



Communications & Marketing
200 Earle Clements Ln. | Alumni Tower East
Morehead, KY 40351
P: 606-783-9328 | F: 606-783-5056
www.moreheadstate.edu

NEWS RELEASE

June 1, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU student and faculty members receive KPSA awards

Morehead State University hosted the Kentucky Political Science Association (KPSA) annual conference this past spring and three members of MSU's campus community received KPSA honors.

Olivia Dale, a freshman government major from Paintsville, won the distinguished Abdul H. Rifai Award, which is awarded for an outstanding undergraduate research paper. Dr. David Little, assistant professor of government, won the prestigious David Hughes Memorial Award for an outstanding research paper presented at the previous conference.

The KPSA also conferred an honor on Dr. Michael Hail, professor of government and political science and coordinator of government and political science programs in the Department of History, Philosophy, Global Studies and Legal Studies at MSU. The KPSA's annual Graduate Student Outstanding Research Paper Award will be named after Hail in recognition of his career working with graduate programs and research. He also served a second time as KPSA President in 2020 for this year's 59th annual meeting.

At the KPSA conference this year at MSU, over 100 registered attendees from seven states attended, with most faculty and students coming from Kentucky colleges and universities. The KPSA continues the tradition of excellent scholarship, collegiality, dialogue and thoughtful deliberation about government and politics. Government faculty from across the state select the winners of these awards and recipients are invited for publication in the Commonwealth Review of Political Science.

For more information on KPSA and next year's conference, visit kpsa.us.

To learn more about the political science program in MSU's Department of History, Philosophy, Global Studies and Legal Studies, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/study/politicalscience, email hpil@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2655.

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NEWS RELEASE

June 2, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Computer science faculty member to publish two papers

Dr. Heba Elgazzar, assistant professor of computer science at Morehead State University, will have two articles published in an upcoming book series and will present those papers at the 2020 World Congress in Computer Science, Computer Engineering and Applied Computing (CSCE Congress).

"Activity Recognition for Elderly using Machine Learning Algorithms," will be presented at the 22nd International Conference on Artificial Intelligence (ICAI'20) and focuses on designing and applying machine learning methods to analyze publicly available datasets collected by wearable sensors used by elderly people to identify different activities such as sitting and walking. This can help in providing the medical services required for the elderly based on the detected activity using a small number of collected features from sensors.

"Content-Based Image Retrieval Using Deep Learning," is co-authored by MSU graduate Tristan Jordan from Olive Hill (20) who worked with Elgazzar through the MSU Undergraduate Research Fellowship program. The paper will be presented at the 19th International Conference on Information and Knowledge Engineering (IKE'20). It explores the problems of content-based image retrieval (CBIR) and analysis with a focus on the design and implementation of deep learning and image processing algorithms. CBIR is used in medicine and in facial recognition technology.

Both papers will be published by Springer Nature in the research book series, "Transactions on Computational Science and Computational Intelligence." The books will be disseminated to more than 1,000 libraries across the globe. Each paper was peer-reviewed by experts in the field for originality, significance, clarity, impact and soundness.

"I highly appreciate the encouragement and the support for my research activities from the College of Business and Technology dean, the associate dean of the School of Engineering and Computer Science, and the MSU Office of Research and Sponsored Programs," Elgazzar said, adding she enjoyed working with Jordan on the CBIR project. "Tristan graduated this spring and I am very proud of him."

To learn more about programs in MSU's School of Engineering and Computer Science, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/secs, email seis@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-2418](tel:606-783-2418).

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NEWS RELEASE

June 9, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU Prestonsburg extends application deadline for social work program

Morehead State University at Prestonsburg has extended the application deadline for the upcoming fall 2020 semester to apply for the Bachelor of Social Work program.

Social work is a profession for those who find fulfillment and reward in making a difference in individuals' everyday lives. MSU's Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), a national professional social work education standard-setting body.

The curriculum is delivered through a mix of face-to-face and online courses. The Prestonsburg campus offers classes one day a week to allow students to maintain their work or family commitments. Students will gain hands-on experience through practicum placements in various agencies throughout the state. The program also offers numerous opportunities to network with career professionals and gain experiences through involvement in organizations like the Student Association of Social Workers.

All requirements for the degree are available on the MSU at Prestonsburg campus. Applications are currently being accepted and processed virtually for both convenience and applicants' safety.

"Our BSW program is more than just an educational program. We are a family. The faculty and staff at MSU do everything we can to support our students and their career goals," said Deirdra Robinson, MSU-Prestonsburg social work program facilitator.

For additional information on the social work program, contact Robinson at 606-783-9226, email d.robinson@moreheadstate.edu or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/study/socialwork.

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NEWS RELEASE

June 16, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Board of Regents to meet June 18

Morehead State University's Board of Regents will hold its regular quarterly meeting Thursday, June 18, at 9 a.m. in room 329 of the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC).

