



Communications & Marketing
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P: 606-783-9328 | F: 606-783-5056
www.moreheadstate.edu

NEWS RELEASE

January 7, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU announces Spring 2021 move-in dates

Morehead State University welcomes students back to campus for a safe new year and a successful spring semester.

MSU has announced move-in dates for Spring 2021 are Monday, Jan. 11, through Tuesday, Jan. 19. Spring 2021 move-in will be slightly different from years past. All residents must schedule a time for their arrival to limit crowds and person-to-person interactions during their return. Arriving before the scheduled time is not allowed and may result in additional charges for improper check-in or referral for student conduct sanctioning. Move-in assistance should be limited to one person (in addition to the student). Students should not move-in if they or a member of their party feels ill or is exhibiting symptoms, but should contact the Office of Student Housing to reschedule.

For more information on Spring 2021 move-in procedures at MSU, contact the Office of Student Housing at 606-783-2060, housing@moreheadstate.edu or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/move-in.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of Student Housing continues to make residential adjustments for the ongoing public health emergency. As you navigate our residential spaces, please continue to wear a cloth facial covering (mask) outside of your room. Be sure to observe campus-wide mask and social distancing expectations and pay attention to marked signage for occupancy, entry/exit and various building changes. We have done remarkably well keeping our residential operation functional for the fall and hope to do the same this spring.

To learn more about the many steps MSU is taking to ensure student safety and health during the COVID-19 pandemic, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/healthyatmsu.

###

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.

MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity, educational institution.



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NEWS RELEASE

January 13, 2021

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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Fall 2020 Dean's List announced

Morehead State University's Fall 2020 Dean's List is now available online.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must have completed at least 12 undergraduate credit hours and earned at least a 3.5 GPA for the current semester. Students are listed by college and their hometown is identified.

To view the list, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/deanslist.

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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Malphrus inducted into KY Aviation Hall of Fame

Dr. Benjamin K. Malphrus, executive director of the Space Science Center and professor of space science at Morehead State University, will be inducted into the Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame.

Malphrus was instrumental in developing the space systems engineering and astrophysics programs at Morehead State and the construction of MSU's Space Science Center. Malphrus has served on the National Radio Astronomy Observatory scientific staff, as a visiting scientist at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility and on the faculty of universities including the University of South Carolina and West Virginia University. In the late 1990s, Malphrus developed a theory of galaxy formation that has gained wide acceptance among the astronomical community and led to the discovery of a previously unknown galaxy, identified as NGC 5291-B, the first known galaxy proved to result from galaxy-galaxy interactions. He contributes to the body of research in interacting galaxies, radio astronomy instrumentation, and space systems design and operation.

Malphrus is part of the 25th Enshrinement class into the Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame. Also inducted into the Aviation Hall of Fame is MSU alumna Dr. Wilma "Willi" Walker. Last year, Walker and her family established the Walker Family Scholarship Endowment, a scholarship fund to benefit MSU students. For more information, visit moreheadstate.awardspring.com.

Malphrus and Walker will be recognized at an official hall of fame induction ceremony to be held later this year.

The Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame has recognized honorees since 1996 for their contributions and achievements in aviation and aerospace. Those honored represent a wide range of military and civilian pilots, scientists, administrators and corporate leaders.

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

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January 13, 2021

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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Eagles return to campus for spring semester classes on Jan. 19

After a safe and successful fall 2020 semester, Morehead State is ready to welcome students back to finish the 2020-21 academic year.

Classes for the Spring 2021 semester at MSU begin on Tuesday, Jan. 19. Students who have not registered for courses may do so online at my.moreheadstate.edu. Students should contact their academic advisors for assistance. Visit www.moreheadstate.edu/registernow for details.

MSU has announced move-in dates for Spring 2021 will be Monday, Jan. 11, through Tuesday, Jan. 19. All students living on campus for the upcoming semester can now log-in to their Housing Self-Service portal and select their return move-in time. For more information on Spring 2021 move-in procedures at MSU, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/move-in or contact the Office of Student Housing at 606-783-2060 or housing@moreheadstate.edu.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the spring semester schedule has been modified. Spring break has been eliminated for Spring 2021 and there will be two non-instructional days where classes will not meet, on Wednesday, Feb. 17, and Tuesday, March 30. Finals week is scheduled for Monday, May 3, through Friday, May 7. For a complete schedule, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/academiccalendar.

As students return to campus, maintaining health and safety is our top priority. Instruction and student life will take place with the precautions that helped MSU complete our semester in Fall 2020. To learn more about the many steps MSU is taking to ensure student safety and health during the COVID-19 pandemic, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/healthyatmsu.

There is still time to apply to become a student at MSU. Visit www.moreheadstate.edu/admissions for more information.

