

#SoaringEagles step up to the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically changed the lives of the citizens of our country and the world. It has also shown the resilience of the American people as they have stepped up in ways both big and small to help people get through this unprecedented event.

Morehead State University is proud to say that many MSU graduates are among those who are working hard to help during this difficult time. We believe they deserve our admiration and our recognition.

Below is a list of #SoaringEagles that are genuinely making a difference.

- **Amanda Adkins-Blair (15)** is a pharmacist who continues to sacrifice and serve the frontlines during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Amanda Adkins LeRoy (03)** is working on the front lines fighting COVID-19 as a respiratory therapist at Saint Joseph-East hospital in Lexington, Kentucky.
- **Ashley Adkins (11)** is working as legal counsel on the senatorial campaign of Amy McGrath. She has been appointed to the Council on Women by Gov. Andy Beshear. She was the assistant Rowan County Attorney and served as the chair of the Democratic Party of Rowan County. She was instrumental in bringing a grant to Rowan County for Casey's Law to help families and those addicted.
- **Amanda Alford (18)** is a bank customer service leader working long hours ensuring customers have access to their money and can apply for important small business loans.
- **Dr. Kayla Alford (13)** has been practicing rural health dentistry for two years and is currently providing service to her patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Amy Lea Amburgey-Evans (17)** is a registered nurse currently working at the Lexington Veterans Affairs emergency department while working shifts at St. Claire Regional Medical Center in the emergency department.
- **Tonya Aslinger (92)** is a mammographer and X-ray technician taking care of women with a variety of issues.
- **Dr. Aaron Parker Banks (09)** specializes in obstetrics at St. Claire Regional Family Medicine in Sandy Hook. Banks sincerely cares about the practice of medicine, his patients and his community.
- **Lauren Michelle Bauer (19)** works the front lines as an RN in the emergency department during the current COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Stephanie Benner-Perry (Beatty) (12)** is a mother of two that makes it a priority to put others in front of herself. She is working full-time as a registered nurse during the COVID-19 pandemic on the front lines providing care to new mothers and infants.
- **Matthew Boggs (10)** is a clinical pharmacist willing to help the people in his community. He not only helps his patients receive the medicine they need every day, but he also serves as a volunteer firefighter.

- **Robert Boone (14)** is president is CEO of the South Central Workforce Development Board in Bowling Green. He has led a statewide initiative to use web-based technology to provide virtual career services to individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Beth McIntosh Bowling (19)** is a respiratory therapist working on the frontline at Clark Regional Medical Center in Winchester.
- **James Bradley (12)** is caring for critically ill patients in the ICUs at the University of Louisville Hospital in Louisville. The COVID-19 pandemic solidified his passion to pursue a fellowship in pulmonary critical care. This past year, he lost more than 80 pounds so that he could serve in the Army as a medical doctor.
- **Danielle Bramlage (04)** continues her dedication to the educational success of her first-grade students. She began a storybook channel on YouTube and has shared that channel publicly. She works hard to support parents while they teach her lesson plans and records each day's lesson from her living room.
- **Leon Buchanan (09)** is currently serving his community as a Lexington Police Officer. He is working the front lines every day to keep his community safe.
- **April Butler (10)** is a nurse at the University of Kentucky, where she has been on the front lines during the fight against COVID-19. She's done a rotation on the floor of positive COVID-19 patients, all while being a mother to a six-month-old girl. She puts others needs first and does what is needed to help provide medical treatment.
- **Mark (19)** and **Sarah (19) Campbell** are both nurses at St. Claire HealthCare. Mark and Sarah feel they must lovingly take care of their patients, especially during this time.
- **Destany Lashea Cantrell (19)** is working as a radiologic technologist at St. Claire HealthCare. She is working tirelessly and maintaining vigilance during this crisis to help those in need.
- **Dr. Michael Blake Cantrell (06)** has dedicated his time to serving Magoffin and Morgan counties as a member of the rescue squad as a firefighter, the pharmacist for Appalachian Regional Hospital in Morgan County and is also the deputy jailer.
- **Abbi Chandler (16, 19)** is a registered nurse with the University of Kentucky (UK) HealthCare during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Tara Age Clayburn (02, 06)** is in her 12th year at The Potomac School in McLean, Virginia, just outside of Washington D.C., She is a dedicated member of the music faculty and teaches kindergarten through third grade Grade Orff Schulwerk classes and third-grade chorus.
- **Heather Cecil (11)** is a respiratory therapist who has worked many hours and as many as 19 consecutive days taking care of COVID-19 patients.
- **Brittany Click (08, 10)** is working on the Navajo reservation in Chinle, Arizona. She cares for the native American population, many of whom have health disparities. The COVID-19 infection rate is very high in this area and Click chose to leave her children in Kentucky to reduce their chances of contracting the virus. She shows continued dedication to her mission of caring for impoverished people.
- **Gary J. Collins (02)** works daily as a housing and financial counselor to help ensure others have access to some of the most vital necessities they need – home and utilities. With the recent unemployment and underemployment that has resulted from COVID-19 changes, Collins has worked even harder to serve those in need. Additionally, he is an ordained minister and the director of the Sunday school/youth ministry at his church. He

has conducted a virtual Sunday school class each Sunday, reaching over 1,000 people a week from his dining room table in Letcher County, Kentucky.

- **Tabitha Coomes-Johnson (06)** is conducting ultrasounds at the University of Louisville Hospital in Louisville.
- **Latoshia Crace (15)** works as a hospice nurse providing compassionate care during this pandemic with Bluegrass Care Navigators in Lexington.
- **Amy Cryder (12)** is a pre-K teacher working in a Pandemic Child Care Center in Chillicothe, Ohio. She has been helping watch kids of doctors, nurses and other essential workers during this pandemic.
- **Dawna DeVore (96)** is a registered nurse that serves as a labor and delivery nurse at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Edgewood during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Franklin R. DeWar III (04)** helps provide uninterrupted mail and passport services around Cincinnati, Ohio, as a postmaster during the COVID-19 epidemic. DeWar is in his 16th year with the United States Postal Service. He has served communities in multiple states, including Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and the big island of Hawaii.
- **Dr. Catrinia Druen (06)** is at St. Claire HealthCare in Morehead. In addition to her regular duties serving the community, she is helping to expand telemedicine and covering emergency room shifts.
- **Bradley Evans (99)** is a CT/MRI Technologist at [Pikeville Medical Center](#) in Pikeville. He is tasked with scanning COVID-19 patients.
- **Lindsay Fisher-Weddington (13)** is a registered nurse at Mercy Health, The Jewish Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- **Lauren Flannery Ellis (13)** performs MRIs and CT scans at Mercy Health–The Jewish Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio. With the spread of COVID-19, she is prepared to assist and implement the additional CT scans needed.
- **Tiffany Fletcher (12)** is a pharmacist in East Tennessee. She works hard to make sure that her patients are still provided with the care that they deserve during these trying times.
- **Jeff Flora (92)** has been working as a pharmacist for over 20 years and serving the front lines of a chain pharmacy since the COVID-19 pandemic began.
- **Jeannie Francis Patrick (11)** is an oncology pharmacist in Lexington who continues to provide care for her patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Whitney Frizzell Franks (06)** works at St. Joseph East in Lexington, Kentucky in the NICU. Franks and her co-workers are dedicated to making sure that the smallest and most vulnerable patients are taken care of until they are strong enough and well enough to go home with their parents.
- **Carlie Fyffe (11)** volunteered to stay and work at King’s Daughters Medical Center in Ashland so that her co-workers could stay home with their children during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Ashleigh Gasparac (05)** has worked for the University of Kentucky Hospital for approximately 18 years. She has also worked additional hours for St. Joseph East Hospital in Lexington, St. Claire HealthCare in Morehead and Clark Regional Medical Center in Winchester, as well as a weight loss clinic in Winchester. She previously oversaw four labs in MSU’s CHER Building.
- **Chelsea Gozzard (16)** is currently working at the University of Kentucky Medical Center in the ICU and COVID-19 units.

- **Daniel Tyler Green (11)** is currently working on the front lines at Franciscan Health Olympia Fields just outside Chicago, Illinois. He spends his shifts performing X-rays on patients, many of whom have COVID-19.
- **Brandi Hatfield (19)** is an RN at Saint Joseph Hospital in Lexington. Despite being a wife, mother and expecting a second child, she never misses a day of work.
- **Dr. William Brian Helton (01)** is keeping his patients safe utilizing telehealth visits. Helton has also been available in his multiple clinics in addition to performing emergency surgery.
- **Chelsea Hunley (19)** works on the medical surge unit at CHI Saint Joseph in Mt. Sterling caring for multiple patients a day.
- **Emily Jones-Gray (03)** is the administrator and CEO of Mountain Manor, a 126-bed long-term care facility in Paintsville. She leads a team of employees to care for some of our state's most vulnerable elders.
- **Leeza Kyle Hudson (15)** is a licensed professional clinical associate working for Kentucky River Community Care during this COVID-19 pandemic. Hudson is assisting children and adolescents in the Kentucky River region battling mental health issues.
- **Brittany Kellum (11)** has been working full-time on the front lines as a rapid response nurse at the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington. She has been working overtime to help take care of her patients while completing her doctorate.
- **Shane Kennard (17)** is working the front lines in the emergency department at Highlands ARH Regional Medical Center in Floyd County.
- **Dana Kerns (98)** She is a hardworking and caring chiropractor who is always there to lend a helping hand.
- **Heather Lee (05)** is a children's services outreach librarian. She has been making online story time videos for elementary-aged children every weekday for the past two months while students are at home. She has worked hard to provide a variety of books that students will enjoy and is always ready to help the community any way she can and is constantly thinking of new ways to reach students during this hard time. The videos can be found on the Jessamine County Public Library's YouTube page.
- **Jennifer Ann Lyon (11)** has worked at St. Mary's Medical Center in Huntington, West Virginia, since 2012. She works hard every day helping patients get the care they need with home health, nursing home and rehab placement, home IV antibiotics and more.
- **Daniel McCarty (12)** went on to the University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine to complete his osteopathic medical degree. He is completing his third year of residency in internal medicine at a program in Largo, Florida. As a leader and senior resident, McCarty volunteered for a COVID hospitalist team responsible for admitting patients with respiratory complaints who may be infected with the virus.
- **Harold Kiefer McCarty (17)** is currently working on the front lines in the COVID-19 unit at Baptist Health Hospital in Louisville.
- **Chris McClurg (97)** is the CFO at St. Claire HealthCare in Morehead. He has worked long hours during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Lindsay McGlone Seeker** (attended MSU in 2006), the center manager at Elizabethtown Head Start, reads a nightly bedtime story to her preschoolers so they can stay connected.
- **Mara Ann McKinney (06)** is an echovascular ultrasound technologist at Pikeville Medical Center in Pikeville. She has been working every day during COVID-19 to ensure that her patients, both adult and pediatric, receive their echo and/or vascular ultrasounds

to aide their physicians in a proper diagnosis or to help their physicians prepare them for a lifesaving heart procedure and/or surgery.

- **Courtney McKnight (19)** is a registered nurse (RN) at the Kentucky River Medical Center working the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Martha “Katie” Martin (13)** is a registered respiratory therapist (RT) who is working on the front lines of the COVID epidemic. Not only is she helping to save lives as an RT at the Lexington, Virginia, but she is also currently a second-year physician assistant (PA) student at the University of Kentucky.
- **Regina Miller Eldridge (10)** is an occupational therapist that plans and conducts individualized therapy at a skilled nursing facility in Eastern Kentucky and continues to treat and serve patients.
- **Victoria Lakan Montgomery (10)** is a registered nurse serving Eastern Kentucky working at Appalachian Regional Healthcare in Morgan County.
- **Jordan Moore (19)** is an RN working on the front lines of COVID-19 pandemic in the ICU of Southern Ohio Medical Center in Portsmouth, Ohio.
- **Wyatt Muncy (14)** is on the front lines helping his homeless community as a day center director at 7Hills Homeless Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas.
- **Dr. Tara Johnson Newsome (01)** works long hours on the front lines as a family care physician at the Highlands Appalachian Regional Healthcare (ARH) Clinic in Harold, Kentucky. She is serving her patients in Eastern Kentucky through telemedicine and in-office visits during this pandemic.
- **Laken Nickell (16)** works full-time as an RN at Saint Joseph Mount Sterling while also a full-time student in the nurse practitioner program at Eastern Kentucky University. Laken recently won the Daisy Award, an award to recognize extraordinary nurses.
- **Dr. Philip Oliver (07, 09)** is a physician in the emergency department at Saint Joseph Hospital in Lexington. He is working the front line in caring for and treating patients from both the COVID-19 virus and other life-threatening illnesses. He is also a member of the new Saint Joseph Health Ethics committee that helps in preparing a plan for the treatment and care of positive COVID-19 patients.
- **Lisa Pauley Colegrove (87)** is a clinical assistant working with cancer patients in Ashland, Kentucky, and even during the COVID-19 pandemic, she is preparing patients for treatment, comforting them and celebrating them in their recovery.
- **Jeremy Pecoraro (04)** is a gas technician and first responder for San Diego Gas & Electric, where he works 16-hour days, six-to-seven days a week responding to natural gas emergencies. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he is going into sick customers’ homes to assure their safety by responding to gas leaks, carbon monoxide illnesses and working on gas appliances that are not functioning correctly.
- **Whitney Morgan Pennington (19)** is working as a radiologic technician on the front lines every day at St. Claire HealthCare in Morehead.
- **Mariah Quillen (05), Hattie Kirk (04, 05)** and **Amanda Whitt (04)** are all currently working on the front lines at King’s Daughters Medical Center in Ashland providing ultrasound services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Sarah Ratliff Abney (04)** serves on the front lines as a pharmacist at Joe’s Menifee County Pharmacy in Frenchburg. She works every day to ensure that people have the medicine and medical supplies they need despite the challenges.