During the meeting, the board will elect officers and conduct its annual evaluation and review of MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan. The board will also hear an update on the University operating plan for the remainder of the summer and the fall semester from Morgan.

The board will vote on the amended operating budget for the current fiscal year as well as the 2020-21 operating budget, fee schedule and personnel roster.

In other action, the board will vote to:

- Adopt a resolution of commendation for 2019-20 MSU Student Government Association President Colby Birkes.
- Ratify 2020 graduates.
- Hear reports on personal service contracts, facilities and the Campus Master Plan from Kim Oatman, assistant vice president of facilities and operations.
- Approve the Faculty Senate Constitution.
- Approve the 2020-21 board meeting schedule.

The board will also enter a closed executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss matters relating to proposed or pending litigation. No action will be taken during the closed executive session.

All guests at the meeting are encouraged to wear masks. If they do not have a mask, one will be provided.

For more information, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/bor.

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NEWS RELEASE

June 16, 2020
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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Student team named finalist in NASA competition; presentation live online June 17

A team of students and faculty from Morehead State has been named as a finalist in a NASA competition and will present their project live online.

The Revolutionary Aerospace Systems Concepts-Academic Linkage (RASC-AL) competitions fuel innovation for aerospace systems concepts, analogs and technology prototyping by bridging gaps through university engagement. RASC-AL is open to undergraduate and graduate university-level students studying fields with applications to human space exploration including aerospace, bio-medical, electrical and mechanical engineering, life, physical, and computer sciences.

MSU's project, SELENE, is named for the Greek Goddess of the moon. It seeks to learn more about the discovery of water on the lunar surface following the intentional crashing of NASA's LCROSS Satellite into the moon's south pole. The project's goal is to aid NASA in its plan to use the moon as a steppingstone to travel to Mars. Just as last year, MSU's team partnered with a group of students and faculty from UT Delft, an engineering school based in The Netherlands.

Only five teams were chosen for the final round of the competition. The MSU team presents their project online Wednesday, June 17, at 10 a.m., during the 2020 RASC-AL Forum. This year's themes asked students to develop new concepts that leverage innovations to improve NASA's ability to operate in space and on distant planetary bodies. The team's presentation can be viewed live online at <https://livestream.com/viewnow/rascal-forum>.

NASA will announce the winner on Friday, June 19. In addition to their presentation, each team created a digital poster summarizing their concept and can be viewed at www.rascal.nianet.org/virtual-poster-session.

Students on the team are:

- Orlando Carronero from Ceiba, Puerto Rico
- Mercedes Maupin from Flatwoods
- Tithi Patel from Dahod, India
- Noah Patrick from Frenchburg
- Kaitlynn Willison from Georgetown

"To be selected as finalists for this competitive NASA competition is a tremendous honor for our engineering program. The selection highlights the talent and ingenuity of students in our Space Systems Engineering

program. As engineers, they will need to work with international partners to devise novel solutions to 21st-century problems," said Shanil Virani, instructor of space science and director of MSU's Star Theater. "Our students are not only creative and talented. They are learning the important skills of how to work collaboratively with diverse people from around the world. It has been delightful to see how our engineers have stepped up to meet this challenge."

For information about programs in space systems engineering at MSU, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/study/spacesystemsengineering, email phes@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2381.

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NEWS RELEASE

June 17, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Spradlin named recipient of Thomas Raymond Curtis Scholarship

Connor Spradlin of Flat Gap, son of Angela and Shawn Spradlin, has been named as the recipient of this year's Thomas Raymond Curtis Memorial Scholarship.

"I am sincerely grateful to be named the recipient of the Thomas Raymond Curtis Scholarship this year," Spradlin said. "I was thrilled and honored when I learned of my selection. This opportunity means so much to me and my family."

Each year, at least one Curtis Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior from Johnson Central High School. These scholars are awarded \$10,000 annually to be applied to their studies at MSU.

This scholarship support is possible because of the generosity of Thomas Raymond Curtis. In 1997, Curtis, an unassuming teacher of 30 years from Flat Gap, chose to leave a lasting legacy for the education of Johnson County students. When he passed away, he left \$1.3 million to fund the Thomas Raymond Curtis Memorial Scholarship, the most substantial planned gift in the MSU Foundation's history.

Financial need, academic accomplishment and passion for teaching embody the spirit of this scholarship. Students from Johnson Central High School who plan to further their education at MSU are eligible for the award. Preference is given to students from Flat Gap who plan to pursue a degree in education. The scholarship is renewable for three years if academic eligibility requirements are maintained.

Students interested in applying for this scholarship, along with other privately funded scholarships managed by the MSU Foundation, should visit the online scholarship application at moreheadstate.awardspring.com.

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

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NEWS RELEASE

June 18, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Board of Regents elects officers

Morehead State University's Board of Regents held its regular quarterly meeting Thursday, June 18, at 9 a.m. in room 329 of the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC).