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NEWS RELEASE

January 14, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King

Morehead State University will host a number of virtual and interactive events throughout the week of Jan. 18-22 to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Monday, Jan. 18

- **I am the Light:** The I am the Light Campaign is the virtual program to honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Anyone interested in participating can pick up their battery-operated candle and supplies Jan. 14 and 15 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the second floor of ADUC by the fireplace. We encourage everyone to post a picture of a candle in your home on social media and tag @EDEC_MSU and @CAB_MSU with the hashtag #IamtheLightMLK2021 along with your reflection on the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- **Speaker – Edward G. Young III:** From Dream to Vision, 7 p.m. Edward G. Young III is a cross-cultural communication expert specializing in diversity, leadership, and hazing. At age 22, he suffered a broken neck from an incident involving his fraternity. He will speak about his experience and the obstacles he's overcome to achieve success.

Tuesday, Jan. 19

- **The Art of the Quote:** The Art of the Quote is a creative way to create an artistic representation of a quote from Dr. King. Pick up supplies and instructions on the 2nd floor of ADUC from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. We encourage you to post a photo of your art piece and tag @CAB_MSU and @EDEC_MSU with the hashtag #ArtofaQuote. Please visit Eagle Link for more details <https://moreheadstate.campuslabs.com/engage/event/6648451>.
- **Virtual I Have a Dream Wall, All Day:** To continue the tradition of our annual I have a Dream Wall program for MLK Week we encourage you to share a reflection of one of your dreams for the future to be posted on the digital signage in ADUC throughout the week. To submit a dream, email your reflection to edec@moreheadstate.edu. Please visit Eagle Link for more details <https://moreheadstate.campuslabs.com/engage/event/6648479>.

Wednesday, Jan. 20

- **The Art of the Quote:** The Art of the Quote is a creative way to create an artistic representation of a quote from Dr. King. Pick up supplies and instructions on the 2nd floor of ADUC from 11 a.m.

to 2 p.m. We encourage you to post a photo of your art piece and tag @CAB_MSU and @EDEC_MSU with the hashtag #ArtofaQuote.

- Virtual I Have a Dream Wall, all day.
- Featured Movie (TBD), 7 p.m. Please visit Eagle Link for more details <https://moreheadstate.campuslabs.com/engage/event/6648505>.

Thursday, Jan. 21

- MLK Trivia: Kahoot, 7 p.m. - Join us for a fun and interactive Kahoot to share your knowledge or learn more about the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Please visit Eagle Link for more details <https://moreheadstate.campuslabs.com/engage/event/6648508>.
- Virtual I Have a Dream Wall, all day.

Friday, Jan. 22

- Virtual I have a Dream Wall: Be sure to look for I Have a Dream submissions on the digital signage in ADUC, all day.
- The Art of the Quote: Campus Activities Board will be sharing the artistic creations from submissions of the Art of the Quote on their social media @CAB_MSU, all day.

For more information, contact Shannon Colvin, associate director of Student Activities, at 606-783-2886 or email s.colvin@moreheadstate.edu.

MSU will be closed Monday, Jan. 18, in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. Classes will not meet and administrative offices will not be open.

- The Camden-Carroll Library will be closed.
- The University Store and the University Post Office will be closed.
- Dining services in the Adron Doran University Center will be closed. The Rocky Adkins Dining Complex will be open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- The Recreation and Wellness Center will be open from 3 to 9 p.m. The pool will be open from 4 to 8 p.m. Outdoor Adventures and the bowling alley will be closed.

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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU Aramark chef appears on latest season of FOX's 'Hell's Kitchen'

Before she ended up on the latest season of "Hell's Kitchen," Brittani Ratcliff found a little slice of heaven as a child in her grandmother's kitchen.

Growing up in the small Carter County town of Willard, the current executive sous chef and catering chef with Aramark at Morehead State University comes from a long line of farmers. She learned to raise livestock – not to mention grow, harvest and can her own vegetables – since she was around five years old. One of the first dishes she ever learned how to cook was when she assisted her grandmother Bonnie Ratcliff's chicken and dumplings at age 14.

"It's my go-to for pretty much everything," Ratcliff, 32, said.

Even as she was attending college at the University of Kentucky (UK) with plans to go to medical school, she couldn't escape her calling. When she and her roommates were living on ramen noodles, she had an "a-ha moment" as she researched Asian cuisine to elevate the college staple by adding eggs, chicken and green onions.

"It made me really happy to see my roommates enjoy my food," she said. "Just the passion for cooking...I couldn't stay away from it."

Ratcliff dropped out of UK and attended Sullivan University to earn an associate degree in culinary arts. After spending several years working as a line cook and catering chef in Lexington and Louisville, she has spent the last seven years working for Aramark at Morehead State University. Ratcliff creates menus for and caters events large and small for the University and Rowan County. One of the largest MSU events she is consistently responsible for making a flavorful success is the food offerings for the annual Spring Gala, MSU's largest fundraiser.

"I don't have a whole team of people behind me," she said of her current job. "Whether it's an event for 10 people or an event for 400 people, this is my menu."