- **Staci Grisham Redfern (01)** is a perinatal sonographer at HCA Virginia in Midlothian, Virginia.
- **Emilee Redwine (09, 10)** is working at St. Claire HealthCare in Morehead conducting diagnostic tests, including sonograms and echocardiograms, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Corie Roberts (14)** works in the MICU at the University of Kentucky Medical Center. Her unit cares for those affected with COVID-19. She volunteered for her unit on her days off (without pay) and to give blood to help those affected.
- **Cassie Roe** is a member of the MSU Class of 2021 and a nurse extern. She is currently finishing her degree in nursing while working a full-time job and raising three children.
- **Taylor Ruark (20)** started working 14-hour shifts at St. Claire HealthCare on Saturday and Sunday while continuing her education to obtain her bachelor's degree in CT/MRI. She goes into the front lines every day to perform exams on COVID-19 patients.
- **Jennifer Schadle (10)** is working as a nurse practitioner on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Jason Scheiding (10)** began his career five years ago because he wanted to make a difference. He serves on the frontline every day and even off-duty and is always ready to help someone in need.
- **Erykah Scott (19)** works as a respiratory therapist at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical. She works with patients to improve their quality of life with compassion and kindness.
- **Sara Sgantas (15)** has worked tirelessly to keep Kenton County citizens informed about COVID-19 and how to stay safe and healthy during the pandemic.
- **Brandy Sheets (06)** and **Ashten Thompson (18)** both work at The Christ Hospital in Cincinnati. Sheets became lead MRI technologist in 2018 and she hired Thompson in 2018 as an MRI tech. Both Sheets and Thompson still together work together and treat sick patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Mikayla Sherman (16)** works as a registered nurse in the MICU at the University of Kentucky Health Center.
- **Brandi Siggers (07)** is an ER nurse fighting on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. She is also attempting to continue her schooling to become a nurse practitioner.
- **Wendy Simpkins (03)** is a nurse practitioner and a clinic director at Fast Pace Health in Bardstown. Simpkins is at the forefront of caring for patients affected by COVID-19. In addition to her clinic, she also provides quality care to patients of a homeless shelter in Winchester to ensure care is provided to this vulnerable population.
- **Robin Skaggs-Hale (82)** is a nurse at St. Claire HealthCare and caring for patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Kayla Slusher Lay (10)** is a frontline worker as a registered nurse (RN) at the critical care unit The Christ Hospital in Cincinnati. She obtained her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at MSU and is furthering her education to become a nurse practitioner.
- **Timothy Smallwood (20)** [is a Master of Arts in Nursing \(MSN\) student who works as a travel nurse and is on the front lines in New York City caring for COVID-19 patients.](#)
- **Paul Lyndon Stepp II (19)** currently works for AT&T and helps those who are having service issues stay connected with their loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Makenzie Smith Class (18)** is an RT at Norton Hospital in Louisville doing her part in fighting COVID-19.
- **Drew Spangler (19)**, an MSU strategic communications graduate, works hard every day at radio station WFTM to promote local businesses and restaurants while updating listeners on sports and local happenings. During COVID-19, he and his fellow workers have become essential in keeping Maysville and the surrounding areas informed.
- **Dr. Heather Spradlin (04)** has worked in rural health for 12 years and is currently working through the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Alyssa Stevens-Sturgill (02)** is a choral director at Woodford County Middle School in Versailles and is still inspiring her students during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Ashley Swearingen (08)** is a supervisory budget analyst for the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Lexington, Kentucky. Since the pandemic started, she has conducted temperature checks, tracked special costs incurred and worked with other services to report new hires due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Matthew Tackett (05, 07)** leads the Kentucky Association for Economic Development as president and CEO. During COVID-19, he has worked with state government on PPE sourcing, developed a state-wide business retention strategy and is facilitating state-wide investment, education and marketing programs to position Kentucky for growth post-COVID.
- **Kim Patyk Webb (91)** [is the director for the Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky who works work with her local and regional communities as a public health practitioner.](#) Kim was recently selected by the Northern Kentucky Chamberlain of Commerce as a 2020 Outstanding Women of the Year honoree award winner.
- **Shelly Weiss (17)** started her college career at MSU right out of high school in 1993 on a full scholarship and finished three semesters before joining the U.S. Army Reserves. She served 14 years with the military doing a tour in Iraq. She returned home as a staff sergeant with a bronze star for heroism. She eventually finished her degree while becoming a mother to four children and working full-time at the Lexington Veterans Affairs Hospital as a radiology technologist. She is now employed with CHI St. Joseph of London working every day with radiology patients including COVID-19 patients.
- **Laura White-Brown (11)** [is leading the city of Morehead in response to COVID-19.](#) As Morehead's mayor, she has coordinated the response with local schools, the hospital, MSU and county government. She has prepared to take care of Morehead's most vulnerable by working with nonprofits to ensure the homeless and victims of domestic violence are taken care of during this difficult time. White-Brown has shown what it means to be a leader during this time of crisis.
- **Dr. Ashley M. Wright (13)** is working on the front lines at Inspira Health Network in Vineland, New Jersey. She is an obstetrician-gynecologist in a hospital that has dozens of COVID-19 patients. She also has reached out to her friends and family to help her supply her co-workers with needed masks and additional PPE.

Adair turns passion for helping others into successful venture capital firm



Dr. C. David Adair

Dr. C. David Adair (86) has worn many hats throughout his career: obstetrician, surgeon, medical school professor and, most recently, medical venture capital investor. No matter what role he's been in, Adair said he owes all his success to the educational foundation he received at Morehead State.

A native of Pike County, Adair had always been fascinated with life sciences and earned a degree in biology. He received his degree in medicine from Marshall University, held a residency at the University of Florida College of Medicine in obstetrics/gynecology and was a

fellow at Wake Forest University, specializing in maternal-fetal medicine. Adair completed his MBA at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga last year.

Like many first-generation college students, when Adair first set foot on the MSU campus, he was filled with uncertainty.

“I came to Morehead (State) really scared,” he said. “There were a lot of smart people here, and I was worried about being accepted, I was worried I couldn’t compete.”

Adair said his professors at MSU gave him confidence and offered support and guidance when he needed it. Adair said he received support from several professors, but his work with **Dr. Gerald DeMoss (66)** helped him feel at home as an Eagle.

“He helped me, and that individual approach helped me realize that I did belong there, and I could compete,” he said. “Thank God I went to Morehead State; if I’d gone to ECU or UNC or a bigger school, I’d have been lost.” Adair said he tried to incorporate the “humanistic” approach of his professors at MSU into his own time as a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Tennessee.

Adair said he knew high-risk maternal and fetal medicine would be his future the first time he delivered a baby in 1989.

“When that baby was born, it was like it was exploding with life,” he said. “I just think that’s the greatest calling in the world, to bring life into the world and to save lives that might otherwise be lost.”

Adair first got involved in the medical venture capital business about 15 years ago to bring new ideas to the medical field. The process begins when a medical company approached Adair’s firm with an idea. They present their ideas for drugs, devices and research, and the firm decides if the idea is a good opportunity for investment.

“It’s more complicated, but the best way I can describe it is, it’s like ‘Shark Tank’ on steroids,” Adair said. “We’re looking for game-changers, we’re looking for ideas that will bring innovation to medicine.”

Adair currently serves as managing partner and co-founder of Solas Bioventures and as founder and chief science officer of Glenveigh Medical, a pair of medical venture capital firms. He also serves on the boards of directors for several biomedical technology companies and other medical venture capital firms.

Adair has been involved in medical innovation since he helped develop a medication to treat preeclampsia, a dangerous and potentially fatal pregnancy complication. Other projects Adair is engaged in are a treatment for prostate cancer involving water vapor and a gastrointestinal drug that shows promising results in treating obesity and diabetes. Adair said he's proud of the work he did as a researcher and hopes to help many more people by helping fund innovative treatments.

“If I died today, those endeavors would carry on and help people,” he said. “We have to bring innovative ideas to medicine, but we can't let technology and innovation remove the humanity from treating patients. They're not a number or a machine, that's a real person.”

Adair was inducted into the Morehead State University Alumni Hall of Fame in 2009 and was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science in 2013.

Brothers Jared and Joshua Ravenscraft represent Morehead and the region through New Frontier Outfitters

Photo: Jared, left, and Joshua Ravenscraft are the co-founders of New Frontier Outfitters in Morehead.

June 15, 2020

It's common for successful companies to have a good slogan. The Morehead-based company New Frontier Outfitters, founded by brothers **Jared (16)** and **Joshua Ravenscraft**, is no different.

Made for the Journey.

The slogan, motto and mantra are an appropriate summation of the outdoor lifestyle and apparel company with a heavy emphasis on the brother's Appalachian roots growing up in Morehead. The Ravenscraft brothers' journey in business has been a memorable one made in large part due to their respective and collective experiences at MSU.

The brothers grew up in Rowan County and their family still owns and operates Atkinson Florist in Morehead. The oldest Ravenscraft brother, Jared, always dreamed of playing college basketball and eventually going pro. After injuries plagued his last two years of high school, he initially attended Kentucky Christian University in Grayson for two years before transferring to MSU as a walk-on his junior year.

"That was a dream come true," Jared said. "I got back to a good playing level and rehabbed my injuries and felt like I got another chance."

On the way to earning a bachelor's degree in strategic communications in 2016, Jared was a part of the team that set the school record for most wins in a season, making it to the finals of the College Basketball Invitational.

Traveling the country with the MSU basketball team allowed Jared the chance to indulge his appreciation for fashion. He picked up gear from obscure brands in surf shops and local apparel stores. He even gave presentations on some of these brands' creative directors in some of his communications classes.

It was the hours and dedication required from his basketball coaches that gave him his work ethic.

"There was no time for slacking, so I really quickly had to adjust to having a set schedule," Jared said. "It just set a lot of quality and a lot of standards."

Joshua's MSU journey began just as Jared's was ending.

Joshua said after Jared completed school and basketball, they immediately started reconnecting and bonding over their love for Appalachia and the outdoors. They also stumbled upon a stash of old ski badges and their father's vintage trucker hats. Next thing you know, they are building a website in their family's kitchen and manufacturing and selling trucker hats to students on campus and at nearby community festivals out of the back of their Jeep.



New Frontier Outfitters apparel items are steeped in an appreciation of the Appalachian region.

“He’s (Jared) kind of the head in the sky and I’m kind of the feet on the ground,” Joshua said of his sibling business partnership. “We felt like there needed to be a voice here in this region. And somebody saying good things about this area and clothing is the path we took.”

Joshua began taking the concepts he was learning in his business courses at MSU and applying them to New Frontier Outfitters. And that company tagline, “Made for the Journey,” had its birthplace on campus.

“The slogan that’s been there from the jump, I came up with that doodling in (Dr. Ahmad) Hassan’s room,” Joshua said of his business management professor. “Just cool stuff like that wouldn’t have happened if I wouldn’t have been at Morehead State and been involved with the business department.”

As the company grew, its hats and apparel were being sported by Kentucky-based country acts like Sundy Best and Troy Gentry from Montgomery Gentry. New Frontier Outfitters ended up landing an unofficial celebrity endorsement that put the company on the map.



Actor Channing Tatum left Kentucky with a Made for the Journey trucker cap from New Frontier Outfitters during his promotional tour of the 2017 film “Logan Lucky.”

Popular actor Channing Tatum was filming a promotional tour across the country for his 2017 release “Logan Lucky.” When he came to Morehead to visit Harold White Lumber, Jared and Joshua made sure to have a goodie bag of merchandise for him. During his interviews for the film, he was frequently sporting a “Made for the Journey” trucker hat and wearing it at various outings. The brothers were on a flight when the footage and pictures of him wearing the hat began making the rounds in the press and on social media.

“We landed and took our phones off airplane mode,” Joshua recalled. “Our phones lit up like Christmas trees. Channing Tatum?”

“In today’s culture, people almost don’t believe you unless an influencer or someone famous supports it,” Jared said. “It’s like playing basketball at The Rec and someone drops 50 points and someone’s like, this kid’s good.”

Awareness of New Frontier Outfitters has since traveled far beyond Eastern Kentucky. They have a staffed brick-and-mortar location in downtown Morehead and have been receiving online orders from as far away as The Netherlands. The two were also floored last year when the company received the 2019 Martha Layne Collins Award for Excellence in International Trade from World Trade Center Kentucky.

“I was really shocked to receive that. I was like, wow, I thought they only gave these to huge companies,” Jared said. “It just goes to show you – you don’t have to be great to start. You don’t have to be some huge corporate company. You can build it from the ground up.”

Accolades aside, they take even more pride in how they produce their products, using eco-friendly inks, manufacturing in the United States and consistently focusing on sustainability.

“You can’t be an outdoors brand and use materials that are bad for the environment. You’re just shooting yourself in the foot,” Jared said. “It’s cool to be eco-friendly now. It’s cool to be good to the environment and (the customers) are realizing that.”

New Frontier Outfitters’ profile has increased and so has its mission. They are less concerned about being a current trend and more determined to have a lasting impact. The net proceeds of certain apparel items benefit organizations like the Appalachian Regional Healthcare (ARH) Foundation or Direct Relief, a global humanitarian aid organization. The company had to put its plans to expand the business and its offerings on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic and instead started manufacturing cloth face masks, where every mask purchased means the company donates one to Team Kentucky.

“Being a brand doesn’t mean you make cool products. It has more weight to me. For the brand we want to be, you have to have a mission and you have to have some social responsibility,” Jared said.

Joshua said, “When you go to bed at night, it’s like, these are actually helping people and it’s through New Frontier.”

