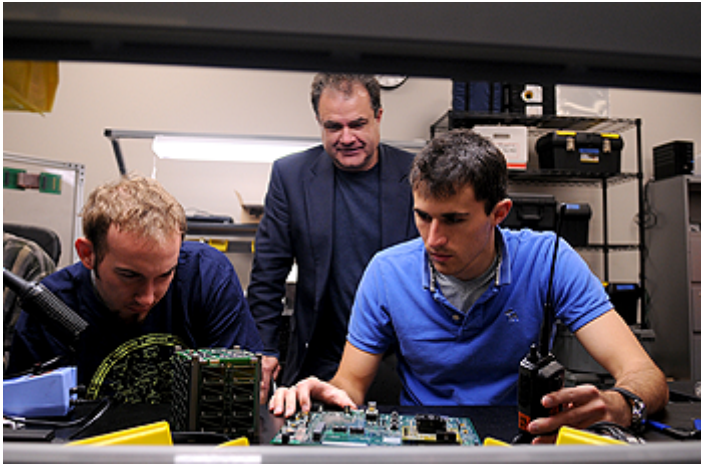


News Items for Web Features - 2013

Space Science program offers out-of-this-world experience for MSU students

Created: 6/25/2013 9:25:00 AM

Created By: April Nutter



People often look up to the stars and what they see leaves them in complete awe and wonder. For students at Morehead State, they can look up to the stars and see opportunity and exciting career prospects thanks to the University's [Space Science](#) program.

Established in 2006 as one of only five programs of its kind offered at the undergraduate level in the United States, MSU's Space Science program allows its students to get thoroughly acclimated to this technology-intensive discipline. It allows students to study physics, astrophysics, satellite telecommunications, electrical engineering, mathematics and computer science, which can lead to one of many exciting career opportunities.

"The space economy in the U.S. is thriving, so the job market is excellent," said Dr. Benjamin Malphrus, Department Chair for [Earth & Space Sciences](#). "As a country, we're more and more reliant on space for the economy and for defense and we need a workforce to command the space assets."

One of the aspects that make the Space Science program so unique is the place where students do their work. The \$16 million, 45,000 square foot Space Science Center features state-of-the-art research laboratories and a spacecraft assembly and integration facility. It's also home to the [Star Theater](#), a 110-seat digital theater, classroom and planetarium, and gives its students the chance to operate the 21-meter Morehead State University Space Tracking Antenna and Radio Telescope.

"Our facility is very attractive to students, as is the fact that they are actually going to work on space-related projects," said Amanda Holbrook, Academic Departmental Specialist for Earth & Space Sciences.

One of the most notable contributions MSU Space Science students have made is the design, fabrication, testing and launch of a Cosmic X-ray Background Nanosatellite (CXBN). When it was launched on Sept. 13, 2012, it was the first launch, on-orbit deployment and operation of a satellite build in Kentucky.

Tyler Rose (12) was student lead engineer on the project and said it was the "coolest thing, hands-down" he was involved in. As a native of Carlisle, Ky., he can't help but be amazed that such an amazing and distinctive program was within driving distance.

"I was very blessed to have this so close to home because I was able to work in the space industry just an hour from my hometown," Rose said. "We're very lucky to have that in Kentucky."

Rose has used his education at MSU's Space Science program to continue his education at the University of Michigan, where he is working toward a master's in engineering in space engineering with career aspirations to work for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in California. Dr. Malphrus said other students have taken their four-year degree in space science to go immediately into the aerospace workforce among other available opportunities.

Thanks to MSU's Space Science program and what it offers students, the sky is certainly no longer the limit.

MSU's Creative Writing BFA offers aspiring writers a unique pathway to success

Created: 7/15/2013 10:30:00 AM

Created By: April Nutter



Everyone you know – and don't know – has a story. That being said, not everyone knows how to tell it by putting pen to paper or fingers to a keyboard.

For those students who aim to become published and professional writers, Morehead State University offers a way to earn a degree that mixes the study of literature with honing in on your skill and voice as a writer with its Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program.

Established at MSU in 2009, the BFA in Creative Writing program is one of 35 programs of its kind in the entire country and one of only two in the state of Kentucky.

Dr. Thomas Scott Williams, chair of MSU's [Department of English](#), said the program has a foundation in the study of both American and British literature but is countered with an equal amount of courses in various forms of creative writing. Students enrolled in the program will have the opportunity to work in poetry, non-fiction, fiction, screenplays and theatrical plays.

"It's a traditional route in the study of English but brings in creative writing instruction in a way that opens up possibilities for students to pursue a life of professional writing," Williams said.

Students in MSU's BFA in Creative Writing program will receive a mix of expert instruction as well as opportunities to obtain invaluable real-work experience. Its faculty members are all well-published writers like writer-in-residence Crystal Wilkinson, associate professors Chris Holbrook and George Eklund. Writing workshops let students to take a critical look at their work with their peers. Events like the MSU Reading Series and the Thomas and Lillie D. Chaffin Award allows for the interaction between students and visiting writers from across the U.S.