In times of achievement and struggle throughout her schooling and career, Ratcliff didn't stop watching cooking shows, especially celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay's "Hell's Kitchen."

"I've been a mega-fan since the first season," she said. "I've watched every season two or three times."

However, even though Ratcliff was working in a field that was her passion, she admits she didn't have the same creative spark and drive that she used to when it came to her cooking. She was in a rut. It was about this time that she heard the show was accepting applications for contestants for its season 19 run in Lake Tahoe.

"I thought this was a sign for me," she said. "I needed to push myself to do something bigger than what I thought I would do."

Ratcliff's time on season 19 of "Hell's Kitchen," which debuted on Jan. 7, is one she described as a "pleasant intense," which is almost an apt description for the show's star chef.

"I think his (Ramsay's) personality is 100 percent at all times. He's just passionate about the kitchen and cooking. He's passionate about life in general and you can tell," she said. "He is everything I expected, plus a little bit more."

In addition to showing off her cooking style she calls "Appalachian French fusion" and building relationships with her castmates that feel more like family, Ratcliff left with a renewed desire in the kitchen. She is working on obtaining a farm and going back to her roots, showcasing her cooking skills, showing people how to grow and preserve their vegetables, and putting smiles on their faces with food.

"Since I've been back, it's been one idea after the other," she said. "I found out more of who I was and the direction I want to go with my career and my life."

"Hell's Kitchen" airs at 8 p.m. Eastern/7 p.m. Central Thursdays on FOX.

For more information on MSU Dining Services, visit [morehead.campusdish.com](https://www.moreheadcampusdish.com).

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NEWS RELEASE

January 19, 2021

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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Craft Academy graduate accepts NASA internship

Catherine Embury (19), a graduate of the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics at Morehead State, has accepted a prestigious internship with NASA.

Embury, a Lexington native, is currently a mathematics major at Wright State University. During her NASA internship, Embury will be researching efficient and cost-effective ways to communicate with and track small satellites.

"I have been applying (and getting rejected) for internships with NASA for almost three years, and honestly I didn't really think it would ever be more than a pipe dream," she said. "When I got the email with my offer letter, I actually spent about 30 minutes making absolutely sure it wasn't a phishing scam before I allowed myself to get excited, but when I did get excited, I cried for another 30 minutes. I am beyond thrilled to be a part of NASA, even if only for the next 16 weeks."

Embury said her interest in space science began when she attended the SpaceTrek summer camp for girls in 2017. She credits Jen Carter, assistant director of academic services at the Craft Academy and a Space Trek instructor, with sparking her passion for studying space science.

"Ms. Carter, through SpaceTrek, had instilled a passion in me, a love for data and for space science, which has now developed into a love of all things' outer space," Embury said. "After finishing SpaceTrek, and as soon as I began at Craft, where I had initially intended on focusing on psychology, I immediately asked Ms. Carter to change my schedule so I could focus on space science engineering. She obliged and helped me get set up for the classes that would draw me even further into my love of space science engineering."

Embury immersed herself in her studies through the Space Science Center's "Padawan" program, which pairs new and incoming students with a faculty or peer mentor to help them explore different aspects of space science. Embury worked on the environmental testing and safety engineering teams for the Lunar IceCube project.

"I really can't even begin to describe the level of privilege I was given when I was accepted into the Craft Academy," she said. "It gave me a steppingstone into the real world, and rather than throwing me in head-first and allowing me to fail. I was given a whole host of new tools that I could use to succeed. While I am proud of the work I have done to be where I am, I would not have been able to even approach that work or the field of space science engineering if not for the passion, for the goals, for the ambition, and for the ability to believe in myself that both SpaceTrek and the Craft Academy instilled in me."

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

To learn more about space science programs at MSU, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/phes, email phes@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2381.

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NEWS RELEASE

January 20, 2021
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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Craft Academy students make all-state ensembles

Two juniors from the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics at Morehead State have been accepted into all-state musical ensembles.

Jane Zhang from Madison County will be the ninth chair flautist in the All-State Symphonic Band. Duncan McGinnis from Greenup will be the 11th chair violist for the All-State Symphony. Both students had to audition for their respective ensembles, which was done virtually this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. Although restrictions will continue to have an impact this year, both McGinnis and Zhang say they're excited for the opportunity to collaborate with other high school musicians from across the Commonwealth.

"We haven't received much detail on how the orchestra will work online," McGinnis said. "I'm hoping they will go with some master classes, where a professor teaches new technique and leads rehearsals with only one type of instrument. They may also simply have us record out parts to the pieces we're playing and send them in to be edited together. Either way, I hope to interact with new musicians from all over the state."

"The performance will be outstanding, and I can't wait to showcase our perseverance through this pandemic," Zhang said.

Zhang has been playing the flute for more than five years and auditioned for the all-state band since she was a freshman. She said she's thrilled to have finally been accepted.

