

MSU Women's Golfer Connolly named to All-OVC Newcomer Team

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Following a very successful first campaign as a member of the Morehead State women's golf program, redshirt junior Bridget Connolly has garnered postseason honors from the Ohio Valley Conference.

The Auckland, New Zealand, native was named to the All-OVC Newcomer Team. The selection makes Connolly the 14th Eagle golfer to be named to the OVC's All-Newcomer squad while also marking the 36th time a year-end award has been bestowed upon a Morehead State golfer.

"We are very proud of Bridget, her hard work, as well as her accomplishments," said Head Coach Stephanie Barker. "Bridget has one of the top-five winning percentages in the OVC and has proven to be a very strong player in our region. We are thrilled that Bridget has earned this well-deserved honor."

Connolly came to Morehead State after transferring from Western Illinois, helping the Eagles to five top 10 finishes this season. Individually, she collected five top 10 finishes, two of which she fell inside the top five on the leaderboard.

During her first season, Connolly led all Eagle golfers with a 76.91 stroke average, competing in 23 of the 24 total rounds played by the team this season. Her play was also instrumental in helping Morehead State to two victories at the Mid-American Match Play Challenge, finishing the event 2-1 over three matches.

Amongst OVC golfers, Connolly ranks fourth in the conference with an average winning percentile finish of 75.46. She also ranks 14th in the OVC with a stroke average of 76.9.

On the season, Connolly fired five of the team's 11 lowest scores, including one of the team's two scores that fell below par. Her lowest mark of the year was her two-under 70 in the opening round of the Amelia Island

Collegiate, an event in which she finished tied for fourth.

She fired a season-low, 54-hole total of 221 at the Amelia Island Collegiate to earn a top-five finish while also posting a season-low 36-hole total of 149 at the Dayton Flyer Invitational in earning a top-ten finish. Both totals tied for the lowest event totals for both 54 and 36-holes on the year.

Connolly raced out of the gate during the fall portion of Morehead State's schedule, finishing top 15 in all but of the team's six events. She collected a season-best runner-up finish in the season's opening event, tying for second at the MSU Eagle Invitational. She'd turn this momentum into two additional top 10 finishes at the NKU Fall Classic and MSU Greenbrier Invitational before adding a ninth-place finish at the Dayton Flyer Invitational to total four top-ten finishes in her first six events.

She would tack on one more top-ten placement during the spring portion of the 2018-19 slate, placing tied for fourth at the Amelia Island Collegiate. During the event, Connolly fired the lowest round relative to par for an Eagle golfer since 2017-18 while also tying her career-low round with an opening round 70 (-2).



For more information on MSU Women's Golf and other MSU Athletics teams, visit www.msueagles.com.

Former Eagle basketball player pursues dream with Lexington Police Department

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Leon Buchanan (Photo credit: Lexington Police Department)

As a college basketball player at Morehead State University, **Leon Buchanan (09)** was known as a leader on and off the court. A high character young man whose relentless work ethic earned the respect of coaches, teammates and fans, the Georgia native was a foxhole guy—and still is. If you were going to battle, you wanted Buchanan by your side.

As a senior, Buchanan averaged 15 points and six rebounds per game, leading the Eagles to a 20-win season and their first Ohio Valley Conference tournament championship in 25 years. In his final collegiate game vs. Louisville in the NCAA tourney, Buchanan scored a team-high 17 points.

Now a decade later, those same traits that made Buchanan successful on the court will serve him well in his new career as a police officer.

It's a dream job for Buchanan, something the 32-year-old has been chasing since he was young. While most kids with his basketball skills dreamed of one day playing in the NBA, he was different. He wanted to be a cop.

"Yeah, ever since I can remember, I've wanted to someday be a police officer, Buchanan said. "I didn't start playing competitive basketball until I was in the ninth grade. I had no thoughts of playing college or professional basketball. I just took advantage of the opportunities that came my way."

Following high school in Albany, Buchanan attended Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College before transferring to Morehead State. After two successful seasons with the Eagles, the All-OVC performer played professionally for two years in Sweden and Germany before returning to the United States for a management position for Amazon Inc. in Lexington, where he spent the last five years.

Buchanan then learned of an opening in the Lexington Police Department, and those childhood dreams of becoming an officer quickly began to rekindle. He decided to give it a shot, entering the police academy in May 2018 and graduating in December. Leon was accompanied by a field-training officer his first 15 weeks on the force before spending the last five patrolling solo. Needless to say, it's been a life-changing experience.

"I love what I do, it's the ideal job for me," Buchanan said. "I want to make a positive difference in the community. I especially like helping young juveniles by encouraging them to stay on the right path, and I've already had the opportunity to do that."

Being a former college and professional basketball player works to his advantage when relating to young people in the inner city. He's been able to share his own success story and use it as motivation to help others.



was the leading scorer for the 2009 team that advanced to the NCAA Tournament.

"I recently had a 13-year-old juvenile who was too far away from home and was struggling to obey rules," Buchanan added. "I had a good conversation about the importance of having structure and being a disciplined person. I asked her if she liked sports and she said basketball was her favorite. I showed her a picture of when I played and it was an immediate conversation piece for us. I encouraged her to stay on the right path and have dreams and goals. I'd like to think I've made a positive difference."

Buchanan strikes an imposing figure as a police officer. He's 6'5" with a muscular build and still very much an athlete and although Buchanan's presence would intimidate most people, he says that's not his purpose.

"I'm a nice guy who would much rather have a positive conversation opposed to a confrontation with someone. I prefer to be a mediator and help people find a peaceful solution to their problems without having to make an arrest. If a person pushes the situation to that point, then so be it—they've made their choice. But that's always a last resort for me."

Of course, being in law enforcement is a dangerous job. Police officers put their lives at risk every time they hit the streets, but Buchanan says the extensive training helps you cope.

"Even though you mentally block out fear, it's always going to be in the back of your mind. I never downplay the severity of a situation—you can't get too comfortable or relax. But again, the training gives you all the tools you need to handle anything that comes your way. You've just got to use wisdom, good judgment and be confident in your abilities."

After a day patrolling the streets, Buchanan looks forward to going home. His pride and joy is his eight-year-old son Jayden, who "always motivates me to be the best version of myself," he says. Buchanan also has wedding bells in his future with a recent engagement to fiancée Carly Rae Thomas, a Morehead native and MSU alum. They plan to marry in October of this year.

As for Morehead State, Buchanan loved everything about the time he spent on campus. He visits as often as possible and enjoys cheering on his former team from the stands. He also stays in contact with his former head coach, **Donnie Tyndall (93)**.

"I love Coach Tyndall and appreciate everything he did for me. He texted me on my birthday and told me that he loved me and how proud he was of what I've accomplished. I'm really thankful for that."

Eagle Eye: Spring Commencement 2019

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Graduating students

participated in the Rites of Passage ceremony on Friday, May 10. The ceremony is held to recognize and celebrate the scholastic achievement of minority and international students at MSU. Front row, from left: Leighann S. Neal (19), Frankfort; Kelli Jernise Harris (19), Shelbyville; Hannah Marie Gipson (19), Louisville; Ceirra Shapprell Wilson, (19), Lexington; Brittany Nicole McCoy (19), Louisville; Miranda Dianne Crockett (19), Martinsville, Virginia; McKenzie Calvert (19), Schertz, Texas; Johna Chanel Becknell Walker (19), Beattyville; and Nekko Beal (19), Cincinnati. Second row, from left: Christian DeAndre Thomas (19), Mt. Sterling; Logan Seth Wolfgang McClane (19), Georgetown; Hassan Abdalla Suleiman (19), Louisville; Nicholas Flores (19),

West New York, New Jersey; Landie La'Mont Davis (19), Detroit, Michigan; Aaron T'Sai D'Jon Turk (19), Roswell, Georgia; Sayyid Kanu (19), Columbus, Ohio; and Georgia Crystal Campbell (19), Brampton, Ontario, Canada. Back row, from left: Stephon Terrell Williams (19), Paris; Cuibing Wu (19), Wei County, Xingtai City, Hebei Province, China; Jeremiah S. Draper (19), Fort Knox; Brandyn Martin Duncan (19), Lexington; Lamontray S. Harris (19), Louisville; Joshua Isaiah Hall (19), Hampton, Virginia; Robert De'Andre Sparks (19), Shelby, Mississippi; and Tierra McGowan (19), Chicago, Illinois. Not pictured is Aliyah Jeune (19), Mount Holly, New Jersey.



Sarah Fink (19) of Hollsopple, Pennsylvania, was the student speaker at the afternoon commencement ceremony, which honored graduates of the College of Education and the Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Fink

earned a Bachelor of Arts in Government with a minor in international studies and a Certificate in Intelligence Studies with an emphasis in regional analysis.



Eliza Eaches (19) sang the national anthem at Morehead State's spring commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 11.



Abby Isaacs (19) of Ashland was the speaker at the morning commencement ceremony, which honored graduates of the College of Science and the Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology. Isaacs earned a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences.



Will Young (19) sang at the spring commencement ceremonies of Morehead State on Saturday, May 11.



Cameron A. Back (19) of Nicholasville and Kylee Anne Hearne (19) of Sparta were commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the U.S. Army during commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 11.



More than 1,200

students earned their degrees and were recognized at MSU's spring commencement ceremonies.

MSU earns additional national rankings in 2019

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Morehead State University was founded as a teacher's college with a mission to educate and serve Eastern Kentucky as a "light to the mountains." In its more than 130 years of history, that light has shown across the Commonwealth, the nation and well beyond.

The University has a long-standing reputation for academic excellence and student support and people are taking notice. Whether it's academic excellence, superior online education, affordability or providing veterans with the best possible college experience, more and more people are finding out why it pays to be an Eagle.

Here is a list of some of the national rankings MSU has recently earned since January 2019:

- Morehead State's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program has been ranked as one of the top BSN programs in Kentucky by [Rncareers.org](https://www.rncareers.org). MSU ranked number four in Kentucky and is one of the best nursing schools in the nation.

- OnlineCollegePlan.com ranked MSU's online Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) as one of the Top 30 Online Ph.D. Programs in Curriculum and Instruction. The program ranked 19th in a list of universities across the country and was the only university from the state of Kentucky that made the list.
- Animation Career Review, an online resource for careers in animation, game design, graphic design and digital art, named MSU the Top Graphic Design School in Kentucky for 2019.
- OnlineMasters.com has recognized the online Master of Arts in Sociology as one of the 10 best online programs in the U.S. The program is ranked seventh and recognized as Best in Career Development.
- Morehead State University has been named a Bronze-level Military Friendly School® for 2019-20 by Viqtory Media, originator of the family of Military Friendly employment, entrepreneurship and education resources for veterans and their families.
- TheBestSchools.org, a website developed to connect prospective students with the best available online programs, listed MSU's online Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) programs in middle grades (5-9) and secondary education (8-12) as one of The 30 Best Online Master's in K-12 Education Programs for 2018. The list, which featured both public and private higher education institutions from across the U.S., had MSU ranked highest among Kentucky public universities.