The program is also a great choice for those who wish to pursue careers in the world of publishing. Williams said that in addition to being ideal for aspiring writers and journalists, the BFA in Creative Writing program also provides a marketable skill set for would-be editors, publishers or content providers for web services.

One of the ways it does this is through allowing students to work on Inscape, MSU's art and literary magazine, and get their work published in the magazine.

The BFA in Creative Writing program at MSU is a rare kind of program in the Bluegrass State. It gives students a unique experience in college in the hopes that own creative voices can be experienced and appreciated on a broader scale.

"I think what it gives people is a variety of skills and it gives you a foundation of really important talents of being able to read well, speak well and write well," Williams said.

Learn more about MSU's Creative Writing program at www.moreheadstate.edu/creativewriting.

MSU makes enrolling in graduate school a more affordable possibility

Created: 7/23/2013 3:43:00 PM

Created By: April Nutter



In the increasingly competitive job market that college students enter after they graduate, they need something to help them stand out from the crowd. For many, this can be making the choice to continue their education through graduate school.

“A graduate degree is that little something extra that tells employers that this person is capable of leadership opportunities in the future,” said Dr. Michael C. Henson, associate vice president for research and dean of the graduate school at Morehead State University.

If you’re interested in pursuing a graduate-level education, MSU has taken major steps to make that an even more affordable option.

In June, the MSU Board of Regents and the Kentucky Council for Postsecondary Education approved a decrease in the tuition price for the University’s graduate school. Graduate students, regardless of residence, will pay a flat tuition rate and online courses will require no Internet fee.

“It’s not often you hear institutions say, hey, our tuition went down this year,” said Carlie Preece, graduate recruitment and retention coordinator at MSU. “That’s almost unheard of these days.”

This is especially good news for MSU’s out-of-state students, whose price per credit hour has been nearly cut in half from \$1000 per credit hour to \$535 per credit hour.

“I think for a student who takes courses on campus, but their permanent residence is out of state, I think this is a huge push for them to stay and go to grad school because it is so affordable,” Preece said.

Both Dr. Henson and Preece said the decision to reduce the tuition rate for MSU’s graduate school programs was a way to give the University a competitive recruitment advantage while offering more students the chance to find out many of the exceptional graduate programs MSU has to offer.

In various areas of study, such as communication, wellness promotion, adult and higher education, music performance and music education, MSU provides students the opportunity to complete a master’s degree in one year. More than 15 graduate degree, non-degree and certification programs are available to take and complete

online. These include highly distinguished programs like our [Master of Business Administration](#) and [Master of Arts in English](#) programs.

Julia Hawkins, director of [Career Services](#) at MSU, said graduate school is a smart option to pursue for those who would like to potentially advance in their current jobs and essential to being considered for jobs in education, psychology, social work and health.

“There are some fields where a graduate degree is mandatory,” Hawkins said. “That degree is going to give you an edge because you’re going to have the credentials going in.”

With a new pricing structure in place, students are in an even better position to continue their education and increase their opportunities down the road.

“Our graduate school is one of the best kept secrets in this part of the country,” Henson said. “When you’re very competitively priced, it gives them an opportunity to contribute to building graduate programs that are already quality programs. It’s just a way to give the best possible opportunity to the largest number of quality students.”

For more information on MSU’s Graduate School, call 800-585-6781 or 606-783-2039, email graduate@moreheadstate.edu or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/gradschool.

The application fee for graduate school will be waived, effective July 24 through Aug. 19 using the code GRAD2013.



MSU advising and tutoring lends a helping hand to every student

Created: 8/5/2013 1:52:00 PM

Created By: April Nutter



There are thousands of students who enroll in Morehead State University each year, but every individual has a unique journey on their way to earning their college degree.

For the challenges students may face in and out of the classroom, MSU's advising, tutoring and academic support services are there to keep students on track in order to achieve success.

MSU students will obviously want to make connections during their college experience, but Michelle Barber, director of academic advising and retention, said one of the first and most beneficial connections a student can make is with their academic adviser.

"Every student should have a very strong rapport with their academic adviser to navigate their degree program and assist in any challenges that will arise," she said.

Academic advisers are at a student's disposal throughout their time at MSU, but it's a resource that will be particularly beneficial to first-year students. Lora Pace, director of first year programs, said advisers help a student navigate their major sequence and/or general education requirements and assist them in figuring out the type of career they'd like to pursue with their major.

"Sometimes student self-advise and cost themselves additional classes, even additional semesters," Pace said. "An adviser can ask the right questions and direct them into something else that maybe they hadn't even thought about."

While academic advisers are people students can confide in regarding their overall college experience, resources like MSU's Tutoring and Learning Center can help them overcome the challenge of a difficult class.

MSU has tutors for virtually every discipline. Tutors meet with students once every five days per class at no cost and more intensive tutoring on a case-by-case basis is also available. Barber said tutoring numbers have tripled in the past three semesters, proving that many are choosing not to "suffer in silence" and use MSU tutoring to improve their understanding and performance in the classroom.