"The symphonic band is the highest band, which places me in the top 15 high school flautists in the entire state of Kentucky," she said. "I am extremely anxious as well as excited to be accepted into this talented and wonderful ensemble. I wanted to be involved in All-State Band because it is a wonderful opportunity for the blooming of new friendships. This performance is made up of the best band students of Kentucky as well as the best and most talented band directors, which is also why it is such a wonderful learning experience and opportunity to develop musical skills."

McGinnis has been playing the viola since he was in fourth grade and began taking private lessons a year and a half ago. This will be his second year as a member of the ensemble, and although COVID has changed how the group will perform, he still looks forward to performing with other skilled musicians.

"There's just something incredible about being in an ensemble where everyone is cooperative, skilled, and wants to be there," McGinnis said. "I'm not sure what exactly this year's will be like, since we have to do it online, but I think it will still be a great experience. I feel amazing to be

accepted this year again, especially since I made it into symphony this year.”

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

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



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NEWS RELEASE

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MSU students, faculty collaborate with multiple universities for ‘Thank You, Lord’ video

Morehead State University has many talented faculty and students in the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. Those talents were put on full display for an online audience thanks to a music video performance of the Walter Hawkins gospel song “Thank You, Lord” featuring a collaboration with multiple universities from across the country.

This project started as a conversation among three colleagues: Drs. Roosevelt Escalante Jr., associate professor of music and director of MSU’s Black Gospel Ensemble; Stephen Futrell, associate professor of music at Elon University; and Greg Gentry, director of choral studies at the University of Colorado-Boulder. They discussed the challenge of providing a meaningful musical and educational experience for their students while staying connected through song during the pandemic. To develop compassion, empathy and understanding in such a diverse environment, they had an idea.

“This collaboration speaks to the transcendent power of music. Music has the power to heal divides culturally, racially and politically,” Escalante said. “It also is a reminder that we are more similar than we are different.”

The performance of “Thank You, Lord” edited and animated by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker David Sherman (PBS - “The Big Adventures of Little Ioda”), included sound editing and sound mixing by Elon University faculty Futrell and Todd Coleman, respectively. It brought together students and faculty from MSU, University of Colorado-Boulder, Elon University and the University of Colorado-Anschutz.

Along with the vocal offerings of MSU’s Jazz Vocal Ensemble and Black Gospel Ensemble, MSU sophomore Elijah Miller from Cattlettsburg played guitar, MSU music professor Ryan McGillicuddy recorded bass; and Escalante created the arrangement as well as recorded all keyboard parts. The video also features a vocal soloist Zach Day, a former MSU student who was recently featured on season 18 of NBC’s “The Voice.”

“All of the directors hope this project promotes compassion, understanding, community, and kindness during this difficult time,” Escalante said. “We hope it brings as much meaning and joy to our audience as it did for us and our singers.”

To learn more about music programs at MSU, email mtd@moreheadstate.edu, 606-783-2473 or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/music.

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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Delta Tau Delta provides bikes for tikes

The Zeta Zeta Chapter of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity at Morehead State made the holidays brighter for some students at McBrayer Elementary with its Bikes for Tikes program.

The Bikes for Tikes project was designed in collaboration with staff members at McBrayer Elementary to provide bicycles to students selected by the school. McBrayer Elementary and the Zeta Zeta chapter collaborated to provide bikes for eight students, five boys and three girls. After purchasing the bicycles, members of the fraternity delivered the bikes to the school so the students could receive them before the holiday season.

“The Zeta Zeta chapter is extremely grateful to be a part of this project. We love being able to help our community in any way possible, especially during these troubling times,” said Zeta Zeta President Cody Hammonds, a senior convergent media major from Lovely. “We look forward to continuing this project and we hope to broaden our outreach to help even more students in the months to come.”

For more information about fraternity and sorority life at MSU, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/fsl.

Photo Caption: Members of the Zeta Zeta Chapter of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity helped provide eight bicycles for students at McBrayer Elementary School as part of their Bikes for Tikes program.

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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU alumnus and former instructor Dr. Tim Conner dies

MSU alumnus and former education instructor Timothy W. Conner II, Ph.D., died Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021, at Saints Mary and Elizabeth Hospital in Louisville at age 40.

Born July 3, 1980, in Cincinnati, Ohio, he was the husband of Della Howard Conner and the son of Tim and the late Terri Conner and the late Marleen and Bruce Troxell.

Conner graduated with a degree in music education from MSU in 2002 and a Master of Arts in Teaching in 2005. Most recently, he earned his Director of Special Education Level II certification last year. He worked at MSU in 2018-19 as an assistant professor of educational psychology in the Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education. He taught in several school systems throughout his career, most recently in the Jefferson County School District as a sixth-grade teacher at Lassiter Middle School.

In addition to his wife and father, Tim is survived by his son, TJ Conner; a stepdaughter, Jaime Miko; four grandchildren, Kendall, Haylee, Parker and Lincoln; brothers Jesse Lucy, Michael Conner and Benjamin Conner; sisters Trina Lucy, Sarah Conner, Heather Strawder, and Larissa Conner and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Maryanne.

