 29 conference presentations at the international, national, regional, and state levels. In addition, she has mentored undergraduate student oral and poster presentations at the state and regional level. Binkley has been designated a fellow of the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA).

In terms of professional service, Binkley has been elected to the NSCA board of directors twice and is currently the secretary/treasurer. Additional NSCA involvement includes engagement with the Women's Task Force, exam development, and Tennessee state director. Binkley has served as a peer reviewer for CAATE, as a member of the Southeast Athletic Trainers Association Research and Education Committee, as a member and chair of the Board of Athletic Trainers for the state licensing board, and as a member and chair of the Tennessee Athletic Trainers Society Education and Professionalism Committee. Binkley has been awarded two National Athletic Trainers Association recognitions—the Athletic Training Service Award and the Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award.



Rudy Dunlap

*Department of Health and Human Performance
Promoted to Professor*

Rudy Dunlap holds bachelor's degrees in Anthropology and Philosophy from Appalachian State University and an M.Ed. and Ph.D. in Recreation and Leisure Studies from the University of Georgia. Before arriving at Middle Tennessee State University in 2012, Dunlap served as an assistant professor in the Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Sciences at Texas A&M University.

Prior to entering academia, Dunlap was a program coordinator for Camp High Rocks in Cedar Mountain, North Carolina, and an assistant instructor at the North Carolina Outward Bound School in Pisgah Forest, North Carolina.

Dunlap's research has examined leisure as a sociocultural context in which community development and social change take place. Within this framing, his previous projects have explored volunteer participation in community gardening projects as settings for place connection, solidarity formation, and the exercise of individual and collective agency. More recently his research has examined urban cycling as a practice through which individuals connect to and re/appropriate urban space. Dunlap's scholarship has also explored a diverse range of qualitative research methods, including ethnography, collective memory work, so-called gonzo ethnography, and fiction as a tool for inquiry. He regularly teaches courses about outdoor recreation management, qualitative research, and the history and philosophy of leisure and sport. Dunlap is currently a co-editor-in-chief of *Leisure Sciences: An Interdisciplinary Journal*.



Vickie Harden

Department of Social Work

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Vickie Harden is the director for the Master of Social Work program. She holds an M.S. in Social Work from the University of Tennessee and a Ph.D. in Human Performance from MTSU. She has over 35 years of experience in social work practice working with trauma, addiction, and co-occurring mental illness. Her research

addresses issues of trauma, including connecting historical trauma to current systemic issues related to poverty and health disparities. She is dedicated to improving access to care for people affected by poverty and trauma, particularly those residing in rural communities.

Harden has written numerous federal and state grants, with over \$10 million in funding to address gaps in services for vulnerable populations. Dedicated to community services, she is a board member of the South Cumberland Health Network, the South Cumberland Learning and Development Center, the Association of Infant Mental Health in Tennessee, and the Prevention Coalition for Success in Rutherford County, Tennessee. Harden's current research is a collaborative research project with a colleague at Tulane University. Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project are being analyzed to define and describe resiliency through the experiences of enslaved Africans.



Alexander T. Jackson

Department of Psychology

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Alexander T. Jackson earned his B.S. in Psychology from Oklahoma State University in 2010, his M.A. in Industrial-Organizational Psychology from the University of Tulsa in 2012, and his Ph.D. in Psychology from Kansas State University in 2016. He joined MTSU in fall 2016. Since joining MTSU, he has taught courses in training and development, organizational psychology, psychological testing, occupational health psychology, and cross-cultural psychology. He has chaired eight graduate student theses, served on 19 graduate student thesis committees, and served as the chair on two undergraduate student Honors theses. Further, he has supervised student research resulting in a total of 43 student co-authored conference presentations (22 local/regional presentations, 13 national presentations, and eight international presentations) with 27 different students. He has also mentored students through the publication process resulting in six student co-authored peer-reviewed journal articles and three book reviews.

Jackson's two primary research interests are judgment and decision making and occupational health psychology. He has published research examining hiring decision aids; the effect of narcissism on advice taking and the hindsight bias; workplace burnout; and making healthy choices at work. He has served as an editor for a special issue in *Personnel Assessments and Decisions* and is currently on the editorial board for *Occupational Health Science*.

Jackson also serves as a consultant for the Center for Organizational and Human Resource Effectiveness at MTSU, where he has delivered leadership development workshops to Tennessee state agencies, provided statistical analyses for private organizations, and conducted organization-wide employee surveys.

Jackson is an avid triathlete. He has reached the podium in his age group in three separate races, and he completed his first Half Ironman (70.3 miles) triathlon in Panama City, Florida, in May 2021.



Kristi Julian

Department of Human Sciences

Tenured and Promoted to Professor

Kristi Julian is the program coordinator for the Bachelor of Science in Interior Design. Julian is a National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) registered interior designer with professional experience in facilities, health care, hospitality, and corporate design. She is a Council for Interior Design Accreditation site

visitor chair and has 30-plus years of practical experience in the field. She graduated from Auburn University and the University of Alabama and has been teaching interior design for more than 20 years.