"It is normal for every single student in their educational career to feel overwhelmed in a class," Barber said. "What's happening is more word-of-mouth and students are realizing that, 'hey, I really need to go to this

tutoring experience before I have a problem.””

MSU Academic Support Services strives to put our students on the right path in their classes while retaining students when any personal, financial or medical issues outside of the classroom could affect their progress.

“I think we’ve seen that happen when someone was on the fence on whether they were going to stay or leave and talking to someone turned that around,” Pace said.

MSU’s advising and tutoring services are among the many resources available to students so they can overcome obstacles and reach their full potential in their pursuit of a higher education.

“Everyday, we’re looking at every process and trying to figure out how we can impact graduation rates, retention rates, but mostly impact a life,” Barber said.

For more information on MSU’s academic advising, contact the Office of Academic Advising and Retention at 606-783-2084, email aars@moreheadstate.edu or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/retention. For tutoring, call the Tutoring and Learning Center at 606-783-5105 or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/tutoring.

For the campus and community, MSU's Recreation and Wellness Center promotes an active and healthy lifestyle

Created: 8/19/2013 10:34:00 AM

Created By: April Nutter



At Morehead State University, students obviously devote plenty of time to taking care of their coursework. During the time away from studying, the University also has a facility that allows them to take care of themselves.

As a hub for health and fitness, MSU's Recreation and Wellness Center provides numerous opportunities for students to become more active physically and socially while enhancing their overall college experience.

When it opened in Aug. 2011, the Recreation and Wellness Center became an instant hit with MSU's students, faculty and staff. With an aquatic center, weight room, indoor running track, various types of cardio equipment and courts for basketball, volleyball and racquetball, the facility was intent in providing plenty of options for the active individual.

"I think the main benefit of the facility is we offer comprehensive fitness and wellness and recreation programs," said Yvette Kell, director of recreation and wellness at MSU. "We have everything under the sun."

The Recreation and Wellness Center has plenty for the active individual but its variety of free group fitness classes and personal training services for students provides a chance for someone at any fitness level to take steps towards making health and wellness a priority.

"That's what we do a lot with our group fitness and personal training. We want to take that intimidation factor away," said Stephanie Evans, fitness and special programs coordinator. "We want to create that comfortable environment."

MSU faculty and staff also are encouraged to utilize the facility through various programs. Throughout the year, the Recreation and Wellness Center organizes events like a Weight Loss Challenge, a Weight Maintenance Challenge during the holidays and the Live Well, Work Well program. This program allows employees to track their physical activity and other types of medical visits so they can receive a discount on their health insurance plan.

"The University does little things to encourage health in all aspects of life," Evans said.

MSU's students, faculty and staff have been able to use the Recreation and Wellness Center since it opened, but in Jan. 2012, the University allowed for access and memberships to the general public. Kell said the response from the community has been great.

The aquatic center has been a big draw with its sizeable swimming pool hosting regional high school swim meets and additional features like the vortex pool and zipline providing a unique and fun experience.

Students and community members are also taking advantage of some of the center's outdoor features. The challenge course allows for groups to sign up and develop leadership, communication and problem-solving skills. Plus, the new Outdoor Adventure area provides climbing and hiking equipment, skill workshops and organized outdoor trips that allows visitors to take advantage of the University's beautiful surroundings.

"We have so many things you can do outside," Evans said. "We're really able to utilize what we have out here in our own backyard."

The Recreation and Wellness Center at MSU is continuing to develop new ways to encourage the campus and community to get active and maintain a healthy lifestyle thanks to plenty of activities and a welcoming staff intent on promoting health and wellness for anyone who walks in the door.

"We have something for every ability and if somebody doesn't know what they like, we have a staff that is more than willing to walk through with them to find something that would work for them," Kell said.

"There's so many different aspects to health," Evans said. "I think it's just a place to find health and happiness."

For more information on the MSU Recreation and Wellness Center, call the Office of Recreation and Wellness at 606-783-2083 or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/wellness.

New MSU communication programs prepare students for careers in today's media

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Created By: April Nutter



The fact that you're reading this story on the Morehead State University website is just one example of how the world of modern media has moved well beyond the printed page. Content and information can now be delivered and accessed instantly across multiple platforms thanks to technology changing the ways we communicate.

With all of these new avenues for information to reach an audience, there are new career opportunities for communication students.

“The ways we can have conversations with others around the world is multiplying. So, the world needs more content experts, people who can produce information, tell stories, help others verbalize their positions,” said [Keith Terry](#), department chair for MSU's Department of Communication, Media & Leadership Studies. “It's not just knowing how to present the message but it's knowing what tools to use.”

With media's ever-changing landscape, MSU now offers two new communication programs: Convergent Media and Strategic Communication.

Convergent media combines traditional areas of journalism and audio/video production with cutting-edge digital technology. With mainstays like journalistic writing and production, the program gives students a mix of traditional coursework and hands-on experience in the professional world of digital media.

Students with a degree in convergent media can pursue career options like multimedia news reporter, producer, director or editor for newspapers, radio, TV and the Web, graphic design, on-air talent or social media design.