To view a comprehensive list of MSU's rankings, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/rankings.

Alumnus named to Obama Foundation Fellowship

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One Morehead State alumnus who is working to improve education in Central Appalachia and Eastern Kentucky will be getting a helping hand from the charitable efforts of a former U.S. president.

Dr. Brent Hutchinson (96) has been named a 2019 Barack Obama Foundation Fellow for his work to improve the lives of people in Central Appalachia and Eastern Kentucky as executive director of the Hindman Settlement School. The school provides educational courses and programs, cultural enrichment and community service programs to people throughout the region. The school's dyslexia education program is the only such program in the region that specifically addresses the needs of people with the genetic learning challenge, which occurs at higher than average rates in Appalachia.

Hutchinson said he'd been aware of the fellowship since it first began and saw it as an opportunity for professional growth. Last September, he applied for the program. In February, he learned he'd made it through the initial application process and sat down with foundation officials for an online interview.

"Once I was accepted, I learned that more than 5,000 people from all over the world had applied. I had no idea of the scope of it," Hutchinson said. "I was pretty ecstatic and really humbled. When you sit in the position I sit in and your focus is Eastern Kentucky, you don't consider yourself globally. We have a hyper-regional focus." He added he wants to use what he learns through the fellowship to change the narrative about Eastern Kentucky and rural America.

"I like that I'll get to be a part of something that's about community change," he said.

Hutchinson earned his bachelor's degree in social science from MSU. He then earned his Master of Science in Family Studies/Marriage and Family Therapy from the University of Kentucky and his Ph.D. in Leadership Studies from Dallas Baptist University. In addition, he completed the Duke University Executive Certificate in Nonprofit Management program in 2017.

Though the path to higher education has led him to many different places, Hutchinson said he applies the lessons he learned here at MSU to his work every day.

“I WOULD SAY MSU TAUGHT ME MUCH ABOUT WORLDVIEW AND ABOUT CONTEXT AND NUANCE AMONG PEOPLE AND GROUPS. I LEARNED TO WORK IN TEAMS, TO LEAD AND FOLLOW, TO BE DISCIPLINED.”

– Dr. Brent Hutchinson

Hutchinson took the position at the Settlement School in 2012 and has overseen the largest renovation in the school’s 117-year history. In addition, he has worked to expand the programs offered at the school to address persistent and emerging needs and interests of the people it serves.

The Settlement School is making strides in helping students in the region cope with dyslexia and Hutchinson hopes to use the resources and skills provided by the Obama Foundation Fellowship to address other educational issues in the region.

“Education in Eastern Kentucky is a ‘take what you can get’ scenario. Parents aren’t often able to ask critical questions or have the tools to help their kids achieve in school. We have high-achieving students who aren’t getting what they need because we have a limited number of qualified teachers for enhanced classes,” Hutchinson said.

Hutchinson attended his first fellowship workshop in May and said he is creating a professional plan for how he will use the resources provided by the fellowship to uncover the deeper needs of the Hindman Settlement School, find funding sources and lay the groundwork for new initiatives and programs.

The Obama Foundation Fellowship was established in 2018 to recognize the work of outstanding civic leaders. As a fellow, Hutchinson will participate in a two-year, nonresidential program designed to increase the effectiveness of the school’s efforts and inspire more people to be civically engaged in Eastern Kentucky. He joins 19 other civic leaders from 10 countries in receiving the honor this year. The fellowship will assist members with access to mentors, coaches, resources and opportunities to help them achieve their goals within their respective communities.

"Like all the extraordinary men and women selected for the 2019 Obama Foundation Fellowship, Brent was picked because of his commitment to making a difference in his community and being a role model for other civic leaders," said Anne Filipic, chief program officer at the Obama Foundation. "Throughout the fellowship, Brent and members of the fellows class will have access to the Obama Foundation's global network and resources to help scale their work, including coaching and trainings, peer feedback and in-person gatherings over the next two years. We are excited to work with Brent and members of the 2019 fellows class as they embark on bringing about positive change in their communities."

Hutchinson lives in Hindman with his wife, **Gwen (95)**, and their two sons. His brother **Brian Hutchinson (96)** is an alumnus and former athletic director at MSU. He is a member of the Kentucky Advisory Council for Exceptional Children and the Kentucky 4-H Foundation Board, is a high school academic team coach, a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and co-leader of the Knott County Work Ready Community-in-Progress Task Force. He is also actively involved in his church.

For more information on the Hindman Settlement School, visit www.hindmansettlement.org.

Additional information about the Obama Foundation Fellowship is available at www.obama.org.

Sylvia Handley Scholarship established



MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY
FOUNDATION

The Morehead State University Foundation has announced the establishment of the Sylvia Handley Scholarship Fund. The scholarship fund will be used to aid undergraduate female students from Kentucky.

Sylvia Handley (65) graduated from MSU with a Bachelor of Arts degree. After graduation, she spent a few years in Eastern Kentucky before moving to Florida and beginning her lifelong career in the public school system there.

When Handley visited campus a few years ago, for her class's 50th Reunion at Homecoming, it had been decades since she had been on Morehead State University's campus. As an LGBTQ student from Ashland, Kentucky, in the 1960s Handley faced many challenges and was apprehensive about coming back to the region.

Upon returning, she was surprised by the progress MSU has made to be inclusive of all student populations, including the establishment of the Hobbs Endowment for Equality Scholarship program, creation of Spectrum (an LGBTQ student organization), and other LGBTQ support and diversity initiatives.

Due to her positive homecoming experience, her appreciation for MSU was renewed and Handley established a scholarship fund to benefit MSU students.

"I was surprised by how different MSU was and how the attitudes of people had changed. I felt like giving back and starting a scholarship was the right thing to do," she said.

Handley retired from Dade County Public Schools in Florida and now resides in Orlando with her partner.

This scholarship fund was established as part of the Soar to New Heights Scholarship Campaign. For more information on this scholarship, or to establish your own, contact MSU's Office of Alumni Relations and Development at 606-783-2033, email giving@moreheadstate.edu, or visit alumni.moreheadstate.edu/give.

Veterinary clinic serves the region, thanks to many MSU alumni and students

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It was in 1963 that the late **Dr. William “Bill” Holbrook** opened a small veterinary practice at his home on Glenn Avenue in West Liberty. The practice didn’t have an official name but was commonly known around the community as simply “Doc Holbrook’s.”

Now some 56 years later, probably not even Doc himself could have envisioned how things would grow. The business now has a name—the West Liberty Veterinary Clinic—and employs five full-time vets, 12 support staff and eight part-time workers.

On a typical day, the clinic will care for 125 to 150 animals. Approximately 75 percent of those patients are small animals (dogs, cats, etc.) while the other 25 percent are large animals, primarily with farm visits—such as a recent trip to work 100 head of cattle or care for an ailing horse.

Dr. David Fugate (94) is a proud graduate of Morehead State University and the Auburn University School of Veterinary Medicine. He’s spent the last 21 years as a full-time veterinarian at the clinic and says MSU’s impact on his profession is immeasurable.

“When I went to Auburn, the dean of students told me that Morehead State had the best pre-veterinary program in the country. He said the best students that went to Auburn University came from Morehead State.

Fugate’s colleague, **Dr. Ralph Adams (96)**, also made his way from Morehead State to Tuskegee University and has been practicing for 16 years. He maintains close ties with his alma mater, specifically Dr. Phil Prater, a professor of veterinary technology.

“Dr. Prater loves this place—he talks about it all the time,” Adams said. “Even students who come up here tell us how much Dr. Prater talks about us. We love that relationship to be able to pull from that group of people and try to help our profession.”

Chase Turner (18), a West Liberty native and recent MSU graduate, just completed his first year of vet school and has worked part-time at the clinic for four years. He says the hands-on education he received at Morehead State sets him apart from many of his fellow students at Auburn.

“I had labs (at MSU) where I did things at a vet school level and it goes directly hand-in-hand with what I’m doing at Auburn. I’m miles ahead of some of the kids in my class as far as large animal experience.”

Both Fugate and Adams are hopeful Turner will return to his hometown to join the staff following graduation at Auburn. In all, 23 students who have interned or worked at the West Liberty Veterinary Clinic have gone on to full-time practice.

The business continues to expand and has opened satellite clinics in nearby Salyersville and Jackson. The clinic actively serves 23 eastern Kentucky counties, plus Ohio and West Virginia.

“Morehead State gave me the opportunity to do exactly what I believe the Lord meant me to do,” Fugate said. “It helped build this place. It’s indirectly responsible for what you see around here. And it all stems from a legacy that Dr. Holbrook started in 1963—he was Morehead’s first pre-veterinary student to be accepted into vet school.

“I’m an Appalachian kid. I’m a Morehead State kid. It’s been important to us.”

To learn more about MSU’s veterinary science program, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/study/vet_science. To explore MSU’s veterinary technology program, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/study/vettech.

From the last issue: MSU grad Chase Turner earns a prestigious scholarship at Auburn University's School of Veterinary Medicine

Eagle Baseball alumni are making their marks in the pros

**MOREHEAD
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While the college baseball season is over, several former MSU Eagle Baseball players and coaches are in the middle of minor league regular seasons and are taking the steps toward successful professional baseball careers.

Former Eagles in affiliated pro ball are **Aaron Leasher**, **Niko Hulsizer** and **Taylor Davis (14)**. After seeing time in the Cincinnati Reds' system last season, **Patrick McGuff** is back in the Frontier League. **Jesus Carrera (17)** is playing professionally in Italy, while former assistant coaches Graham Johnson and Dillon Lawson have positions as coaches and instructors in pro baseball. Leasher, Hulsizer, McGuff, Carrera and Johnson played for or coached alongside current head coach **Mike McGuire (96)** at MSU. Aaron Leasher, who played his last MSU season in 2017, is with the Lake Elsinore Storm, the Class A Advanced California League affiliate of the San Diego Padres. Last season, Leasher compiled a 3.49 ERA and 6-7 record with the Fort Wayne (Indiana) Tincaps (A) and Lake Elsinore.



Several MSU Baseball

alumni are having success at the pro level. Niko Hulsizer has moved up to the Great Lakes Loons, the Single A affiliate of the Los Angeles Dodgers in the Midwest League.

Niko Hulsizer, who played his last MSU season in 2018, has moved up to the Great Lakes Loons, the Single A affiliate of the Los Angeles Dodgers in the Midwest League. As a member of the Rookie League Ogden (Utah) Raptors last year, Hulsizer batted .281 with nine home runs and 32 RBI.

Taylor Davis, who played his last MSU season in 2011, is back with the Triple A Iowa Cubs in the Pacific Coast

League. Davis has appeared in 13 major league games with the Cubs over the last two seasons. Last year, he hit .275 with four homers at Iowa. This year, he is on the Cubs' 40-man roster and recently hit his first Major League home run – a game-tying grand slam in the fourth inning that led to a 6-5 comeback win at Wrigley Field against the St. Louis Cardinals this past May.

