



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

## NEWS RELEASE

**July 1, 2020**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **McKenzie named recipient of Byrd H. Perry Jr. Scholarship**

Austin McKenzie of Bath County has been selected as the 2020 recipient of the Byrd H. Perry Jr. Memorial Scholarship. McKenzie is a graduate of Bath County High School.

"I am so grateful to be the recipient of this scholarship and am looking forward to the start of my MSU journey," he said.

The Byrd H. Perry Jr. Memorial Scholarship supports incoming first-year students who have graduated from Bath County High School. Preference is given to students majoring in music, history, government or political science who have demonstrated strong participation in community service.

Students interested in applying to this scholarship, along with other privately funded scholarships managed by the MSU Foundation, should visit the online scholarship application at [moreheadstate.awardspring.com](http://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](mailto:giving@moreheadstate.edu) or visit [alumni.moreheadstate.edu](http://alumni.moreheadstate.edu).

###

Morehead State University (MSU) is a comprehensive public university with robust undergraduate and graduate programs, emerging doctoral programs, and an emphasis on regional engagement. MSU aspires to be the best public regional university in the South through prioritizing student success; outcomes; academic excellence; and rankings, reputation and regional responsiveness.

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Abbott has head start in booming industry**

When Andrew Abbott (14) earned his Bachelor of Applied Science in Manufacturing Engineering Technology, he was entering a field that analysts expect to thrive in Kentucky in the coming years.

Abbott was MSU's Student Government Association president in 2013-14. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity and served as its president in 2012-13. He credits his time in leadership positions at MSU to his ability to lead a team in the professional world.

"I attribute a lot of my leadership qualities to those two organizations. Those organizations took me to places I'd never been, both physically and as an eager future leader," Abbott said.

Since April 2019, Abbott has worked as an engineering manager at Cooper Standard in Mt. Sterling and previously worked at Hitachi Automotive Systems in Berea as a production engineering senior manager. He said the knowledge and skills he gained at MSU have helped him in his career.

"I especially enjoyed the computer-aided drafting (CAD) instruction I received at MSU," Abbott said. "I started my career as a tooling design engineer, where this was a crucial part of my expectations. In my role now, I've found more value in the project management classes I took because of schedule attainment and resource management."

A recent report from the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education and the labor market analytics firm Emsi projects that engineering jobs are expected to increase by 11 percent over the next decade, creating approximately 3,000 jobs. Positions in manufacturing, engineering technology, industrial engineering and civil engineering will drive growth in the job market.

Morehead State offers a wide variety of engineering technology programs to allow students to shape their education to suit their specific interests. We also offer bachelor's and master's degrees in space systems engineering that puts students on the cutting edge of aerospace technology.

One of the things Abbott said benefitted him most is the mentorship he received from faculty members in MSU's School of Engineering and Computer Science.

“I found that both (Dr.) Nilesh Joshi and Dr. (Ahmad) Zargari are more than willing to invest their time and experience in students. They played a large role in my education and I thank them for that,” Abbott said.

For information about programs in MSU’s School of Engineering and Computer Science, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/secs](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/secs), email [seis@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:seis@moreheadstate.edu) or call 606-783-2418.

To learn more about MSU’s programs in space systems engineering, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/phes](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/phes), email [phes@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:phes@moreheadstate.edu) or call 606-783-2381.

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*Photo: Andrew Abbott met his wife, Heather Abbott (13) while attending MSU. He proposed to Heather during MSU Homecoming 2014 at the Little Bell Tower.*

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# NEWS RELEASE

**July 2, 2020**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

## **MSU closed for Independence Day**

Morehead State University will be closed Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day.

Online classes will not be held, and staff and administrative offices may be unavailable. Classes and administrative operations will resume Monday, July 6.

The MSU Police Department will be available during the holiday. For non-emergencies, call 606-783-2035 or use the LiveSafe app. In the event of an emergency, always call 911.

For information about MSU's plans to reopen campus in the fall, including the modified fall semester schedule, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/healthyatmsu](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/healthyatmsu).

To register for SOAR Online, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/soar](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/soar). The next session is the week of July 13-17.

Take a virtual tour of MSU or talk with an enrollment counselor at [www.moreheadstate.edu/virtualvisit](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/virtualvisit).

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## NEWS RELEASE

**July 6, 2020**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Taylor Gasser-Marshall fulfilled her calling for helping animals through MSU**

Taylor Gasser-Marshall (16) didn't have a single moment where she knew she was destined to be a veterinarian. She had several.

"My mom pinpointed it when I brought home every single thing I found outside and tried to rehabilitate it," she said.

A few moments stand out to her, though. There was the time, growing up in Cynthiana, Kentucky, where she tried to "rescue" a snapping turtle the size of a hubcap under her house deck when she was almost eight years old. When she later moved to Richmond, Kentucky, she found a baby robin by a peach crate (which she then aptly named "Peaches") and nursed it back to health.

"He went on to attack anyone with red hair because he thought they would also feed him," she said, laughing.

Gasser-Marshall is still focusing on animals' health and well-being as an emergency veterinarian at the Metropolitan Veterinary Specialists and Emergency Service in Louisville. It took her a unique journey to get there (more on that later) – a journey that started at Morehead State.

When Gasser-Marshall came to MSU, she said she immediately wanted to enroll after seeing the 325-acre University Farm and meeting the attentive staff and veterinary advisors. She was enrolled in the George M. Luckey, Jr. Academic Honors Program, earning two bachelor's degrees in veterinary science and Spanish when she graduated in 2016. While she was a student, she was active with Delta Zeta Sorority, participated in Sigma Delta Pi – National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, and worked with the campus' service dog organization, 4 Paws for Ability.

She said instructors like Dr. Phil Prater, professor of veterinary medicine, helped mold her into the veterinarian she is today.