A celebration of life is being planned for sometime later this year. Memorial donations may be made to the MSU Choirs. To donate, visit <http://alumni.moreheadstate.edu/give>.

###

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NEWS RELEASE

January 21, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Mental Health in Education webinar discussion takes place Jan. 27

The Morehead State University Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education and the Appalachian Rural Education – MSU Hub Council present the live webinar, “Mental Health in Education: Averting a Crisis” from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27.

The discussion will feature Dr. Jared Scherz, CEO of TeacherCoach, an online teaching resource for educators. Scherz will be interviewed by Dr. Shane Shope, associate professor of educational leadership at MSU, on preventing and counteracting the growing psychological harm and chronic duress in school communities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those unable to attend the live webinar via Webex will be sent a link if they registered to participate in the event. Please email Shope at s.shope@moreheadstate.edu to register.

The Volgenau College of Education offers a reduced tuition rate to all Kentucky schoolteachers and other educators enrolled in courses within our College of Education. For more details on the reduced tuition offer, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/kyeducators.

For more information about MSU’s Volgenau College of Education and its programs, call 606-783-2162 or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/education.

###

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NEWS RELEASE

January 22, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Morehead State University to freeze residential housing rates for next school year

As part of Morehead State University's continued Commitment to the Commonwealth, officials at MSU have announced plans to freeze campus residential housing rates for next school year.

"Part of Morehead State's dedication to student success is not just an experience that combines personalized attention and high-quality academic programs, but also making that experience affordable to students and their families," said Dr. Jay Morgan, MSU president. "MSU remains committed to retaining its long-held status as one of the most affordable universities in Kentucky. We will continue to evaluate strategies and to look for ways to make higher education as affordable as possible to as many students as possible at our University."

Living on campus offers all the conveniences of independent living coupled with valuable support, learning, and safety structures to facilitate student success. Residents cherish the on-campus living experience and form lasting memories of their University experience.

For additional information about living on campus at MSU, please visit www.moreheadstate.edu/housing.

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NEWS RELEASE

January 25, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Sutton finds unexpected inspiration in researching country music autobiographies

Even though he is an English instructor at Morehead State University, Dr. Matthew Sutton has had two life-long artistic loves.

Growing up in Georgetown with a father who was a high school band director for more than two decades at Scott County (Kentucky) High School, Sutton spent almost just as much time reading as he did learning to play musical instruments. Those instruments included woodwinds and percussion in his school band or acquiring a "garage-band-level competence" on instruments like guitar and bass.

Sutton followed in his father's footsteps and pursued a career in education. He attended the University of Kentucky, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English in 1994 and a Master of Arts in English in 1999. He later went on to earn a Ph.D. from the College of William and Mary in 2011.

His teaching also included an interest in research. He completed a post-doctoral appointment at East Tennessee State University, as well as research fellowships at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin, the Summersell Center for the Study of the South at the University of Alabama, the New Orleans Center for the Gulf South at Tulane University, the Archives of Appalachia, and the Woody Guthrie Archives.

Sutton came to MSU in 2020 and currently teaches courses in composition and American Literature, but music still plays a massive role in what he does.

"What's probably most influential, though, is how musicianship shapes what I do as a professor," Sutton said. "When I write articles or do conference presentations, I research and refine ideas methodically, the way a musician works up a challenging new piece. When I lecture, I catch myself using phrasing and dynamics and sometimes improvising, like a player would onstage, and I work to garner responses and good classroom 'performances' from my students, like my dad would when he conducted his bands."

In some of Sutton's latest published works, his passion for music and writing have come together in interesting ways. While he had appreciated a variety of musical genres, he said he gravitated toward writing about styles of southern music. As a graduate student, country music was his dissertation topic, a choice inspired by reading country legend George Jones's autobiography "I Lived to Tell It All."

"Reading that as a first-person story left a greater impression on me than the more 'objective' works I was reading about the South," he said. "That gave me the sudden realization that these books were important primary sources and could be excellent teaching tools to convey history, especially the stories of the working classes and people of color who are often overlooked in the standard narratives about the South."

Sutton has had articles published on the jazz musician Sun Ra, soundscapes in the fiction of William Faulkner and Ernest J. Gaines, and legendary songwriter Bob Dylan's appropriation of Southern culture. His recent essays have been published in *American Literature*, *Mississippi Quarterly*, *Popular Music and Society*, and the

edited volumes “Faulkner and Hemingway,” “Southern Comforts: Drinking & the U.S. South,” and “Swamp Souths.”

He recently wrote an article on African American country icon Charley Pride's autobiography titled "Act Naturally: Charley Pride, autobiography, and the 'accidental career'" for the book “Country Boys and Redneck Women: New Essays in Gender and Country Music.” Sutton is also in the process of turning his college dissertation into a book titled “Storyville: Discourses in Southern Musicians' Autobiographies,” which analyzes autobiographies of jazz, country, soul and blues musicians from 1900 to 1960.