Terry said the Convergent Media program allows for students to be both knowledgeable and proficient in various aspects of multimedia.

“That's what people are being asked to do now,” he said. “You've got to know how to use all the tools in the tool kit, not just a couple of them.”

MSU's Strategic Communication program is uniquely created for the purpose of teaching students how to develop effective communication and media strategies by emphasizing critical thinking, effective writing,

persuasion and message creation. Focuses like crisis communication, ethics, conflict management and team building among others are designed to help cultivate relationships with an increasingly global audience and stakeholders in corporate, agency, governmental and media settings.

“It’s a communication program for people who are going to be managers and leaders after they graduate,” Terry said.

Career options with this degree are numerous and have the potential to allow graduates to eventually occupy influential positions, whether a student wants to pursue a future in public relations, event planning, social media or political and health communications. Terry said the degree program has piqued an interest in many students who see its potential to aid in their success.

“I’m surprised at the number of freshmen last year who chose this as a major,” he said. “There are a fair number of people who have seen the relevance in it.”

With MSU’s Convergent Media and Strategic Communication programs, the University is intent on evolving its communication programs with the times to allow its students the optimal chance for a promising career in today’s media marketplace.

“These two new programs developed by our faculty will empower our students as engaged citizens of the Commonwealth and provide them with the knowledge, skills and dispositions to be highly successful in the global 21st century workplace,” said Dr. M. Scott McBride, dean of the Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Kentucky’s Council on Postsecondary Education approved the new academic programs in February 2014.

For more information about the Department of Communication, Media & Leadership Studies, call 606-783-2134 or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/cmls.

- Video feature: [Convergent Media](#)
- Video feature: [Strategic Communication](#)

New Student Days eases first-time Eagles into college life

Created: 8/13/2013 3:05:00 PM

Created By: April Nutter



There's a lot of excitement that comes with beginning your college life. However, this excitement may come with a bit of uncertainty and more than a few questions.

Morehead State knows this all too well and with its New Student Days, MSU is going to make students' first college experience that much easier.

First time, full-time MSU students will attend New Student Days Thursday, Aug. 15, through Saturday, Aug. 18. The weekend will be full of activities, including scheduled guest speakers that are both informative and entertaining, prize giveaways and other events to give students a sampling of what to expect at MSU.

"School is not where they're at that weekend. They're not thinking about their next test," said Lora Pace, director of first year programs. "We're not just throwing them right into classes. We feel like the programs have information in them that's really helpful for students to get them started."

In addition to activities like the Picnic with the President at Laughlin Lawn, our annual ice cream social and a featured hypnotist, this year's keynote speaker will once again be Curtis Zimmerman, who has proven very popular at previous New Student Days appearances.

"He has a very dramatic, serious, moving and touching story to tell. At the same time, he's very funny," Pace said. "We call it 'edu-tainment.'"

During Zimmerman's presentation, don't be surprised if a few people leave with a new skill.

"He gets a set of juggling balls and you learn to juggle," Pace said. "What he's showing with that is you can overcome. If you take it a step at a time, you can do a lot of things."

The fun events scheduled throughout the weekend are only part of what New Student Days hopes to accomplish. There is a financial literacy program to guide students through money management and answer any questions regarding their financial aid. Pace said other issues addressed throughout the weekend include campus safety and sexual assault. Also, new students will learn about various student programs, groups and activities they can experience outside the classroom.

New students will also get a chance to “Experience Morehead” with a block party with booths by local businesses and services.

“All retention studies show that you’re more likely to stay in school if you’re involved with something,” Pace said. “We’ll push that heavily over the weekend.”

By the time students leave New Student Days, they will be excited, informed and ready to embark on their college career at MSU.

“We just want them acclimated to campus and to get them ready for classes,” Pace said. “That’s really the goal of the weekend.”

For more information on New Student Days, including a full schedule of activities, contact Lora Pace at 606-783-2517 or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/newstudentdays.

MSU's 21st Century Education Enterprise aims for positive change in region's schools

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Created By: April Nutter



Many aspects of the world we live in are constantly evolving and changing. Because of this, it is imperative for P-12 schools to have the resources they need and for teachers to have the skills required to confidently prepare students to further their education and send them out into society primed to attain success.

The combination of addressing the needs for professional development and resources for educators in Morehead State University's service region is what eventually gave birth to the University's 21st Century Education Enterprise.

The 21st Century Education Enterprise, a Kentucky Partnership Academy, is a not-for-profit organization within the College of Education created to promote community partnerships by bringing educational leadership, professional development and technological innovations to Kentucky schools.

Originally proposed by Dr. Cathy Gunn, former dean of the MSU College of Education, it initially was a professional development center that identified professional development needs and gave MSU faculty the opportunity to connect with P-12 schools and address specific issues. It later took on the task of writing grant proposals to provide resources to support teachers to help address a school district's unique circumstances.

"We don't have anything that's a boxed set," said Krista Barton, director of the 21st Century Education Enterprise. "It's all individualized."