"My time in classes with Dr. Prater to this day, whenever I talk to clients about certain things in veterinary medicine, I use wordings and things from his lectures," Gasser-Marshall said. "Getting to the people where you can help them help themselves, which is something that you can apply outside of veterinary medicine. That's something that's never left me."

Her unique journey to becoming a practicing vet had everything to do with the distance she traveled. Upon graduating from MSU, a "silly Google search" led to Gasser-Marshall enrolling in The Royal Veterinary

College in London, England. She said she chose to go to vet school in London for the education model, the ability to practice in multiple countries upon graduation and the benefit of traveling and experiencing different cultures.

“I would have never thought leaving Morehead to go to England, I would have seen the countries I’ve seen,” she said. “It satiated this desire to know more than just what was right around the corner.”

She left London both with a degree and her husband, James. The couple met less than a year into the program when she served him working her way through school as a bartender. After returning to Kentucky in the summer of 2019, Gasser-Marshall worked her way into her current position as an emergency vet. She said the job is not without its challenges, whether it is the long overnight hours or the nature of her patients. It’s a running joke with her siblings who also work in the medical field like her younger brother, registered nurse and MSU alumnus Justin Gasser (18).

“I always joke to him my job is harder because my patients can’t go, ‘Oh, I ate two pounds of chocolate. That’s why my heart is racing,’” she said. “I like the challenge of being an advocate for something that doesn’t have a voice.”

Taylor-Gasser said a day’s work could include a concerned owner bringing their cherished pet in for a perceived emergency that turns out to be something minor or having to do everything from setting a puppy’s leg to stabilizing a patient before life-saving surgery. No matter the patient or the task, she feels fulfilled as long as she helps animals live healthy lives.

“I can genuinely say every shift I go in, I can say I do something to make sure an animal is better off,” she said. “Right now, I feel like I am making the most difference where I am.”

For more information on veterinary programs at MSU, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/study/vet\\_science](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/study/vet_science).

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## NEWS RELEASE

**July 6, 2020**  
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**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Craft Academy welcomes the class of 2022**

The Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics at Morehead State University is proud to announce the 2022 class members.

Seventy-two students from across the Commonwealth were chosen to attend the Craft Academy, located on the campus of Morehead State University. The students live in Grote-Thompson Hall and earn dual credit as they complete their final two years of high school at the academy while also taking college-level courses.

Students who apply are selected to attend the academy for excelling in science, math and other STEM-related fields. They must also conduct a face-to-face interview and submit recommendations from teachers, coaches and mentors.

Students in the Craft Academy Class of 2021 are:

- Payten Allen, Independence, Scott High School.
- Christopher Baker, Versailles, Woodford County High School.
- Zoe Baker, Alvalon, Greenwood High School.
- Donavon Blevins, Clearfield, Rowan County Senior High School.
- Emma Brock, Corbin, Corbin High School.
- Po'iu Burgo, Mount Washington, Bullitt Advanced Math and Science.
- Connor Caskey, Paris, Bourbon County High School.
- Bryce Charles, Mount Sterling, Montgomery County High School.
- Ari Chen, Lexington, Lafayette Senior High School.
- Hailey Costanzo, Madison Central High School.
- Owen Day, Georgetown, Great Crossing High School.
- Gus Eilers, Louisville, J. Graham Brown School.
- Lucas Embleton, Mount Sterling, Montgomery County High School.
- Elizabeth Fletcher, Jackson, Breathitt County High School.
- Zoë Forrest, Louisville, Riverview Opportunity Center/BAMS.
- Alex Fouch, Morehead, Rowan County Senior High School.
- Autumn Frye, Clearfield, Rowan County Senior High School.
- Ryland Gross, Jackson, Jackson City School.
- Paul Grubbs, Shepherdsville, North Bullitt High School.

- Savannah Hale, Frenchburg, Menifee County High School.
- Melissa Hannemann, Lexington, Lafayette Senior High School.
- Ethan Henderson, Olive Hill, West Carter High School.
- Dante Henneberg, Morehead, Rowan County Senior High School.
- Jonathan Hodge, Upton, John Hardin High School.
- Elizabeth Johnson, Maysville, Mason County High School.
- Ethan Jones, Louisville, Atherton High School.
- Nathaniel Jones, West Point, Elizabethtown High School.
- Savannah Jones, Augusta, Bracken County High School.
- Tera Kaplon, West Liberty, Morgan County High School.
- Suleman Khan, Elizabethtown, Elizabethtown High School.
- Grant Klingenberg, Jeffersonville, Montgomery County High School.
- Dhwani Kothari, Frankfort, Woodford County High School.
- Ashlee Lewis, Mt Washington, Bullitt East High School.
- Roxanne Lockard, Georgetown, Great Crossing High School.
- Sarah Massie, Garrison, Lewis County High School.
- Phillip Maxson, Lexington, Henry Clay High School
- Nakia McBride, Alexandria, Campbell County High School
- Duncan McGinnis, Flatwoods, Russell Independent
- Wade McGuire, Litt Carr, Knott County Central High School.
- Jordan McKinney, Shepherdsville, Riverview Opportunity Center/BAMS.
- Lorien Molstad, Mt. Sterling, Montgomery County High School.
- Olivia Moore, Lexington, Frederick Douglass High School.
- Kaelyn Moore, Shepherdsville, Riverview Opportunity Center/BAMS.
- Gabbriella Music, Louisa, Lawrence County High School.
- Elizabeth Oakes, Winchester, George Rogers Clark High School.
- Blake Orr, Winchester, Powell County High School.
- Zarric Queen, London, North Laurel High School.
- Ellen Reid, Falmouth, Pendleton County High School
- Caitlyn Reynolds, Jeffersonville, Montgomery County High School.
- Andrew Roberts, Winchester, George Rogers Clark High School.
- Slate Robinson, Union, Larry A. Ryle High School.
- Jonathan Rose, Brooksville, Augusta Independent High School.
- Kristen Sieger, Ravenna, Estill County High School.
- Alayna Slone, Lexington, Henry Clay High School.
- Ashlyn Smetanko, Nicholasville, West Jessamine High School.
- Rosa Smith, Lexington, Lafayette Senior High School.
- Logan Smith, Fisty, Knott County Central High School.
- Timothy Smith, Hazel Green, Morgan County High School.
- Ethan Smith, Frankfort, Frankfort County High School.
- Allison Scarlett, Stanville, Pike County Central High School.
- Lauren Strong, Danville, Boyle County High School.
- Fredré Oni Terrado, Elizabethtown, Central Hardin High School.
- Eric Turney, Lexington, Lafayette Senior High School.
- Benjamin Wallace, Olive Hill, West Carter High School.
- Courtney Ward, Van Lear, Johnson Central High School.
- Cayenne Warren, Butler, Pendleton County High School.
- Quinn Weil, Mount Sterling, Montgomery County High School.
- Hailey Williams, Kevil, McCracken County High School.