Her research interests focus on interior design pedagogy, virtual exchange, design thinking, and sustainability. She is a scholarship reviewer for numerous journals and has more than 44 research publications. Julian is an accredited professional with Leadership in Environmental Design Building Design and Construction (LEED BD+C), Evidence-Based Design (EDAC), and WELL. Julian is a founding member of the Council of Virtual Exchange (CoVE) and currently its acting director of Research and Online Interface. She loves to travel and enjoys nature.



Barbara Whitman Lancaster

School of Nursing

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Barbara Lancaster is a graduate of Frontier Nursing University, where she earned both her master's degree as a Nurse Practitioner and her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. She is a board certified Women's Health Nurse Practitioner, a nationally certified Menopause Practitioner, and a certified Mental Health

Integrative Medicine Provider. Lancaster teaches in both the undergraduate Nursing program and the graduate Nurse Practitioner program, where she has developed new courses in both programs. Lancaster enjoys being part of the Experiential Learning (EXL) program, where she actively pursues experiences to enrich her students' lives and academic journeys.

She has been the team captain for the School of Nursing (SON)/Rutherford County Heart Walk for several years, raising more than \$2,000 for the American Heart Association in 2019. Lancaster has served on several University committees and is currently a member of the Graduate Council. She has served as chair of the SON Faculty Services committee since 2018 and will be on the SON Promotion and Tenure Review Committee starting in fall 2021.

Lancaster is an MTSU Faculty Fellow and a Mental Health First Aider, and she received the EXL Faculty Award in 2021. She is a member of the Sigma Tau International Nursing Honor Society and the Positive Aging Consortium and is a board reviewer for the *International Journal of the Whole Child*. Lancaster's professional associations include the North American Menopause Society and the National Association for Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health, where she is on the speakers board. Lancaster has presented her work on menopause education at several conferences, and she recently had a poster exhibited at the 2020 Tennessee Volunteerism Conference. She writes a health column for her hometown newspaper and is active in Operation Christmas Child. Her favorite title is that of "Grama"!



Shelley Moore

*School of Nursing
Promoted to Professor*

Shelley Moore earned an associate of science degree in Nursing from the State University of New York in 1979, a bachelor's degree in Nursing from the State University of New York in 1981, and a master's in Nursing Administration in 1987 from Barry University. In 2013, Moore was awarded a Ph.D. in Health

Sciences with a concentration in International Health Education and Research from Trident University. Her research interests include staff nurse work environment, staff nurse decisional involvement, student nurse learning environment, structural empowerment, critical thinking, student empathy, student willingness to work with older adults and those with dementia, and effects of high-fidelity simulation on hospital staff teamwork. She teaches various nursing courses in both undergraduate and graduate programs with a particular interest in gerontology. She also serves as a volunteer long-term care ombudsman for the state of Tennessee.

Moore came to MTSU School of Nursing in August 2010 with 31 years of nursing practice in New York, Florida, and Tennessee. She has worked in both community hospitals and academic medical centers as a direct care nurse and as a hospital administrator. Her clinical expertise includes critical care and oncology, with a special passion for care of older adults. She has published a dozen articles in high-impact journals and has contributed to continuing medical education for the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine while participating in a 12-month Gerontology Faculty Fellowship there. Moore reviews for *Nursing Education Perspectives*, *Journal of Nursing Measurement*, *Nurse Education in Practice*; *Internet Journal of Allied Health Sciences and Practice*; *Nurse Education Today*; *Activities, Adaptation & Aging*; *International Journal of Childbirth Education*; and *American Journal of Public Health*. She is active in Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society for Nursing, and formerly was active in the Tennessee Nurses Association.



Andrew A. Owusu

*Department of Health and Human Performance
Promoted to Professor*

Andrew Owusu is the graduate director for the Public Health program within the Department of Health and Human Performance. He earned a B.S. in Biology from the University of Alabama, an M.S.Ed. in Sports Administration and Management from Wayne State College, and a Ph.D. in Human Performance from

Middle Tennessee State University.

Owusu's background includes experience designing, administering, and evaluating local, state, national, and international public health initiatives. This includes project planning, implementation, and evaluation design. Over the years, he has taught the courses foundations in health education, community and public health, epidemiology, measurement and evaluation, data management in public health, health promotion, and nation's health. His research interests include adolescent health-risk behaviors, inmate health, and school health policies and practices.

In addition to his academic duties, Owusu is Ghana's country coordinator for the following initiatives: Ghana Global School-based Student Health Survey (Ghana GSHS) and Ghana Global School Health Policies and Practices Survey (Ghana G-SHPPS). Both projects involve a partnership with the World Health Organization and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The GSHS focuses on national-level assessment of health risk behaviors and protective factors among junior and senior high school students, while the G-SHPPS focuses on the assessment of health policies implementation and health practices at the school level.

Owusu is an eight-time All-American (long and triple jump), an NCAA-D1 long jump national champion, a five-time Olympian (three times as a competitor and twice as a team official), a four-time African Champion, and a Commonwealth Games silver medalist in the triple jump.