The Board of Regents elected Kathy Walker as chair and Eric Howard as vice chair. Mary Fister-Tucker was appointed as treasurer, and Jacqueline Graves was appointed secretary. Officers of the board are elected to a one-year term.

The board heard an update on the University operating plan for the remainder of the summer and the fall semester; approved an amended operating budget for the current fiscal year; and approved the 2020-21 operating budget, fee schedule and personnel roster. They also conducted their annual evaluation and review of MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan.

In other action, the board adopted a resolution of commendation for 2019-20 MSU Student Government Association President Colby Birkes, approved the Faculty Senate Constitution, ratified the 2020 graduates, and approved the 2020-21 board meeting schedule. Kim Oatman, assistant vice president of facilities and operations, also presented reports on personal service contracts, facilities and the Campus Master Plan.

The board entered a closed executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss matters relating to proposed or pending litigation. No action was taken during the closed executive session.

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NEWS RELEASE

June 23, 2020

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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Social Work graduates join essential frontline work in Kentucky child welfare

Several graduates of Morehead State's Social Work program have joined the workforce providing vital services for the Kentucky children and have earned a valuable certification.

The Public Child Welfare Certification Program (PCWCP) was implemented by the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services and undergraduate social work programs to better serve the children and families in Kentucky. The goal of the program is to fill the ranks of child welfare workers with the most competent and well-trained workers. They can provide high-quality services immediately following graduation. Students in the program receive full-tuition scholarships and stipends during the pursuit of their Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree. They also complete 500 hours of service learning and other training in the field of child welfare.

Immediately upon graduation they are employed a minimum of two years with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services in the field of child welfare. Many previous graduates have gone on to devote their careers to child welfare and are now in leadership roles.

"The education, training and hands-on experience that I received from the Public Child Welfare Certification Program was invaluable when I started my career with Child Protection over 19 years ago," said MSU alumna Anastasia Fannin (02), who now serves as a service region administrator associate with the Kentucky Department for Community Based Services.

"I am impressed with the dedication these graduates put into going above and beyond an already rigorous academic program to prepare for the complex and evolving field of child welfare, and their heartfelt commitment to make a difference in the lives of families and children in the Commonwealth of Kentucky," said Dr. Lynn Geurin, associate professor of social work and PCWCP coordinator.

PCWCP graduates from Morehead State for 2019-20 are:

- Adrianna Blackburn, Prestonsburg
- Chandra Burnett, Georgetown
- Allison Colegrove, Ashland
- Amanda Craft, Salyersville
- Lori Ann Dobson, Shepherdsville

- Breonna Hocker, Lancaster
- Brittany Justice, Prestonsburg
- Alexis Rigsby, Ashland

For more information about the Public Child Welfare Certification Program at MSU, please contact Dr. Lynn Geurin at l.geurin@moreheadstate.edu.

For information on the Social Work program at MSU, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/study/socialwork, email Becky Davison, BSW program director, at r.davison@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2446.

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NEWS RELEASE

June 25, 2020
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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Hale named new principal at Bryan Station High School

Fayette County Public Schools has named Eric Hale (05) as the newest principal of Bryan Station High School in Lexington. He will officially assume his duties next month.

Originally from Ashland, Hale is a first-generation college graduate and a three-time MSU alumnus. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education in 2005. He later went on to earn a master's degree in educational leadership in 2008 and a Specialist in Education (Ed.S.) degree with an emphasis in instructional leadership in 2010.

Growing up in a single-parent home, Hale said his teachers and guidance counselors provided stability and encouragement for him to succeed. He wanted to attend MSU because it is "known as a prestigious education university as it pertains to teachers" and wanted to make an impact in the teaching profession to pay it forward.

"I really felt like I would not have made it if I had not had those supports built in and those teachers had not taken an extra interest in me," he said. "I wanted to give back and the best way I knew how to give back is to serve students and families in the capacity of being an educator."

After graduating with a bachelor's degree, Hale began working for Fairview Independent Schools in Boyd County, where he worked for 15 years. He started as a fifth-grade teacher at Fairview Elementary School, where he later served as principal. He moved to Fairview High School to initially serve as assistant principal and became principal, a position he held for six years before taking the job at Bryan Station.

"Bryan Station has a very rich culture that I'm excited about – a lot of diversity that I think is awesome," Hale said. "I'm looking forward to working with the staff and students to build on the progress that's already been made."

Hale said as principal, he is excited to work in the school's academy model and wants to prioritize working together with students and staff to establish "a set of shared values and beliefs" to continue progress and equip students with what they need to succeed beyond high school.

"We're in 2020 and we need to make sure our kids are globally competitive, and we give every kid what they need, and we give every student what they deserve," he said.

For the next five years, MSU will be discounting graduate tuition on all 600-level courses within the Volgenau College of Education. For more details on the reduced tuition, as well as information on graduate and

certification programs offered by the Volgenau College of Education,
visit www.moreheadstate.edu/kyeducators.

To learn more about MSU's Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education and its programs, call 606-783-2162 or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/education.

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