- Clara Williams, Morehead, Lakeside Christian Academy.
- Andrew Winterman, Burlington, Randall K. Cooper High School.
- Jun Zhang, Richmond, Madison Central High School.
- Paul Zigo, Lawrenceburg, Anderson County High School.

For more information about the Craft Academy at MSU, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/craft-academy](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/craft-academy), email [craftacademy@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:craftacademy@moreheadstate.edu) or call 606-783-2093.

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## NEWS RELEASE

**July 8, 2020**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Herlihy Family Scholarship established**

The Morehead State University Foundation has announced the establishment of the Herlihy Family Scholarship, a fund to benefit Morehead State University students.

“MSU helped shape my future and greatly influenced my decision to become an educator,” said Dr. John “Jack” Herlihy. “I’m proud to establish this scholarship to support future Eagles like me.”

The scholarship was established by Jack Herlihy (69, 72) and his wife, Sandy Herlihy. As a two-time MSU alumnus, Jack has served as president of the Herlihy Group since 1992. There, he provides both leadership and training consultation. Jack continues to teach finance classes for superintendent programs. Before his current position, he served for 12 years as director for Eastern Kentucky University’s (EKU) Centers for Research in Appalachia and Learning Experience. Jack also previously served as superintendent for Scott County Schools in Georgetown for 11 years.

While he was a student at MSU, he was a member of TKE (Tau Kappa Epsilon) fraternity and helped establish the TKE Founders Scholarship Endowment with fellow TKE alumni. The Herlihy Family Staff Office in the newly developed Adron Doran University Center (ADUC) was named in the family’s honor.

Scholarship criteria include being a full-time undergraduate student and having and maintaining a 2.5 minimum GPA.

Students interested in applying to this scholarship, along with other privately funded scholarships managed by the MSU Foundation, should visit the online scholarship application at [moreheadstate.awardspring.com](http://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](mailto:giving@moreheadstate.edu) or visit [alumni.moreheadstate.edu](http://alumni.moreheadstate.edu).

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **First year student orientation continues online**

In recognition of these challenging times and to keep all our future Eagles safe, Morehead State University is offering our Student Orientation, Advising and Registration (SOAR) sessions online.

Over the past two months, MSU SOAR sessions have taken place online, answering a variety of questions from prospective students and their families while providing valuable information in the safest way possible.

“MSU will continue to be flexible and work to accommodate student needs during these unusual times. We look forward to having our new students join the Eagle family in the fall,” said Russ Mast, vice president for student affairs.

The SOAR online experience includes:

- Pre-recorded videos to watch the week of the scheduled online SOAR session.
- A virtual campus tour.
- Live Q & A on Facebook Live.
- A brief quiz on content from the videos.

Fall class schedules will be released for participants on Friday of the scheduled online SOAR week.

The next session is scheduled for July 13-17, attend Facebook Live at 1 p.m. on Monday, July 13.

Admitted students for Fall 2020 should sign up at [www.moreheadstate.edu/soar](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/soar). Once registration is complete, they will be emailed additional details.

Through several initiatives designed to help students and families during these unprecedented times, MSU is demonstrating its Commitment to the Commonwealth. We are proud to announce that we are freezing tuition and fees at this year’s rates for the upcoming academic year.

To learn more about the additional commitments we have made, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/commitment](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/commitment). To learn more about SOAR at MSU, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/soar](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/soar) or contact the Office of First Year Programs at [fyp@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:fyp@moreheadstate.edu) or 606-783-5208.

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## NEWS RELEASE

**July 10, 2020**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **MSU student fall move-in schedule announced**

Morehead State is welcoming students back to residence halls this fall with procedures and guidelines to help keep everyone safe.

This year both returning students and new students will need to schedule a specific date and time to move into their residence halls. Students can sign-up for a move-in time by logging in their MSU account at <https://my.moreheadstate.edu> and selecting the "Housing Self-Service" option.

Scheduled move-in times are available Aug. 8-16, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Spaces are limited during each block to allow for adequate social distancing and reduced crowds. Residents will have three hours to complete their move-in once their scheduled time begins, and students may bring two people to help them move into their residence hall. Students should schedule a move-in time no later than **July 31, 2020**, to avoid late sign-up fees and to enable them to choose their preferred move-in day and time.

All students will begin their move-in at a central location on campus where they will pick up their keys and other items (parking permits, EagleCard IDs for first-year students, etc.). Students should check their MSU email accounts regularly to stay up-to-date on move-in and other important information about returning to campus.

For more information, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/movein](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/movein), call 606-783-2060 or email [housing@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:housing@moreheadstate.edu).

To help ensure the health and safety of our students, families and employees, MSU is taking precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and is following state and federal guidelines. Visitors to campus will need to wear masks and social distance as much as possible. For more information, please visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/healthyatmsu](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/healthyatmsu).

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## NEWS RELEASE

**July 15, 2020**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **MSU Alumni Association elects new officers**

The Morehead State University Alumni Association Board of Directors announced the election of new board leadership and members.