Kristen L. Phillips

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

Kristin L. Phillips has a B.S. in Athletic Training from the University of Illinois, an M.Ed. from Auburn University in Higher Education and Administration, and a Ph.D. in Human Performance from Middle Tennessee State University. After working as an athletic trainer at Charleston Southern University with eight women's

sports, at Auburn University with men's and women's cross country and track and field, and at Middle Tennessee State University with women's basketball, she decided to take on a new challenge and began teaching in 2002. Since then, she has served as the clinical coordinator and instructor for the athletic training program. As the clinical coordinator, she establishes new affiliation sites and community partners for her students, visits students regularly, and manages the student and preceptor paperwork required for the accrediting body, Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education.

Phillips serves on the Tennessee Athletic Trainers' Society (TATS) scholarship committee and is a faculty mentor to MTSU's Student Athletic Training Association. She was named the 2019 TATS Jerry Robertson Educator of the Year. Phillips has presented on Advanced Taping Techniques and Kinesiotaping at the Student Southeastern Athletic Training Association meeting over several consecutive years and at the TATS annual meeting. She has two national publications.



Carter Smith

*Department of Criminal Justice Administration
Promoted to Master Instructor*

Carter F. Smith has a B.S. in Public Management from Austin Peay State University, a J.D. from Southern Illinois University, and a Ph.D. from Northcentral University. Carter is a retired U.S. Army Criminal Investigations Division (CID) special agent, and was involved in

military and federal law enforcement, both in the United States and abroad, for over 22 years. He spent most of his professional life at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he was instrumental in identifying the growing criminal gang and domestic extremist problem that began affecting the military community in the early 1990s.

He has served as a consultant on a variety of topics for several local, regional, national, and international news sources, and has appeared twice in the History Channel's *Gangland* series. He was a founding board member of the Tennessee Gang Investigators Association, a recipient of the CID Command Special Agent of the Year award, and a three-time recipient of the Frederic Milton Thrasher Award of the National Gang Crime Research Center. In addition to dozens of academic publications, recent books he has authored or co-authored include *Gangs and the Military: Gangsters, Bikers, and Terrorists with Military Training* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2017 and 2019); *Gangs and Organized Crime* (Routledge, 2018); and *Private Security Today* (Pearson, 2017).

In addition to the time he spent teaching while in the military and for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, he has enjoyed teaching at the college level since 1990. He has been a part of the Department of Criminal Justice Administration since 2006, except for a brief stint at Austin Peay from 2011–13. He has been a peer evaluator for the University College's online program, the Tennessee Board of Regents, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, and the American Council on Education.



Ben Stickle

*Department of Criminal Justice Administration
Tenured*

Ben Stickle, associate professor of Criminal Justice Administration, holds a B.A. in Sociology from Cedarville University and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Justice Administration from the University of Louisville. His research interests include policing (use of force and administration), property crime (metal theft and burglary), and emerging crimes (package theft and crime in the sharing economy). Stickle's theoretical focus is crime opportunity and rational choice with a specialization in qualitative methods. His research has appeared in the *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, *Police Practice and Research*, *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, and *Policing: An International Journal*. He is the author of *Metal Scrappers and Thieves* (Springer); co-editor of *Policing Behavior, Hiring, and Crime Fighting: An International View* (Routledge); and editor of *Field Studies in Environmental Criminology* (Routledge); and has authored over 20 book chapters, reviews, and encyclopedia entries. His research has garnered national and international attention, including media interviews (e.g., *New York Times*, *Good Morning America*, *NBC Investigative Reporting*), presentations in six countries (including twice at the United Nations in New York and Geneva), and across numerous practitioner outlets.

In addition to his research, Stickle has over 20 years of experience in the criminal justice field, including service as a police officer, crime scene investigator, and private security officer. He is a two-time past president of the Kentucky Peace Officers' Association and a council member of the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council. A graduate of the National Forensic Academy (Session XXII), Stickle holds multiple professional certifications and has served as an expert witness on police administration matters. Currently, he incorporates his experience as a practitioner and his research interests into service as a program evaluator or primary investigator for multiple Bureau of Justice grants totaling over \$1.5 million with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Rutherford County Correctional Center, and others focused on justice mental health responses, offender reentry, human trafficking, and crime statistics.



Kristie A. Abston

Department of Management

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Kristie A. Abston joined the MTSU faculty in 2017. She earned a Ph.D. in Business Administration and an M.S. in Human Resource Development, both from the University of Tennessee, and a B.S. in Biology from East Tennessee State University. She has been a certified professional in human resource management (HRM)

since 2000.

Abston's teaching focus is HRM, including the graduate seminar and courses in the undergraduate HRM concentration. She also teaches principles of management, the introductory management course. Two of her courses are designated Experiential Learning (EXL), and her students have completed HRM-related projects for several organizations in the community.

Abston's research interests include employee patronage, organizational commitment, teaching innovations, and turnover. Her work has been published in the *American Business Review*, *Compensation & Benefits Review*, the *Global Journal of Accounting and Finance*, the *Journal of Business Research*, the *Journal of Management*, *Performance Improvement Quarterly*, the *Small Business Institute® Journal*, and other peer-reviewed publications. She currently serves on the editorial review boards of *Compensation & Benefits Review*, the *Global Journal of Management and Marketing*, and the *Southeast Case Research Journal*. She is a fellow of the Association for Business Simulation and Experiential Learning and of the Southeast Case Research Association.