"They are overlooked primary sources on the South during the years of racial segregation. It's no accident that these styles of music employ the same set of chords and share the same lyrical concerns; a lot of young southerners, black and white, crossed racial and class lines to follow strange yet eerily familiar sounds and find expressions of their own desires, even it meant defying social custom," he said. "All in all, this has been a very rewarding research topic, as I've been able to build on my scholarly and personal interests and do interdisciplinary scholarship at archives across the country."

Even though Sutton has found a great deal of satisfaction in this niche of nonfiction research and literature, he said it is all "a means to an end" to ultimately benefit MSU students.

"I'm mainly interested in the exchange of ideas, whether that means helping other scholars approach an idea in a new way and getting quoted or cited in their work or applying a concept I picked up in my research when teaching my literature or writing classes," he said. "Even if my research and teaching run on different tracks, it's important that I stay engaged and keep learning, so I can be an effective teacher."

Dr. Matthew Sutton can be reached at m.sutton@moreheadstate.edu.

To learn about MSU's Department of English, call 606-783-9448 or go to www.moreheadstate.edu/english.

###

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NEWS RELEASE

January 25, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU mourns death of retiree John Osborne

Morehead State retiree John Wesley Osborne, 79, of Morehead, husband of Mary “Peggy” Malone Osborne (79), passed away Friday, Jan. 22, at Baptist Health in Lexington.

Born February 11, 1941, in Barbourville, he was the son of John Samuel and Othella Bolton Osborne. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Harold Osborne, who died in a military plane crash in 1954 while serving in the U.S. Air Force.

He is also survived by two sons: John A. Osborne of Jamestown, and James W. Osborne (Shannon) of Russell Springs; grandchildren: Jessica Peroff (Jamison) of Van Nuys, CA, James A. Osborne (Kori) of Great Lakes, IL, Haley Blevins (Thomas) of Russell Springs, Brandon Withers (Alisha) of Russell Springs; great grandchildren: Makenzie, Quinton, Corbin, Megan, Dylan, and Abby; a sister, Geraldine Osborne Marcum (Bill) of Paducah, as well as nieces and nephews and extended family.

Osborne was an associate professor of accounting at MSU until he retired in 1998. He started the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program at MSU and was advisor to Phi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

He founded Osborne Tax Services in 1974. He and his wife Peggy operated the business both in Morehead and Russell Springs/Jamestown, until their retirement in 2013. John enjoyed a successful extended career in income tax preparation and consulting.

Osborne served as captain in the U.S. Army and received the Bronze Star. The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces for meritorious service in a combat zone. After returning from Vietnam, he continued his service in the National Guard for several years.

He was a member of the United Methodist Church in Morehead.

Visitation in Morehead, was held Sunday, Jan. 24, at Northcutt & Son Home for Funerals. A celebration of his life will be conducted at 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 25, at Northcutt & Son Home for Funerals Memorial Chapel with the Rev. Aaron Mansfield and the Rev. Matthew Kimmons officiating. The service will be livestreamed on Northcutt & Son Home for Funerals Facebook page beginning at 10 a.m.

Visitation in Jamestown, will be held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 25, at H. E. Pruitt Memory Chapel. A military graveside service will be held 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26, at Bethel Cemetery in Jamestown. Wendell Roberts, minister, will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to the MSU Foundation, John and Peggy Osborne Scholarship, 150 University Blvd., P.O. Box 1887, Morehead, KY 40351 or online at alumni.moreheadstate.edu/osborne.

View complete obituary or sign guestbook at www.northcuttandson.com.

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NEWS RELEASE

January 26, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Buffalo Trace Veterinary Medical Association Endowment awards scholarship in honor of Dr. Charles Derrickson

The Morehead State University Foundation has announced the 2020-21 recipient of the Buffalo Trace Veterinary Medical Association Scholarship in honor of Dr. Charles Derrickson. This endowment fund, created in 2002, supports Morehead State University students admitted to the Veterinary Technology program. This year's recipient is Judy Pedraza, a senior veterinary technology major from Sparta, Kentucky.

As a student, Pedraza has been a member of the Pre-Vet Club and Vet-Tech Club, as well as a member of the Service Dog Association. She plans to take the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE) to become a licensed vet tech.

"This scholarship is a great help. Instead of being stressed about finding a job that will work with my busy schedule, I can be more focused on my classes," Pedraza said.

The Buffalo Trace Veterinary Medical Association Endowment awards an annual scholarship in honor of Dr. Charles Derrickson, who came to MSU as an associate professor in the Department of Agriculture. During his time at MSU, he helped plant the seeds for what would become MSU's Department of Agricultural Sciences, home of 11 agricultural science degree programs and the Derrickson Agricultural Complex, the 350-acre University Farm that bears his name. Derrickson retired from MSU as the former dean of MSU's College of Applied Sciences and Technology and was the recipient of the 2005 Founder's Award for University Service, one of MSU's highest honors.