Patrick McGuff, who played his last MSU season in 2016, was picked up by the Cincinnati Reds last season from the Frontier League Evansville Otters and pitched for the Dayton Dragons (A) in the Midwest League. This year, he is back with the Otters. In 2018, McGuff was 3-1 with a 1.55 ERA at Evansville.



Taylor Davis (14) is with the Triple A Iowa Cubs in the Pacific Coast League and has appeared in 13 major league games with the Cubs over the last two seasons.

Carrera, who played his last MSU season in 2016, is on the roster for the Macerata Angels in Italy.

Johnson, who coached at MSU from 2012 to 2017, has been elevated to the position of pitching coach for the Double A Corpus Christi Hooks, the Texas League team for the Houston Astros. Last season he was with the

Quad City River Bandits.

Lawson, who coached at MSU from 2010 to 2012, is the minor league hitting instructor for the New York Yankees organization.

From the current roster, two players were drafted in the 2019 Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft. Morehead State baseball left-hander **Dalton Stambaugh** signed with the Baltimore Orioles and redshirt sophomore right-handed pitcher **Alex Garbrick** was chosen by the New York Yankees.

During his standout redshirt junior campaign, Stambaugh crafted a 7-4 record in 15 starts, tossing a career-high 91.1 innings in helping MSU to its first 40-win season in program history. In his 91.1 innings, he struck out a career-best 104 hitters, becoming the sixth pitcher in Morehead State history to strike out 100 or more in a season.

He departs Morehead State ranking fourth in shutouts (two), fifth in strikeouts (238), sixth in victories (17), ninth in innings pitched (247.0), and 10th in strikeouts per nine innings (8.67). He helped the Eagles to 113 victories and an appearance in the NCAA Tournament and the 2018 Clemson Regional. He's the first-ever Eagle selected by the Orioles. Garbrick is the third-ever MSU player chosen in an MLB Draft by the Yankees. He sat out the 2018 season as a medical redshirt and returned this year to help the Eagles win a school-record 40 games. He finished with 69 strikeouts in just 58 innings and made OVC weekend starts in two of the final three series.

The 90+ mile-per-hour fastballer from Mill Hall, Pa., finished with a 3-4 record and a 4.32 earned run average this season. He is the ninth player to be drafted in head coach Mike McGuire's tenure, all since 2015, and it's the third year since then the Eagle program has landed multiple selections in the same draft class.

To learn more about MSU Baseball and other MSU Athletics teams, visit www.msueagles.com.

MOREHEAD STATE'S MLB DRAFT HISTORY

Name	Year	Round	Organization
Alex Garbrick	2019	40	Yankees
Dalton Stambaugh (18)	2019	30	Orioles
Niko Hulsizer	2018	18	Dodgers
Aaron Leasher	2017	6	Padres
Patrick McGuff (16)	2016	36	Twins
Tyler Keele (16)	2016	15	Diamondbacks
Matt Anderson (16)	2016	10	Pirates
Kane Sweeney (16)	2015	29	Yankees
Brandon Rawe (16)	2015	34	Marlins
Drew Lee	2010	12	White Sox
Henry Mabee (15)	2007	19	White Sox

Jon Rauch	1999	3	White Sox
Rick Cercey	1999	13	Rockies
Brad Allison (96)	1996	41	Diamondbacks
Jay Sorg (94)	1994	15	Reds
Jason Chandler	1993	25	Reds
Sean Hogan (93)	1993	51	Cubs
Brett Roberts (99)	1991	4	Twins
Matt Michael	1988	60	Yankees
Willie Blair	1986	11	Blue Jays
Daniel Smith	1985	2	Dodgers
Robert Williams	1985	18	Expos
Drew Hall	1984	1	Cubs

Norm Brock (86)	1984	17	Astros
Steve Heatherly	1983	6	Angels
Joe Mitchell	1983	24	Brewers
Robert Shipp	1983	29	Brewers
Glenn Jones	1981	14	Giants
Walt Terrell	1980	33	Rangers
Larry Hamilton (82)	1979	19	Rangers
Charles Merlo (68)	1967	57	Mets
William Craig	1967	6	Braves
Joe Campbell	1965	44	Mets

Veterinary science boasts 100 percent vet school acceptance rate

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Morehead State's veterinary science program is preparing students for future success, with 100 percent of students who applied to veterinary schools being accepted during the spring 2019 semester.

Students accepted to the Auburn University School of Veterinary Medicine were:

- **Rachel Bixler (19)**, Lexington.
- Ben Cornett, Whitesburg.
- Mercedes Jordan, Olive Hill.
- Kendra Lynch, Pikeville.
- Kaitlyn Spalding, Lebanon.
- **Luke Trapp (19)**, Butler.

Students accepted to the Lincoln Memorial University School of Veterinary Medicine were:

- Dannah Diedrick, Beaver, Ohio.
- Alexis Scarlett, Pikeville.

"Students in our vet science program take a heavy load of biology, chemistry, animal science and physics," said Dr. Philip Prater, professor of veterinary technology. "The instructors in these programs provide challenging classroom interaction and our students are very well prepared for the rigor of a professional veterinary school program."

Prater said only 15 to 20 percent of pre-vet students meet the requirements to go on to veterinary school and he's proud of the hard work these students have put in.

"I cannot put into words how proud I am of all of our veterinary science students that have graduated from MSU. I understand the road that they have taken because I walked that same road four decades ago and I completely understand the sacrifices they have made to achieve this goal," Prater said. "To have a year where we had eight students apply, and all eight were accepted, is a testament to the sheer will power of these students. I am honored and humbled to be a small part of their training and thank all my colleagues in the MSU community for the outstanding level of instruction they provide for our vet science students."

Prater added the past two years have seen a high rate of veterinary school acceptance from MSU. Last year, 18 students applied to veterinary schools and 16 were accepted.

For more information on the veterinary science program at MSU, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/study/vet_science, email Dr. Philip Prater at p.prater@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2662.

For more information on programs in MSU's Department of Agriculture, call 606-783-2662, email agsi@moreheadstate.edu or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/agriculture.

Eagle Eye: Spring Gala 2019

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Morehead State University treated faculty, students, staff and friends of the University to "An Evening in Madrid" when it hosted its annual Spring Gala on Saturday, April 27, 2019, at the newly renovated Adron Doran University Center.

The event featured music from around the world performed by faculty and students with MSU's School of Creative Arts. Emceed by **Amber Philpott Hill (03)**, award-winning journalist from WKYT-TV in Lexington, the event raised nearly \$100,000 to advance academic programs and improve the University.



Students from MSU's

Percussion Ensemble performed at the 2019 Spring Gala "An Evening in Madrid."



Amber Philpott Hill (03), award-winning journalist from WKYT-TV in

Lexington, served as emcee for the 2019 Spring Gala.



The hundreds of guests that attended the 2019 Spring Gala helped raise nearly \$100,000 to advance academic programs and improve the University.



Dr. Roosevelt Escalante, associate professor of music at MSU, served as band leader for the 2019 Spring Gala performance at Button Auditorium that featured faculty and students from the School of Creative Arts.

School, love and horses: Katie and Hershall Salyer

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She was an equestrian competitor from Cincinnati. He was a trail rider from Salyersville. But when **Katie (Hart) Salyer (13)** met **Hershall Salyer (07)**, they knew they'd found something special. Not only did they find love at Morehead State, they each found a partner with a passion for horsemanship and a genuine love for the animals. Now, Katie and Hershall have made their passion into their livelihood by opening Hidden Creek Farm, also called Salyer Ridge, an equine boarding and training center.

Katie and Hershall first met through a mutual friend while Katie was a member of the MSU Equestrian Team. She earned her bachelor's degree in equine science, and Hershall had an associate degree in agricultural production. While neither of them had grown up on a farm, they were both drawn to working with horses. Katie had taken riding lessons before college, and Hershall learned to trail ride with his father, who owned horses.

Both Katie and Hershall have fond memories of their time at MSU. Katie loved living in a residence hall and said she built strong relationships with her fellow Equestrian Team members.

"They were my best group of gal pals," she said. "Every time I went to the barn, I got to see my best friends." Katie added she learned a lot from the program that she can apply to her everyday work.

"I learned how to muck all the stalls at once, feed all the horses at once, while back home I was used to just dealing with the single horse I was leasing. I also learned a lot about breeding. We don't do breeding here at the farm, but we do have a stud and I have the knowledge, so we could do breeding if we wanted to."

Hershall lived in student housing at the Derrickson Agricultural Complex and said he enjoyed being completely immersed in farming.

"Just living out there at the farm and being surrounded by other students with the same interests as me was something I really enjoyed," he said.

The Salyers formed lasting bonds at MSU, both personally and professionally. They boarded a horse this spring for Rudy Pohlabeln, a freshman from Edgewood who competed in this year's Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) National Competition in Syracuse, New York. They also maintain a close friendship with MSU Farm Manager **Joe Fraley (94)**, who officiated their wedding ceremony.

Katie and Hershall were married June 8, 2013, and started Hidden Creek Farm in 2015.

"We always wanted a farm, and I knew the Morehead community wanted another boarding stable," Katie said. When they first started out, the Salyers were renting a farm but found their ideal home in their current location on Bull Fork Road in Morehead, which was already fenced in and set up for horses.

"BEING AT MOREHEAD GAVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME HERE AND MEET EACH OTHER AND MAKE THIS HAPPEN. FINDING THIS PLACE HELPED US GET STARTED A LOT FASTER THAN IF WE HAD TO START FROM SCRATCH."

– Hershall Salyer

He and Katie own three horses of their own and board and train anywhere from 18 to 20 horses with owners who live in places as far away as Vermont, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

The Salyers train horses for both trail riding and show riding and Katie said which type of riding a horse is best suited to depends on its personality.

"Usually, the horses tell us what they want to do," she said.

"And we tell the owners what the horses are going to do," Hershall finished.

Hershall works in Ashland as an electrician during the day and works the farm at night. He says that juggling the two can be a challenge, but he loves overseeing the farm.

"You can work at your own pace and you know things are done right," he said.

Katie also loves the freedom of being her own boss and added she loves that they live close enough to the barn that she can always keep tabs on the horses-even at night.

"I worry about the health of the horses constantly, so I like that I'm close enough that I can hear everything that's going on," she said. "If one of the horses is making noise in their stall, I can run out and check on them."

Both Hershall and Katie expressed gratitude for the continued support they receive from MSU.

"They are the only other boarding facility in town, and rather than worrying about us taking away their business, they support us and helped us create our own business and do our own thing. They even refer people to us if they don't have room to board at the MSU Farm."

For more information about Hidden Creek Farm, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SalyerRidge.

For information about programs in MSU's Department of Agricultural Sciences, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/agriculture, email agsi@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2662.

In Memoriam – June 2019

To make a gift in memory of one or more of these individuals, call the Office of Alumni Relations & Development at 800-783-ALUM or visit alumni.moreheadstate.edu/give.

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The Morehead State University family remembers ...