The Ravenscraft brothers owe a lot to the area they love. They grew in up Rowan County and gained knowledge through college classes and athletics while grinding in the company’s early days on MSU’s campus. They have galvanized their company’s mission so the products they make matter and contribute to worthy causes. Jared and Joshua Ravenscraft hope the journey New Frontier Outfitters takes in the future always circles back to giving Morehead – from the people to the surroundings – the spotlight, respect and appreciation it deserves.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, New Frontier Outfitters began producing cloth face masks and donating them to essential employees of the Morehead community. Proceeds from mask sales also benefit Team Kentucky.

“At the end of the day, all brands have a voice and we want to have a strong voice and that heavy community footprint to do good,” Joshua said. “I think good things are coming out of Morehead and we’re just a small part of that.”

For more information on New Frontier Outfitters, visit www.madeforthejourney.com.

Friends turn a hobby into a successful business with Sawstone Brewing Co.

June 15, 2020



From left: Nicholas Hollan, Blake Nickell and Derek Caskey first had the idea to open Sawstone Brewery after getting involved with home brewing.

Three friends getting together to share a hobby. From that simple idea came what is now one of Morehead's most popular new businesses, Sawstone Brewing Co.

The brewery is the joint effort of Morehead natives Derek Caskey, Nicholas Hollan and **Blake Nickell (11)**. The three friends would gather at each other's houses once or twice a month to hold what they called "brew days," where they would make different varieties of beer. They joined the Brewers of Central Kentucky, a Lexington-based group for home

brewers. Nickell said they shared their beers with other members of the group and that's when the idea to open the first brewery in Morehead began to take shape.

“We were getting lots of good feedback and the three of us were really enjoying what we were making and discussing the dream that all homebrewers have of doing it for a living,” Nickell said. “At the time, there weren't a lot of options for craft beer in Morehead, and we were seeing the boom happening elsewhere. It seemed like the right time and we saw it as an opportunity to take our passion and make it here locally in the place we call home.”

Starting a business from scratch was new to the three friends, but they were determined to make their dream into a reality. They developed a business plan, researched laws and regulations on alcohol production in the state and scouted out locations. Following a brewing event held downtown, the group was given the opportunity to locate in the historic Cozy Building on the corner of Main Street and Battson-Oates Drive. The building, which housed multiple businesses over the years, had been empty for several years and required extensive renovations to turn it into a brewery.

“We did some of the work ourselves in the Cozy Building and had a lot of help from some great local contractors, but the building is over 100 years old and required a lot of TLC to get it to a point where it would be safe and looked like something we could be proud of,” Hollan said. “We wanted to open a business in Morehead that looked like it belonged in a bigger city and raise the bar for what could be expected out of a business in our town.” He added the whole process, from the development of the business plan to opening day, took about two years. One of the building's unique features, the cut limestone, or “sawstone” it is built from, gave the business its name.



From left: Blake Nickell, Derek Caskey and Nicholas Hollan opened Sawstone Brewing Co. in Morehead last year. The brewery offers a selection of Prohibition-style beers and seasonal selections.

Hollan said they faced several challenges when first starting the business, but they were able to find the help and support they needed from members of the local community and their fellow brewers.

“Every day is a new challenge when opening a new business and especially the first one of its kind in a town,” he said. “We were homebrewers obviously and had never brewed on a commercial system. We had to learn everything we could about commercial brewing before picking out the system, then assemble it and learn how to brew on it. Luckily, the brewing industry is an incredibly supportive one, so we had a lot of help throughout a lot of the process.”

The brewery creates a dozen different varieties of beer that rotate on a seasonal basis, as well as featuring beers from other Kentucky breweries. Their three flagship varieties, Cream Ale, Kentucky Common and California Common, are Prohibition-style beers and are available year-round.

The brewers say they have received a lot of support from the community, and they have always had the goal of working with other businesses to revitalize the downtown area. The brewery has become a showcase of local talent, from live musical performances to art by local artists displayed on the walls. The brewery also hosts regular events, such as a weekly yoga class, board game night and live trivia contests, and special events such as Oktoberfest.

“Our mission statement is heavily steeped in community involvement. We have so many great businesses and creative and talented individuals in our community, we will always strive to showcase our locals,” Caskey said, adding he hopes to build partnerships with the University as well.

“The campus community enriches our community as a whole. We want to embrace that and show how rich we are here. We are lucky to have the University as our neighbors,” he said.

“We really appreciate this community and are happy to be a part of it,” Nickell said.

While the business has been operating under limitations during the COVID-19 pandemic, offering growler refills and curbside service, the owners say they plan to host more events once business gets back to normal.

For more information on Sawstone Brewing Co., visit their [Facebook page](#) or call **606-691-4459**.

Three perspectives, one crisis: The virtual MSU experience of Spring 2020

As the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the United States, and the world began to understand the full scope of the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in early spring 2020, administrators at Morehead State University found themselves dealing with a constantly evolving set of guidelines and information and faced many difficult decisions.

The goal was and remains to keep the health and safety of students, employees, alumni, donors, and the general public in mind at all times. In parallel with public health recommendations and in support of the Commonwealth's overall efforts to mitigate the risk of COVID-19, the decision was made in mid-March 2020 to move the remainder of the Spring 2020 semester to an online environment. This included all instruction, student support, and the daily operations of the University to the extent possible.

We asked three people – a current student, a faculty member, and a staff member – to describe their experiences during this unprecedented time in MSU's history. These are their stories.

Elle Howard, freshman from Lexington, convergent media



Elle Howard (center) with her parents Eric Howard (81) and Linda Thacker (83, 92) on an MSU alumni trip to New York City in 2018.

Starting school this year as a freshman was one of the best moments of my life. Being able to finally get to experience the “college life” was a long time coming. I had always thought about my freshman year of college as being the most life-changing experience and, honestly,

it was, until COVID-19. When I found out that we wouldn't be coming back to school for the remainder of the semester, I was crushed. I love being in Morehead, I love my friends, the atmosphere, everything. Being able to walk around campus and see people who are always friendly is one thing I love. I've met some of my best friends at MSU and I hate being away. Morehead has truly become my home away from home.

When spring break concluded and classes were starting up, I, along with every other student living in on-campus housing, was told to move out. I think that was a very hard situation for me because I just didn't want to leave. For the first time in my life, I had a place that is truly my own. Having it sort of be ripped away from me very abruptly was hard because I had gotten into a routine of doing my own thing. Coming home was definitely a big adjustment. Having to follow my parents' rules again and not being able to go somewhere without asking was weird for me.

Once online classes began, it became very difficult to keep my stress levels down. I've found that it was really hard to stay motivated to do work especially since classes were moved to online-only. It took me about a couple of weeks to really get a routine going on how to be productive while being at home. Once I really got my routine down, I was able to start doing things to keep me more productive. I am an extrovert so being around my friends and family helps keep me clear-headed and happy. Being stuck in quarantine and not seeing any of my friends put a slight damper on my mental health. At one point, I just had a serious lack of motivation. I spent many days doing the same things over and over again. And in turn, it just got boring. I had to do little things to make sure that I wouldn't fall into a state of gloominess again.



Freshman convergent media major Elle Howard transitioned to all online classes this spring semester.

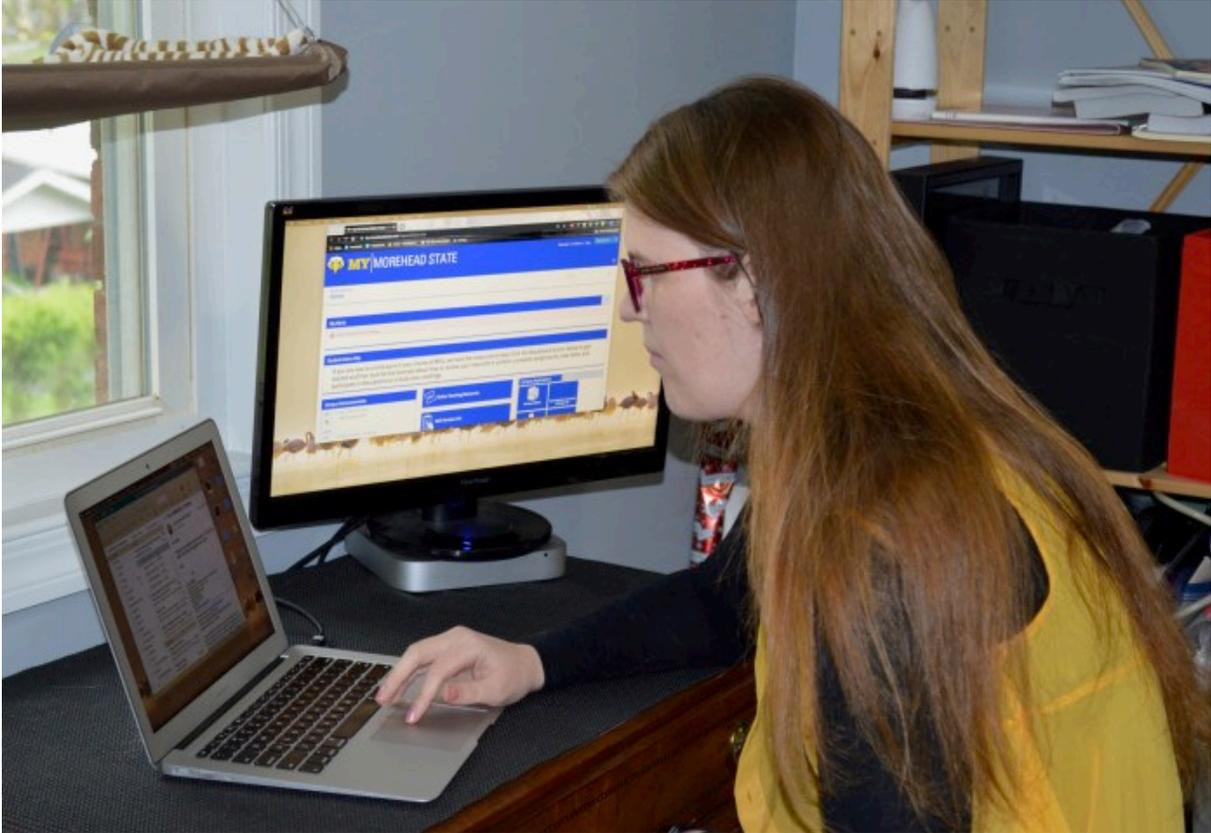
To keep from being sad, I would video chat with my friends. I would spend time with my family by watching movies, going for walks with our dog, playing cornhole, as well as trying out new recipes in the kitchen. My mom and I have been sort of obsessed with making different desserts in the kitchen. The latest recipe we tried was lemon cupcakes with a cream cheese icing. It was delicious! I think with me being back at home and seeing my parents a lot more than I was while at school, it made me realize that this quarantine is somewhat of a good thing. It's brought my family and me closer than before.

Although this hasn't been the easiest time, I understand why everything is happening. My family and I are taking all of the precautions that we can and we really can't wait for things to go back to some type of normalcy. I have a video show with MSU athletics called Eagle Eye Athletics Update, and I cannot wait to get back to being a part of those videos. As much

as I love being at home, I miss MSU and I really cannot wait to be back there in the fall. I can't wait to catch up with my friends. And I'm super excited to see what my professors have in store for the upcoming semester.

Dr. Nettie Brock, assistant professor of communication

My favorite color is black, and it has been for a very long time. But the reason I love black is because of the way it makes everything else brighter and more colorful. Black is a backdrop for whatever is in front of it. These days, I feel like everything in front is grey. The colors are gone from the world. The things that make me excited – friends, adventures, fun, students, teaching – are a stripped-down form of what they used to be. Instead of a black background with bursts of color that shine brightly through the darkness, everything blends together in a world of blah. I have done my best to find color in the darkness.



Dr. Nettie Brock, assistant professor of communication, taught her classes online beginning in mid-March 2020.

I had a panic attack and cried when I first learned we were moving online and for a period after that, all around me was grey. I have been through so many obstacles on my road to working at MSU. I felt I could handle anything the world threw at me. I was wrong. My classes are relatively easy to move online. All my classes have three basic elements: lectures, discussions, and activities. All three can be done online, albeit in an entirely different form. But it's not the same. Instead of lecturing to people in a give-and-take format, I'm talking to my computer in an empty room. Instead of engaging in debate, grappling with issues, and talking through problems, my students comment on set discussion questions and then leave. Instead of getting us out of our seats and finding new ways of looking at media, we are using the media to learn about the media while sitting in our homes. It's just not the same. And it makes me sad. I've lost the connection to my students that I have always found to be the most fun part of my job. And I've lost the desire to be creative. The videos are all the same: lecture, notes, questions, repeat. The activities all look the same: Google this law, come up with an idea for a research project, etc.

But, at the same time, there are dashes of color that I am focusing on. I'm looking forward to teaching classes online in the future – one of my undergraduate classes is permanently being moved online and all of my graduate courses are online. And I can see that there are ways to be creative in this new space. I'm planning on creating a podcast. I want to find ways to run classes in video game formats and through social media as we study those aspects of the

media. I want to point my students toward movies and shows we wouldn't be able to watch in the classroom. There are so many possibilities for distance learning. I am working towards looking for those possibilities and not just seeing the greyscale of my life.