Barton said in addition to MSU faculty, those involved in the Enterprise include professional development associates, experts on specific grants, outside consultants and retired teachers, but that almost everyone with the Enterprise has one thing in common.

"All of us are former classroom teachers ourselves, so we know what it's like to be in the classroom. We know the resources we didn't have and we know the professional development we didn't have," Barton said. "The only PD (professional development) we want teachers to sit through is the kind that I would want to sit through."

Some of the Enterprise's most notable accomplishments since its inception involve introducing new technologies into Eastern Kentucky classrooms.

The Space Movie Project, a collaboration with Dataseam and the MSU Space Science Center, used desktop movie-making and state-of-the-art space research tools to give middle school and high school students the opportunity to work with science education professors, space science engineers and educational technology specialists to create documentaries on space science topics. The Enterprise's iPad 1:1 Initiative provided Mason County High School with ongoing, embedded professional development on how to integrate the technology into their curriculum.

Barton said the Enterprise's many initiatives, workshops and grants have shown the effectiveness of what it has to offer educators and students and it is reflected in their enthusiasm.

"We have teachers that tell us, anything that the Enterprise does, I'm going to sign up for it," Barton said. "They come back for every single thing that we do because it's going to make a difference in their teaching."

The 21st Century Education Enterprise has changed drastically over the years, and Barton only sees its impact having a further reach in the future.

"We could grow and reach even more teachers. We have teachers contacting us from outside our service region. We go outside of our service region because the need is there," Barton said. "We have something that's really working, so the sky's kind of the limit for us."

For more information on the 21st Century Education Enterprise, call 606-783-2859, email k.lynam@moreheadstate.edu or visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/education enterprise](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/education_enterprise).

MSU's distinguished online MBA program continues to merge access with quality

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Created By: April Nutter



More and more, students are opting to log in to their computers instead of walking to class as online courses become more prevalent in higher education. In this regard, Morehead State University and its Master's in Business Administration (MBA) program has always been ahead of the curve.

“We were one of the first accredited online programs in the country,” said Keith Moore, assistant to the dean and MBA program director at MSU.

MSU's MBA program started to move online in 1995. In 2001, the University became the first institution in the state to offer a degree program completely online.

The program has evolved over the years due to advances in technology, but what hasn't changed is its quality. Its accreditation with the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International represents the highest standard for business schools worldwide. Moore said the advantages students can get from earning an MBA degree can be invaluable to their future career.

“It's still the leader in graduate business education,” Moore said. “If you're looking for advancement potential in your education, the MBA will be the one degree to get.”

The MBA online program at MSU requires students to complete 24 core (required) hours and six hours of free electives and is open to anyone with a bachelor's degree. Electives are offered in areas of accounting, finance, computer information systems, human resource management, general management and marketing. There is also a specialty track in health systems management that's become increasingly popular.

“Health care is a major employer in our region and it gives those students the ability to study at a graduate level a little more in-depth in the health care field,” Moore said.

A student taking a full course load in the program can complete the program in approximately one year, but Moore said over 95 percent of the students in the MBA program are professionals completing the program while working full-time thanks to the program's access and flexibility.

“It gives a way for working professionals to complete their education while keeping their job,” Moore said.

“They’ve already set a career path and they’re looking to grow within their current profession.”

Morehead State’s MBA online program provides a high quality education that’s easily accessible and, thanks to MSU’s new graduate tuition rates, even more affordable. Moore said in the coming years, the program is only going to get better.

“There are a lot more tools out there available for faculty today that just enrich the experience of teaching online,” Moore said. “This really will meet the needs of students in our service region.”

For more information on the MBA program, call 606-783-2183 or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/mba.

MSU Career Services helps students prepare to succeed in the job market

Created: 9/10/2013 3:13:00 PM

Created By: April Nutter



It goes without saying that a person attending college is doing so with their sights set on a brighter future. While a student may focus on excelling in academics, getting the grades and earning your degree is only part of the equation when it comes to solidifying your success in the job market after you graduate.

Whether you are a first-year student, an upcoming graduate or an Eagle alum, Morehead State's Career Services has a multitude of ways to assist students and give them the best chance to succeed in their potential career.

Megan Boone, career counselor/employer liaison with MSU's Career Services, said the office's intent is to give all MSU students the help they need when it comes to choosing and pursuing a job.

"We assist with the entire career development process, from deciding on a major to pursuing internships to marketing yourself to employers or graduate programs when you finish your degree," Boone said.

While Boone said students should establish a solid relationship with their academic adviser early on to for help with their class selection, Career Services' career counselors can guide students through determining a major while offering personality and interest inventories to help them establish an ideal starting point so they'll stay engaged throughout their academic career.

"That's the piece that people don't realize. Retention is higher if they know what their major is going to be," she said.

Career Services offers cover letter and resume critiques, mock interviews and will help you develop better networking abilities and other skills to make you more marketable, whether it's proper dining etiquette or learning how to manage your social media presence.