John P. Bell	1955
Howard R. Jordan	1957
Wally J. Hinton	1957
Larry E. Monhollon	1959
Larry E. Monhollon	1959
Ollie M. Ruth	1959
Helen L. Brown	1960
Earl S. Burke	1961
Donald R. Hampton	1961

Raymond K. Altizer	1965
Pearl T. Sparks	1968
Anne T. Beane	1972
Sandra M. Carey	1972
Cathy G. Gullett	1974
Martina C. Davis	1975
Gregory K. Mason	1977
David A. Salyers	1977
Vicki J. Yost	1985
Carol E. Bruce	1992
Rodney M. Cook	ND
Don Blaylock	ND
Wayde F. Walker	ND

Roger Kidd	*
Barbara S. Garber	*
Jeff C. Lykins	*

Alum Sara Hacker named assistant athletic director for external affairs

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Sara Hacker

Sara Hacker (04), a Morehead State alum with experience in revenue generation and grassroots marketing, planning and execution, has returned to her alma mater as the assistant athletic director for external affairs.

A member of the Eagle softball team for four seasons, Hacker graduated with a bachelor's degree in advertising and public relations in 2004 and earned a master's degree in sport management from MSU in 2006.

"I am extremely proud to be back at my alma mater. To be able to represent the Eagles again in a different capacity is very exciting," she said. "Each opportunity in my career has been a stair step to prepare me to come home to my Eagle family. I am very anxious to be back in the region and create energy for the Blue and Gold. Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle."

After serving as a marketing and promotions coordinator for MSU Athletics she began her career at East Tennessee State where she served as the director of marketing, promotions and event management from 2007-11. Hacker was promoted to the assistant athletic director for corporate development at ETSU from 2011-14.

She also managed the entire game-day promotions and fan atmosphere team and served as the sport administrator for softball and the cheer and dance programs. She was also an adjunct professor at ETSU for several years in the physical education and university studies departments.

From 2014 to 2017, Hacker took a national role as vice president of development for Dugout Media, Inc. Her focus was Baseball Youth and Softball Youth where she implemented creative sales tactics for teams and individual youth baseball events all over the country. She was the main contact and supervisor for all customer service and tournament logistics for all national events.

Hacker was the recipient of a "40 under 40" award from the Tri-Cities (Tennessee) Business Journal in 2011 and earned a "Make a Difference That Matters" recognition from the Johnson City Chamber of Commerce in 2012. During her time at ETSU, Hacker received many NACMA and NCAA awards for marketing and promotions efforts for game-day experience.

In addition to her full-time roles, she has hosted several philanthropic functions and community events, including serving as the primary event personality for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life as well as

the Bristol Motor Speedway's Children's Charities and other national events.

A native of Florence, Kentucky, Hacker has two brothers who are Morehead State baseball alums. **Scott (96)** played from 1992 to 1996 and was a member of the 1993 OVC Championship team. **Joey** suited up for Eagle Baseball from 1995 to 1997.



For more information about MSU Athletics, visit www.msueagles.com.

International student Binamrata Sharma found research opportunities and unexpected friends at MSU

June 14, 2019
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In August of 2015, **Binamarta Sharma (19)** left her home in Nepal and traveled to Kentucky to begin her studies at Morehead State University. Encouraged by her brother's, **Biswas Sharma (15)**, high praise of the Department of Mathematics and Physics, she enrolled at MSU to pursue a double major in computer science and mathematics. Four years later, Sharma has completed all requirements to graduate and walked across the stage to receive her diploma on May 11. Her journey to graduation has been filled with research opportunities and unexpected friends.

Sharma currently works as an Undergraduate Research Fellow for the School of Engineering and Information Systems under Dr. Heba Elgazzar, instructor of computer science. She presented her research on content-based image retrieval at the 2018 Celebration of Student Scholarship and was awarded a certificate of merit. She credits her research mentor and department faculty as factors of her success.

"The professors I've had here are phenomenal. They have helped me to pursue so much research and allowed me to take classes that weren't even required by my degree."

The faculty are not the only individuals who have positively shaped Sharma's experience at MSU. The local community members have played an important role in her acclimation to a new environment.

"MOREHEAD IS VERY OPEN ABOUT NEW CULTURES, NEW PEOPLE. I'VE MET LOCAL PEOPLE THAT GENERALLY WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ME. WE EXCHANGE IDEAS AND THEY WELCOME ME INTO THEIR LIVES. I WASN'T EXPECTING THAT. SINCE I AM FOREIGN, I THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE THIS GAP, THIS BRIDGE, BUT IT WASN'T SO."

– Binamarta Sharma

Her experience as a part of the international student program has led her to make friendships with individuals from all over the world. They share their stories and their cultures with one another. Each weekend, Sharma gathers with friends to cook a new dish to try. Even as friends graduate, she remains in touch with them.

"I wasn't expecting it to be this way," said Sharma. "Even though there are more students from the surrounding regions, I have met international students. I've made lifelong friends from around the world, but Morehead is the common tie."

In describing her experience, Sharma said, "I was determined and excited to be an international student, never scared."

After graduation, Sharma will travel to New York to begin an internship as a software engineer for Bank of America.

Additional information about the mathematics program is available by visiting www.moreheadstate.edu/study/math, emailing maph@moreheadstate.edu or calling 606-783-2930.

Additional information about the computer science program is available by visiting www.moreheadstate.edu/study/computerscience, emailing csis@moreheadstate.edu or calling 606-783-2418.

For additional information about admission for international students, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/international.

Joe Fraley teaches students about using technology to improve agriculture

June 14, 2019
1230



Joe Fraley (94), farm manager at Morehead State's Derrickson Agricultural Complex, starts his day early. Arriving at the farm between 6 and 6:30 a.m., he checks on the livestock, does paperwork and just takes some time in the morning to collect his thoughts before students arrive and the day's activities begin. Fraley said his daily routine is anything but ordinary.

"It's never the same day twice, it's never dull," he said. "We have lots of events here at the farm. Today I'm working on the breeding schedule, tomorrow we'll be setting up pens for a goat show this weekend. It's always something different. I enjoy the work. It's hard work, but I love what I do and feel blessed to do it every day."

Farming is in Fraley's blood. His grandparents were farmers, his father operated a grain and dairy farm in Ohio, and his family operated a 2,100-acre farm and equine training facility in Rowan County when he was growing up. Now, Fraley is teaching future generations of farmers at the University's 350-acre farm, which serves as a living laboratory for agricultural science students.

Fraley said decided he wanted to work in agriculture at the age of 10 when his father started teaching him about farming and how to use farm machinery and equipment. When it was time for college, Fraley chose MSU because he likes the area and it allowed him to live at home while he attended college to help with his family's horse training operation. Fraley earned his bachelor's degree in animal science with an emphasis in equine science, and later earned a master's degree in vocational education. He said one of the things that impressed him about MSU was the experiential learning opportunities offered at the farm.

"The farm lent itself to a very hands-on approach, and it still does to this day. Professors lecture in the classroom, then bring students to the farm where they can apply what they've learned," Fraley said, adding the encouragement he received from his advisor, Dr. Judy Willard, helped him reach his potential.

"Dr. Willard never let me quit on myself, even if the assignment was really hard, she never let me give up."

Fraley started his career at MSU as a student work study, helping with the equine breeding program. After he graduated in 1994, he was immediately hired by the University as an equine technician. Four years later, he was promoted to assistant farm manager, and after the retirement of his predecessor and mentor, the

late **Eddie Lundergan (79)**, he took over as farm manager in 2006. In 2008, Fraley became an instructor and continues to teach classes in agricultural mechanics, farm machinery and horsemanship.

One of the things Fraley said the program instills in students is that agriculture is a 24-hour-a-day business.

"When we're calving, we check on the animals every four hours. We all work on holidays and we have a rotating weekend schedule, including the students. If we're baling hay, we'll stay in the evening until the job is done. We try to make the students understand this is not a typical, nine-to-five job," he said.

According to Fraley, farmers make up only two percent of the population but are responsible for feeding the entire world. This, he said, gives agricultural careers a level of job security.

"People need to eat, and they aren't going to stop," Fraley said. "By 2050, the global population is expected to reach nine billion people, and farmers are going to have to increase production by 70 percent to meet demand. That's only 30 years from now."

Fraley said technology plays an ever-increasing role in agriculture, and farmers of the future will depend on technology to meet global food needs. He said students are being taught precision farming methods at the farm, including using GPS-controlled planters that use data collected about soil, moisture and sunlight to plant seeds as efficiently as possible. Students are also using DNA profiles of the farm's Black Angus cattle to optimize breeding by pairing bulls and heifers that have compatible gene sequences. In addition, ultrasound technology is used to determine the optimal time to harvest an animal. Fraley said these and other technological advances will be crucial to future farmers.

"PEOPLE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT OUR STUDENTS WILL BE THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE," FRALEY SAID. "TECHNOLOGY IS HELPING TO MEET DEMANDS, BUT IT'S VITAL TO PROTECT OUR LAND AND OUR WATERWAYS, TOO. THERE HAS TO BE A HAPPY BALANCE BETWEEN AGRICULTURAL NEEDS AND THE REST OF SOCIETY."

– Joe Fraley

In addition, Fraley said it's important for even young children to start learning the basics of agriculture. "I know when I was in school, I didn't receive any agricultural curriculum until high school," he said. "We need to educate young people more about agriculture. They need to know that a tomato comes from a tomato plant; that bacon comes from a pig. It's not just at the grocery store; there's a process that got it to the grocery store."

Fraley resides at the farm with his wife, **Sharon (Litton) Fraley (99)**, who is the director of finance for the Division of University Advancement. The two met in a horse-riding class while they were students, and their paths crossed again when Sharon boarded her horse at Fraley's family's farm. They started dating in 1993 and were married March 15, 1997.

"We don't have any children of our own, but we feel like we have helped raise plenty here at the farm. This is truly one of our favorite parts to life is seeing the students grow and learn," he said.

For more information about programs in the Department of Agricultural Sciences, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/agriculture, email agsi@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2662.

Women's basketball earns first win in WNIT



The Morehead State women's basketball team earned its first postseason victory in program history in March as they defeated Ohio State 71-61 in the first round of the 2019 Women's National Invitation Tournament (WNIT) at Value City Arena in Columbus, Ohio.

Senior guard Aliyah Jeune knocked down five of seven triples in the second half as Morehead State erased a 11-point deficit to come from behind for the win. Columbus native and guard **Darianne Seward (19)** shined in her first collegiate game back in her hometown as she added 17 points while racking up five assists.

Morehead State improved to 24-10 with the win.

"It's an awesome moment tonight," said Head Coach Greg Todd. "You go through such a long season and have a lot of shining moments, but I thought tonight was an example of us playing our best basketball at tournament time. Every player played to their role."

Jeune, who went above 80 three-pointers for the season, scored a team-best 20 points and added nine rebounds as the Eagles out-rebounded the Buckeyes squad 44-34.

Graduate student McKenzie Calvert added 15 points, six rebounds and four assists while **Miranda Crockett (19)** extended her streak of double-figure scoring games to 38 with 10 points.