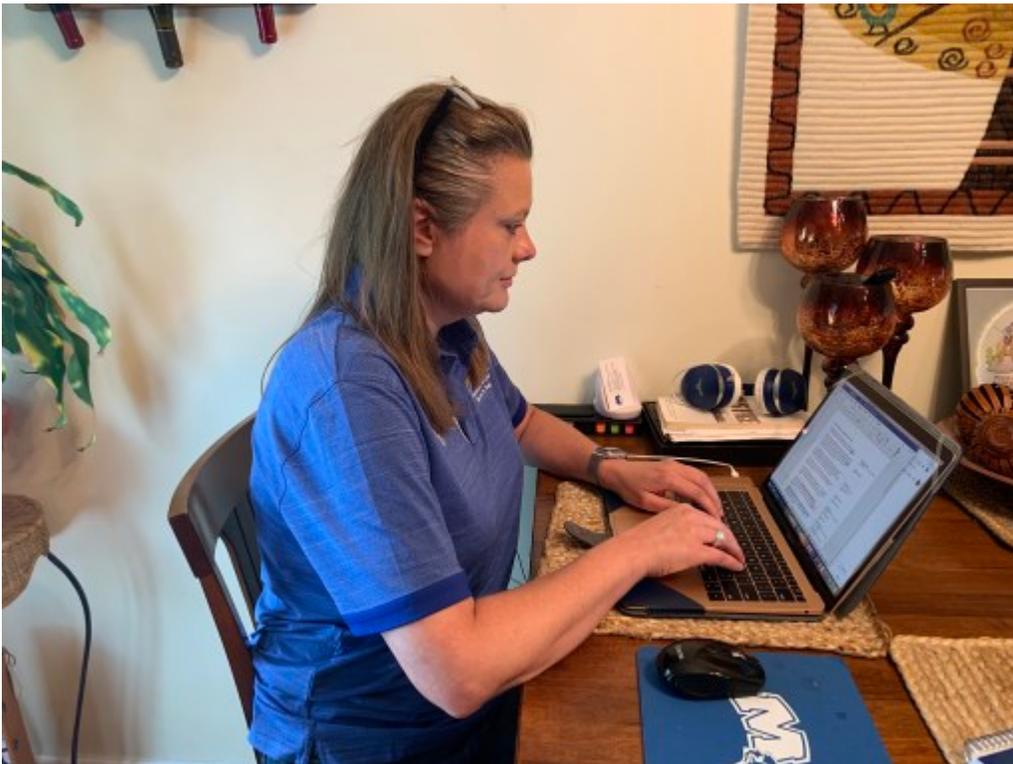
Dr. Nettie Brock transitioned to teaching online this spring semester.

However, moving back into the color is a one-day-at-a-time process. I have to realize that there's no going back to what I perceive as normal. That one day, we're not suddenly going to be back to ordinary activities. My new normal isn't horrible. I still maintain a normal routine – work, nap, exercise, cook, craft, watch TV, etc. I get to spend quality time with my cat. I am in near constant communication with my friends – both in Morehead and further away. In some respects, I talk to some of these people more than I did before. But it aches. I ache to touch people. I ache to go out in public without wearing a mask and with more than a

handful of people. I ache to have color again. For now, I'm working to live with the ache and find my own color in the handful of ways that I can. Each day is a little bit easier.

Dr. Jami Hornbuckle (96, 97, 18), assistant vice president for communications and marketing

There are probably two dates that will always stand out in my “MSU memory” – not necessarily my personal memories of graduation, sorority functions, or friends, but rather my institutional memory of events that were so significant I will never forget the way I felt for Morehead State University as a whole. The first would be March 17, 2011. A shot clock with 4.2 seconds left is burned into my brain. That’s when Demonte Harper hit the shot heard ‘round the world, and MSU defeated the University of Louisville in the NCAA tournament. I screamed with pride, literally, until I lost my voice.



Dr. Jami Hornbuckle, assistant vice president for communications and marketing, works from home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The second memory ironically also came in March, nine years later. It certainly was “March Madness” but not the kind we are accustomed to in basketball country. The madness we all were experiencing was around the novel coronavirus, and the news was scary, confusing, and heartbreaking – ever-evolving and hard to keep up with. I remember vividly when the decision was made to move online. Even though discussions and planning had been happening to prepare if we needed to make the move, it was still a shock – even knowing the reality that surrounded us. Time was slowing down and speeding up. Since that moment, I’m not sure I even know what time really is or how to measure it. What day is it? What month is it? But, I digress.

At the end of that week, we were asked to move staff to work from home. This is the second moment that will be forever logged into my institutional memory. In preparation, the Office of Communications and Marketing staff, like other offices, were taking home necessary equipment and files. We cleaned out the refrigerator and took out the trash. On the way back from the dumpster, I remember looking across an empty campus parking lot – hearing none of the usual traffic, speakers thumping, or scooters whizzing down the sidewalks. I walked slowly and sang the alma mater to myself in my head. I felt tears well up and roll down my cheeks. What would the future hold for my alma mater? For our students? For dear ol’ MSU?



Dr. Jami Hornbuckle, assistant vice president for communications and marketing, shares her support for the Class of 2020.

The Office of Communications and Marketing has adapted. We work through Teams, WebEx, ProofHub (our project management system), and a variety of other digital tools. We “meet” daily online. Is the work being done? You bet. In fact, we’re busier than ever and maybe even more productive than ever. We are challenging ourselves to think differently, not just work differently.

If the creativity and resilience of the staff of Communications & Marketing are any indication, the future of MSU is bright. If the innovation and flexibility of our faculty and staff are any indication, the future of MSU is exciting. However, what gives me the greatest hope for our future are our students. If their persistence and attitudes are any indication, the future of MSU is strong – Eagle strong. And if I know anything, it’s that Eagles always soar above the storm.

Creativity, variety and drive have been the hallmarks of Brad Gibson’s career



When he is not doing illustration and graphic design, Brad Gibson serves as the director of marketing and business development at Active Production and Design in Atlanta.

When **Brad Gibson (02)** takes the time to reflect on the numerous directions his career has gone since he graduated from Morehead State University, a few expressions come to mind.

“It’s been random, but it’s been awesome. It’s been fun to look back and say ‘holy moly!’” he said. “If somebody told me when I was little this is what you were going to do when you grow up, I would say ‘that’s amazing.’”

“Amazing” seems like an appropriate description for someone’s career where sharing the stage with country legend Dolly Parton and illustrating a national best-seller are among the notable accomplishments. He’s performed on cruise ships and has worked for marketing companies that have collaborated with professional sports teams like the NBA’s Atlanta Hawks and the NFL’s Atlanta Falcons.

Much of Gibson’s career has been something special because it’s never been just one thing in particular. But Gibson knew his initial range of talents from an early age.

Gibson grew up in the small town of Raven in Knott County, Kentucky. He can remember that each time he picked up a crayon as a kid, it just clicked. His early attempts at art as a child even caused a bit of controversy...at least by small-town Kentucky standards.

“The people at this county-wide art contest told my teacher I traced the drawing,” Gibson said, describing his attempt at a Cabbage Patch Kid. “And she told them, ‘I watched him draw it in class.’”

Gibson found additional interests outside of art as he went through school. A naturally talented singer, he picked up the trombone in the sixth grade and learned other instruments along the way.

When deciding on a college, he liked MSU due to the familiarity he had with the campus after going to visit his sister **Jolene**, who went there for two years before joining the military.

He came to MSU on a scholarship and when deciding on a major, he couldn't just pick one. He started as a double major in music. While he took voice and guitar classes and was active musically through student organizations like the Baptist Student Union, art won out in the classroom. He said his initial plans were to attend MSU for a couple of years before transferring to art school. He decided to stay and took his knack for illustration and complemented it with knowledge in graphic design, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Art with concentrations in illustration and graphic design in 2002.

As Gibson pursued his passion and excelled in his art classes, he credits several professors with his artistic development. It was professors Lisa and Gary Mesa-Gaido who pushed him to think outside of his creative boundaries. Gibson said the late professor Deeno Golding helped him in gaining knowledge of Adobe programs and finding his artistic voice. He remembers a semester-long graphic design project in Golding's class to create a children's book about the planets in the solar system. Gibson plowed through and completed it in a week-and-a-half while incorporating "spacey 'Mega-Man'-looking kids" throughout as a nod to one of his many pop culture obsessions.

"Deeno pulled me aside and said, 'I think you're done. There's nothing else to do. You kind of did everything,'" Gibson recalls. "He was a big supporter of my style and what I did."



Brad Gibson (02) is an artist and entrepreneur whose designs appear on his apparel company, Neon Horror.

After Gibson graduated from MSU and moved to Atlanta in 2003, he decided to focus much of his energy on performing, saying the art degree was something he could capitalize on when he “was no longer a spring chicken.” He interned at the Infinite Movement Dance Studio, which previously worked with platinum-selling artists like Usher and TLC, and later worked for the Culture Shock Dance Troupe. He also auditioned for a season of “American Idol” and worked as a theme park and cruise ship performer, rotating between stints with Six Flags Over Georgia and Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines from 2004 to 2012 and landed a gig at Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. During that season with the theme park, the highlight was being selected to open for Dolly Parton during her benefit concert at Smokies Stadium, where he joined Dolly Parton’s band to perform in front of 15,000 people. All the while, the art never stopped. He continued to do work on the side as a freelance illustrator and graphic designer.

“One thing led to another and it was a set of really crazy circumstances,” Gibson said of his wide-ranging performance opportunities. “I just followed the path that was put in front of me.”

Later, Gibson would redirect his steps toward a career in marketing, first as an account executive for Urban Enterprises and then as the event coordinator for Atlanta’s Ponce City Market. He began work at Active Production and Design, where he currently serves as director of marketing and business development. In addition to his marketing duties, Gibson has slowly been growing his brand through various artistic avenues. His design company, Neon Horror, showcases his obsession with everything from ’80s pop culture and comic books to Japanese anime, graffiti and “The Simpsons” on various t-shirts and other items.

“I put everything that was in my head in a blender and it came out to who I was,” he said.



Gibson contributed several illustrations to Ross Mathews' best-selling book "Name Drop" on Simon & Schuster. Pictured is an illustration by Gibson of Mathews and Liza Minnelli.

As an active member of Atlanta's LGBTQ community, Gibson also helps design merchandise for local and national drag queens and puts his visual spin on the letters and responses to Project Q magazine's advice column. His illustrations recently ended up in a more broadly-seen publication when Ross Mathews, famous for his appearances as Ross The Intern on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" and as a judge on "RuPaul's Drag Race," asked Gibson to contribute chapter illustrations to his book "Name Drop" published by Simon & Schuster.

As Gibson continues to help brands achieve marketing success while sharing his designs and ideas, he said a lot of what he has achieved came from taking advantage of his time and opportunities at MSU.

“(Other students) just wanted to learn what to learn for the assignment ahead of them and I wanted to learn all of it,” he said. “I just wanted to do stuff I loved, and I found out I could do a lot of stuff.”

For more information on Brad Gibson’s work, visit www.bradfordley.com.

Message from President Morgan: June 2020



Dr. Jay Morgan

This past Spring semester 2020 was an unprecedented time in the history of Morehead State University and our nation. As you are aware, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed the world as we know it. However, while it may have changed the way we delivered instruction or did our work for the interim, it has not changed the mission of MSU – that is serving the students in our region and our Commonwealth. Going forward, we will remain steadfastly committed to serving our students.

In our 130+ year history, MSU has overcome challenges and obstacles of great magnitude. We were born from adversity as Dr. Frank and Phebe Button founded the Morehead Normal School amid the Rowan County War, the bloodiest feud in the nation’s history. During World War II, the college rose to the occasion again to train 3,000 Blue Jackets within the Navy Training Program for electricians. There is no doubt we will continue to rise to the occasion of serving students during this time as well!

Our students have shown great resilience, persistence, and strength throughout the spring and the disruptions. I extend congratulations to our most recent graduates, welcome them to the ranks of our alumni, and invite them to join us back on campus in the fall for a formal Commencement ceremony.

Likewise, I want to thank our faculty and staff who have shown great commitment, flexibility, and cooperation. Our campus has come together to continue to make the MSU experience – whether on campus or online – an exceptional one. There is one thing we can say for sure, we have continued to put students first through all of this.

It is perhaps more important now than ever that our alumni and friends show their continued support of Morehead State University. Whether that be through sharing your personal MSU stories on social media, recommending students for enrollment, or through making a gift to the MSU Foundation to support our strong and dedicated push for student scholarships. Our students are among some of those with the greatest need in the state and nation. The recent health crisis has only amplified these needs. Your help with scholarship or other student support funds will help ensure they are able to be successful.

Please continue to be healthy and safe, wherever you are. Remember, we are Eagles strong!

Dr. Jay Morgan,

President

Student-Athletes Achieve High Academic Marks During Spring Semester and Year

Despite an unorthodox semester with a majority of the academic work from home online, Morehead State student-athletes performed exceptionally admirable for the spring 2020 semester and for the entire 2019-20 academic year.

Fifteen teams had combined team grade point averages at 3.0 or better for the spring, while 13 achieved team GPAs of 3.0 or better for the entire year. Morehead State's overall department GPA was 3.43 for the spring semester and 3.28 for the year.

Women's golf posted the highest team GPA for the semester with a 3.89 and also for the year at 3.80. Beach Volleyball (3.75), Rifle (3.74), Volleyball (3.73), Soccer (3.66), Softball (3.66), Men's Cross Country/Track and Field (3.62) and Baseball (3.50) also tallied team scores of 3.5 or higher for the spring.

“Our student-athletes should be commended for their work this semester,” said Director of Student-Athlete Services Drew Barnett. “They had to adapt to a new way of learning and completing their work that was not face-to-face. We stayed in contact with as many student-

athletes as we could during the semester to provide guidance and mentoring. I am very proud of the work they accomplished this semester and this year.”

In addition, 62 student-athletes achieved a 4.0 GPAs for the spring semester.