Students can utilize Career Services throughout the academic year and MSU alumni can take advantages of the office's offerings after they graduate. It helps individuals apply for internships, co-ops, clinicals, practicums and other opportunities to obtain real world experience to accompany their college degree.

"Right now, we're really trying to push getting experience while you're a student, and that's something they need to think about their freshman, sophomore and junior years," Boone said.

When it comes to linking students and MSU alumni up with potential employers or graduate programs, Career Services does this most successfully through their MSU Career Fairs. These take place twice a year (one during fall semester, one during spring semester) and attract businesses, companies and graduate programs from across Kentucky as well as neighboring states like Ohio, Indiana, Tennessee and West Virginia.

MSU Career Fairs are important for any student in any major to attend to help them evaluate their options and meet fellow MSU alumni who have gone on to achieve success in their field. It also helps them to make a face-to-face connection. Regardless of the multitude of ways technology allows students to communicate, Boone said these kinds of meetings leave a more lasting impression.

"I think the employers and graduate programs find it difficult to evaluate a candidate based on a resume or an online application," she said. "Networking and meeting people is important. It's still important."

In order to stand out in a competitive market, Boone said today's students should utilize MSU's Career Services early and often to prepare them for the professional world.

"If they start thinking about their future earlier, they are going to be more successful. We can help them throughout that process," she said.

MSU Career Services will hold its next **Career Fair** from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Tuesday, Oct. 7**, at the Adron Doran University Center's Crager Room. The event is open to the community as well as MSU students and alumni. Attendees are recommended to research participating organizations, dress professionally and bring copies of their resume.

For more information on MSU's Career Services, call 606-783-2233, email careerservices@moreheadstate.edu or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/career.

MSU's arts administration program offers unique and beneficial skill set to students

Created: 9/25/2013 10:15:00 AM

Created By: April Nutter



Morehead State's visual and performing arts students are excited and passionate to learn the depth and boundaries of their preferred medium or area of study while finding their creative voices. Now, the MSU Department of Art & Design is offering an arts administration minor, a unique program these students can complete to add a new dimension to their education while expanding their opportunities after they graduate.

The arts administration program was established in 2012 and holds the distinction of being the only interdisciplinary arts administration minor in the state of Kentucky.

Jennifer Reis, coordinator of the arts administration minor, said the program is 24 total credit hours and can be completed in as little as two years. It was designed to give students in the arts and other disciplines a way to learn more of the management side of the art world.

"The whole point of developing the minor was having students, particularly those in the performing and visual arts, to be able to pick up a skill set and hit the ground running and make it at an arts organization," Reis said.

In the process of completing the arts administration minor program, students will get the chance to complete classes that focus on event planning, arts programming, grant writing and fundraising, and non-profit leadership. Outside of the classroom, they will be able to obtain work experience in their chosen field with the choice of work practicums in arts organizations all over the state. These may include campus and regional organizations like The Little Company at MSU or the Rowan County Arts Center or organizations in larger markets like the Lexington Children's Theatre.

"We wanted to give the students a number of opportunities to work in the field," Reis said. "They get real life experience. They also get an opportunity to foster professional relationships as they move on into the working world."

Reis said the arts administration minor is not restricted to MSU visual and performing arts students. She said it would be ideal for history majors who would like to work in a historical society or history museum and that it could also be extremely beneficial for business students.

"It was created to be a real across-campus program," Reis said. "We wanted it to be as accessible and engaging

to as many students as possible.”

For more information about the arts administration minor program at MSU, call the Department of Art & Design at 606-783-5048 or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/arts_admin.

MSU student research mixes mentorship with real-world experience

Created: 9/25/2013 10:32:00 AM

Created By: April Nutter



Morehead State offers numerous opportunities and resources for students to obtain invaluable real-world experience outside the classroom. However, if a student would like to receive work experience while gaining a greater knowledge in their field of study and a unique mentoring opportunity from distinguished MSU faculty, they may want to seriously consider taking part in student research.

“Many students participate in research because they know it will significantly enhance their educational experience,” said Dr. Michael Henson, associate vice president for research and dean of the graduate school. “I think Morehead State has realized early on that in respect to producing quality graduates who have the ability to be critical thinkers and having success in the workplace, having experience in research is critical.”

MSU prides itself on promoting the academic and intellectual culture of the campus through the support of student and faculty research. While some may think “research” has a primarily scientific connotation, Henson emphasizes that there are research opportunities across every discipline and area of study.

While any student can gain research experience, a select group can earn research experience through MSU’s Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program, which, through institutional funds and external grant funding, provides talented undergraduate students the opportunity to work as a junior colleague with a faculty scholar/mentor on a research project. Students may work up to 15 hours per week during the academic year with the ability to renew their fellowship up to four years with satisfactory progress.

Jessica Farrell, an MSU sophomore currently double majoring in history and math, first participated in the Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program as a biology major. With biology professor Dr. Matthew Ellison as her mentor, they studied the effects of zinc on strains of bacteria related to cystic fibrosis. Now, she is doing history research on the local food movement and people’s responsibility to their surroundings.