Morehead State shot 41 percent (27-of-66) for the game, but the important factor was the Eagles' 50 percent (16-of-32) effort in the second half run. Ohio State hit 41 percent overall but MSU held the Big 10 foe to just five of 18 from long range.

The Eagles would eventually go on to lose in the second round of the WNIT in a hard-fought game with the Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers with a score of 68-65.

The MSU Women's Basketball Team finished with an overall record of 24-11 and an OVC conference record of 13-5.



For more information about women's basketball and other sports at MSU, visit www.msueagles.com.

Volleyball head coach Jaime Gordon named interim AD

June 14, 2019
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On March 26, 2019 Jaime Gordon was appointed as interim director of athletics at Morehead State University. He officially assumed the post on April 1, succeeding his longtime boss **Brian Hutchinson (96)**, who accepted the athletic director (AD) position at Lincoln Memorial University after 20-plus years of service at MSU.

Gordon also has invested nearly two decades with the blue and gold, entering his 17th season as head volleyball coach. During that tenure, the 47-year-old has compiled seven Ohio Valley Conference regular season championships and 11 20-win campaigns. His teams won OVC tournament titles in 2011 and 2013, advancing to the NCAA Tournament both seasons.

The volleyball program has also been the gold standard for student-athlete achievement, earning eight OVC Team Academic Awards and 11 consecutive Team Academic Awards from the American Volleyball Coaches Association. Numerous players have been named CoSIDA Academic All-District and Academic All-Americans.

It was that cumulative success on the court and in the classroom that led to the phone call from Morehead State University President Dr. Jay Morgan.

“DR. MORGAN FREQUENTLY BOASTS OF THE RESILIENCY OF OUR INSTITUTION AND I BELIEVE THAT OUR STUDENT-ATHLETES EMBODY THE VIRTUES HE IS REFERRING TO. I APPRECIATE HIS TASK AND COMMITMENT TO THE MISSION AT MSU. HE IDENTIFIES THAT OUR STUDENTS ARE THE REASON WE’RE ALL HERE AND HE WANTS TO ENSURE THAT THEY’RE GIVEN EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO SUCCEED.”

– Jaime Gordon

“I was on the road recruiting when Dr. Morgan reached out to see if we could schedule a meeting upon my return to campus,” Gordon shared. “Brian had just announced that he had accepted another position and Dr. Morgan shared that he wanted to discuss the prospects of me serving as the interim director of athletics. During our meeting, he explained he wanted someone to serve who has head coaching experience, a positive mindset, brings a variety of experiences to the position and can grow relationships across our campus and regional communities. At the end of our conversation, he asked me if I would accept the position. I requested some time to process and discuss with my wife (Ashley) but, in all honesty, it didn’t take long to say ‘yes.’”

Although Gordon was perfectly content in his role as Eagle Volleyball coach, he admits he has pondered the idea of working in administration. Gordon has been an active member of the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) serving on and chairing various committees. He is also a 2016 graduate of MSU’s President’s Leadership Academy and is currently working on his doctorate in educational leadership.

Gordon said he and President Morgan have a relationship of mutual respect and trust—and they’re both on the same page when it comes to moving MSU athletics forward.

“He appreciates and values the role that athletics play at Morehead State. We are both committed to ensuring that all our students have the support they need to pursue their aspirations.”

Gordon is eager to be an administrative voice for his coaching peers at MSU. He understands full well the challenges they face on a year-round basis and the support that’s needed to be successful.

“As a head coach, a lot of what we do is respond to the unexpected. No plan progresses from A to Z without adjustment. I believe my peers are excited and know I’m here to support them. Whether it’s recruiting, training or the growth of young people, we’re all in this together. Our principal goal is educating students and athletics is a vehicle to do that.”

Gordon is also thankful for the athletics’ administration that has long been in place and will lean heavily on their expertise moving forward.

“Fletch (**Richard Fletcher (92)**, associate director of athletics), Rhonda (Ferguson, administrative assistant to the AD) and **Paul (Rhodes (07))**, tickets and facilities manager) have been critically supportive. They’re all so knowledgeable and concise in their roles. Of course, Brian (Hutchinson) was responsible for having them in place and I appreciate his continued good counsel.”

Gordon knows the limited staff in athletics has resulted in heavy workloads with people taking on roles they’re not accustomed to. One of the new AD’s goals is to meet individually with staff to see how to best ease the burden and focus on their respective strengths.

Of course, some may ask how Gordon will manage his own added responsibilities as AD along with the current duties as head coach?

"I'm confident I can balance the demands of both positions because I am blessed with an outstanding coaching staff (Kyrsten Becker and Sarah Martin), determined student-athletes in our program and an incredibly supportive family at home. I was encouraged recently when one of my players shared that she forgets that I'm also the AD now because I'm the same person and nothing has changed for her. That is what we are all working hard for."

As for how long the AD appointment will last and if the interim tag will eventually be lifted, Gordon said that's still to be determined.

"I've articulated to Dr. Morgan that I am committed to serve in this capacity as long as he believes it's beneficial for the department and institution. That's where we are right now and I'm honored to have this opportunity."



For more information on Eagle athletics, visit www.msueagles.com.

Eagles, make plans to return and reunite at Homecoming 2019

June 14, 2019
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Any time is a good time to return to Morehead State University if you're an MSU alumnus, but there is one time of year where alumni, faculty, staff, current students and friends of the University truly come together to celebrate what it means to be an Eagle.

MSU Homecoming 2019 will take place on Oct. 18 and 19. The weekend's festivities will include the annual Homecoming Parade, which will run along Main Street through downtown Morehead. At the Homecoming Banquet, the University will induct the newest members of the Alumni Hall of Fame, the Athletic Hall of Fame and recognize the recipient of the 2019 Founders Award for University Service.

Other events include the Decades Brunch for alumni, class year and student organization reunions and Memorial Brick Ceremony.

The weekend will come to a spirited conclusion with tailgating before the MSU Eagle Football takes on the Butler Bulldogs at Jayne Stadium. The Homecoming Queen and King will be crowned at half-time.

For more information and to register for events, contact the Office of Alumni Relations and Development at 800-783-ALUM (2586), email alumni@moreheadstate.edu or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/homecoming.

Atkins works to bring greater diversity to MSU campus

June 14, 2019
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Dr. Caroline Atkins

Dr. Caroline Atkins, assistant professor of criminal justice and assistant to the president for strategic initiatives, has a passion for being in the classroom. It's that passion that she said led her to work at universities across the Commonwealth, at the Kentucky Council for Postsecondary Education (CPE) and ultimately, to Morehead State.

Along each step in her career, Atkins has learned new skills and strategies that allowed her to help students succeed.

"I really enjoy interacting with students in the classroom and in campus-based activities. I derive energy from my time with students and learn so much from them," Atkins said. "I think that what I enjoy best is being able to help students on the pathway to success, whether that is academically, economically, or socially or in other ways."

Prior to coming to MSU in July 2018, Atkins was a senior associate at the CPE. She had numerous duties, including assisting CPE staff and campus chief diversity officers with the development and implementation of campus-based diversity and inclusion plans in support of student success, particularly for underrepresented minority students.

Atkins' work at the CPE ties directly to her work in the president's office at MSU. She is the University's chief diversity officer who developed the campus' diversity plan. Atkins also works to identify and recruit underutilized and diverse applicants for vacant employment positions, serve on hiring committees, place low-income and underrepresented minority students in campus-based employment and assist the Office of Enrollment Services with special recruitment events.

"I LIKE WALKING ACROSS CAMPUS AND HEARING A STUDENT YELL, 'HEY DR. ATKINS! I HOPE YOU'RE HAVING A GREAT DAY,' OR HAVING A STUDENT APPROACH ME IN THE FOOD COURT TO SHARE A NEWS STORY THEY HEARD RELATED TO A RECENT TOPIC OF DISCUSSION IN CLASS."

-Dr. Caroline Atkins

Atkins has covered a lot of ground since she first came to campus, including working with Bluegrass Tomorrow to host an IdeaFest, serving as a member of the Prichard Committee on Postsecondary Affordability and serving as co-facilitator for the Tri-State Conference on Diversity and Inclusion. Still, she said she's particularly proud of one of the things she's accomplished in her time here.

"I'm very proud that we have revitalized our diversity advisory council, the Eagle Diversity and Inclusion Team (EDIT). The EDIT is doing great work and will continue to do so in the coming academic year," she said.

Prior to the CPE, she was the director of the training resource center and regional academic outreach at Murray State University from 1996 to 2016.

Atkins earned a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science from Eastern Kentucky University and an Ed.D. in Postsecondary Leadership from Western Kentucky University. In addition to working with the president, she teaches classes in criminology and juvenile delinquency and plans to teach a class on correctional institutions in the fall.

Atkins received a 2019 Apple Award for Educational Excellence at this year's Student Choice Awards, sponsored by the MSU [**Student Government Organization \(SGA\)**](#).

Despite the importance of her roles at MSU, Atkins said it's the interactions with students that give her fulfillment.

Outside of MSU, Atkins serves as a mentor to young women and enjoys sewing, crocheting and hiking in her free time.

To learn more about programs in MSU's Department of Sociology, Social Work and Criminology, visit [**www.moreheadstate.edu/sswc**](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/sswc), email Dr. Dianna Murphy at [**dmurphy@moreheadstate.edu**](mailto:dmurphy@moreheadstate.edu) or call 606-783-2656.

For more information about MSU's diversity and inclusion initiatives, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/diversity, email Atkins at c.atkins@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-9381.

MSU alum receives TRIO Achiever Award

June 14, 2019
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Morehead State Upward Bound Math and Science and Student Support Services alumnus, **Tobie A. (Hale) Smith (07)** of Huntsville, Alabama, was recognized as a TRIO Achiever at the Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel Conference (SAEOPP), held Feb 3-6 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

"I'm still shocked that I received the award! I feel so honored to have been recognized by a program that was a pivotal part of my life," Smith said.

Smith participated in both Upward Bound Math and Science (UBMS) and Student Support Services (SSS) at MSU after finishing her sophomore year of high school. She also served as a tutor with SSS and as a resident advisor with UBMS while earning her undergraduate degree. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Morehead State in 2007 with a double major in physics and mathematics. In 2008, Smith earned a Master of Science degree in aerospace engineering at Georgia Tech.

Aside from gaining a sense of independence and learning to work independently on research projects, Smith said it's the people she met through Upward Bound (UB) that really made a difference.

"The people make the program," Smith said. "During my three years in the program, I met some of the most wonderful folks: fellow students, instructors, counselors and staff. All were invested in the success of every other person in UB, and it gave me a real-life perspective of how to work with a team."

Smith is currently employed as the principal data scientist at Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) in Huntsville. She is currently working on a project for the United States Air Force and credits a trip to Space Camp in Huntsville while participating in UBMS as her inspiration to enroll in and complete her education in aerospace engineering.

"UB was the catalyst for where I am now," she said. "The first time I saw the Saturn V rocket at Space Camp was overwhelming and I'll never forget feeling so small next to it," Smith said. "It was that experience that solidified my educational plans. I decided I wanted to earn my degree in aerospace engineering."