To learn more about MSU's Veterinary Technology program and other programs in the Department of Agricultural Sciences, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/agriculture.

Students interested in applying for this scholarship, along with other privately funded scholarships managed by the MSU Foundation, may 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.

Photo: Dr. Charles Derrickson (lower panel) and his granddaughter Lauren Mirus (11), assistant professor of veterinary science at MSU, met virtually with Judy Pedraza (upper panel), this year's recipient of the Buffalo Trace Veterinary Medical Association Scholarship in honor of Dr. Charles Derrickson.

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NEWS RELEASE

January 27, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Craft Academy student recognized for volunteerism

Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear recently recognized a senior at the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics for her tireless volunteer work.

Izzy McCloud from Greenup County said she gets involved whenever and wherever she can, taking any volunteer opportunities that come her way. She's been involved in volunteer organizations throughout her high school career and has raised money for UNICEF, volunteered at homeless shelters and participated in toy drives. McCloud also helped her community by making and distributing face masks in her hometown.

"When I made the masks, my mom posted it to Facebook and we were flooded with requests. This was back in April when masks were nowhere to be found in stores," McCloud said. "I gave out masks for free to anyone who asked. I delivered them to homes and health care workers. I even shipped them to about seven other states."

An unknown resident of McCloud's hometown wrote a letter to Gov. Beshear commending her for her work and her generosity in giving away masks. Beshear praised McCloud during remarks at the Ashland Alliance annual dinner, which recognizes those making an impact in Eastern Kentucky.

When McCloud learned she was going to be recognized by the governor, she said she was thrilled.

"I was so excited to tell the Craft staff and my family because I want to make them proud. I felt honored to be bragged on by the governor and it helped my self-esteem knowing I did something impactful enough that it was worth recognizing," she said. "I found out he was going to recognize me when a man from my hometown called and asked if he could send a letter about the masks I had sewn to the governor because he felt it was a good representation of Eastern Kentucky and the people trying to help out during the pandemic."

McCloud said she first started volunteering because she was motivated by her family and friends to do something positive.

"I have many people in my life who always encouraged me to do good and help those in need," she said. "I want to show people my good character and the volunteer work I do fills me with pride."

When it comes to why she continues to devote so much time to volunteer work, McCloud said it's not just about how it makes her feel; it's about helping others.

"I think the most rewarding aspect of volunteering is the thanks you get from those you've helped. People are

kind and often will reach out to you to thank you for what you have done. Knowing that people see me as a compassionate or generous person is worth more than any prize or payment," she said. "I know that putting yourself out there can be uncomfortable but the more you do it, the more comfortable it will become. Be the good that the world so desperately needs. It will open doors for you, and it will open your eyes."

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

To learn more about the Craft Academy at MSU, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/craft-academy, email craftacademy@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2093.

###

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NEWS RELEASE

January 27, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU schedules in-person and virtual student orientation and registration sessions for 2021

As Morehead State University begins a new year, the University will prepare incoming Eagle students through its upcoming Student Orientation and Registration (SOAR) sessions for 2021.

MSU will host SOAR sessions for new students, transfer students and Eagle Scholars (dual-credit students with MSU) in-person and in a virtual format.

- Thursday, Apr. 15 – Eagle Scholars*
- Friday, Apr. 16 – New Students*
- Monday through Friday, Apr. 19-23 – New & Transfer Students – Virtual**
- Monday, May 24 – Transfer Students*
- Tuesday, May 25 – New Students*
- Friday, June 11 – New Students*
- Saturday, June 12 – New Students*
- Monday through Friday, June 21-25 – New & Transfer Students – Virtual**
- Tuesday, July 13 – Transfer Students*
- Wednesday, July 14 – New Students*

*Session will be in-person from 9 a.m. to noon (approximately). Facial coverings are required and there is a guest limit of one person per student.

**Virtual sessions will include:

1. Online videos and text content you will watch on your own during the week.
2. Scheduled session with your academic advisor.
3. Live web session on Friday.

Admitted students for Fall 2021 will need to sign up at www.moreheadstate.edu/soar for the week of their preferred SOAR session. Once registration is complete, they will be emailed additional details.

MSU demonstrates its Commitment to the Commonwealth through several initiatives designed to help students and families during these unprecedented times. We are proud to announce that we are freezing tuition, housing 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.

To learn more about SOAR at MSU, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/soar or contact the Office of First Year Programs at fyp@moreheadstate.edu or 606-783-5208.

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NEWS RELEASE

January 27, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Bryant to present on first-generation college enrollment at regional conference

Samantha Bryant, associate director for Upward Bound Math and Science South at Morehead State, has been invited to present at the 49th Annual Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel Conference on Feb. 1, 2021.

The conference brings together some of the best TRIO leaders and visionaries to share real-world insights on impacting college access and success culture and landscape.