“I think it really helped me to get an idea of what graduate school would be like. Plus, it’s a good way to get connected to your professors,” Farrell said. “I think it’s just a really cool program and I’ll probably end up doing more as I go through school.”

With MSU’s various student research opportunities, they are also given a way to present the results of their efforts during the annual Celebration of Student Scholarship, which allows a showcase for the outstanding scholarly work of these students to the greater campus community. It’s a day-long event of presentations,

exhibitions and performances by students from all MSU colleges.

“This gives them an opportunity to present their presentations in an environment that’s nurturing,” Henson said. “This a wonderful opportunity for mentoring and our faculty readily embraces that opportunity.”

For MSU students, there are countless benefits from participating in student research and the results of their hard work go well beyond just having experience to put on your resume.

“Research participation outside the traditional classroom setting leads to increased student retention and teaches skills not covered in their regular curriculum,” Henson said. “Student research is a win-win-win situation for the University, for students and for those students’ future employers.”

The annual Celebration of Student Scholarship will be held on April 23. For more information on MSU student research, call 606-783-2010 or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/research.

Biomedical programs at MSU prepare science students for graduate school

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Created By: April Nutter



Morehead State University has long been a destination for students looking for a high quality undergraduate education that prepares them for continuing their schooling at the graduate level. Taking this into account, the Department of Biology and Chemistry has developed two new programs that will make that transition to graduate school even smoother.

MSU now offers bachelor's degrees in the fields of biomedical sciences and biomedical chemistry. Dr. Geoff Gearer, MSU professor of biology and interim department chair for the Department of Biology and Chemistry, said that both programs were created with the health field in mind.

“Our goal, from whatever program they pursue, is we do a good job preparing students for success in the professional curriculum,” he said.

The biomedical sciences and biomedical chemistry programs are advantageous to students in several ways.

MSU has partnered with numerous professional schools across the state so they can take dual-credit courses that will count towards their bachelor's degree at MSU and their graduate education.

Both programs are geared more toward students interested in life sciences, with curriculum maps for fields like pre-chiropractic, pre-dentistry, pre-medicine, pre-pharmacy, pre-optometry, pre-physical therapy and pre-physician assistant among others.

Gearer said both programs also allow more flexibility, with fewer core requirements and a broader choice of electives in various aspects of biology.

“A student could put together a set of electives that can be more focused on their particular interest,” Gearer said.

Courses like human anatomy and physiology also include laboratory components, giving students the chance to get more hands-on experience.

Since both programs were implemented in Fall 2013, Gearer said enrollment in each program has increased

significantly. With MSU's biomedical sciences and biomedical chemistry programs, the University is aiming to not only increase students' preparedness for graduate school but also to serve a regional need.

"It's just an effort to fulfill a need that a lot of people recognize," Gearer said. "All of this is an effort to get the right sort of expertise to improve the health of our population."

For more information on MSU's biomedical sciences and biomedical chemistry programs, call the Department of Biology and Chemistry at 606-783-2945 or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/biochem.

Applied Engineering and Technology offers promising career options

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Created By: April Nutter

photo: Students working with electronic equipment

Many students in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) are interested in hands-on experience working with cutting-edge technology. Then again, like practically every student, they are also concerned with simply getting a job after graduation.

With Morehead State University's Department of Applied Engineering and Technology (AET), students will get the opportunity to gain valuable experience in an exciting field that will also give graduates several promising career options.

The primary purpose of the programs in Applied Engineering and Technology is to prepare advanced engineering, technology and engineering management graduates to go on to obtain jobs that will have a positive economic impact within the region.

Dr. Ahmad Zargari, department chair and professor of applied engineering and technology, said the programs in the department have numerous benefits.

The engineering technology programs are not only accredited by the Association of Technology, Management and Applied Engineering (ATMAE), but the department's advisory board is composed of managers in engineering technology companies from cities like Louisville, Cincinnati and Dayton, who meet once a semester to review the program's curriculum to make sure it's keeping pace with today's market.

"They tell us what it is we need to change so they will hire our graduates," Zargari said. "The employers actually come to campus and have a say in our curriculum."

In addition to working in state-of-the-art laboratories with distinguished faculty who are experts in their field, the job opportunities available upon graduation to AET students is another appealing aspect of the program. More than 80 percent of recent AET graduates have full-time employment in their field of study, with more than 70 percent receiving those jobs immediately following graduation.

"The job market is in dire need of graduates of applied engineering programs," Zargari said. "All of the engineering-related programs can prepare students for jobs that are high pay, high-tech and available."

AET students can earn associate, baccalaureate and graduate degrees in a variety of areas of study. Programs include engineering management, industrial education or a program like engineering technology, which allows for an emphasis in either construction management and civil engineering technology, design and manufacturing engineering technology or electronics and computer engineering technology.

One of AET's newest degree offerings is a Bachelor of Science in Technology Management (BSTM). This completer program can be earned totally online and specifically targets Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) associate degree graduates and other graduates from in-state and out-of-state community and technical colleges with a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) background.

"This is a unique program in the state that allows graduates of KCTCS to complete a technical degree program online," Zargari said.