Mona Sabie Womack (86) has been elected as the president of the MSU Alumni Association Board of Directors, while Billie Renee Johnson (96) was chosen as president-elect at the board's virtual meeting this past May.

Womack graduated from MSU in 1986 with a bachelor's degree in biology and is the daughter of former MSU professors Drs. Mohammed and Layla Sabie. She later attended law school and currently serves as acting commissioner in the Public Protection Cabinet for Kentucky's Department of Housing, Buildings and Construction for Kentucky. Womack first joined the Alumni Board of Directors in 2014.

"Morehead State is very important to my family and me," Womack said. "We have a long history with the institution, and I am truly honored to serve my alma mater in this capacity. I look forward to working with this devoted group of individuals as we represent MSU."

Johnson graduated in 1996 with a bachelor's degree in sociology and now serves as executive director of State Grants. She previously served two terms on the board and was re-elected in 2018.

"MSU is so special and it is such a privilege to serve on this board. I am honored to be chosen as president-elect," Johnson said. "I am passionate about maintaining the alumni and MSU connection and am excited about the things we will accomplish."

In addition to president and president-elect, The MSU Alumni Association chose new board members. They include:

- Mike Miller (89), Ft. Mitchell, KY
- Jeff Rase (92, 99), Wheelersburg, OH
- Patrick Osborne (01, 02), Nashville, TN
- Randy Saunders (83), Westerville, OH
- Darianne Seward (18), Columbus, OH
- Breanna Howell (18), Louisa, KY

Additionally, the board welcomed two new student representatives. Emily Wiley, an agribusiness major from London, Kentucky, is the president of the Student Government Association (SGA). Brooke Hardin, a global studies and legal studies major from Bardstown, Kentucky, is the president of the Student Alumni Ambassadors (SAA). They will represent their organizations, as well as current students, on the board.

As part of their service to the board, MSU Alumni Association members seek to create and maintain strong connections between alumni and the university, host alumni events, select annual alumni award recipients, participate in quarterly meetings and more.

To learn more about the MSU Alumni Association, contact MSU's Office of Alumni Relations and Development at 606-783-2033, email [giving@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:giving@moreheadstate.edu) or visit [alumni.moreheadstate.edu](http://alumni.moreheadstate.edu).

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*Photo 1: Mona Sabie Womack (86) was elected president of the MSU Alumni Association Board of Directors.*

*Photo 2: Billie Renee Johnson (96) was chosen as president-elect.*

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Upward Bound Programs host 2020 Virtual Summer Academy**

The Upward Bound Programs at Morehead State recently hosted their 54th summer with 227 virtual participants.

The virtual academy was designed to be a reflection of the six-week residential academy the program hosts each summer on campus. Students spent their days engaged in classes, workshops, and activities. Resident advisors who would normally live in the residence halls with students mentored students virtually and led activities from book clubs and dance to culinary skills. Instructors were hired to teach classes that included robotics, orbital mechanics, survival science, satellite communications, FBI profiling, and screen playwriting. "We were able to adapt most of the components that make our program special into a virtual academy," said Amanda Lewis, director of the Upward Bound programs at MSU.

The Upward Bound Programs are an academic pre-college program that helps prepare students interested in attending post-secondary education after they graduate high school. They serve a large area in rural Kentucky.

"This summer presented some unique challenges, so we had to come up with some creative solutions to meet the needs of our participants," Lewis said, adding students' internet accessibility and lack of technology along with having a platform that could support and host the classes, workshops, and activities created some of the biggest challenges.

"We were very lucky to have the full support of the University behind us in order to overcome these challenges so that students could participate."

To keep students engaged during the summer, staff were in constant contact with their students.

"I believe I had more individual contact with my students this summer than I get during a residential summer. Every day a new obstacle would pop up that we would need to tackle, so we were in constant contact," said Ashley Cooper, associate director of Upward Bound Math Science North.

Of the 227, 15 students completed the program's Bridge program.

"Our students continually overcome diversity and this summer was no different. They faced the challenges of being new college students while doing it all online during a global pandemic with grace and have come out stronger for it," Shayla Ring, academic Bridge coordinator said. We are incredibly proud of their grades,

dedication to higher education, and joyful attitudes when faced with new experiences."

The Bridge program allows participants who recently graduated high school to earn six college credit hours for free. It is designed to bridge the gap between high school graduation and fall post-secondary enrollment.

The Upward Bound programs at MSU serve high school students in Bath, Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Fleming, Harrison, Johnson, Lawrence, Lewis, Magoffin, Mason, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, Nicholas, Robertson and Rowan counties. Students can join the program in their freshman or sophomore years and stay in the program throughout high school. Applications are currently being accepted for the 2020-21 academic year.

Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math and Science and the Bridge program are funded by grants from the U.S. Department of Education and sponsored by MSU. There are no costs associated with participating in the program.

For more information about the Upward Bound Programs, please contact, Amanda Lewis, director at [a.lewis@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:a.lewis@moreheadstate.edu), call 606-783-9329 or visit [www.moreheadub.org](http://www.moreheadub.org).

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## NEWS RELEASE

**July 15, 2020**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Hood named principal of Rodburn Elementary School**

James Hood (07) was recently named principal of Rodburn Elementary School by Rowan County Schools.

Originally from Arlington, Virginia, Hood later moved to Shepherdsville, Kentucky. He said he never had plans to attend college until his high school band director and Morehead State University alumnus Rodney Stults (98) brought him to MSU for a visit and encouraged him to pursue a teaching career.

“Public education had a positive impact on my life, and I give credit to my education for allowing me the opportunities I have had,” Hood said.

Hood became the first person in his family to attend college. At MSU, he met his wife, Kristen (08), in his first education course. He also was part of the MSU Marching Band and the University Choir. Hood went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Education Middle Grades 5-9 (Science and Social Studies) in 2007. He later returned to MSU to earn both a Master of Arts in Education – Teacher Leader/Reading & Specialist Endorsement in 2013 and an Ed.S. in Instructional Leadership in 2020.