In the Department of Management, Abston has chaired the Business and Community Relations Committee and currently serves on the task force charged with redesigning the Management major. She led the subgroup that developed the HRM concentration and facilitated its alignment with the Society for Human Resource Management's standards. Abston also serves on the Jones College Assurance of Learning Committee and the University's Technology Access Fee (TAF) Committee.



Murat Arik

Department of Management

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Murat Arik has an AACSB-accredited Post-Doctoral Bridge Program certificate from the University of Florida in Management and Entrepreneurship. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut, M.A. from Syracuse University, and B.A. from Ankara University, Turkey. After more than two decades serving

communities across Connecticut and Tennessee as an economic research professional, Arik is the director of the Business and Economic Research Center (BERC) in the Jones College of Business. Prior to his tenure as director, he served as interim director and associate director between 2003 and 2014 at the BERC, and he was a senior research analyst at the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis at the University of Connecticut (2001–03).

He has consulted extensively with local and state government agencies, chambers of commerce, and private businesses. His research focuses on regional economic trends, international business dynamics, strategic management, management of innovation, and innovation acceleration. He teaches undergraduate courses in strategic management, management of innovation, and innovation acceleration. Throughout his career, Arik has conducted more than 100 consulting projects and published in academic journals, including *Global Journal of Management and Marketing*, *Global Journal of Accounting and Finance*, the *Journal of Developing Areas*, and the *Journal of Applied Management and Entrepreneurship*. He serves on the board of directors of the Institute for Global Business Research (www.igbr.org). He is the editor emeritus of the *Global Journal of Accounting and Finance* and the associate editor of the *Global Journal of Management and Marketing*.

Arik has received numerous awards for his research and professional services over the years, most notably the Bill and Kathy Jones Outstanding Faculty Award for the Jones College of Business, the Institute for Global Business Research Fellow Award, and the JoAnn C. Carland Distinguished Service Award. Arik lives in Murfreesboro with his wife, Hulya, and their two sons, Berat and Batu.



Lucy Matthews

Department of Marketing

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Lucy M. Matthews has a B.S. in Marketing and Management from Indiana University and an M.B.A. with a concentration in Marketing from Georgia State University. She worked in sales and management for more than 15 years prior to returning for her doctorate at Kennesaw State University. She joined MTSU in fall 2015. Her research interests include sales and sales management, burnout, engagement, grit, partial least squares structural equation modeling, as well as cross-disciplinary areas related to marketing, such as innovation and entrepreneurship.

Matthews was instrumental in developing the Professional Selling concentration and certificate program offered by the Department of Marketing in the Jones College of Business. She has obtained sponsorship partner funds for the selling program exceeding \$150,000. Matthews was the recipient of the Jones College's E. W. "Wink" Midgett Distinguished Research Award in 2019 and the State Farm Outstanding Professor Award in 2018. In 2018, she also received the Outstanding EXL Faculty Award. She is a 2021 Rutherford ATHENA Award nominee. Matthews is the current president for the Atlantic Marketing Association, the executive director and 2022 program chair-elect for the Society for Marketing Advances, and the vice chairman of the board for Ascend Federal Credit Union, which has \$3.4 billion in assets, located in Tullahoma.



Adam Smith

Department of Management

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Adam Smith has a B.A. in History and an M.A. in Economics from Western Kentucky University. He received his Ph.D. in Business with a focus on Entrepreneurship and International Business from Old Dominion University. Smith teaches both undergraduate and graduate students in strategy and entrepreneurship.

His research interests include comparative institutional analysis, international entrepreneurship, new venture creation processes, and social entrepreneurship at the base of the pyramid.

Smith has published research in journals such as *Organization Science*, *Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal*, and *Journal of World Business*. He was awarded the State Farm Outstanding Professor Award for the Jones College of Business for the 2019–20 academic year.



Daniel J. Smith

*Department of Economics and Finance
Promoted to Professor*

Daniel J. Smith received his M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from George Mason University and a B.B.A. in Economics and Finance from Northwood University. He is the director of the Political Economy Research Institute. He also serves as the North

American co-editor of *The Review of Austrian Economics* and is the president-elect of the Society for the Development of Austrian Economics.

Smith's academic research and policy work uses Austrian and public choice economics to analyze private and public governance institutions. While his primary research areas are monetary institutions and public pensions, he has also done fieldwork following natural disasters and even examined the governance institutions of brawling soccer hooligans, cyclists in the Tour de France, and the patricians of historic Venice. Other academic and policy research he has undertaken examines the effects of occupational licensing, payday lending regulation, and the morality of markets.

He is the co-author of *Money and the Rule of Law: Generality and Predictability in Monetary Institutions* (Cambridge University Press), written with Peter J. Boettke and Alexander W. Salter, and *The Political Economy of Public Pensions* (Cambridge University Press), written with Eileen Norcross. His research is published in academic journals such as *Public Choice*, *Economics of Governance*, *Constitutional Political Economy*, and the *Review of Austrian Economics*, and in chapters in books published by Oxford University Press, Routledge, and Wiley-Blackwell. He has published numerous opinion pieces in national and regional outlets, including the *Wall Street Journal*, *The Hill*, *Investor's Business Daily*, and *CNBC.com*.