"It's been 20 years since my first summer at UB and I still stay in touch with many of the students and staff because they had such a huge impact on my life."

The Federal TRIO Programs are federal outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. MSU hosts five TRIO programs targeted to serve and assist low income individuals, first generation college students and individuals with disabilities to progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to postbaccalaureate programs.

For more information on Commonwealth Educational Opportunity Centers, Educational Talent Search, Student Support Services, Upward Bound, and Upward Bound Math and Science, call 606-783-2614 or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/trio.

Marian Leigh Hayne Memorial Scholarship
established to support non-traditional veterinary
technology students



MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY
FOUNDATION



Marian Leigh Hayne

The Morehead State University Foundation has announced the establishment of the Marian Leigh Hayne Memorial Scholarship Endowment. The scholarship was established in honor of the late **Marian Leigh Hayne (09)** after she died in an automobile accident at age 36. Marian attended MSU from 2005 through 2009, earning associate's and bachelor's degrees in veterinary technology. She was also was a member of the MSU Equestrian Team and served as the show manager of the Morehead State Equestrian Club Spring Open Horse Show in 2009. Upon graduation and passing the state licensing exam, Marian moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where she worked for eight years with a veterinary oncologist, Dr. Lorin Hillman at Memphis Veterinary Specialists.

"Morehead was a special place for our daughter, Marian. Her education in the veterinary technology program in agricultural sciences provided her with a superb education and collegiate experience with great educators and peers, some of whom she maintained relationships until her death," said parents Arlene and Van Hayne. "The Hayne Family is honored and most appreciative that we can be a small part in helping others with their educational aspirations at Morehead in Marian's memory."

The 2018-19 recipients of the Marian Leigh Hayne Memorial Scholarship were Samantha Anderson, a senior from Somerset, and Haley Boggs, a junior from Harlan County.

"The Marian Leigh Hayne Scholarship has enabled me to pursue my goal of achieving a degree in veterinary technology," said Anderson, who plans to obtain a master's degree in shelter medicine after completing her degree at MSU.

"I am truly grateful for not only being selected for the Marian Leigh Hayne Memorial Scholarship but even being considered for it," said Boggs upon receiving the award. "I hope that this scholarship will continue to help other students like me in the future."

Scholarship recipients must be full-time, nontraditional students that have been accepted into the Associate of Applied Science in Veterinary Technology program with preference given to those interested in progressing toward a Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Technology. The scholarship is renewable for up to three years provided the recipient is accepted into the Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Technology program and maintained a 3.0 GPA. If not, the award may be renewed for up to two years if a 3.0 GPA is maintained.

This scholarship was established as part of the Soar to New Heights Scholarship Campaign.

For more information on this scholarship, or to establish your own, contact MSU's Office of Alumni Relations and Development at 606-783-2033, email giving@moreheadstate.edu, or visit alumni.moreheadstate.edu/give to make a contribution today.

Beth Price overcame extraordinary injury to walk as a Craft Academy graduate

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Pictured above: President Jay Morgan (far left), Dr. Joseph Craft (center right), co-founder of the Craft Academy, and Craft Academy Director Dr. Carol Christian (far right) pose for a photo with Beth Price (center left) as she stands and accepts her Craft Academy diploma at the 2019 Craft Academy graduation ceremony.

When **Beth Price** of Morehead was walking onto the stage at Button Auditorium during the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics 2019 graduation ceremony, she was having a thought almost anyone taking the stage in front of hundreds of people may have.

"I was just thinking, like, please don't trip," Price said with a laugh.

The mere fact that Price was thinking this shows just how far she has come because when she was at her Craft Academy induction ceremony, she couldn't walk at all.



Beth Price (center) is pictured with MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan (left) and Dr. Carol Christian (right), director of the Craft Academy for Excellence Science and Mathematics, at her induction ceremony into the Craft Academy in 2017. She and her father Dr. Kent Price, associate professor of physics at MSU, recall that day quite vividly.

"I remember being a little bit embarrassed, especially since they called my name and nobody came up," Beth said.

"At first, they're wondering, where is this Elizabeth Price? Did she not show up? Because they called her name and nothing happened," Kent said.

The reason nothing happened was that Beth was sitting in an enclosed wheelchair lift being elevated to the stage. When she finally emerged after having some trouble with the door, she was in a wheelchair and neck brace, to the surprise of some in attendance.

What many people in that audience may have seen when they looked at Beth Price were her physical limitations at the time. What they may have missed were the academic abilities that got her to the Craft Academy in the first place or the resolve and determination that would bring her back to walk across that stage and accept her diploma.

Price was homeschooled by her mother, Kim, for most of her childhood and adolescence, minus one year in a public school that didn't provide the intellectual challenges and engagement she was seeking. At one point, Kim was going to Kent to tag him in to teach her math and science since Beth was learning so quickly.

She remembers being extremely excited when she got the email that she was accepted into the Craft Academy. She and her family soon started shopping for a bedspread and sheets for her room on the MSU campus.

On May 10, 2017, the Wednesday of finals week of her sophomore year of high school, the accident happened.



Dr. Kent Price (right), associate professor of physics at MSU, and his daughter Beth Price (left). Both were involved in a serious car accident two years ago and have both have bounced back to continue their respective work in the classroom.

Beth and Kent were taking turns driving their minivan to Shelby Valley High School so Kent could give an Early College physics presentation. Unexplainably, the vehicle lost control, rolling several times in the air before coming to a stop against a parked car carrier on the side of U.S. Highway 23.

"When I woke up, his (Kent's) neck was in a very unnatural position on my shoulder. He wasn't breathing. There was blood on his face," Beth said.

"My neck was bent in a way that cut my airway off, so I wasn't breathing," Kent added.

As they lay there in the wreckage, a former EMT happened to come across the accident and used Beth's backpack to stabilize Kent's neck so he could breathe (Beth still has that backpack and kept it in her room at Craft for both years). Both Beth and Kent were rushed to the emergency room and suffered devastating injuries.

Kent had a traumatic brain injury (TBI), blood on his brain and fractured discs C-5 and C-6 in his back. He was in a coma for a week and spent another six weeks in the hospital.

Beth had seven broken ribs (one of which punctured her lung), a concussion, a crushed spleen that had to be removed and an ankle that needed to be surgically repaired with metal and screws. She also had a broken back, with fractures in thoracic vertebrae T-2 through T-7.

She spent almost a month in the hospital before she left in that wheelchair and neck brace. Her father said he can't remember the first five-and-a-half weeks he was in the hospital, but he remembers one of the first conversations he had was with Beth talking about whether she would attend Craft Academy in a few months.

"I said, 'You know Beth, everybody says what a wonderful opportunity Craft is and how you might think people would be upset with you for turning that down, but you've had a hard summer. You almost died. I almost died. You're in a wheelchair. You're in a neck brace. If you said, 'You know dad, I've had a hard summer. I want to go back to easy school.' I'm OK with that. I'll support you as your dad,'" Kent said. "And she said, 'No, Dad. I'm going to do it.' And she did."

"I knew it was the best option," Beth said. "Even if it was going to be hard, I knew it was going to be the best option."

During the two years at the Craft Academy, Beth completed her coursework while recovering from both the physical and mental stress of her accident. She was out of the wheelchair by Thanksgiving of 2017 and went from using a walker to crutches to walking on her own. She found herself getting exhausted quickly, but she said the attentive staff at the Craft Academy made accommodations to allow her to sleep during required study time and miss 10 p.m. hall meetings. There was even one instance when the elevator was broken in her residence hall and Craft staff carried her and her wheelchair down so she could make it to class.

She is still dealing with the after-effects of the accident. She still gets severe migraines from the concussion and is on medication for night terrors after she began waking up drenched in sweat and smelling smoke. Juggling her responsibilities with Craft and having to make physical therapy appointments, along with the physical and mental exhaustion that took time away from her studies, caused Beth to receive a few B's and C's in her classes that she believes she wouldn't have made under normal circumstances. Even though her dad encouraged her to take a gap year from Craft to focus on herself and her recovery – she would have maintained her scholarships and academic standing – Beth pushed through. She even cut back her physical therapy appointments to focus on her schoolwork. She was determined to share the stage with her graduating class.

Now that she has graduated from the Craft Academy, Beth is taking her dad up on that gap year. She wants to be able to rest and not stress about class and get the necessary surgeries and therapy she had been putting off while she was in school. She's looking forward to coming back 100 percent healthy to MSU, where she plans to pursue a double major in theatre education and elementary education with a minor in English. She one day hopes to become like the teachers that inspired her to come out of her shell.

"I really love theatre and really love kids, so I'm really happy I get to major in theatre education," she said. "Kentucky really needs good teachers who care about the students and I want to be that."

Beth's Craft Academy graduation meant a lot more to her family than it would have before the accident. It meant a lot to her dad who shared in both the trauma of the accident and the triumph of seeing her walk

across the stage she was unable to walk onto just a few years ago. It meant a lot to her mother, who went from thinking she could lose her husband and first-born child to watching her first-born child graduate with her husband by her side. It meant a lot to Beth's youngest sister, Laura, who is looking forward to getting a bit more attention and fewer chores to do around the house.

The accident changed Beth and her family's lives forever...and for the better.

"I said one time that if I could push a button and make it to where the accident didn't happen, I would push it. And she (Beth) said, 'Oh, I wouldn't.' And I'm at that point now, where I wouldn't push it now, but she was the first person in the family who said she wouldn't push it," Kent said. "This has made us stronger. It has made us closer as a family."

"I didn't know I could do all of this," Beth said. "I wouldn't be the person that I was if it weren't for the accident. I'm glad it happened. It changed me. It made me a better person."

For more information on the Craft Academy, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/craft-academy, email craftacademy@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2093.

MSU Rifle hits the target on the range and in the classroom during 2018-19 season

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It was a monumental year for the Morehead State Rifle team, securing numerous school records, notching the program's highest-ever national ranking and having the entire team earn academic honors.

The Eagles recently wrapped up the season with **Brandon Bryer (19)** (smallbore) of Scarborough, Maine, and senior Alexa Potts (air rifle) of Ephrata, Pennsylvania, earning spots in the NCAA Championships. Morehead State finished the year ranked #9 in the Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association final poll, the highest spot in program history.

The Eagles placed second in the Ohio Valley Conference for the second consecutive season. It was once again the highest finish ever in the league for the team.

In addition to these accomplishments, all nine members of the Eagle Rifle program have earned Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association Scholastic All-American accolades for 2018-19. To qualify, an athlete must have maintained a 3.20 or better GPA for the fall semester or have garnered a cumulative 3.20 or better GPA for their college career following the fall semester.

Those who earned the honor this season are Bryer; **Siarra Crum (19)** of Portage, Pennsylvania; sophomore Erin Diehl of East Earl, Pennsylvania; sophomore Katie Frye from Greenburg, Pennsylvania; junior Ryan Hinson of Ridgefield, Washington; senior Jesse Moyer of Hollsopple, Pennsylvania; Alexa Potts; senior Karly Potts of Ephrata, Pennsylvania; and sophomore Amber Schifano of Belleville, Pennsylvania.