Hood said he owes much of it to MSU’s programs and professors when it comes to his success in education.

“It did not take long for me to realize the superb quality of education I was receiving at MSU,” he said. “The professors in the education department, along with all the professors I had at MSU, showed a true interest in my success.”

Hood has spent the last 13 years educating students primarily in social studies while also teaching classes in science and writing for Rowan County Middle School. He currently serves as the president of the Rowan County Education Association. He and his wife, who also teaches at Rowan County Middle School, sponsored the Kentucky Youth YMCA Program and Hood was recognized for outstanding leadership when he was inducted into the Kentucky YMCA Hall of Fame in 2014.

As Rodburn Elementary School’s newest principal, Hood said he wants to lead by embracing teamwork, growth, communication and community involvement while fostering a culture with mutual trust and respect.

“I want to empower my faculty and staff to serve our students and the community in the most positive and effective way,” 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](http://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](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/education).

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*Photo: James Hood was recently named principal of Rodburn Elementary School in Rowan County. He met his wife, Kristen (left), at MSU and both are educators for Rowan County Schools. They have two daughters: Harper, 7, and Hadlee, 4.*

###

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## NEWS RELEASE

**July 20, 2020**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Easterling earns prestigious Kentucky Arts Council award for music composition**

Plenty of kids walk around with notebooks in high school. Derek Easterling (20) walked around with a book of notes.

His notes weren't the kind he would get in trouble for if they got passed around in class to a friend or even the type of notes he would be taking from an instructor's lectures. They were musical notes.

Since he couldn't be in a music class all day or take his sizable euphonium with him everywhere, he carried a journal containing blank pages of sheet music. This is where he painstakingly placed musical notes that would eventually become original compositions.

"I was kind of the odd kid out in that aspect. People were always like, 'you are such a nerd,'" Easterling said, laughing. "I ate, slept and breathed music."

Easterling's passion for musical performance, composition and education is what led him to Morehead State University, but it was his skill as a musical composer that earned him the Kentucky Arts Council's (KAC) Emerging Artist Award for Composition.

Easterling loved music from an early age growing up in West Liberty. He got involved with music in school when he joined the sixth-grade band. When he talked to his band director about what instrument he should start out playing, he recommended him to play low brass.

"As soon as I opened the baritone case, it was like the holy grail. The moment in the movie when you hear angels singing. All that stuff," he said.

Easterling picked up baritone, and later his main instrument euphonium, rather quickly. He was performing with the high school band when he was in the seventh grade and started learning trumpet, saxophone and clarinet before taking a crack at musical composition his eighth-grade year. That led to his first original concert band piece, "Eye of the Storm," being performed as part of the senior band concert at Morgan County High School.

"That just interested me, I guess. Just to see how everything fits together," he said. "I said, you know, if I want to be a good composer one day, I need to know how each of these instruments work so that what I'm writing is playable."

Before he enrolled at MSU, Easterling made regular visits to campus in middle school and high school for events like the Tri-State Middle School Band Clinic, the MSU High School Band Clinic and competing at All-District Band tryouts. On his way to earning a Bachelor of Music Education, he played with the MSU

Symphony, the Tuba Euphonium Ensemble and the MSU Marching Band, playing euphonium his freshman year before moving to color guard for his remaining three years. He also wrote a variety of compositions arranged for soloists, quintets and ensembles.

Easterling submitted three pieces for consideration for the KAC Emerging Artist Award for Composition: “Apep: The Enemy God” (for wind quintet), “Los Regio Vientos Tango” (for wind quintet with solo soprano saxophone) and “Nocturne Immortalle” (for solo piano). He said the assistance and support he received from MSU music faculty and students when he decided to submit his compositions for consideration is indicative of his overall MSU experience.

“Everybody is just there to help each other. It’s just a really great environment,” he said. “There’s just something magical about Morehead.”

Easterling said the KAC award he received also included a \$1,000 unrestricted monetary award. He said he was going to use to upgrade his music writing software and put toward his graduate education. That education will continue at MSU this fall as he earns a master’s degree in euphonium performance. He is also gaining hands-on experience as assistant director for the bands at Nicholasville County Middle School and Nicholasville County High School, working with the marching band, pep band and color guard. Becoming a band director was a childhood dream solidified at MSU when he was placed at McBrayer Elementary School in Rowan County for his Elementary Methods and Materials course.

“I was teaching concepts and I saw almost the light turn on for a kid and, that moment when I saw it click for the kid and they understood what I was talking about and the excitement on their face of how happy they were and they understood it, that was when I knew I was in the right program,” he said.

Easterling knows firsthand the impact music can have on a person’s life, and he hopes he can take his love of music and the experience he’s gained at MSU and help students tap into their musical potential.

“The thing that I’m probably most excited about it just the ability to teach music. I know that sounds really mundane and really boring, but music is a huge part of my life and it has saved me in the darkest parts of my life,” he said. “I want to give the opportunities I’ve had or better opportunities than I’ve had to my future students.”

To learn more about music programs at MSU, contact the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance at [mtd@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:mtd@moreheadstate.edu), 606-783-2473 or visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/mtd](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/mtd).

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## NEWS RELEASE

**July 20, 2020**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky,---**

### **MSU earns national ranking for RN to BSN program**

Morehead State University's RN to BSN program has been nationally ranked by NursingProcess.org. Out of 169 accredited programs in the Southeast Region (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia), MSU was ranked in the top 5 (#4).

A full list of rankings can be found at [www.nursingprocess.org/best-rn-to-bsn-programs/](http://www.nursingprocess.org/best-rn-to-bsn-programs/).