Smith received the Bill and Kathy Jones Outstanding Professor Award from the Jones College of Business in 2021. In 2019, Smith served as the guest editor for a special issue of *Public Choice* building upon the research of MTSU alumnus and Nobel laureate economist James M. Buchanan.



Ralph I. Williams

Department of Management

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Ralph Williams earned a D.B.A from Kennesaw State, an M.B.A. from MTSU, and a B.S. from MTSU. For more than 25 years, he served as president of three commercial printing companies, holding an ownership stake in two of them. He then worked as a consultant for several printing companies. Prior to his appointment as an assistant professor of Management, Williams served as a Management lecturer at MTSU for six years. His research interests include family business, small business, goals and mission, and leadership.

Since beginning the tenure-track process, Williams has had 19 articles published in peer-reviewed journals, including two B's and two A's as ranked by ABDC (Australian Business Deans Council). In addition, Williams has had 10 articles published in practitioner magazines. In 2018, Williams and his coauthors received the Academy of Business Research Spring Conference Best Paper Award and the *Journal of Small Business Strategy's* Matthew Sonfield Distinguished Research Award for the best paper published in the journal that year. Williams has reviewed 25 articles for peer-reviewed journals and is a member of the *Journal of Small Business Strategy* editorial review board. Undergraduate classes Williams has taught include: family business, entrepreneurial financial management, strategic management, new venture creation, small business management, managerial decision making, and principles of management. In addition, Williams has taught two courses at the graduate level: integrated marketing and decision making, and leading organizations. For the 2018–19 academic year, Williams received the Jones College of Business Bill and Kathy Jones Outstanding Professor Award.

Williams and his wife, Lesa, have three married children and eight grandchildren and are members of Blackman Baptist Church.



Amy Elleman

*Department of
Elementary and Special Education
Promoted to Professor*

Amy Elleman earned a B.S. in Psychology at the University of Maryland University College. She has worked as a teacher and administrator in programs serving students with learning and behavior difficulties. She earned her M.Ed. and Ph.D. in Special Education at Vanderbilt University, where she became interested in the early identification and treatment of reading comprehension difficulties.

Elleman's research focuses on the examination of factors central to reading comprehension including vocabulary acquisition, inference generation, and knowledge development. She has expertise in conducting meta-analyses and examining the efficacy of reading interventions through randomized controlled trials. Her current research includes examining factors related to vocabulary acquisition in adolescents, conducting a meta-analysis of comprehension intervention studies from the last 100 years, and examining the efficacy of a multicomponent inference intervention for adolescents with reading comprehension difficulties.

Elleman has published 27 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. Her publications can be found in highly ranked journals including *Journal of Educational Psychology*, *Scientific Studies of Reading*, and the *Journal of Learning Disabilities*. Her articles have been featured as the most read and cited in journals such as the *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness* and *Policy Insights from Behavioral and Brain Sciences*.

Elleman joined the Literacy Studies Ph.D. program and the Elementary and Special Education Department in 2011. Since then, she has served as the chair of 18 dissertations and as a member of more than 25 dissertation committees. Over the past year, she served as the interim chair of the Elementary and Special Education Department and is currently the interim director of the Literacy Studies Ph.D. program.



Erin K. Anfinson

Department of Art and Design

Promoted to Professor

Erin Anfinson holds a B.A. from the University of Northern Iowa and an M.F.A. from the University of Connecticut. Since joining the MTSU Department of Art and Design, she has taught Foundations-level courses in drawing, 2D design, and digital art. Anfinson also serves as the Foundations area coordinator and is an MT Engage program faculty member. She 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 collaboratively created installations of artwork in partnership with the Walker Library, Linebaugh Library, Stones River National Battlefield, and Turnip Green Creative Reuse in Nashville. In 2020, Anfinson was awarded the Outstanding Teaching Award.

Her creative work and research interests involve a cross-pollination of mediums 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 and 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 has received 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 regularly invited to teach mixed media encaustic workshops at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg.



Aleka Akoyunoglou Blackwell

Department of English

Promoted to Professor

Aleka Akoyunoglou Blackwell has a B.S. from Northwestern University, an M.A. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a Ph.D. from Boston University. She joined the MTSU English Department in 2001. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in linguistics, is an active member of the minor in Linguistic Studies in the College of Liberal Arts, and serves as the faculty advisor for the Linguistics Club of MTSU. She became a certified online instructor in 2008 and has since served as an Online Faculty Mentor for MTSU Online. She also served as a founding member of the Literacy Studies Ph.D. program in the College of Education.

