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The Grad Review

Morehead State University Graduate School

FALL 2015

OLLIE FLOYD, NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Dean's Message

The new school year brings changes and the potential for significant growth at Morehead State University. The beginning of a reversal of the decline in graduate enrollment, that has also been noted nationwide, has occurred. This has been brought about by the concerted efforts of our dedicated Graduate School staff and world-class faculty to grow existing graduate programs, while also planning exciting new ones.

In following-up on this success in the coming year, we will continue to make improvements in online admissions technology to make it easier for qualified applicants to take their next steps toward career success with us. The publication of stated two-year degree plans for all graduate programs and the continued consideration of program- and community partner-specific competitive pricing models should help make Morehead State the obvious choice for busy professionals looking to complete a quality degree efficiently and economically. In addition, new program-specific marketing plans should serve to convince those seeking career advancement that MSU is the best place to spend their hard-earned tuition dollar. Finally, the Graduate School is firmly committed to partnering with stakeholders across the University to grow international enrollment with focused initiatives that will enhance diversity and enrich the educational experience for all students.



It looks like the 2015-16 school year is going to be an exciting one!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michael C. Fenson'.

College of Education Helps Students SOAR

Gov. Steve Beshear and U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers, co-chairs of Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR), joined educators from 22 eastern Kentucky school districts to help kick-

off an education initiative aimed at building a STEM-based (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) workforce by creating new opportunities for teachers through National Board Certification.

Morehead State University has partnered with several area organizations to provide 64 teachers in 22 of the highest unemployment, highest poverty SOAR counties with National Board Teaching Certification (NBTC). The selected teachers started the three-year program in July of this year. Along with obtaining the certification, teachers will receive a master's degree with an emphasis on leadership at regional teaching centers close to their homes, plus rank change and salary increase, all provided at no cost to them or their school districts.

The program encourages teachers to be trained in STEM education through National Board Certification. The goal is for educators to prepare students for the workforce. "Our vision is to prepare students for postsecondary education and ultimately careers in fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics" said Belinda Hitch, project manager. "Creating a skilled, knowledgeable and dedicated workforce that can fill high-wage, high-demand jobs, drawing employers to the region. "

The vision for the SOAR-STEM project is to create economic opportunities that do not currently exist while fostering transformational change that can only be achieved through preparing a future workforce. Morehead State University's College of Education is pleased to be part of this change.



Left to right: Congressman Hal Rogers, Dean Margo DelliCaprini, MSU College of Education, Rodney Hitch, East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Alesha Duff of Chavies Elementary, Josh Hill of East Perry Elementary, Brad Thomas, East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Governor Steve Beshear, Amy Keadle, MSU Teacher in Residence, Tim Couch, Kentucky Representative for District 90

Featured Program: Master of Arts in English

A Master's in English is available in universities all over the Commonwealth and the United States; however, what makes the Master of Arts in English at Morehead State unique is that students from as nearby as the next county and as far away as the Pacific Rim have the ability to study with the MSU English graduate faculty.

The program, which can be taken entirely online, takes advantage of the convenience of the current curricular technology which permits students to enter classes on Blackboard at any time of day. In addition, students receive a wealth of communication from faculty and have access to library databases which helps them to daily engage with the rapidly evolving digital world of literature and its scholarship.

Students take courses in British and American Literature and Technical and Creative Writing. Writing a scholarly or creative thesis is an option, though students may also choose a non-thesis option. The faculty are all active scholars and writers committed to bringing the fruits of their classroom experience to their online courses. Graduates of the program go on to earn PhDs in Literature and Composition and MFAs in Creative Writing. What's more, the program is ideal for teachers seeking to earn a



Left to right: Dr. Robert Royar, Dr. Frances Helphinstine, MA in English Graduate Doug Warren, Dr. Glen Colburn, Dr. Layne Neeper

Master's or attain sufficient graduate credits either to teach dual credit courses or courses at the community college level. Courses are offered in fall, spring, two summer sessions and the upcoming winter term.

Spring and fall commencement bring great excitement for our faculty and students, as it presents an opportunity for both to meet each other IRL ("in real life") for the first time after years of getting to know one another through email and discussion posts. Further, each year the department selects an outstanding graduate student who is honored at the Caudill College Awards Convocation. Combining the best of traditional face-to-face programs with the ease of internet technology, the Master of Arts in English at Morehead State is truly blazing a trail forward. Come join us, virtually, that is. For additional information, contact [Dr. Tom Williams](#), Chair of the English department. And, to learn more about the program, visit our [website](#).

Early Graduate School Offers a Jump-Start

Do you know an undergraduate student who is close to completing their Bachelor's degree and is needing classes to fill their schedule? Are you advising students who are interested in graduate school, but are not sure if they have what it takes? Or, does one of your students want to get a jump-start on their Master's degree? The Early Graduate School program at Morehead State University is the perfect solution for these dilemmas!

Since fall 2013, a total of 41 Morehead State University undergraduate students have participated in the Early Graduate School. Of those, 27 students have earned a Bachelor's degree, and 19 (or 71%) have matriculated as graduate students at MSU. With 12 credits of graduate course work completed, Early Graduate School students gain valuable momentum and are close to half-way finished with their graduate degree (depending on the program) by the time they earn a Bachelor's degree!

Drew Kelly, pictured above, was one of the first students to complete a graduate degree having previously participated in the Early Graduate School program. Kelly took full advantage of the opportunity to enroll in twelve graduate credit hours in his senior year of undergraduate school. Not only did this give him a jump-start on his master's degree, it also allowed him time to adjust to graduate school courses at his own pace. Another huge benefit for Kelly was that the graduate hours, which he took as an early graduate student, were billed at the undergraduate tuition rate—a huge savings!

If you would like to explore the benefits of [Early Graduate School](#) and how it can accelerate your graduate education, please contact [Gera Jones](#) at the Graduate School at (606) 783-9580.



"The Early Graduate School program at MSU helped me get a head start on my master's program so I could finish my schooling in the time that I needed it to be done by." -Drew Kelly

**2015 Fall
CAREER FAIR**

[MSU 2015 Career Fair](#)

Tuesday, September 29, 2015 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Adron Doran University Center (ADUC), 3rd Floor, Morehead, Kentucky
The Graduate School will be on site to visit with students who are interested in learning more about graduate school and the programs offered. The \$30

application fee will be waived for any student who submits an application during the specified time period.



[Education Grad School Virtual Fair](#)

Thursday, October 15, 2015

The Graduate School will sponsor the 2015 Education Grad School Virtual Fair in conjunction with CareerEco and NAGAP. The virtual fair provides an excellent opportunity for students, both domestic and international, to gather information regarding the education programs offered at MSU. The \$30 application fee will be waived for any student who submits an application during the specified time period.

Contact

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For more information regarding the Graduate School, contact us at 606.783.2039 or visit us [online](#) .



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