MSU's RN to BSN program trains students with the knowledge, skills and professional attitude to take nursing careers to the next level. Students who possess an unrestricted RN license are eligible, and the curriculum is delivered entirely online in an interactive web-based platform. Upon graduation, students will provide advanced nursing care and improve healthcare for a diverse patient population. The RN to BSN program was also ranked as one of the top online RN to BSN programs in Kentucky in 2019 by RegisteredNursing.org.

Dr. Lynn Parsons, professor and department chair in MSU's Department of Nursing, said the RN to BSN program earns national recognition due to its faculty's passion for student learning both in-person and online.

"Morehead State University's nursing faculty goal of educating Registered Nurses (RN) at the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree level is in keeping with the Institute of Medicine (IOM) aim of having 80% of nurses at the bedside hold the BSN degree," Parsons said. "Our nursing faculty have expertise in not only the nursing profession, but they are skilled educators in online teaching-learning modalities. They have partnered with MSU's Office of Distance Education and Instructional Design to provide state-of-the-art online nursing education."

NursingProcess.org is an online resource that simplifies access to nursing education and career information to help students make better choices. Currently, the site reaches out to more than 100,000 students every month, from all over the country.

For more information about MSU's nursing programs, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/nursing](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/nursing), email [nursingdept@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:nursingdept@moreheadstate.edu) or call 606-783-2296.

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## NEWS RELEASE

**July 22, 2020**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Richardson named first recipient of newly established Harry Singh SPED Scholarship**

The Morehead State University Foundation has announced the establishment of the Harry Singh SPED (Special Education, Moderate and Severe Disabilities) Scholarship, a fund to benefit Morehead State University students. The scholarship's first recipient is Kiley Richardson, a sophomore from Fairfield, Ohio.

"I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that has been given to me through receiving the Harry Singh SPED Scholarship," Richardson said. "The financial assistance will grant me the opportunity to focus more on my studies and my future."

Created by the Singh Family, the Harry Singh SPED Scholarship supports a full-time sophomore, junior or senior within the Volgenau College of Education who is studying special education, moderate and severe disabilities. The student must also be admitted to the Teacher Education Program.

Students interested in applying to this scholarship, along with other privately funded scholarships managed by the MSU Foundation, should visit the online scholarship application at [moreheadstate.awardspring.com](http://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](mailto:giving@moreheadstate.edu) or visit [alumni.moreheadstate.edu](http://alumni.moreheadstate.edu).

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## NEWS RELEASE

**July 23, 2020**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Mascle featured in *The Chronicle of Higher Education***

Morehead State Instructor of English Dr. Deanna Mascle was featured in a recent article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* discussing online platforms' potential to deliver humanities courses.

The article, published July 9, discusses the importance of tapping into the full potential of online learning to deliver creative, transformative humanities courses. The author, Dr. Lee Skallerup Bessette, said, "(Mascle) gives students choice in their work, focuses on iteration and revision, and has them engage with one another through their writing."

"It popped up in my mentions on Twitter, so it caught me by surprise. It was a pleasant surprise," Mascle said. "It is very gratifying to be recognized for work that I feel very passionate about."

Mascle has been teaching online for more than 15 years and was responsible for proposing, designing, and piloting the first online version of Writing I/II in the mid-2000s. In addition to being a writing instructor, she is also the director of the Morehead Writing Project, part of the National Writing Project, a professional network of educators to improve writing education for students of all ages. Mascle was the first site director to lead an online Summer Institute and wrote a handbook to guide other site directors on how to do it.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic created a need for online courses, Mascle said she has been utilizing asynchronous teaching methods for several years, incorporating online and traditional teaching methods to enhance student learning while giving students greater flexibility on how and when they learn.

"When I teach an in-person class at 9:30 in the morning, there are always some students who are not at their best or absent," she said. "When students have days or even a week to participate, then there is a much better chance that all students will be able to thoughtfully participate. Also, as you know, writing cannot be (or should not) be rushed. An online class gives students more time and space to think and draft." Mascle added online teaching also puts students on equal footing for class participation, encourages more robust participation and allows her to share a variety of resources with her students.

*The Chronicle of Higher Education* is a national publication that specializes in journalism covering colleges and universities. It is read by more than two million people across the country each month.

To read the article, visit [www.chronicle.com/article/Can-You-Teach-a/249152](http://www.chronicle.com/article/Can-You-Teach-a/249152).

To read Mascle's blog, visit [metawriting.deannamascle.com/](http://metawriting.deannamascle.com/).

For more information about programs in MSU's Department of English, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/english](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/english), email [english@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:english@moreheadstate.edu) or call [606-783-9448](tel:606-783-9448).

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## NEWS RELEASE

**July 24, 2020**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Hernandez awarded Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship**

Mirlen Hernandez, a junior majoring in strategic communication and theatre at Morehead State University, was awarded the U.S. Department of State's prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. This grant program allows a student in need of financial support the opportunity to study and intern abroad.

"I have never traveled out of state in the 21 years I've been alive, let alone around the world. What better time to do it than the present with endless possibilities, new technology and a curious mind?" Hernandez said. "I am excited to see what doors this scholarship opens up for me."

Hernandez, a native of Lexington, Kentucky, was born in America to Mexican parents and long dreamed of becoming an actress. She decided to transfer from Bluegrass Community and Technical College to enroll in MSU's theatre program for its quality and affordability. She also formed a close bond with transfer advisor Amanda Hogge. She was then hired by Jen Timmerman, director of transition services, for a work-study position as an Eagle Transfer Guide.

The excellent relationships she has built with MSU staff have also extended to students on campus. She is involved in student organizations like the Latino Student Union and the DREAMS (Dedicated to Retention, Education, and Academic Success) mentoring program. She also said the classroom environment has allowed her to become close with her MSU instructors.

"Another thing that helps me be successful in school is the small student-to-faculty ratio in class sizes. This allows me to build a relationship with my professors and feel more comfortable scheduling an appointment if I need help with something," Hernandez said.