Baseball

- John Bakke
- Zach Boyd
- Jason Goe
- Will Lozinak
- Noah Matousek
- Jalen Miller

Men's Cross Country/Men's Track and Field

- Cody Chism
- Liam Dale
- Michael Dunagan
- Kyle Embry
- Josh Grogan
- Richard Knupp
- Jarrett Mattingly
- Cole Ralenkotter

Football

- Cameron Barrett
- Kalen Carson
- Tanner Duncan
- Landon Hurst
- Trent Johnson
- Dalton Lewis
- Cam Marriott
- Wilson McCraw
- Jalen Miller
- Connor Ott
- Isiah Rose
- Derrion Sanders
- Preston Toner
- Tyler Wells

Men's Golf

- Ryan Gillum

Women's Cross Country/Women's Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field

- Emma Gundler
- Riliegh Owens
- Carrie Staviski
- Shelby Watkins
- Sydney Young

Women's Golf

- Bridget Connolly
- Gypsie Hutchinson
- Alina-Sophie Koch
- Mackenzie Neal
- Isabella Washka

Softball

- Lindsay Anderson
- Randi Hamilton
- Kirya Kingery
- Adeline Nicholson
- Peyton Rose
- Kaylin Silcox
- Kenzie Silcox
- Alexis Strother

Soccer

- Michelle Jerantowski
- Katie Kiolbassa
- Lauryn Kunz
- Kathryn Larbes
- Nicole Palmer
- Katelynn Setters
- Morgan Treser
- Elizabeth Weber

Volleyball

- Andrea Grimes
- Hannah Keating
- Peyton Kennedy
- Olivia Lohmeier
- Karlee Reynolds
- Mia Swearingen

Beach Volleyball

- Trinity Miller
- Margeret Musselman

Note: All volleyball players are counted as beach volleyball as well. Miller and Musselman compete in beach only.

From: [MSUEagles.com](https://www.msueagles.com), by Matt Schabert

Former MSU student-athletes on the front lines of COVID-19

Morehead State student-athletes are no strangers to challenges and hard work. Three former Eagle athletes are now on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic: soccer alumna **McKenzie Hicks (15)** and golf alumnae **Sarah Debnkoff (18)** and **Lynn Grunkemeyer (12)**.



McKenzie Hicks (15)

Morehead State soccer alum McKenzie Hicks is used to battles. On the field and off.

A native of Ft. Thomas, the Highlands High School soccer standout came to campus in 2009 and has survived cancer not once, not twice, but three times. She helped the Eagles battle their way to the 2010 Ohio Valley Conference Tournament title and is now helping patients battle illness, including COVID-19, at Cincinnati (Ohio) Children's Hospital. Hicks is a registered nurse (RN) on the Vascular Access Team.

"I have always wanted to be a RN since I was little because my mom is a RN, and I thought that was so awesome that she got to take care of patients for a living," she said. "I am also a three-time cancer survivor so that also motivated me to go into the medical field and take care of other people just like my nurses took care of me."

Hicks has turned back Hodgkin's Lymphoma, originally being diagnosed as a sophomore at MSU in 2011. She had to cut her playing career short but still was a crucial member of the program.

With all the battles and situations Hicks has gone through and made her stronger, she admits the pandemic has been tough but credits her hospital's dedication to keeping its staff safe.

"As a RN on the Vascular Access Team (VAT), we go all over the hospital to draw blood for labs, place IVs and place PICC lines in patients that need more access points for medications and IV fluids. We also access patient's ports and troubleshoot central line problems. Those patients are some of the sickest patients in the hospital and also include the patients with COVID-19," she said. "As a precaution, we have to wear masks at all times during our 12-hour shift and have been fit-tested to wear N95 masks during COVID-19 patient encounters."

Hicks also said that her shifts have had to change during these times.

“Since the VAT is such a small and specialized department, we implemented a different staffing model for the past seven weeks (in order to limit possible employee exposure) where half of our team worked for two weeks and then had two weeks off work while still getting paid,” she said. “It has been amazing how supportive the hospital has been and has really eased the burden of worrying about bringing home the virus to our loved ones.”

Speaking of loved ones, her fiancé also happens to be familiar with Morehead State Athletics. Hicks is engaged to former Eagle baseball standout [Andrew Deeds \(12\)](#), who set numerous records during his career from 2008-12. The couple had planned a wedding for May 9 but has since postponed the ceremony until July.

Hicks said all her medical experiences and the situation currently happening has made her sit back and realized just how blessed she is.

“These experiences have made me realize how blessed I am to be healthy and to have healthy friends and family. I am also grateful to still have a job during these uncertain times,” she said.

Hicks has also learned some new skills.

“I have learned to cook and bake a lot of different recipes that I have never made time for before the pandemic,” she stated.

But one of the main ideals that has stuck with her since her time as an Eagle with head coach Warren Lipka has been teamwork.

“Teamwork is everything!” she said. “It’s important because of communication and knowing that everyone is working towards the same goal. Being a RN, I am always working closely with my co-workers to come up with the best, safest, individualized plan of care for each patient.”

Hicks will keep fighting every day for the health of her patients and her own, and that is why she is the epitome of why #EaglesAlwaysSoar.



Sarah Debnkoff (18)

MSU women's golf alum Sarah Debnkoff certainly knows the concentration it takes to be successful on the course. She also knows now the concentration it takes to help critically ill patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Debnkoff, who finished her four-year Eagle career in 2017-18, has literally been on the front lines of the pandemic helping patients breathe. Debnkoff, from Rancho Cordova, California, is a respiratory therapist at Norton Hospital in Louisville.

She admitted the challenges built up.

“As the COVID situation began to unfold, the hospital I work at began to get very busy. As a respiratory therapist, one of my main responsibility is to give aerosol treatments to patients with respiratory distress,” she said. “As a result, we were giving breathing treatment to patients with COVID-19. However, as more information came out about COVID-19, there was significant concern about the virus being aerosolized. As a result, the hospital quickly made sure we were protected.”

She had to adapt to changes quickly but praised her facility for being ready.

“Over the first few weeks, regulations changed quickly as more information was available,” she said. “The hospital was able to secure PAPRs and later CAPRs, or hoods/masks with an airflow system to protect from aerosolized and airborne particles. This ensured that with the constant fear of limited PPE supply, we would be protected.”

She said a family legacy in healthcare led to her interest in the field.

“My mom was a nurse when I was growing up and watching the impact she had on her

patients, as well as the fulfillment it gave her really sparked my interest,” she stated.

Soon, she and her mother will be joined in the family legacy by her fiancé, who happens to be an Eagle alum himself. **Pat DiSalvio (17)**, Morehead State’s punter for the football program, is in his third year at the University of Louisville Medical School. She said he’s adapted as well.

“When the pandemic started, the med school pulled students out of the hospital to conserve PPE. He has been finishing up his third year online with plans to re-enter the hospital at the end of May,” she said.

The couple also plan to get married in July.

Debnekoff played for head coach Stephanie Barker from 2014-15 until 2017-18, finishing as high as second place in the Eagles’ own Citrus Challenge her senior year. She was once named Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) Golfer of the Week.

“During my time as an MSU Eagle, I learned many life lessons from being on the golf team and from Coach Barker,” she said. “She would always tell us that no matter the situation, we should try not to complain and make the most out of the situation. As a result, I try to do my part and be a good co-worker and stay as positive as possible because being negative will not improve the situation.”

She said she has learned life lessons as well during the past few months.

“During this time, the hospital significantly restricted the visitor policy. Patients were in the hospital without family or even the occasional visitors,” she commented. “I found during this time patients were left feeling very lonely and afraid. As a result, I feel my compassion for my patients grew.”

Debnekoff is on track to graduate this month with her Master of Health Science Degree in Respiratory Therapy.

She (and Pat) are truly the epitome of why #EaglesAlwaysSoar.



Lynn Grunkemeyer (12)

Most days you can find Morehead State women's golf alumna Lynn Grunkemeyer working with athletes at Centerville (Ohio) High School near her hometown of Dayton.

Grunkemeyer, who played for the Eagles from 2008-11, is a certified athletic trainer for Premier Health assigned to the school. Since high school sports aren't taking place right now due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Grunkemeyer has found herself on the front lines screening patients and visitors at the hospital entrance.

"Typically, I am an outreach athletic trainer but effective March 16, I was reassigned and I am now stationed at the entrance to one of the hospitals in the health system screening patients, visitors and employees prior to them entering the facility," she said. "All the screeners have been wearing PPE and we require anyone entering the facility to use hand sanitizer before they can proceed into their appointment or area of work. We also sanitize the entrance area and commonly touched surfaces regularly."

While it is not her typical day of helping people, that's exactly what Grunkemeyer knew she wanted in life when she came to Morehead State after transferring from the University of Kentucky for the 2008-09 season.

"When I started my college academic/athletic career, I knew I wanted to do something in medicine in order to help people," she said. "I was involved in athletics for many years and I wanted to be able to help others achieve their athletic goals. Sara Larson, the head women's athletic trainer at the time and now the associate director of retention and advising at MSU,

suggested I pursue my master's degree in athletic training. The more I looked into it, the more I knew it would be the perfect fit for me.”

Grunkemeyer played three seasons for head coach Stephanie Barker, with her senior year being the best. She helped the Eagles capture the 2011 OVC Tournament title as they went on to compete in the Notre Dame NCAA Regional that season.

She was the team captain for three years at Archbishop Alter High School, where she was the Team MVP and a First-Team GGCL All-Star in 2005.

She credits the team atmosphere with her experience playing collegiate golf and especially the camaraderie at Morehead State for her success now.

“I think being part of a team at MSU has been a large part of my success. Typically, I am not in the hospital but having been part of a team at MSU has helped me adapt easily and adjust to working with a different team of people and a different schedule,” she said. “At Premier Health we are all important parts of the team fighting this pandemic and even the smallest things are huge to our success.”

She also said her normal routine at the high school involves adapting just as much.

“My job at the high school is all about adapting as schedules change,” she stated. “This experience has helped me grow as I have had to interact with all kinds of different people, go with the flow and, of course, I am extra thankful.”

Even though she is in Ohio, Grunkemeyer said there is still Eagle spirit in the Buckeye State. Her manager, [Amy Bernard \(99\)](#), is also an MSU alumna.

Adapting and thriving, that is what makes Grunkemeyer another example of why #EaglesAlwaysSoar.

Stories courtesy of [MSUEagles.com](#), Matt Schabert.

Achievement through adversity: MSU recognizes Spring 2020 graduates

A Message to Eagles Everywhere: Be encouraged and resilient, creative and compassionate and remember: once you're an Eagle, you're always an Eagle and Eagles always SOAR.

June 15, 2020

Morehead State University recognized the academic excellence of the more than 1,000 graduates of the Class of 2020 on Saturday, May 9.

The MSU Spring Commencement Program is online at <https://bit.ly/3fIKe8W>.

Since MSU's Spring 2020 Commencement Ceremony was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the University invites you to participate in a special ceremony to recognize and honor their achievement later this year. This event will take place at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020. It will only include students from the Spring and Summer 2020 class and will not be combined with our regularly scheduled fall commencement, which will take place at 10 a.m. that same day.



Alexa Potts (20)

Alexa Potts of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, was selected as the commencement speaker representing the Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. She is the daughter of Dan Potts and Amy Potts. She graduated with a 4.0 cumulative GPA and earned a Bachelor of Arts in History and Legal Studies with a minor in Spanish.

At Morehead State, Potts was a member of the George M. Luckey Jr. Academic Honors Program. She was an Undergraduate Research Fellow for three years, where she presented her research on travel writing in Kentucky at the Kentucky Philological Association and the Celebration of Student Scholarship in 2018. She also represented the Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at the 2017 Idea Festival in Louisville.

She was named the 2019 Outstanding Undergraduate Student in History. Potts was a recipient of a Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences student academic award for outstanding undergraduate student in History, Philosophy, Politics, Global Studies and Legal Studies (HPPGL) for the 2019-20 academic year. She completed three terms as attorney general for the Student Government Association (SGA). She also was a member of the MSU Flute

Ensemble, the Societas Pro Legibus and Sigma Delta Pi – National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society.

As a member and team captain of MSU Rifle, Potts was named Air Rifle All-American and First-Team All-OVC (Ohio Valley Conference) for air rifle and smallbore during the 2018-19 season. That same year, she set the school record for air rifle individual scoring versus Jacksonville State. At the 2019 OVC Championships, Potts also set the smallbore individual scoring record, the smallbore individual 20 shots prone school record and the individual aggregate school record. She qualified for the 2019 NCAA Championships as an individual.

Her academic achievements as a student-athlete include receiving the OVC Academic Medal of Honor for excellence in athletics and academics for the 2016-17 school year. Later, she was named the 2019-20 OVC Scholar-Athlete, awarded annually to the top three men and women in the OVC for their accomplishments and leadership on the field and in the classroom. Potts also served as the student leader for Athletes in Action (AIA).

Potts said she plans to enroll in law school and credits MSU with her preparedness.

“My MSU education is one of the most valuable things in my life because it has enriched me with knowledge and experiences that have prepared me for my future while leaving warm memories of my undergraduate years. Without my MSU education, I would not be the student I am today, ready to continue the pursuit of my legal education at law school,” Potts said. “My education at MSU has provided me with tangible skills, such as the ability to draft a legal motion, engage in research, speak in public settings and collaborate with a group to reach common goals. I would not be ready to jump into law school without these important skills, and I would not have mastered these vital skills had it not been for my MSU education.”

MSU alumna keeps business going despite coronavirus impact

June 15, 2020



From left: Kim May and Tiffanie Ricewick opened Pour House Coffee with assistance from

MSU's Small Business Development Center.

When Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear first began ordering the closure of restaurants and businesses in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, **Tiffanie Ricewick (04)** had just opened the second location of her coffee shop, Pour House Coffee, at King's Daughters Medical Center in Ashland. While the pandemic has caused Ricewick to close the second location and modify the way she does business at her flagship store in Russell, she says the support of the local community has helped her business stay alive in a time of crisis. Despite the closures due to COVID-19, Ricewick's business is seeing an increase in drive-through and curbside customers.

"We know small businesses are struggling, and we've been very blessed," Ricewick said. "We've got a lot of new customers who want to support local businesses, and even in this pandemic, we've got them wrapped around the building. Without the support of the community, we'd never make it."

When Ricewick first decided she wanted to open her own business, she was working at King's Daughters with her friend and business partner, Kim May. Following a round of layoffs at the hospital, Ricewick said she began to research successful business trends and decided a coffee shop would be the right choice. She reached out to Morehead State's Small Business Development Center (SBDC), which helped her get her idea off the ground.