Bryant, a former TRIO participant, will present on low-income, first-generation (LIFG) student college enrollment and its steady increase over the last decade.

“This group of marginalized students is typically overlooked as needing additional support as they often lack any visual indicators of their LIFG status,” Bryant said.

Her presentation, “Beyond Access,” will provide a detailed student profile, an overview of unique challenges students from this group often face, and a rationale for institutional and classroom change. The discussion will include cost, intrusive advising, and co- or extra-curricular offerings and the importance of faculty, including the use of culturally compassionate curriculum and communication. Her presentations discuss how LIFG students arrive on-campus with unique goals, stories and challenges, but often lack college-going knowledge and capital. These deficiency areas often impede success for LIFG students. Still, many colleges and support programs have developed and implemented various strategies that have demonstrated the ability to increase success when measured by cumulative GPA, retention and ultimately, degree conferment.

Bryant earned a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary (PS) Education, a Master of Arts in Educational Counseling, and is currently in the Doctor of Education - Adult and Higher Education Leadership program at MSU. She became the associate director of Upward Bound Math & Science South in March 2018.

Morehead State University sponsors five TRIO programs: Educational Talent Search, Educational Opportunity Centers, Student Support Services, Upward Bound, and Upward Bound Math and Science.

For more information about the Upward Bound Programs or TRIO programs please go to www.moreheadstate.edu/Outreach/TRiO-Programs.

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NEWS RELEASE

January 28, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Alumna wins Texas Veterinary Technician of the Year award

Morehead State alumna Leigha Wright (14) was recently named the Licensed Veterinary Technician of the Year by the Texas Veterinary Medical Association.

A native of Pikeville, Wright earned both her associate (13) and bachelor's degrees (14) in veterinary technology at MSU. She is currently the clinical coordinator of the veterinary technology program at Blinn College in Brenham, Texas. Before taking the job at Blinn, Wright worked at the University of Kentucky and Clemson University. She said earning her degrees at MSU gave her the confidence to take risks and move around to advance her career.

"The Morehead professors, they taught me empathy and compassion," Wright said. "I model how I teach on how I was taught at MSU."

Wright has instituted several changes to the program at Blinn based on her experiences at MSU, and the program now boasts the highest Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE) passage rate in the state of Texas. Wright has also worked to have live animal surgeries incorporated into the Blinn curriculum. She has developed a hybrid program to help non-licensed veterinary Technicians earn their license while continuing to work in the field. Wright said she decided to create the live surgery curriculum because she had that experience at MSU and wanted to offer it to her students.

Wright was nominated for the award by her program director, Dr. Catherine Pfent.

"I'm very thankful to Blinn College and Dr. Pfent for supporting me and the changes to the program," she said. "I would not be in the state of Texas if not for Dr. Pfent. Having a boss like her is a game-changer."

Wright said her professors at MSU inspired her both when she was a student and now in her career as an educator. One professor Wright says left an impression on her is Dr. Philip Prater, professor of veterinary science.

"Dr. Prater has been the most supportive person I've had in my career," Wright said. "He doesn't just care about helping you get a degree; he cares about you your whole life. Without him, I would not be the veterinary technician I am today."

To learn more about veterinary technology programs at MSU, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/vettech, email agsi@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2328.

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NEWS RELEASE

January 29, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

National recognition awarded to eight MSU degree programs

Morehead State University's reputation for academic quality is already being recognized in a big way in 2021.

Intelligent.com has ranked a total of eight of MSU's academic programs in multiple national top degree programs lists, with five of those programs earning Top 5 honors and two being ranked No. 1 overall in their respective lists.

Intelligent.com is a resource for online degree rankings and higher education planning. The website offers curated guides, including the best degree programs and information about financial aid, internships and study strategies. The 2021 rankings are calculated through a unique scoring system that includes student engagement, the potential return on investment and leading third-party evaluations.

The MSU programs recognized by Intelligent.com for 2021 include:

- Master of Arts in Teaching (Ranked #1 for Best Master's in K-12 Education Degree Programs).
- Master of Arts in Adult and Higher Education (Ranked #1 for Best Master's in Adult Education Learning Degree Programs).
- Associate of Applied Science in Veterinary Technology (Ranked #2 for Best Veterinary Degree Programs).
- Master of Arts in Sociology (Ranked #2 for Best Master's in Sociology Degree Programs).
- Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting (Ranked #5 for Best Accounting Degree Programs).
- Master of Arts in Sport Management (Ranked #7 for Best Master's in Sports Management Degree Programs).
- Master of Arts in English (Ranked #16 for Best Master's in English Language Learning Degree Programs).
- Doctor of Education (Ranked #23 for Best Doctorate in Education Degree Programs).

For a complete list of MSU's rankings visit www.moreheadstate.edu/rankings.

For more information on programs in the MSU Graduate School, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/gradschool.

To learn how you can become a student at MSU, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/admissions, email admissions@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-2000](tel:606-783-2000).

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