Among many other highlights, here are some of the top moments during the 2018-19 season:

- Alexa Potts was named Air Rifle All-American, First-Team All-OVC for air rifle and smallbore, set the school smallbore individual scoring record (586 with 42 center shots) at the OVC Championships, set the school air rifle individual scoring record (595 with 45 center shots) versus Jacksonville State, set the school individual smallbore 20 shots prone school record (200 with 19 center shots) at the OVC Championships and set the individual aggregate school record (1180) at the OVC Championships.
- Bryer was named First-Team All-OVC in smallbore and Second-Team All-OVC in air rifle.
- Diehl was named to the OVC All-Newcomer Team for smallbore, qualified for the Women's Junior Olympics in air rifle, and set the school individual smallbore 20 shots standing school record (194 with 10 center shots) versus Georgia Southern.

- Frye was named to the OVC All-Newcomer Team for smallbore and qualified for the Women's Junior Olympics in air rifle and smallbore.
- MSU Rifle set a combined team school record (4674) versus Kentucky in the NCAA qualifier match. The air rifle team set a school record (2358) versus Kentucky in the NCAA qualifier match. The smallbore team set a school record (2320) at the OVC Championships. The Eagles were 7-0 in head-to-head matches. Schifano qualified for the Women's Junior Olympics in air rifle.
- Ryan Hinson qualified for the Men's Junior Olympics in air rifle and smallbore. Head Coach Alan Joseph was named OVC Co-Coach of the Year. Rifle had the highest team GPA (3.75) of any sport at MSU for the Fall 2018 semester.



For more information about MSU Athletics, visit www.msueagles.com.

The Birkes twins lead initiative to make MSU first Seizure Smart University in KY

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Colby and Luke Birkes, twin brothers from Winchester, are leading the initiative to make Morehead State the first Seizure Smart University in the state. Through the implementation of training programs provided by the Epilepsy Foundation of Kentuckiana, this initiative will improve awareness and increase access to care for those with epilepsy.

"We want to make Morehead State University a Seizure Smart School not only for the first aid aspect, but also to dispel rumors. Some people still think epilepsy is contagious," said Colby. "Getting people to understand that people with epilepsy can live full and successful lives is our main goal."

Luke has been living with epilepsy for 15 years and has made it his personal mission to help others struggling with epilepsy. While in high school, Luke served as the Kentucky representative for Teens Speak Up, a conference sponsored by the Epilepsy Foundation that teaches attendees how to actively promote epilepsy awareness in their community. Luke is now bringing that advocacy to Morehead State's campus.

Luke described the moment he saw a need for Seizure Smart training at Morehead State.

"During my sophomore year, a girl was having a seizure during class and the professor didn't know what to do. So, one other student and I had to handle the situation and perform basic first aid. She ended up leaving college because her parents didn't trust the people around her to keep her safe. I didn't want that to happen to anyone else."

Over four weeks of training during the spring 2019 semester, all campus police officers and 50 faculty members were trained in seizure recognition and first aid. Seizure smart trainings will continue during the fall 2019 semester and will be open to faculty, staff and students. The Seizure Smart curriculum will be included in resident advisor training for the new school year.

Beth Stivers, director of education for the Epilepsy Foundation of Kentuckiana, said, "Parents worry when their child with epilepsy goes off to college. It is scary to think that no one will know what to do if a seizure occurs. By becoming a Seizure Smart School, the student as well as the parent will have confidence and know that the child will be safe."

Individuals who complete Seizure Smart training will be able to recognize common types of seizures, identify the types of impacts that seizures have on students, list first aid steps for helping students having a seizure and describe basic aspects of social and academic support for students with seizures.

"We are creating an environment not only where people with epilepsy feel safe coming to college, they can feel accepted and understood," said Colby. "We want every student to prosper and find success here."

BTVMA awards scholarships to veterinary technology students



Eight students in Morehead State's veterinary technology program were awarded scholarships by the Buffalo Trace Veterinary Medical Association (BTVMA) during the spring semester.

Students who received the scholarship were:

- Samantha Anderson, a senior from Somerset.
- Hannah Casto, a senior from Washington Court House, Ohio.
- Ariel Green, a junior from Seattle, Washington.
- Morgan Howard, a senior from Owingsville.
- Katherine Morris, a post-baccalaureate student from Lexington.
- Alexa Nelko, a junior from Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania.
- Julie Snyder, a senior from Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Melissa Wilson, a senior from Macedonia, Ohio.

All students enrolled in the veterinary technology bachelor's program at MSU are automatically eligible for the BTVMA scholarships. Recipients are full-time undergraduate students admitted to the veterinary technology program who have demonstrated outstanding academic and clinical abilities and are continuing in the program.

MSU has an ongoing partnership with BTVMA, hosting the organization's annual Morehead Clinic Days. This event is a two-day regional meeting that hosts more than 125 veterinarians and more than 50 veterinary technicians from across the Commonwealth and surrounding states.

For more information about the veterinary technology program at MSU, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/study/vettech or call 606-783-2328.

For information on the Department of Agricultural Sciences, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/agriculture, email agsi@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2662.

Tim Jones goes where creativity takes him – and that now includes on camera

June 14, 2019
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Tim Jones' (04) passion and ability to be creative in marketing rarely results in him staying in one place for too long.

Jones is the creative director for Cornett, a marketing agency in Lexington. Jones and his agency have worked with clients ranging from national brands like Valvoline and A&W Restaurants to local and regional clients like Keeneland race track in Lexington, VisitLex.com and Buffalo Trace Distillery in Frankfort. Jones and his wife, **Jessica Johnson-Jones (05)**, also co-founded Gent's Original Ginger Ale, a craft soda company based in Lexington. Between these two jobs alone, he may be filming a cooking show for Buffalo Trace or traveling to a cocktail competition in Los Angeles.

"There's a whole lot going on right now," Jones said.

That doesn't even include the whole being-on-a-nationally-broadcast-television show part. This year, Jones was on screen helping revitalize the business of struggling distilleries across the South in the non-scripted reality television show "Moonshiners: Whiskey Business" on Discovery.

The Olive Hill native first came to Morehead State in 1997 in large part with some guidance from his sister **Shellie Hallock (92)**, project director of student support services at MSU. However, Jones dropped out of MSU after two years and moved to Florida. He had contemplated working for a national park but decided to return to the University to get a degree.

What kind of degree? At first, he wasn't quite sure. He took a couple of science and art classes and found himself veering toward working in computers and graphic design thanks to courses with art professors like Gary Mesa-Gaido and the late Deeno Golding.

"I felt like I was actually learning something and learning a trait that I didn't necessarily have, and I got excited about learning again," he said. "I thought this was something I could really dive into."

From there, Jones wanted to learn even more. He explored photography and videography to enhance his creative skill set and put those skills to good use in several campus 24-hour film competitions. He also helped start a student club for graphic designers.

"It all just started clicking," Jones said. "It was just a really exciting time for me to find something I thought I could really actually do."

Jones graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Art with an emphasis in graphic design in 2004. He went on to apply what he learned for multiple companies, first as a designer and photographer for Triton Boats in Nashville before coming back to Kentucky to work as an art/creative director for small marketing teams at Elevation Creative Studios, Midway University and The Bourbon Review magazine.

Jones was hired at Cornett in 2011 as a senior art director before becoming the company's creative director. His success in helping grow the many bourbon brands of the Sazerac Company, which includes Buffalo Trace and Pappy Van Winkle, combined with the booming business of bourbon, led to him being contacted by the production company behind the television show "Moonshiners" on Discovery. They pitched him a spin-off program that would focus on the bourbon industry.

"At first, I was like, this is kind of strange," he said. "They ran the concept by me, and I actually thought I was pretty suited for this and they did too."

"Moonshiners: Whiskey Business," shot five total episodes (four of which featured Jones) from October 2018 to February 2019 before debuting in March. The show had an average viewership of one million viewers per

episode. Jones said those ratings could lead to future episodes, which Jones is happy with both for the unique television opportunity and for the results of the work they do.

"Basically, (Discovery) said, 'Be yourself. All three of you guys (cast members Tim Smith from "Moonshiners" and engineer Devin Mills) are here to help and we want you to identify the real concerns and we want you to help,' and we did," Jones said. "I was happy with what we did in real life even more than the episodes."

The way Jones uses his talents and experience to help distillers and other brands is the same way he occasionally does at his alma mater. He said he makes it a point to make the trip to MSU every year or two to talk to senior capstone classes and pass on what he's learned. He believes MSU was the place where he developed his passion and potential.

"One thing I got out of college for sure was discovery. I discovered so many things I didn't know," he said. "It doesn't happen to everybody, but I'm really happy that something clicked. It hasn't stopped since."

For more information on MSU's graphic design program, contact the Department of Art and Design at 606-783-2766, email arde@moreheadstate.edu or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/art.

Former Eagle Football coach and Hall of Fame member Guy Penny passes away

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Coach Guy Penny (right)

Dr. Guy Penny, 90, former Morehead State Football head coach, died April 8, 2019, in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Penny was a native of Piedmont, Alabama, where he was an all-state football star at Piedmont High School. He went on to earn a scholarship at the University of Mississippi, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1950 and earned a Doctor of Education from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1969. After he graduated from Ole Miss, he embarked on his coaching career, holding positions in his home state at Collinsville High School and Geneva High School and later at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

One of the most successful coaches in Morehead State football program history, Penny (who led the Eagles from 1959 to 1967) orchestrated the first Ohio Valley Conference championship in program history when MSU won a co-title in 1962. Four years later, Penny's Eagles won the outright OVC championship in 1966.

Penny was named OVC Coach of the Year in 1962 and 1966 and was the Kodak District 4 Coach of the Year in 1966. He later was a physical education instructor and the chair of the physical education department at Middle Tennessee State University from 1970 until retirement in 1993.

At MSU, he coached 15 student-athletes who were named All-OVC during his tenure, several of whom are now in the Morehead State Athletic Hall of Fame, as well as a pair of All-Americans. He was inducted into the MSU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1989 and later into the Ohio Valley Conference Hall of Fame in 1996.

He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Kay B. Penny, along with three daughters, a brother, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Pohlabein competes in IHSA nationals

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MSU freshman Rudy Pohlabein of Edgewood doesn't remember the first time he rode a horse, but said he's probably done so since he was old enough to sit on one by himself. He grew up around horses on the family farm and began competing in western seat competitions when he was nine.

"I chose Western because it is what I grew up riding. My sisters both show as well, and I just followed their footsteps," he said.

Pohlabein recently represented MSU at the Intercollegiate Horse Association (IHSA) National Competition in Syracuse, New York, where he placed seventh in his class. Pohlabein qualified for nationals by winning reserve grand champion at the regional competition held in Utah in March.

"Rudy is a talented rider and I think being at Nationals as a freshman will just help him and the team moving forward over the next three years," said Devin Lintzenich, MSU Equestrian Team coach.