"They basically held our hands until the business was going," Ricewick said. "It really helped us to lay a good foundation so that when we opened the doors, we had no overhead, and they helped us to plan that. It was an awesome help and we couldn't have done it without the SBDC."

Ricewick earned a bachelor's degree in business from MSU. She said those who want to start their own business should go for it, but they should also be aware of the commitment required.

"If you have a passion for it, do it, but know it's going to be a lot of blood, sweat and tears," she said, adding she is grateful for the support of her business partner and long-time friend. "Without her, I couldn't have done it, and I wouldn't want to do it with anyone else. We've been best friends for 20 years."

Ricewick said, once business restrictions are lifted, she will reopen the location at King's Daughters, and has plans to open a third location later in the year.

For more information about MSU's Small Business Development Center, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/sbdc, email sbdc@moreheadstate.edu or call **606-783-2895**.

AppHarvest brings opportunities to MSU students and graduates

AppHarvest will utilize the latest in agricultural technology to grow produce to supply stores throughout the Eastern U.S.



An innovative new business set to open in Morehead later this year will bring a wealth of opportunities for Morehead State students, graduates and alumni, as well as to the community as a whole.

AppHarvest is an agricultural production company that is currently building a 600-acre greenhouse in Rowan County. The greenhouse will use solar power and innovative agriculture technologies and techniques to grow produce. It is the realization of the vision of Chief Executive Officer, Jonathan Webb.

Webb's background is in building large-scale projects for the energy industry. After working in New York City, and Washington, D.C., for a decade, he came back to Kentucky to begin working to bring his vision of a large-scale agricultural operation to fruition.

"Morehead is going to be our flagship facility, and I hope the Morehead community can be proud to be home to this facility," he said.

A graduate of the University of Kentucky, Webb grew up outside Lexington and spent time in Eastern Kentucky visiting his grandmother in Whitley County. He said he knew that he wanted

his company to be in a college town in Eastern Kentucky, where the decline of the coal industry has left room for innovative new businesses to stimulate economic growth.

“I had a passion for large-scale development in energy. I just wanted to build stuff and the only areas in energy that are building are wind and solar,” Webb said. The idea for AppHarvest came to him when he noticed a problem with how Americans receive their produce. Webb said much of the produce consumed in America is grown in Mexico and countries in Central and South America, taking up to a week to ship to stores. Webb said his idea is simple: to combine resilient energy systems and innovative agriculture practices to grow produce locally year-round that can be distributed to cities throughout the Eastern U.S.

“Place is important, and we are in Morehead because of Morehead State University,” Webb said. “It’s one of the most outstanding universities in the state and the long-term opportunity of working with MSU is something we’re very excited about.”



AppHarvest is constructing a 600-acre greenhouse facility in Rowan County, bringing approximately 300 jobs to the region.

AppHarvest will provide internship opportunities to students in a wide range of degree fields, including agriculture, business, economics, finance, communication, marketing and more. Webb said students from all degree fields are encouraged to apply for AppHarvest internships.

“The attributes of the individual student will be most important,” Webb said. “We’re looking for people who can adapt, evolve and change with an industry that is rapidly changing. We’re building something new, and outside perspectives are always good.”

Webb said he hopes to see spin-off companies and other entrepreneurial opportunities created through his company’s partnership with MSU.

For more information about AppHarvest, visit www.appharvest.com.

Heo turns his love of tech and problem solving into successful business

Photo: Ji Hoon Heo (left) and his business partner and close friend John Patrick “JP” Ermitanio (right) are the founders of TesBros, a company that manufactures accessories for Tesla brand vehicles based in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

June 15, 2020

It is not uncommon for people to get obsessed with or occasionally distracted by the latest technological innovation. In this regard, **Ji Hoon Heo (14)** is no different, but the technology he is getting distracted by is not something most people see every day.

“Sorry, I’m trying to multitask...I’m not very good at it,” the 28-year-old business owner said during our interview. “I’m operating heavy machinery right now.”

As the founder and CEO of TesBros, a company that designs and produces various products for Tesla brand vehicles, messing with heavy machinery isn’t a part of the entrepreneur’s daily routine. But when no one is available to operate a giant flatbed cutter and you have 100 orders to fulfill that day, somebody’s got to do it.

The same way a good business owner does what has to be done for the success of his company, TesBros was something Heo *had* to do, even though his professional life could have gone in several directions.

Born in Seoul, South Korea, he grew up on the island of Saipan off the coast of Japan after traveling for his father’s missionary work. He described himself as a “fat chubby kid” when his dad insisted Heo exercise to lose weight at six years old and he settled on tennis.

“(My dad) literally dragged me to a tennis court and I cried all the way to the tennis court because I didn’t want to play,” he said. “I had my first lesson and I came back with a big smile on my face.”



Ji Hoon Heo

(14) was the top player on the MSU tennis team his junior and senior year. He would later go on to be ranked one of the top tennis players in the world before continuing his career in teaching and later founding TesBros.

It turns out his interest in tennis came with some natural talent. Heo traveled to nearby Australia and New Zealand, playing in tennis tournaments from ages 10 to 12. As one of the best junior players in the region of Oceania, he skipped one-third of his high school experience due to his commitment to tennis training and tournaments.

“When I would get back, I would just do all-nighters for about a week and I would not sleep,” he said. “I think it taught me to be a very fast worker.”

He attended Hawaii Pacific University on a full academic and athletic scholarship before deciding to transfer to Morehead State when he wanted to keep pursuing tennis with a change in scenery and atmosphere.

“Morehead State had tried to recruit me when I was a freshman and they offered their hand and said, hey, the offer is still open,” Heo said.

As a tennis player at MSU, Heo developed a close bond with his teammates and other student-athletes. He also became close to several of his professors while pursuing a bachelor's degree in convergent media, particularly communications instructor **John Flavell (87)** (he said he and his students used to call him "Flava Flav").

"Looking back at it, I really appreciated the attention," he said. "They really took the interest and they really cared."

Heo's early interest in technology (he used to take apart radios and TVs as a kid to see how they worked) was amplified in college. As an intern for MSU Athletics, he helped in developing its capabilities to live stream sporting events. Even though he continued to play tennis and was ranked in the top 400 in the world at one point, he felt like he had other talents and passions he should devote his time and energy to exploring.

Heo always liked telling stories with his camera and attended the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) to earn a Master of Arts in Journalism. He initially worked as a graduate assistant at the Meek School of Journalism and New Media before being hired as an instructional assistant professor. He taught a variety of multimedia courses and developed the university's drone program.

"And I always wanted to fly a drone. Who doesn't want to do that?" Heo said.

While Heo enjoyed teaching and affecting his students' lives, he felt like it wasn't wholly fulfilling him.

"I was doing something right there and they wanted me to stay but I wasn't getting the satisfaction I wanted in life," he said. "I felt like I had a different calling and I was fighting it."

That calling came when two things happened. The first was when Heo's mild obsession with the latest technology led to test-driving a Tesla for the first time.

"I sat in it and I tried autopilot for the first time in my life and I was blown away," he said. "Anything with new tech really got me excited so when I saw Tesla, I was like, this is totally me. And then I saw the price tag and I said, this is *not* totally me."

At least it wasn't at the time. It just forced Heo to save up his money and talk to his wife, Annalee, to purchase his first Tesla Model 3 in July 2018.

"After about three to five months, I thought what could be better about the car," he said. "I can't remember why, but it just kind of moved me to do something about it. Instead of saying, that was just an idea, move along, I decided to take action."



Vicky, TesBros store manager, sorting through the components of one of the company's best-selling Chrome Delete Kit, which allows buyers to use vinyl to blacken out chrome trims.

The first idea he came up with was a simple one: A label for the door button, which he said always gave people trouble when they got in the car for the first time and couldn't find the electric door release's unconventional placement in the interior. On uneventful drives to Morehouse College in Atlanta to teach for a month in Jan. 2019 and back to his Oxford, Mississippi, home, a combination of problem-solving and boredom driving got him thinking. He began raiding craft stores like JOANN Fabrics and Michael's buying vinyl and started cutting and shaping the ideas in his head. Eventually, he upgraded by purchasing and learning to use a Cricut electronic cutting machine.

"I messaged my business partner JP and said, 'Hey man, you want to make a quick buck?'" he said. "We didn't think about if this was going to scale or anything. We just wanted to make \$300 extra bucks a month."

He launched a Facebook group in January 2019 under his blogger name TeslaBros and opened a PayPal account.

"We got one message, and then we got two, and then we got five, and we got 10," he said.

Then, Heo and TeslaBros (now TesBros) got 300 orders...in its first two days of operation. While he was continuing to teach at Ole Miss, he spent his nights getting TesBros off the ground.

Using the Cricut in his garage, the company designed, cut and packaged problem-solving products. A grassroots following came soon after thanks to innovative products like Chrome Delete, a do-it-yourself kit that “blacks out” all the chrome elements of a Tesla’s interior for a fraction of the cost of having it done by someone else.

“From year one, day one, actually, we were profitable,” Heo said. “We operated with \$500 in our pocket. No loans. Nothing. We’re really proud to say that.”

The success of TesBros led to him leaving Ole Miss and scaling the business from Heo’s garage to 800 square feet of office space to its current 3,000-square-foot facility in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The company has found a successful niche and continues to grow but Heo would like to use his company’s resources in a positive way. In the future, he said he would like to create programs in STEM fields in underserved parts of Chattanooga and surrounding areas, hoping to mold the next technological innovator like Tesla’s founder, Elon Musk. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the same technology TesBros was using to make its products were now being used to manufacture face shields for the area’s medical workers.



The Summa flatbed cutter cuts all of TesBros products. This same technology was also utilized to produce face shields for area medical workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“To me, I think it’s too shallow to say I sell Tesla accessories. It has to be more than that for me,” he said. “I just want to make a difference in the place where I feel like I’m gifted. Trying to make a small dent. That’s all we want to do.”

Ji Hoon Heo has come a long way as an entrepreneur. He has gone from giving tennis lessons for extra cash as a teenager to learning invaluable lessons on the many ways a company can be successful. Heo will be the first to say that success doesn't come without both a passion for what you do and a dedication to see it through.

“It was a feeling for me. For me, the risk was worth it for me, whether I make it or not,” he said. “If you have that kind of conviction, do it and you'll make it work and stop just talking about it. At one point, you have to take the leap and at one point, when you take that leap, you get better at jumping. And then those leaps get stronger and farther.”

For more information on TesBros, visit www.teslabros.com.

Amanda Bogen kept cruise ship passengers' spirits lifted during coronavirus outbreak

Photo: Bogen is responsible for the ship's entertainment activities and kept quarantined guests entertained through televised activities. She is pictured here with her father, Greg Bogen, when he joined her on a trip to Antarctica.

June 15, 2020

Amanda Bogen (15) knows how to be a cheerleader. It's the reason why she came to Morehead State from Richland, Washington, to join the championship-level MSU All-Girl Cheerleading Team in 2011 before earning a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in management in 2015.

However, Bogen, 27, recently found herself tasked with lifting the spirits during a coronavirus outbreak aboard her ship and a global health pandemic.

Bogen is currently aboard Holland America Line's Zaandam cruise ship serving as the assistant cruise director. This is her second four-month contract with the boat after being aboard during the summer and fall of 2019. When she boarded the ship in January, she was the person responsible for organizing and leading the entertainment activities for the 1,243 guests onboard as the Zaandam was traveling to South America.

On March 22, after an increased number of people on board started coming down with flu-like symptoms, the captain made an urgent announcement ordering the ship's guests and roughly 586 crew members to all go to their cabins and await further instructions. As a safety precaution during the COVID-19 pandemic, passengers were quarantined in their staterooms for 14 days.

“Everything on board is always just so much more extreme,” Bogen said. “Everything is so much smaller and tighter, so everything that everyone is experiencing at home, it’s so much heavier here.”

By March 27, the ship had two confirmed cases of COVID-19, with a reported 53 guests and 85 crew members experiencing flu-like symptoms. To make matters worse, as early as March 7, the ship was traveling from port to port in South America and repeatedly turned away due to the coronavirus pandemic. Bogen said they were denied entry by 11 countries.

“It became a humanitarian crisis. We couldn’t get our passengers off the ship to go home,” Bogen said. “Some of them were terrified. Some of them called guest services, like, sobbing. Scared for their lives.”