In 2007, she founded the MTSU Linguistics Olympiad, an annual competition whose mission is to raise awareness of the workings of language, call attention to the rapid loss of language diversity worldwide, and bring linguistics to middle and high school students across Tennessee. In 2009, she also joined the organizing committee of the North American Computational Linguistics Open (NACLO) competition for high school students in the U.S. and Canada. She became the organization's co-chair in 2016 and has since served as a team leader for the U.S. to the International Linguistics Olympiad held in India (2016), Ireland (2017), Czech Republic (2018), Republic of Korea (2019), and Latvia (2021). She has authored linguistic problems representing 32 languages, a number of which have appeared in the national competitions of Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.

Her research centers on the mental lexicon and has been published in international journals and conference proceedings. She has mentored undergraduate and graduate student researchers in the English Department, the Psychology Department, and the Literacy Studies Ph.D. program and has guided her students to the successful defense of honors theses, M.A. theses, and Ph.D. dissertations followed by presentations at national conferences and publication in international journals.

She received the MTSU Outstanding Teaching Award in 2006 and the MTSU Outstanding Public Service Award in 2015.



James Chaney

*Department of
Global Studies and Human Geography
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

James P. Chaney completed his Ph.D. in Geography and Anthropology at Louisiana State University. His research focuses on ethnicity, Latin America, and immigrant and refugee communities in the American South. He has conducted extensive fieldwork in Mexico and Central America, examining the mobility and economic strategies of transnational immigrant communities. Chaney's research has been published in academic journals such as *The Journal of Latin American Geography*, *The Latin Americanist*, and the *Southeastern Geographer*. His coauthored book, *Hispanic and Latino New Orleans: Immigration and Identity since the Eighteenth Century*, was awarded the John Brinckerhoff Jackson Book Prize in 2016. Chaney teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on Latin America, Europe, migration, human trafficking, and cultural geography. He is also the faculty advisor for MTSU's UNICEF Campus Initiative.

Chaney is an advocate for community engagement. Before returning to his home state of Tennessee, Chaney worked as an associate director for a Latino-focused nonprofit in New Orleans that advocated for southeast Louisiana's Latino immigrant population. He currently serves on the board of directors of Free for Life International, an anti-trafficking organization based in Nashville, where he co-leads their trafficking prevention programs in Latin America.



Jonathan DiCicco

Department of

Political Science and International Relations

Tenured and Promoted to Professor

Jonathan M. DiCicco joined MTSU in 2018, after 12 years on the faculty at Canisius College in Buffalo, New York. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Rutgers University and a B.A. from Drew University.

DiCicco serves on the Graduate faculty and the Honors College faculty, and he teaches in MTSU's Master of Arts in International Affairs (MAIA) program. As the program's specialist in international security and peace studies, DiCicco mentors graduate students in these areas and has served as both thesis supervisor and practicum supervisor. DiCicco has developed and taught undergraduate courses on international relations, war and international conflict, and the politics of protest, as well as the Buchanan Honors section of the crucial General Education course introduction to global politics.

DiCicco's research centers on war, peace, and defense policy, and emphasizes themes of leaders and leadership—including political and military leaders in times of crisis and war; leaders' roles in resolving dangerous rivalries; American leadership of the international order; and power transitions at the apex of that order. A senior fellow with the TransResearch Consortium, DiCicco's most recent projects focus on "great-power competition" and revisionist states in global affairs. This past spring, DiCicco published a peer-reviewed article on revisionism co-authored with an MAIA graduate student. He was invited to join the editorial board for *PS: Political Science and Politics*, the discipline's journal of record for teaching, professional development, and contemporary policy issues.

DiCicco has published articles in leading journals in political science and international relations, including *International Studies Quarterly*, the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, and *Political Research Quarterly*, and his scholarship of teaching and learning has appeared in the *Journal of Political Science Education* and *International Studies Perspectives*. He is co-author of *Presence, Prevention, and Persuasion: A Historical Analysis of Military Force and Political Influence* (Lexington Books, 2004) and co-editor of *International Relations: Introductory Readings* (Kendall Hunt, 2017). DiCicco writes occasionally for H-Diplo, H-Net's network for diplomatic history and international affairs, and he has published opinion pieces and short-format works in national and local news outlets, including *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, and *The Tennessean*.



Christopher Dye

School of Music

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Christopher Dye holds degrees in Music Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Ed.D.), Columbus State University (M.M.), and Texas Lutheran University (B.M.). Since 2015, he has served as assistant professor of Instrumental Music Education. He teaches courses in instrumental methods and materials,

supervises Residency I and II student teachers, leads the Music Education Seminar, and teaches graduate course in assessment, technology, policy, and advocacy.

Prior to his appointment at MTSU, Dye was a visiting lecturer in Music Education at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, where he taught undergraduate and graduate coursework, supervised student teachers, and coordinated the graduate associate instructors for the instrumental methods sequence and student teaching supervision. Previously, he served as a graduate teaching assistant with the University Bands and Music Education divisions at the University of Illinois and as a middle school and high school band director in the Frenship Independent School District in Wolfforth, Texas.

Dye is an active researcher in music education policy and instrumental music pedagogy, presenting papers and clinics at international, national, and state conferences. Recent publications include articles in the *Journal of Music Teacher Education*, *Psychology of Music*, and the *Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education*. He is currently serving his third term on the board of the Tennessee Music Education Association as Advocacy and Government Relations chair and as the state's representative to the National Association for Music Education Advocacy Leadership Force. He also serves as the collegiate representative on the board of the Middle Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association and as the faculty sponsor for the MTSU Collegiate Chapter of the National Association for Music Education.