Rudy Pohlabeln, left, a freshman veterinary

science major from Edgewood, placed seventh in the Individual Intermediate Western Horsemanship class at the IHSA Nationals. He is pictured with MSU Equestrian Team Coach, Devin Lintzenich.

"He had a great ride, and it was a pretty tough class. I am thrilled for him and for the team that he did so well."

Pohlabein is proud to be representing MSU at nationals.

"It feels good to be representing the school at such a high level especially being my first year on the team," he said.

Pohlabein is a veterinary science major and said it's a challenge to juggle school and finding time to practice, but said he loves the thrill of competitive riding.

"I think what I like most about riding and competing is just being able to combine the competitiveness of competition and the fun of riding horses."

For information about Equestrian Teams at MSU, contact Lintzenich at dslintzenich@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2662.

For information about academic programs in MSU's Department of Agricultural Sciences, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/agriculture, email agsi@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2662.

MSU mourns passing of Jeff Lykins

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In the spring, Morehead State mourned the loss of employee Jeff Lykins, who passed away Saturday, March 23, at St. Claire HealthCare in Morehead.

Lykins, 48, was a vending technician at MSU where he had worked since 2011. He was a 1988 graduate of Rowan County Senior High School and served as a deacon at Slaty Point Baptist Church.

He is survived by his parents, Larry Lykins (and stepmother Myra) of Blairs Mill and Mary Holbrook Howard (and stepfather John) of Morehead; his wife, Hope Howard Lykins, who is a building services technician at the University; one daughter, Hayle Marie Lykins, who attends MSU; two brothers, Chad (Beth) Carpenter of Florence and Trevor Lykins of Huntington Beach, California; one sister, Robin (Terry) Robbins of Blairs Mill; mother- and father-in-law, Doug and Zourdah Howard of Morehead and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 27, at Northcutt and Son Home for Funerals Memorial Chapel in Morehead. Lykins was interred at Slaty Point Cemetery.

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Student athletes earn academic honors



Eagle Athletes excelled not just on the field, but in the classroom this spring with 45 Morehead State student-athletes achieving perfect grades during the semester while 13 of the Eagles' 16 programs earned a team grade-point average of 3.0 or better.

The rifle program garnered the highest team GPA at 3.76, while the combined total of 3.64 for volleyball/beach volleyball came in second. The overall GPA for all athletes was 3.11.

Other programs earning at least a 3.0 team GPA were baseball, men's cross country, men's track and field, men's golf, women's cross country, women's indoor track and field, women's outdoor track and field, women's golf, softball and soccer.

The following are individual student-athletes who earned 4.0 GPAs in the spring:

- Baseball – **Josh Baumgart (19)**.
- Men's Cross Country – **Jordan Carrington (19)** and **Anthony Ortega (19)**.
- Men's Track and Field – Jordan Carrington and Anthony Ortega.
- Football – Kyle Gilbert, Jarin Higginbotham, Starr Hutcherson, Dalton Lewis, Cam Marriott, Jacob Moss and **Aaron Turk (19)**.
- Men's Golf – Mason McGhee and Joe Muschong.
- Women's Basketball – Darianne Seward.
- Women's Cross Country – Alison Chinn, **Mya Faris (19)**, Katelyn Sevier, Carrie Staviski and Sydney Young.
- Women's Track and Field (Indoor and Outdoor) – Alison Chinn, Mya Faris, Katelyn Sevier, Carrie Staviski and Sydney Young.
- Women's Golf – Isabella Washka.
- Rifle – **Brandon Bryer (19)**, Jesse Moyer, Alexa Potts, Karly Potts, Amber Schifano.
- Softball – Lindsay Anderson, Bella Caracciolo, Sara Hallock, Megan Murphy, Peyton Rose and Peyton Slater.
- Soccer – Jenna Ahlbrand, **Shelby Huddleston (19)**, Nicole Palmer, Ashley Ritchie, Colleen Swift, Morgan Treser and **Michelle Washburn (19)**.

- Volleyball – Alysa Cecil, **Chandler Clark (19)**, Maddie Fella, Olivia Lohmeier, Danielle McCarson, Olivia Montelisciani and Jessie Wachtman.
- Beach Volleyball – Chandler Clark, **Georgia Childers (19)**, **Maddie Fella (19)**, Olivia Lohmeier, Danielle McCarson and Olivia Montelisciani.

For more information on athletics at MSU, visit www.msueagles.com.

Suleiman escaped Darfur and found a new home at MSU

Hassan Suleiman, originally from Kenyno, Sudan, Africa, recently earned his Associate of Applied Science in Radiologic Science from MSU and begins the CTMR program in July.

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Every first-generation college student faces challenges on their path to earning a degree, but the challenges Hassan Suleiman faced were literally life and death.

Suleiman is one of the Lost Boys of Sudan, a group of approximately 20,000 boys aged 7 to 17 who were orphaned or displaced by the genocide in Sudan. The genocide began in 2003 when two groups, the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA), rebelled against the corrupt Khartoum government. In response, the government deployed the Janjaweed, an Arab militia group, to violently quell the rebellion by attacking non-Arab villages in Darfur. One of those villages was Kenyno, where Suleiman lived with his mother and siblings. His village was attacked in 2004. He was eight years old.

"When they attacked us, everyone ran away, so they surround our village. Some of my village people tried to fight them but we had no power," Suleiman said. "The men they killed, and the small children, if the child was a boy, they throw them on the fire."

Suleiman managed to escape into the bush and met up with some other boys who had escaped the carnage. A group of eight, the boys set out through the jungle on foot. The Janjaweed had destroyed the food in the village, so the boys had to sustain themselves on what the jungle provided.

"We just ate tree leaves and fruit from the trees in the jungle. We thought, 'our life is gone,' but we thought, 'We're together, we have eight people, let's go.' So, we just keep going through the jungle."

As they fled, they came across others from the village who were wounded, dead or dying, but there was nothing the boys could do to save them.

"You see someone you know well, your neighbor or your uncle, dead, and you cannot stop. You are just trying to save your life," Suleiman said, a tear rolling down his cheek as he recalled the horror of the attack.

The boys spent three to five weeks making their way through the jungle to the border between Sudan and South Sudan in the Nuba Mountains, an area controlled by the SLA. The boys had walked more than 1,000 miles, and it was there they first made contact with refugee relief agencies that would help Suleiman and the others come to the U.S.

"They told me, you are a very young guy. Forget about your parents, we're going to take care of you," he said. "They told us, 'You're going to America,' and we were like, 'How?' We don't know where our parents are and instead of going back and looking for them, we're being sent to another place."

Suleiman was moved to the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya, where he stayed for five years, waiting for a refugee sponsor so he could come to America. Conditions in the camp were harsh and Suleiman said many of the refugees staying there were overcome with hopelessness and tried to take their own lives. Suleiman's best

friend, who was with him in Kakuma, hung himself. While he admits the thought crossed his mind, he said the hope of finding his mother and siblings again gave him strength.

"I can't do that. Instead of dying, I can help somebody. I can't forget my family. If they are alive, I cannot," he said.

After years of waiting, Suleiman finally received sponsorship from a Catholic church in Louisville in 2011 and came to America. "It's a good place," he said. "I appreciate the people who brought me here and tried to change my life."

Once he arrived in America, Suleiman had one goal: to find his mother and his identical twin brother, Huessin, and bring them to America. While he was staying in Louisville, Suleiman decided he wanted to get an education, an opportunity he would never have had in Sudan. Kenyno was an agricultural village and Suleiman said if he had not left Africa, he would likely still be there, working the fields and tending cattle. He asked a neighbor in Louisville how he could go to school and his neighbor helped him enroll at Jefferson Community College (JCC) in 2012. In 2016, he was contacted by a transfer counselor from Morehead State and was accepted within three days of applying.

Suleiman had a friend bring him to town so he could explore the campus and the area. He said that, because he's from a small village, Morehead felt familiar to him.

"Morehead is a small place, and I was also born in a small village, so I like to be in the country. When I come here, I feel like I am home," he said.

One of his professors at JCC was an MSU alumnus, and he told him it was the best college in the state. So, Suleiman transferred to MSU and started taking prerequisite classes. He knew he wanted to do something in the medical field because he had seen firsthand how vital access to medical care is.

"I need to help people. I was young, but I remember, many women die while pregnant. Some people die with an easy disease where I've seen people over here treating it. We don't have any medical access in my place.

You have to travel one day to get medical. People die for nothing because of lack of medical access,” he said. “I thought, let me get in something good that’s medical. Money is nothing-I need to just help people.”

Suleiman eventually settled on radiology, and after taking some prerequisites, enrolled in MSU’s radiological sciences associate degree program. The program has a small cohort, so students and professors form close bonds with one another.

“I CAME OVER HERE, NOT KNOWING ANYBODY. ANY CLASS, WHEN I GO, PEOPLE LOVE ME, SO I STAY. I REGARD THEM AS MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, THE PEOPLE IN MY CLASS, AND THEY LOVE ME, AND I LOVE THEM TOO, SO MUCH.”

– Hassan Suleiman

Suleiman’s classmates had nothing but kind things to say about him.

“Hassan’s been a big part of our time here,” said Madelyn Rogers, a junior from Blaine. “He’s brought a lot of light into our days.”

“He’s a hard worker and he’s reaping his rewards,” said another classmate, junior LeShea Fugate of Sandy Hook.

Shortly after he arrived in Morehead, Suleiman reached a milestone in his plan for his life here in America: he located his mother and his older brother, Sadig, who were at a refugee camp in Chad. He had not spoken to his mother in 12 years and said she told him she thought he had been killed in the attack on Kenyino when the family was separated. Suleiman learned that Huessin was alive and living in Uganda, and his two other brothers and three sisters had all escaped the attack.

“She said, ‘We’re alive, we’ll meet one day. Now I am good. You are in a good place. You are safe,’” he said.

In the fall of 2017, Suleiman reached another milestone when he was sworn in as a United States citizen. His classmates held a celebration to honor the occasion, and it was then that Suleiman revealed to them all he had endured.

"That was a very beautiful day, and we were very happy to be a part and to celebrate with him," said **Jeffery Fannin (90)**, associate professor of imaging sciences. "We get very close to our students and they just become a part of us."

Suleiman expressed gratitude to Fannin, who he said has helped him through every step of earning his degree.

"For two years, he always have my back," he said, turning to Fannin as he spoke. "If not you, I can't do it."

Suleiman said there are many things America has to offer, but one stands out above the rest and is the main reason people from all parts of the globe choose to build lives here.

"It's a world community. You can find people from everywhere, why? One thing-opportunity. You get freedom. You get to be safe. You can achieve your dream. You get to get an education. Once you get done with school, you can take a job easily. In Sudan, with a college degree, you cannot find a job because of corruption," he said. "America is the best place for someone to change their life."

Suleiman graduated in May and was offered a job at Jewish Hospital in Louisville, where he worked his clinical practice hours. However, he decided to turn down the offer so he can earn a bachelor's degree. He will begin MSU's Computed Tomography and Magnetic Resonance (CTMR) program in July.