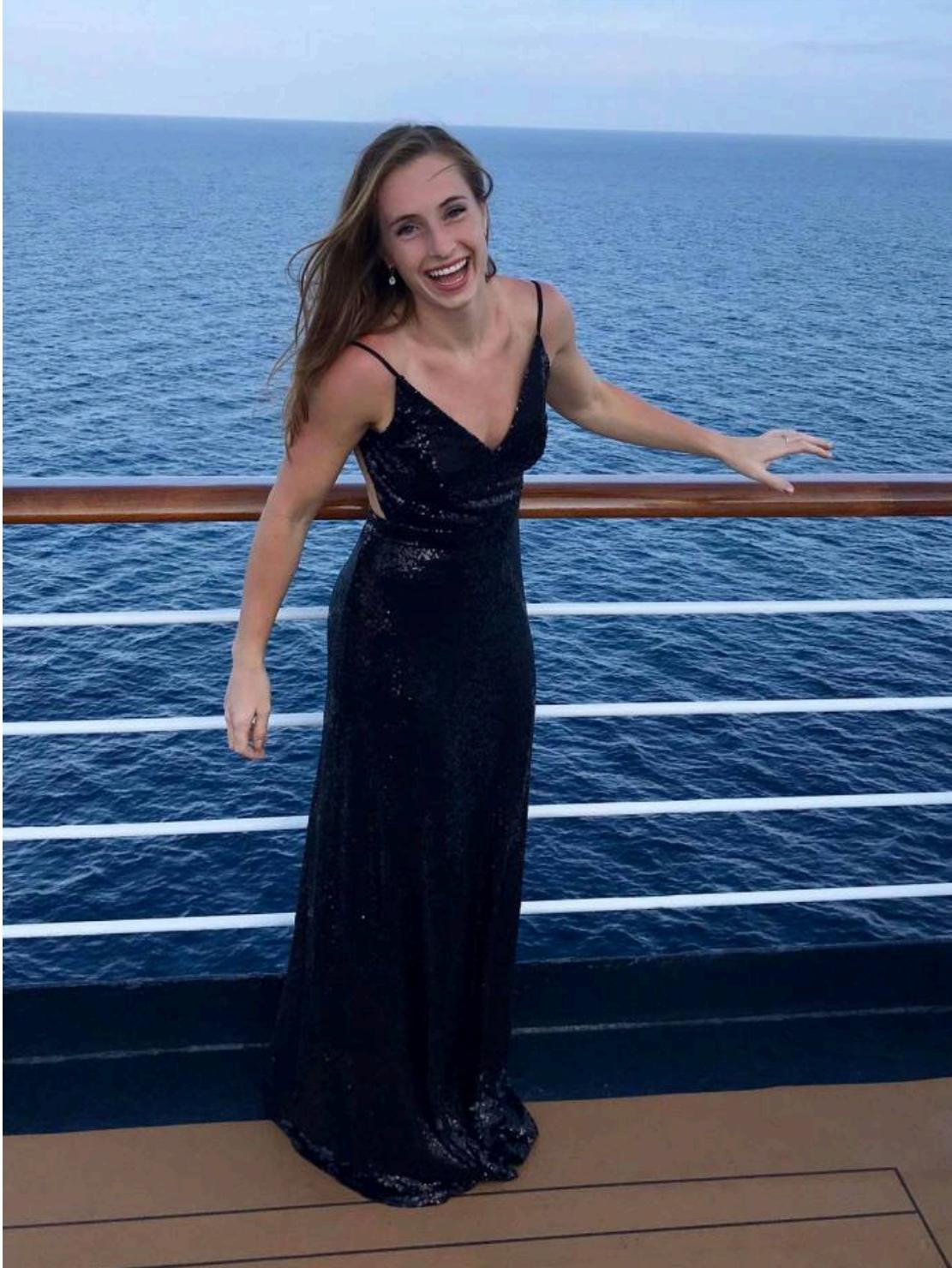
The Zaandam was later forced to link up with its sister ship, Rotterdam, through the Panama Canal so it could stock up on supplies and transfer healthy guests.

While the Zaandam was a ship without a home full of tense and panicked passengers, Bogen still had a job to do.

“I think I knew from the beginning from that announcement, I was like, what can I do to help?” she said. “I can work. I can make a difference. What can I do?”

Passengers may have been forced to stay in their rooms, but Bogen knew they could still be entertained. In addition to responding to phone calls and making an extra effort to meet guests’ needs safely, she brainstormed and came up with 60 different activities ranging from fitness activities and game shows to coming up with themed trivia nights with some assistance from her father, Greg. If passengers wanted to see Bogen working on the Zaandam from their rooms, all they had to do was turn their TVs to channel 26, the ship’s television station, where Bogen was hosting five 30-minute programs a day.

“I really think I got creative and made it fun,” Bogen said with pride. “I think being cheerful and just giving them something to do helped.”



Amanda Bogen is the assistant cruise director Holland America Line's Zaandam cruise ship. She was aboard while the ship experienced a coronavirus outbreak. The Zaandam, along with the Rotterdam, eventually docked on April 2 in Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Fourteen of the passengers in the most critical condition were taken to area hospitals. Healthy passengers either returned to their Florida homes or were flown home on

chartered flights. The two ships offloaded a total of more than 1,200 passengers. By that time, four people on the Zaandam had died, including two from complications from COVID-19. An additional 90 guests and 143 of the ship's crew reported respiratory symptoms as of March 22.

While some American crew members were allowed to disembark, Bogen was one of the crew members who were forced to remain onboard the Zaandam with no set date as to when she can return home. Since Bogen is one of the few crew members who wasn't forced to isolate, the crew of the Zaandam was preparing to undergo a 14-day quarantine in their cabins as of this interview. Bogen was already mentally preparing herself.

"It was easy to be strong when I was busy and have a purpose," she said. "I'll find a schedule to make it go fast. I know it will be OK. It's just not ideal."

Bogen said she is holding firm to her faith as she awaits what comes next. When she reflects, she is blown away by the determination of fellow crew members and the strength of guests that endured this terrible and testing set of circumstances. She knows when she gets back home, she will take her experience at sea and figure out a way to use it wherever she goes.

"I think I've learned the importance of helping people," she said. "I've been given so much like my health and my youth, and when I was asked to step up to help, there's people that need people. When I get home, I think I'm going to look for ways to help, too."

MSU mourns death of Professor L. Curtis Hammond

June 15, 2020



Dr. L. Curtis Hammond

Morehead State Associate Professor of Music Dr. L. Curtis “Curt” Hammond passed away on Thursday, Feb. 27 at Baptist Health in Lexington.

Born May 23, 1962, in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, he was the son of Larry Clinton and Joan Marie Huls Hammond of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. In addition to his parents, he is survived by two daughters, Abby Hammond and Meghan Hammond, both of Morehead, and their mother, Cathy Hammond of Morehead. Other survivors include one brother, Robert “Bob” Hammond of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; one sister, Pammy Bates of Estelline, South Dakota and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Hammond taught in the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance at MSU since 1993. He received the Doctor of Music degree from Florida State University, the Master of Music degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music, and the Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Nebraska. In addition to teaching horn at Morehead State, Hammond also taught graduate

courses and music theory, sight-singing and music listening courses. He conducted the MSU Horn Ensemble and was a member of the MSU Faculty Woodwind Quintet, The Baird Winds and the MSU Faculty Brass Quintet, the Horizon Brass Quintet.

He performed in the Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra, The New Sousa Band, New Columbia Brass Band, Florida Orchestra, Tallahassee Symphony, Albany (GA) Symphony, The Cleveland Orchestra, Ohio Chamber Orchestra, Youngstown Symphony, South Dakota Symphony, Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, and the Nebraska Chamber Orchestra. Hammond also performed with numerous musicians including Barry Tuckwell, The American Horn Quartet, Isaac Stern, Yo-Yo Ma, Andre Watts, Anna Moffo, Nadia Salerno-Sonnenberg, Richard Stoltzman, George Shearing, Dave Brubeck, Billy Taylor, Charlton Heston, Burt Bacharach, Dionne Warwick, Peabo Bryson, Aaron Neville, Melissa Manchester, Sheena Easton, Roberta Flack and LeAnn Rimes. Hammond was also a board member and performer with the Cave Run Symphony Orchestra.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Dr. L. Curtis Hammond Music Scholarship Fund, MSU Foundation, 150 University Blvd., P.O. Box 1887, Morehead, KY 40351, or online at alumni.moreheadstate.edu.

MSU alumnus and entrepreneur develops innovative emergency rescue product





Kelly Moore (00)

Joseph “Kelly” Moore (00) knew he wanted to have a career in business when he graduated from Morehead State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration with an emphasis in finance. With his current entrepreneurial endeavor, he is in the business of potentially saving lives.

Moore and Matt Able are co-founders of the Lexington-based company Longtail Designs LLC. They recently announced the launch of a [Kickstarter](#) campaign for the Rescue Biner, the company’s first product.

The Rescue Biner is an aluminum carabiner that features additional tools to use in a life-saving emergency for first responders or victims of an automobile accident. These include a concealed razor blade for slicing through seatbelts and a tungsten carbide tip capable of easily breaking out vehicle windows.

Before going into business for himself, he found a knack for business at MSU. Moore and his family moved to Morehead from Kemmerer, Wyoming, in the summer of 1994, and he enrolled in the spring of 1995. After graduation he worked for two decades in finance as a federal employee. He has been a financial officer for the United States Air Force primarily based at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, and also has analyzed and overseen budgets for the U.S. Forest Service, first in Fort Collins, Colorado, before returning to Kentucky as a budget officer for the Daniel Boone National Forest from 2010 to 2018.

When he was a student at MSU, Moore said he enjoyed the fact that MSU was in the Daniel Boone National Forest, but it was the small classes and the personal attention he received from faculty that was most beneficial to his future.

“My financial and accounting courses laid the foundation for me to learn cost modeling, financial and data analysis, and teamwork,” he said. “I’m a solution-driven person and the positive feedback and support I received while attending MSU really helped craft my business acumen as I started my professional career.”

The idea for the Rescue Biner came about before founding Longtail Designs in 2016. Moore met Able when he started working for the Daniel Boone National Forest in Winchester and they both developed backgrounds as wilderness first responders. This led to them bouncing ideas back and forth and seeing a need for something useful when there an accident occurs and seconds matter.

“The design evolved from an article I had read where a person had used scissors to cut an accident victim out of a vehicle seat belt. I don’t carry scissors in my vehicle. Most don’t,” Moore said. “So, when Matt Able and I sat down, we really had a moment of clarity and the Rescue Biner was born.”

Moore said the company had planned to launch its current Kickstarter campaign a couple of years ago for their patented product. They chose crowdfunding both due to the company’s tight budget and wanting to use its primary resources to make the most effective product possible.

“We deliberately chose to focus on our getting the design right and not on seeking investor funding through the traditional models,” he said. “We wanted to leave it up to the consumers to choose our product and not spending thousands of dollars getting an analysis report on what we ‘might’ be able to do.”

Longtail Designs’ Kickstarter campaign for the Rescue Biner launched on April 14 with the campaign’s deadline ending on May 29. Since its launch, the company has surpassed its \$30,000 goal, which will cover the initial start-up costs and allow them to create a minimum quantity to bring the product to market.

“As a company, we want our designs to make a difference for those who use them,” Moore said. “As entrepreneurs, we want to build something that gives back and looks out for our community and the environment instead of just worrying about the bottom line. If we do things the right way and worry about being a good company that makes great products, the rest will take care of itself.”

For more information on MSU’s School of Business Administration, contact the Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology at cbt@moreheadstate.edu, 606-783-2174 or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/cbt.

Head of infection control at UK Hospital: ‘It’s like CSI work every day’

photo credit: Ryan C. Hermens, Lexington Herald-Leader

When **Kimberly Blanton (88)** was a senior at Magoffin County High School she visited the hospital to see a close friend who had become very ill.

“What I witnessed there was so amazing, the way they were able to take care of her,” said Blanton recently. “And I thought, ‘I want to dedicate my life to taking care of people.’ And that’s what I did.”

“With this pandemic, I’ve been full force,” Blanton said, adding that when a patient tests positive, “It’s either I or our manager, Rachel (Howard), who calls those folks back. There’s some major work that goes into seeing when were they last at their job? Have they traveled? What kind of symptoms do they have? Trying to get some of what we call epidemiology front end, just to see how maybe they contracted the virus.”

What she has found, she said, is that, yes, the patients are scared, but not just for themselves. They are scared of transmitting the virus to other people. Those not hospitalized, are worried most about infecting family members at home.

“For instance, one was like, ‘I have to go to the kitchen,’” Blanton said. “And I’m like, ‘Well, go to the kitchen at a different time than when your son goes to the kitchen.’ Helping them walk through that, and put it into use at home.”

Then there are the patients who do not have family at home. Blanton said she has collaborated with the infectious disease department, led by Dr. Alice Thornton, whose group “has been amazing in helping me do this. They would call the patient and do some tele-health and check on them so they don’t feel so alone. It’s a scary virus, but even more scary when you have no family with you.”

As a director, Blanton’s other responsibility is to plan. And for this particular pandemic, the planning started early. How early? Having been through both the H1N1 pandemic and Ebola, for which UK was designated an assessment hospital, the university felt like it had a head start on preparations.

““I’d been working on some portion of the COVID with the university and the president’s group since early January when we started bringing students back,” Blanton said.

Having experienced a supply drain with Ebola, Blanton acted early on the allocation of supplies. She worked with material managers to provide personnel what they needed, but also with clinics who were not seeing patients in order to secure materials for a stockpile to deal with an influx of patients.

“That was stressful because I think the staff kind of felt like they no longer had control of that supply because we took it over,” she said. “But now I think they’re like, ‘I’m so glad you did.’”

As of late April, the staff feels like it has what it needs. Not that there haven't been other stressful situations, from the ever-changing CDC guidelines — “(Every day) I'd have to tell them something new and it looked like we were schizophrenic at points” — to mixing a hectic work life with quarantine life at home.

Robbie and Kim Blanton have a daughter, Audriana, who is now a senior in high school and “not getting to experience the senior life at all.” Son Bryan is a social worker in Winchester. “He's calling me and saying, ‘Mom, what should I do?’”

Yet even in a stressful time, it's also a gratifying time.

“This is like a village that has come together in an unprecedented, crazy time,” Blanton said. “My heart is overjoyed by the amount of people that have reached out, even if it's a text just to say, ‘We're proud of you and the university.’ That means the world to people.”

And when that village sees a recovered patient leave the hospital?

“It gives you chill bumps,” said Blanton. “It really does.”

In Memoriam: June 2020

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

June 15, 2020

The Morehead State University family remembers ...