As the AET program looks to the future, it's become abundantly clear that an emphasis needs to be placed on sustainability. Dr. Hans Chapman, assistant professor in MSU's Department of Applied Engineering and Technology, said the University has made significant strides in that regard in recent years. Both lecture courses and labs have been developed with a sustainability focus and several recent senior capstone projects have involved the design or redesign of University facilities in ways to improve water conservation, reduce carbon emissions and utilize alternative energy sources.

"Every system in engineering and technology needs to be sustainable. The paradigm is shifting there. We need to catch up," Chapman said. "We're doing our part to make sure our students are going to be ready."

For more information on the Department of Applied Engineering and Technology, call 606-783-2418 or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/aet.

An Eagle runs the Big Apple at this year's New York City Marathon

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Sometimes, your friends can put you up to doing some pretty crazy things.

For Morehead State junior Trey Swartz, he was put up to doing something big – 26.2 miles big.

Thanks to the insistence of one of his friends, Swartz was going to run a marathon, and not just any marathon: the 2013 ING New York City Marathon.

While Swartz's body had never endured the physical stress of a marathon before, he was very active leading up to becoming a student at MSU. The Jeffersonville, Ky., native played soccer in middle school before he became interested in running. He ran cross-country in high school and also ran in his spare time for his own enjoyment.

“Running is a lot of things. It's a big stress reliever and gives you a sense of accomplishment when you're done,” Swartz said. “It's all on you, and there's a lot of stress to that, but it's also rewarding.”

Swartz remained an avid runner when he came to MSU to major in biomedical science with his career goals set on physical therapy. He joined MSU's chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon, where he recently became president-elect. At Sig Ep, he found out one of his fraternity brothers ran the NYC marathon two years ago and went ahead and signed Swartz up for the prestigious race.

Leading up to the marathon, Swartz's training months prior was a learning experience. He initially pushed himself too hard by running too many 13 milers and he found himself starving constantly due to all the calories he burned, but he eventually found a plan that worked for him.

“I really didn't have an official trainer or anything,” he said. “I just tried to do it logically.”

Besides running for his own sense of accomplishment, Swartz was running for charity. He was raising money for the New Heights foundation, a charity that works to educate and encourage inner-city youth to be leaders. He pledged to raise \$2,500 for the charity and was able to reach his goal just prior to departing to New York City for the race, which took place Nov. 3.

Swartz, along with his roommate and MSU senior Dalcus Sparks, arrived in New York Friday evening and managed to get in a bit of sight seeing Saturday before the Sunday race. The NYC marathon is essentially a tour

of the city's five boroughs, starting in Staten Island, hitting Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx before ending at Central Park in downtown Manhattan.

"It was pretty much a 26-mile parade, because people are just lined up on the side of the street cheering the whole way," Swartz recalls. "There was never a dull moment where something wasn't happening on the sidelines."

As Swartz raced with a crowd of approximately 45,000 marathon participants, he was having a strong race before he rolled his ankle at mile 15 in Queens. He was forced to visit a medical tent to attend to his injury, and after they wrapped it up, he was determined to keep going.

"I was like, I came all this way. I'm going to finish," he said. "It was a little setback, but I made it."

Swartz finished in a time of 4:45, but his time was an afterthought after realizing he just completed one of the most popular marathons in the world. Now that he's had time to recover and fully absorb the experience, he sees himself going that distance a few more times.

"I was kind of thrown into this one," he said. "Who knows? I may have never ran it before, but now, I know for sure I want to do another one."

Chemical Dependency Counseling minor fills need in MSU service region

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There are many potential opportunities for students in Morehead State's Department of Sociology, Social Work and Criminology. Now, MSU is filling a need in the region to help combat substance abuse through its chemical dependency counseling minor program.

Courses in chemical dependency counseling were originally offered on a graduate level in Fall 2008. Sam Faulkner, professor of social work at MSU, said that eventually expanded due to students becoming interested with the program.

"People kept asking us, is there any way we could take this as an undergraduate student?" Faulkner said. "Basically, nobody in the state has done that."

That changed in Fall 2012, when MSU began offering its chemical dependency counseling minor program to undergraduate students, becoming the first program of its kind in the state of Kentucky.

While the chemical dependency counseling minor program is meant to compliment degrees in social work, nursing, sociology, criminology and psychology, Faulkner said the minor is open to any MSU student. The minor consists of five courses (including a practicum) and two electives. The demand for the minor has increased significantly since it was implemented, requiring the courses to be offered to students in both fall and spring semesters.

Faulkner said this minor is doing more than providing students with a unique opportunity to learn more about substance abuse counseling. He also thinks it will eventually be MSU's way to contribute to fighting substance abuse in Eastern Kentucky and across the state.

"We believe that this minor is good preparation for anyone in human services to recognize substance abuse, to recognize the theories for why that occurs and have the skills to help people," he said. "Substance abuse is rampant and we're trying to make an impact as part of our service to the region."

For more information on MSU's chemical dependency counseling minor program, call 606-783-9382 or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/chemicaldependency.