Sekou M. Franklin

*Department of Political Science and
International Relations*

Promoted to Professor

Sekou Franklin earned his undergraduate degree from Santa Clara University and graduate degrees from San Francisco State University and Howard University. He joined the MTSU Department of Political Science in 2003 and has published works on racial identity, health

care, urban politics, social movements, juvenile justice, the death penalty, Venezuelan politics, and state and local politics.

He is the author of *After the Rebellion: Social Movement Activism and Popular Mobilization among the Post-Civil Rights Generation* (NYU Press, 2014), co-author of *Losing Power: African Americans and Racial Polarization in Tennessee Politics* (University of Georgia Press, 2020), and editor of *State of Blacks in Middle Tennessee* (Urban League of Middle Tennessee, 2010–11).

Lead investigator of the Dallas County Area Study/Black Rural Project, he has served as president of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists from 2019–21 and worked with the James Lawson Institute; Tennessee State Conference of the NAACP; Southern Poverty Law Center; NAACP Legal Defense Fund; Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; Selma Center for Nonviolence, Truth and Reconciliation; and Tennessee Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. He received the John Pleas Faculty Award in 2014. In 2019, he received the Greater Nashville Alliance of Black School Educators Award and the NAACP Benjamin L. Hooks Keeper of the Flame Award.



Frances D. Henderson

Department of English

Promoted to Master Instructor

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

English at Middle Tennessee State University in 2009. Since then, Henderson has been nominated several times for Faculty of the Year in the Department of English, where she teaches the African American Experience in Literature, Black Women as Writers, and writing courses. Additionally, she teaches in the Master of Arts in Liberal Arts program.

Henderson has been recognized as a “Faculty Member Who Made a Difference to a Graduating Senior.” A fervent advocate for students, she serves on numerous committees including the Black Faculty and Staff Association, Black History Month Committee, Intercultural Affairs Board, the President’s Commission on the Status of Women, and the College of Liberal Arts Strategic Planning Organizing Committee. Her professional mission is to reach and teach as many students as she possibly can, and to ignite in them a passion for lifelong learning and service to others.



Paolo Volpe Rinonapoli

*Department of
World Languages, Literatures and Cultures
Promoted to Master Instructor*

Paolo Volpe Rinonapoli, born in Milan, Italy, earned a Bachelor of Arts in Italian Language and Literature from the Università degli Studi di Parma, Italy. After graduating he moved to Murcia, Spain, where he worked at the Universidad de Murcia for several years teaching Italian and Spanish as a second language, and where he also obtained the D.E.L.E. (Diploma de español como lengua extranjera). In 2002 he moved to the U.S., where he graduated in 2004 from Middle Tennessee State University with a Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) with a concentration in Spanish.

Following graduation he was hired by the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures as an instructor of Italian and Spanish. During his years at MTSU, he has co-directed study abroad programs to both Italy and Spain. He also developed and taught Italian and Spanish courses based on the TPR/TPRS teaching methods (Total Physical Response/Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling) for the Center for Accelerated Language Acquisition (CALA) at the Honors College.

In 2011–12 he won the “Favorite MTSU Professor” award from the *Daily News Journal* after being a finalist in 2010–11.

He continues to serve as an instructor of Italian and Spanish at MTSU, teaching a broad range of language and culture courses.



Sally Ann Cruikshank

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

Sally Ann Cruikshank received her Ph.D. from the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University, following an award-winning career as a television news producer in Pittsburgh and Miami.

Cruikshank's research spans the globe. She has traveled to several countries, including Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Myanmar (Burma), to conduct research on press freedom in post-conflict and post-genocide societies. Her international research has been published in peer-reviewed journals, including *Journalism Studies*, *African Journalism Studies*, *International Communication Research Journal*, and *Newspaper Research Journal*. Cruikshank also has conducted extensive research on mobile technology and social media. Her research on Twitter has been published in the *Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media* and *Journalism & Mass Communication Educator*.

She teaches a variety of journalism courses, including digital media skills, social media (on the graduate level), and advanced reporting. Cruikshank's expertise is in digital media, and she has developed a range of courses in that area, including a mobile journalism class, where students learn to report using only their phones. She is the first author on the book *A Complete Guide to Television, Field and Digital Producing* (in press).

Cruikshank also has conducted international workshops on journalism for both students and working journalists. In 2019, she was a keynote speaker at the National Conference: Media Literacy—Overcoming the Digital Challenge, held in Malta.



Christine C. Eschenfelder

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

Christine Eschenfelder, who earned her Ph.D. in Mass Communication from the University of Florida, has years of professional experience working in television news as a reporter, anchor, and producer. She is the recipient of several broadcast news awards including the prestigious Edward R. Murrow Award.