Hernandez said she plans to use the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to travel to France to study different ways that feminism and communication tie into a culture compared to other cultures. Aaron Hirsch, coordinator for MSU's Education Abroad program, said he believes Hernandez will make the most of this unique opportunity.

"Mirlen is an excellent example of an intelligent, hard-working student who is able to apply her many talents to create opportunities and build a distinguished academic experience," he said.

For more information on the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship and MSU's Education Abroad program, contact Hirsch at [aghirsch@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:aghirsch@moreheadstate.edu), 606-783-2044 or visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/educationabroad](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/educationabroad).

Students interested in applying for privately funded scholarships managed by the MSU Foundation should visit the online scholarship application at [moreheadstate.awardspring.com](https://moreheadstate.awardspring.com).

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## NEWS RELEASE

**July 29, 2020**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Grad School Online Open House is Aug. 6**

Morehead State University's Graduate School will hold an Online Open House from 2 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 6.

The online event will allow those interested in continuing their education at MSU to chat with Graduate School advisors. Those who attend the event will receive a promotional code to waive the \$30 application fee.

Dr. Susan Maxey, director of graduate programs, said the event would give students a chance to answer any questions before the start of the academic year. In addition to learning about MSU's 69 graduate programs and dozens of graduate-level, non-degree programs, Maxey said students will be happy to learn of the Graduate School's online options.

"Numerous programs are totally online so in this environment of staying home, we make it easy to pursue a degree with convenience," she said.

MSU has frozen tuition for all undergraduate and graduate-level programs and the Volgenau College of Education is reducing graduate tuition nearly \$200 per credit hour as a commitment to our teachers in the Commonwealth for the next five years. Additional details are available at [www.moreheadstate.edu/kyeducators](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/kyeducators).

"We are excited to offer a graduate tuition freeze and discounts for specific programs. Some of our programs are the same price as undergraduate tuition," Maxey said.

Visit the Graduate School Online Open House at <https://samba.live/live/ww/gradopenhouse> on Aug. 6 from 2 to 5 p.m.

To learn more about several initiatives MSU has implemented to help families during the COVID-19 pandemic, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/commitment](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/commitment).

For more information about graduate programs at MSU, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/gradschool](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/gradschool).

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## NEWS RELEASE

July 30, 2020  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

### **John and Peggy Osborne Scholarship established**

The Morehead State University Foundation has announced the establishment of the John and Peggy Osborne Scholarship Endowment, a fund to benefit Morehead State University students.

This scholarship was created by John and Peggy (79) Osborne. Peggy completed her MBA at MSU in 1979. Both John and Peggy became members of the Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology faculty, with John joining MSU in 1977 and Peggy becoming an MSU faculty member in 1979. Both retired after 27 and 34 years of service, respectively.

“Morehead State University was such a big part of our lives, we feel like this scholarship is a small way we can continue to support the students and the University,” Peggy said. “We love MSU.”

As faculty, the couple recognized the barriers faced by many students in completing their degree. This fund will be used to assist students who may not be eligible to receive other aid. Recipients shall be rising juniors or seniors and pursuing a degree in the School of Business Administration.

Students interested in applying to this scholarship, along with other privately funded scholarships managed by the MSU Foundation, should visit the online scholarship application at [moreheadstate.awardspring.com](http://moreheadstate.awardspring.com).

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## NEWS RELEASE

July 31, 2020  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

### MSU announces 2020 Alumni Award recipients

The Morehead State University Alumni Association has announced the recipients for the 2020 Alumni Awards. Inductees have been named for the MSU Alumni and Athletic Halls of Fame and honorees have been chosen for Notable Alumni, Rising Eagle and Eagle Spirit Awards. These individuals will be honored as part of the 2020 Homecoming celebration in the fall.

"We are honored to recognize this elite class of MSU alumni," said Mindy Highley, assistant vice president of the Office of Alumni Relations and Development and executive vice president of the MSU Alumni Association. "We are proud of their successes and we look forward to sharing their stories as part of our Homecoming celebration."

#### 2020 Alumni Awards

##### Alumni Hall of Fame

The Alumni Hall of Fame provides recognition to those individuals who have achieved excellence in their profession, community service or education at the local, state or national level. Traditionally, the honor would not be given for a single achievement, but rather for a collective impact in their profession or community. Alumni must have graduated from Morehead State University 10 years before nomination and must be responsible, respected citizens of good character in their communities and professions.

Dr. Jeffrey Bumpous (84) of Louisville is the chairman of the University of Louisville School of Medicine's Department of Head and Neck Surgery and the Bumgardner Endowed Professor of Otolaryngology. In 2013, he was named the Physician of the Year by University of Louisville's James Graham Brown Cancer Center and he is the lead co-author of more than 60 journal articles and scientific book chapters. With over 40 years of experience, Bumpous specializes in head and neck oncology, thyroid and parathyroid surgery, and robotic cranial base surgery.

Mac Caudill, (93) of Hawthorne, California, is a two-time Emmy Award-winning Hollywood television editor. His work has been featured on hit reality TV series like "America's Next Top Model," "Dancing with the Stars" and "Born This Way." He also has collaborated with Academy Award-winning director Peter Jackson for work on his films "The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King" and "King Kong." Caudill is also a competitive athlete and National Champion qualifier, having raced dozens of marathons and triathlons.

Willi Walker (56) of Richmond, Kentucky, is a retired professor at Eastern Kentucky University where she served as the chair of the Geography Department and Coordinator of the Aviation Program (EKU). Walker is the founder of the EKU Aviation Program, the only degree granting aviation program in the state of Kentucky. This fall, she will also be inducted into the Aviation Museum of Kentucky Hall of Fame.

## Athletic Hall of Fame

The Athletic Hall of Fame provides recognition to those individuals who have achieved excellence in athletics at Morehead State University and to those persons who have made a significant contribution on behalf of the MSU intercollegiate athletic program. Former athletes must have been officially disassociated with MSU as an undergraduate student for a period of at least ten years or as a member of the staff for at least five years. Must be responsible, respected citizens of good character in their communities and professions.