Charles E. Bradley	1952
Billie J. Shelby	1953
Louise P. Brown	1954
Lois Jane S. Francisco	1955
Russell J. Day	1957

Charles D. Caudill	1959
Harold B. Falls	1960
Fred L. Francis	1962
Gary N. Hooper	1962
Linda O. Justice	1962
Frances M. Ditto	1963
Betty M. Clarke	1964
Eva I. Deaton	1964
Eldon R. Dillon	1966
Dermalene T. Brown	1967
Jane C. Ellington	1967
Franklin D. McGuire	1969
John P. Tierney	1969
William T. Chenault	1970
Dennis T. Dorton	1970
Charles L. Hocker	1970
Claude E. Meade	1970/E
Scharline T. Whidden	1970
Laverne Belcher-Adams	1971

Deborah J. Booher	1972
Billy E. Humphries	1972
Naomi S. Christian	1973
James H. Climer	1973
Raymond Griffith	1973
David P. Everman	1974
James L. Hyska	1974
Marjorie M. McKee	1974
David G. Evans	1975
Leeann R. Keeys	1975
Janet S. Patterson	1976
John B. Farris	1977
Patricia K. Hamilton	1977
Ted L. Griffith	1977
Julie K. Riffe	1977
Thomas W. Soper	1977
Rita M. Davis	1978
Tammy S. Casey	1980
Elaine E. Sebastian	1980

Sarah S. Tobias	1980
Thomas J. McCleese	1982
Thomas W. Wallace	1982
Billy W. Copher	1983
Martha M. Cox	1983
John J. Greenwood	1984
Gregory F. Henderson	1984
Jerry M. Haney	1985
Michael H. Hanson	1985
Mary K. Henderson	1986
Phyllis D. Haight	1987
Margaret S. Stokley	1989
Mary F. Kouns	1991
Pamela L. Lucas	1991
Juanita G. Davidson	1993
Teddy M. Everman	1993
Stephen E. Wymer	1993
Allison A. Brownstead	1994
Marda E. McCormick	1994

Doris A. Mollette	1996
Charlotte A. Pennington	1997
Amanda G. Preston	1997
Judy D. Cooper	1998
Keith A. Mills	2012
Joshua Schroetlin	2019
Henry Akin	ND
L. Curtis Hammond	Emplo
Albert H. Evans	Retiree
Talmadge Catron	Retiree
Clyde R. Caudill	Retiree
Ida B. Dillon	Retiree
James A. Knoll	Retiree
Wanda L. Staley	Retiree

A Rough Transition

Sahara LaForce, senior, from Van Lear, Kentucky, reflects on her experience during the COVID-19 pandemic in the Spring 2020 semester.

June 15, 2020

In plain language, the move to online schooling sucks. Sorry to be crass, but it's true! I want to thank all of the professors who suddenly had their entire course load flipped on its head, and I appreciate all of the efforts that went into that, but gosh it's been hard to adjust. I was never

meant for online classes. I knew that! I hardly ever took them for a reason! But suddenly, that's all I could do and it has been *a task*. Not so much as being away from campus has been, though.

Leaving campus was tough. Being so far away geographically from all my closest friends somehow made everything worse, despite the fact that I would have had to socially distance anyway. This was my last semester on campus, and the loss of what little time I had left to be with my loved ones and make some final memories is acute and painful still two months later. I miss these guys like they're a third limb that's suddenly disappeared.



I hate that I can't be around them right now, and that's coming from a nearly reclusive introvert. I can't help but think about all the trips to get gas station hibachi or late nights at Huddle House (affectionately called Huddle Home in my group of friends) I'm missing out on, how many late night rehearsal sessions we spontaneously snuck into Baird for that wouldn't happen, can't help but think about performing with them in my senior showcase to tie my Morehead theatre experience up in a nice little bow.

My senior showcase, which is what theatre majors do to round off their capstone class if they so choose, was something I was really looking forward to. My friends were going to be in a couple of scenes with me, I was going to design costumes for each of the characters I was going to embody; it was going to be a great, cathartic way to end my time here on-campus at Morehead State. Now, of course, I wasn't able to do that. We did the show online through WebEx (which was constantly glitching for my peers due to their individual internet quality, or computer quality, or just the app, I was never sure), and ran into approximately a million problems on the way. At one point the plan was to play my backing tracks to the songs I was performing through my speakers. We found out quickly that wasn't going to work, then moved on to trying to record

it and just lip-sync. The audio wouldn't play clearly, so we recorded a video. My professor didn't like that, and I didn't like it either, so we ended up doing my songs acapella. The video of me lip-syncing badly to some Sondheim is still out there somewhere, even though I would like to forget it exists.



In the end, the show had to go on, and go on it did. It was a sort of conflicting experience. While I was very glad I was still able to do it, it didn't pack nearly as much punch as what it would have, and I wasn't able to construct any costumes or do one of my duet pieces. It didn't feel real, didn't feel like it had happened at all, and that really made it hard for me to even realize the semester was over when it was.

I think that's been a theme throughout most of my time in quarantine —struggling to understand that things are happening. It doesn't help that I live in kind of a rural area that's not taking the virus too seriously. I'm struggling to believe that this is how I have to live my life now, though I'm complying with the rules. I struggled to comprehend that I was still doing my classes and classwork in this crisis, but I was still attending them and doing the work. I ~~now~~ struggle to understand that I'm now officially on Summer Break, even though clearly I haven't been in a video class or done an assignment in a week. I feel like a brat for complaining, and I know people have it much worse right now, but I've been trying my best to cope.

A lot of my coping comes from cooking. I'd like to think I'm pretty good at it. But everyone's making bread right now, and God knows I'm no baker. I've tried several times and I just don't understand it. This attempt was supposed to be focaccia.



It clearly is not really focaccia. I didn't let it rise enough I'm sure and it was super yeasty. But it was a valid distraction! Another thing I've turned to is gaming. Just like everyone else now

apparently, I've been taking all my existential grief and malaise and shoving it deep into

“Animal Crossing: New Horizons.”

I've been waiting for this particular game ever since the Nintendo Switch came out, but it couldn't come at a more perfect time. Instead of thinking about how much I want to tear my hair out being cooped up in the house, or how much I want to cry over the fact that I have no idea what the future holds, I can instead focus on making sure I move Flora's house one in-game inch to the right to make sure it fits the housing scheme.

I think the biggest thing “Animal Crossing” has taught me in this time is patience. The game encourages you to take things one day at a time, one task at a time, to complete something meaningful and beautiful. I used to be an incorrigible time-traveler in past games in the series, but now, I'm trying my hardest to take its lessons to heart. Give yourself time to breathe. Take the days as they come. Vent your feelings and get out your frustration but try to make something positive out of the wreckage.

In Memoriam – Dr. James Knoll

June 15, 2020

Dr. James Knoll



Dr. James Knoll

Dr. James Knoll, a former faculty member and chair in Morehead State University's College of Education, passed away Friday, March 13, 2020, at St. Joseph Hospital in Lexington. He was 73.

Born in Erie, Pennsylvania, he was the son of the late Aaron A. and Julia (McCloskey) Knoll. He taught and served as chair of the Department of Elementary, Reading and Special Education. In that role, he developed the Master of Arts in Teaching in special education, a program that allowed

people with bachelor's degrees to earn both special education certification and a master's degree simultaneously.

He rose through the academic ranks at MSU and pursued scholarly research and service. His research focused on improving student success and student lives, including the inclusion of students with disabilities, college achievement for disadvantaged students and preparation of students with disabilities for adult life.

Knoll began his academic career at Canisius College in Buffalo, New York, then continued as a student of special education at Hunter College, where he earned a Master of Science in Special Education. He later earned a Ph.D. in Mental Retardation from Syracuse University.

From Syracuse, he went to work for the Human Services Research Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In this role, he spoke before the U.S. Congress and traveled the world promoting the services available for those with special needs.

He taught special education at Wayne State University before joining the faculty at Morehead State.

Dr. Knoll spent his long career as an advocate for those with special needs of all sorts and as an educator, training teachers to provide the best possible services for those who need them most. In special education, "inclusion" was a favorite term that anyone who worked with him heard frequently.

Beyond his professional life, Knoll was an artist who painted and photographed his world with passion. A recent one-person show at the Rowan County Arts Center featured his black and white photographs that explored the contrasts, textures, and the organic and geometric shapes we all see but rarely notice in the everyday world.

Contributions in Knoll's memory can be made to the Morehead State University Foundation, Inc., Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program, 121 E. Second St., Morehead, KY 40351 or online at alumni.moreheadstate.edu/give.

Eagle student-athletes provide activity packs for Rowan County students



With all of Rowan County’s children staying home for school and many being provided lunches by the school system, Morehead State Athletics has partnered with the school system to send home fun and enriching activities with those lunches for young Eagle fans to do in their time at home.

Children have received educational activities including word searches and crossword puzzles, as well as thoughtful and engaging activity sheets personalized from MSU student-athletes. Each sheet has a personalized message from select athletes and includes activities geared toward their intercollegiate sport.

“MSU Athletics is eager to help and create community outreach at any time of need,” said **Sara Hacker (07)**, assistant athletic director for external affairs and senior woman administrator. “The Eagles are proud of the Rowan County community and we need to make sure we all lift each other’s spirits and soar higher together.”

Since starting the outreach project, athletics has printed more than 3,000 individual activity pieces.

The Rowan County Board of Education has been thrilled with the partnership.

“The Rowan County Board of Education cannot express the gratitude we have for our community partners that have stepped up to help in our efforts in continuing our mission of caring for the education and well-being of our students,” said Glen Teager, a member of the board. “MSU Athletics has provided us with Eagle action cards that introduce our students to a student-athlete from MSU and shares with them some fun ideas of how to stay active at home. We have distributed many of these with meals and will be distributing another set with our instructional packets the week after next.”

MSU soccer alum **Brandy Carver (02)**, the principal at Rowan County Senior High School, sees tremendous value in these activities.

“As a parent of elementary students, in addition to being principal at the high school, I appreciate MSU Athletics reaching out to our kids that are at home during this time. Morehead has a strong sense of community and our kids have felt that partnership with the word searches, crosswords and coloring sheets from MSU. My girls have enjoyed connecting with their favorite MSU players and completing their suggested activities. This effort has given parents some needed suggestions to fill the time and to keep everyone in good spirits.”

Craft Academy holds virtual graduation ceremony

Morehead State’s Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics held a virtual graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 16, allowing students to celebrate their accomplishments despite restrictions to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Students, faculty, staff and distinguished guests logged on to Zoom for the ceremony, which recognized the 50 graduates of the Class of 2020. According to Dr. Carol Christian, director of the Craft Academy, the Class of 2020 set several records for the school, including earning the highest institutional GPA in school history and participating in more research and internships than any previous class.

The Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics is a dual-credit residential high school for academically exceptional Kentucky students. The Craft Academy’s purpose is to meet the unique educational needs of academically gifted and talented high school juniors and seniors in the Commonwealth. The academic rigor of the Craft Academy challenges students to excel at their highest level through project-based STEM+X courses and hands-on learning experiences, with emphasis on innovation, design and creativity, and civic and regional engagement.

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

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine visits MSU

June 15, 2020

Jim Bridenstine, the administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), visited Morehead State as part of the W. Terry McBrayer Presidential Lecture Series in Government and Leadership Thursday, Feb. 20.

Bridenstine was joined on his visit by NASA Scientists Andres Martinez and Tim Pham; U.S. Rep. Thomas Massie, and staff from the offices of U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, U.S. Sen. Rand Paul and U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers. The guests toured the Space Science Center and spoke to faculty, staff and students about the aerospace research being done there. MSU has been involved in the launch of five NASA-funded satellites: CXBN, CXBN-2, Lunar ICEcube, Ky-Sat 2 and the DM-7 Flight Demonstration.

“The NASA administrator’s visit to the Space Science Center at Morehead State University provides significant validation of the Center as an internationally-recognized leader in small satellite and space mission operations research,” said Dr. Ben Malphrus, executive director of the Space Science Center. “Having these NASA Administrators visit our campus says a great deal about the importance of the University’s contributions to NASA’s exploration efforts.”

During his lecture, Bridenstine discussed how NASA will reach the moon through its Artemis program, saying Morehead State is an essential partner in the country’s return to the moon and space science innovation.

“The NASA administrator’s public talk was inspirational,” Malphrus said. “Bridenstine has a clear view of the direction of NASA’s human and robotic exploration of the solar system. He graciously acknowledged the contributions made by Morehead State University to these efforts. It was a landmark day for our Space Science program.”

Bridenstine was sworn in as NASA’s 13th administrator in April 2018. Bridenstine was elected to represent Oklahoma’s First Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2012, where he served on the Armed Services Committee and the Science, Space and Technology Committee.

The McBrayer lecture series is named in honor of MSU alumnus **W. Terry McBrayer (59)**, who provided a generous gift to the University, which supports the lecture series and student scholarships. McBrayer is a lobbyist, attorney and former politician in Lexington. A native of Greenup County, he graduated from MSU and attended the Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville. He was elected to the MSU Alumni Hall of Fame in 1966 and was awarded an honorary doctoral degree in 1975.

For information about MSU’s space systems engineering program, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/study/spacesystemsengineering, email b.malphrus@moreheadstate.edu or call **606-783-2381**.

MSU Spring Gala will be ‘Back on Broadway’ in 2021



Among the many aspects of life at Morehead State University that had to change this year, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the cancellation of the Annual Spring Gala, which was scheduled to take place this past April.

The Annual Spring Gala has been a tradition on Morehead State University's campus since 1993. This year would have marked the 27th consecutive year of this incredible event. While it couldn't be held in person, we invite you to join us in a virtual celebration.

MSU is already looking ahead to next year – the gala theme will be “Back on Broadway” on Saturday, April 24, 2020. It will feature songs from popular Broadway musicals like “Chicago,” “Hamilton,” “Cabaret,” “Cats,” “A Chorus Line,” “The Phantom of the Opera,” “Grease” and “The Lion King,” featuring faculty, staff and students from the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance.

While the gala won't take place until next year, friends of MSU who continue to be event sponsors year after year by can continue in the fundraising tradition.

The gala is MSU's biggest fundraiser of the year, raising over \$100,000 annually. To support our students in their time of need, MSU has created the Eagle's NEST Fund – Needs for Eagle Support in Trying Times. All gifts contributed in lieu of this year's gala support this important fund.

Please visit alumni.moreheadstate.edu/givetoNEST to make your donation and show your support for current and future Eagles.

Additional information on the MSU Spring Gala can be found by visiting alumni.moreheadstate.edu/gala or by contacting the Office of Alumni Relations and Development at 606-783-2033 or 1-877-783-ALUM (2586).