Eschenfelder joined the School of Journalism and Strategic Media in 2015. she teaches courses including ethics and mass communication, news producing, entertainment and lifestyle storytelling, and MTSU Signature Education Abroad programs. She led a class to England and France to cover the 75th anniversary of D-Day. As part of the course, her students created an award-winning television special and website. Students in her seminar in media issues course created a television special and website on the 100th anniversary of the first commercial radio broadcast, earning a top 10 placement in the Hearst Journalism Awards and a national Silver Telly Award. She is a co-creator and faculty advisor of *Middle Tennessee News*, a live student newscast and website that provide experiential learning opportunities.

Eschenfelder received the MTSU Outstanding Teacher Award and the School of Journalism and Strategic Media's Teaching Excellence Award. She was a 2017 Academy of Teaching Excellence Faculty Fellow and has been awarded an MTSU President's Commission on the Status of Women summer integration grant, a National Association of Television Program Executives faculty development grant, and a Broadcast Education Association faculty research grant. She is Mental Health First Aid USA and MTSU Safe Zone certified.

Eschenfelder's research focuses on journalism education, newsroom diversity, and women in broadcasting. Her work appears in the *Journal of Media Education*, *Journalism & Mass Communication Educator*, the *International Communication Research Journal*, and a chapter in the book *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*.



Michael Hanson

Department of Recording Industry

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Michael Hanson received his Bachelor of Science degree in Recording Industry from Middle Tennessee State University (1996). A producer and engineer of many albums, he has also designed and built recording studios, worked as a front-of-house and monitor engineer, built an archival company, and served as a consultant to several manufacturers.

Hanson's diverse roster of artists and songwriters includes Kirk Franklin, Emmylou Harris, The Black Crowes, Diamond Rio, Keith Urban, Kurt Carr, and Ronnie Milsap. Manufacturers he has consulted, designed, and beta tested for include Groove Tubes, Mackie, Equation Audio, and Luke Audio.

Hanson returned to Middle Tennessee State University to complete his Master of Fine Arts degree in Recording Arts and Technologies (2013). Currently, Hanson serves as chair of the Audio Engineering Society-Nashville Chapter and works independently as a producer, engineer, consultant, and designer.



Tom Neff

Department of Media Arts

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Tom Neff has more than 35 years' experience in the film industry with many national and international awards, including an Oscar nomination, an Emmy win, and an Emmy nomination. He is a member of both the Television Academy and Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the Television Academy, where he was nominated to serve on the Oscar Board of Governors.

Neff founded the Documentary Channel, which aired to more than 45 million viewers nationally. He has created, written, directed, produced, or executive produced—often filling all of these roles in a single project—over 100 documentaries, including the Emmy-winning documentary *Shake Hands with the Devil: The Journey of Romeo Dallaire*; the Oscar-nominated *Red Grooms: Sunflower in a Hothouse*; the IMAX film, *Our Country*; and many others.

His films have shown at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Smithsonian, New York's Whitney Museum of American Art, Lincoln Center, the Lincoln Jazz Center, the Denver Art Museum, the Tennessee State Museum, the Director's Guild of America, The Academy, the Ojai Center, the Miami Festival, and other venues and cities.

Neff's documentary *Mr. Temple and the Tigerbelles*, shortlisted by the International Documentary Association as one of the nation's best short documentaries of 2018, has earned many accolades. It was an HBO finalist for the prestigious RSF Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival; won the BEA 2021 Diversity and Inclusion Creativity Award; was one of four nominated finalists at Spain's FICA International Athletics Film Festival; was the most-watched show for its time slot in the nation on PBS; and won Honorable Mention for Best Short Documentary at the Cleveland International Film Festival. It has played to sold-out audiences at the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, at the Nashville Public Library, and at the Tennessee State Museum. The film has been accepted for the program at many national and international festivals.

After the 1992 Rodney King Riots in Los Angeles, Neff crossed police barricades to shoot black-and-white large-scale photographs of the ravaged interiors and exteriors of buildings, featured in the one-man exhibition *Dialogue on Fire* in MTSU's Baldwin Gallery.



Amanda L. Scott

*Department of
Collection Development and Management
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Amanda Scott has a B.M. from Union University, an M.A. in Musicology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and an M.L.I.S. from the University of Alabama. Prior to coming to MTSU, she was the cataloging librarian at Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM) from 2012–18. Her primary responsibility at AUM was maintaining the content of the library's catalog by creating, editing, or deleting catalog records as needed. She also was responsible for assisting library patrons with grant opportunity databases and other resources published by the Foundation Center. She was hired as the music and media cataloging librarian (assistant professor) at MTSU's James E. Walker Library in 2018. In this position, her primary responsibility is to maintain the content of the library's catalog, focusing on catalog records for music and audiovisual materials.

Her research has focused on modern uses for print union catalogs and the inclusion of new controlled vocabularies in legacy records in library catalogs. She is broadly interested in music cataloging and the intersection of library science and musicology. She has been active in service to the Music Library Association (MLA), the Music Library Association-Southeast Chapter (SEMLA), and Online Audiovisual Catalogers (OLAC). She was recently appointed to the Content Standards Subcommittee of MLA's Cataloging and Metadata Committee and served on SEMLA's Nominating Committee. As a member of OLAC, she served on its Cataloging Policy Committee and is currently on the OLAC Unified Best Practices Task Force.