Matt Ballard coached MSU football from 1994 to 2012. After the team transitioned out of the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) to the Pioneer Football League, he rebuilt the Eagle football team into a winning program and went on to lead the Eagles to a total of 102 wins, the most of any head coach in MSU football history.

Casie Garland (05) was on the MSU volleyball team from 2001 to 2004. She was named OVC Freshman of the Year in 2001 and still holds MSU's career assist record at 5,265. Her assist total also ranks as the fourth highest ever in OVC history. She helped the Eagles to 74 career wins, including 20-win seasons in her first three campaigns.

Drew Lee (12) is one of the most prolific student-athletes in MSU baseball history. He holds career records for RBI, extra-base hits and total bases while previously holding records for hits and doubles. He batted over .400 his last two seasons in 2009 and 2010 and was named to as one of the best collegiate baseball players in the country by multiple baseball associations and publications.

Dr. Alexandra Nail (Gjevre) (11) led a resurgence of the Eagle softball program from 2007 to 2010 and is the third-ever softball student-athlete to be inducted into MSU's Athletic Hall of Fame. She was a three-time First-Team All-OVC pitcher, voted Pitcher of the Year in 2008 and holds the program's career records for wins, strikeouts and shutouts, among others.

## Notable Alumni

Notable Alumni recognition is given to individuals who have demonstrated success in their career fields and/or are making a difference in their communities or profession.

Jack Herlihy (69, 72) of Lexington is the president of Herlihy Group Inc., an insurance advisory group. He is a life-long educator who has served as a teacher, superintendent, principal and consultant.

## Rising Eagle

The Rising Eagle Award is given to a recent graduate of the last 10 years who has demonstrated early career and/or community service achievement.

Jordan Atkinson (09, 10) of Kansas City, Missouri, is a tenure-track assistant professor for the Department of Communication at Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, Missouri.

## Eagle Spirit

The Eagle Spirit Award is given to alumni that are exceptionally proud and active Eagles. Recipients regularly demonstrate Eagle Pride through recruiting potential students, positively representing MSU, attending MSU events and encouraging active support of MSU among their peer groups.

Rocky (90) and Barbara (90) Niemeyer of Morehead are both retired educators. They are both long-standing fans of MSU Athletics, having attended nearly every home basketball game for almost two decades.

For more information on MSU Homecoming 2020, visit [alumni.moreheadstate.edu/homecoming](http://alumni.moreheadstate.edu/homecoming) or call the Office of Alumni Relations and Development at 606-783-2033.

###

Morehead State University (MSU) is a comprehensive public university with robust undergraduate and graduate programs, emerging doctoral programs, and an emphasis on regional engagement. MSU aspires to be the best public regional university in the South through prioritizing student success; outcomes; academic excellence; and rankings, reputation and regional responsiveness.

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**Communications & Marketing**  
200 Earle Clements Ln. | Alumni Tower East  
Morehead, KY 40351  
P: 606-783-9328 | F: 606-783-5056  
[www.moreheadstate.edu](http://www.moreheadstate.edu)

## NEWS RELEASE

July 31, 2020  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

### MSU announces 2020 Alumni Award recipients

The Morehead State University Alumni Association has announced the recipients for the 2020 Alumni Awards. Inductees have been named for the MSU Alumni and Athletic Halls of Fame and honorees have been chosen for Notable Alumni, Rising Eagle and Eagle Spirit Awards. These individuals will be honored as part of the 2020 Homecoming celebration in the fall.

"We are honored to recognize this elite class of MSU alumni," said Mindy Highley, assistant vice president of the Office of Alumni Relations and Development and executive vice president of the MSU Alumni Association. "We are proud of their successes and we look forward to sharing their stories as part of our Homecoming celebration."

#### 2020 Alumni Awards

##### Alumni Hall of Fame

The Alumni Hall of Fame provides recognition to those individuals who have achieved excellence in their profession, community service or education at the local, state or national level. Traditionally, the honor would not be given for a single achievement, but rather for a collective impact in their profession or community. Alumni must have graduated from Morehead State University 10 years before nomination and must be responsible, respected citizens of good character in their communities and professions.

Dr. Jeffrey Bumpous (84) of Louisville is the chairman of the University of Louisville School of Medicine's Department of Head and Neck Surgery and the Bumgardner Endowed Professor of Otolaryngology. In 2013, he was named the Physician of the Year by University of Louisville's James Graham Brown Cancer Center and he is the lead co-author of more than 60 journal articles and scientific book chapters. With over 40 years of experience, Bumpous specializes in head and neck oncology, thyroid and parathyroid surgery, and robotic cranial base surgery.

Mac Caudill, (93) of Hawthorne, California, is a two-time Emmy Award-winning Hollywood television editor. His work has been featured on hit reality TV series like "America's Next Top Model," "Dancing with the Stars" and "Born This Way." He also has collaborated with Academy Award-winning director Peter Jackson for work on his films "The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King" and "King Kong." Caudill is also a competitive athlete and National Champion qualifier, having raced dozens of marathons and triathlons.

Willi Walker (56) of Richmond, Kentucky, is a retired professor at Eastern Kentucky University where she served as the chair of the Geography Department and Coordinator of the Aviation Program (EKU). Walker is the founder of the EKU Aviation Program, the only degree granting aviation program in the state of Kentucky. This fall, she will also be inducted into the Aviation Museum of Kentucky Hall of Fame.

## Athletic Hall of Fame

The Athletic Hall of Fame provides recognition to those individuals who have achieved excellence in athletics at Morehead State University and to those persons who have made a significant contribution on behalf of the MSU intercollegiate athletic program. Former athletes must have been officially disassociated with MSU as an undergraduate student for a period of at least ten years or as a member of the staff for at least five years. Must be responsible, respected citizens of good character in their communities and professions.

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