



Communications & Marketing
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www.moreheadstate.edu

NEWS RELEASE

**Dec. 1, 2021
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

MSU students and community singers come together to perform Handel's 'Messiah'

Morehead State University students will collaborate with Rowan County community singers for a performance of George Frideric Handel's most famous oratorio "Messiah."

The concert is at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 5, at First Baptist Church on 123 East Main Street in Morehead. The show is co-sponsored by First Baptist Church and First Christian Church and presented free of charge.

The performance will feature the Christmas portion of the oratorio and conclude with the famed chorus "Hallelujah," followed by "Worthy is the Lamb." The organist for the performance is MSU Staff Accompanist William Murphy (Class of 2009). Dr. Greg Detweiler, MSU director of choral studies and First Baptist Church choir director, is the conductor.

The choir is comprised of community singers and MSU students. The soloists include Dr. Eric Brown, MSU assistant professor of music in voice; Dr. David Gregory, MSU dean of library sciences and minister of music at First Baptist Church; and Janessa Broadhurst (Class of 2019), Boyd County Middle School music teacher. MSU voice majors singing solos are Hannah Newman, a senior from West Union, Ohio; Sarah White-Jarman, a graduate student from Lexington; Emily McCreary, a sophomore from Catlettsburg; Summer Lighthall, a junior from Burlington; Katie Webb, a junior from Mt. Sterling; Britney Hopkins, a junior from Pikeville; and Anna-Wray Grayson, a senior from Louisa. Adrian Jacob (Class of 2011), a Kentucky attorney and First Baptist Church organist, will begin the Christmas story with the recitative "Comfort Ye" followed by the aria "Every Valley."

The rehearsal accompanist is Genny Jenkins (Class of 1998 and 2005), minister of music at First Christian Church and the gifted coordinator and instructor for Rowan

County Schools, who Detweiler said is "the one person who has held the choir together which no one will see in the performance."

"We are so very grateful for her contributions to the group. There would be no choir without her help," Detweiler said.

Detweiler said this bi-annual holiday performance tradition is one he and the performers from both the campus and local community are glad to have back.

"We started this choir many years ago to join the community and the campus," he said. "Each year, the group works on a Christmas presentation. 'Messiah' is usually presented once every two years. We were very excited to start anew after a year of waiting through the pandemic."

For more information on the concert, email Detweiler at g.detweiler@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2480.

To learn more about music programs at MSU, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/music.

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Morehead State University (MSU) is a comprehensive public university with robust undergraduate and graduate programs, emerging doctoral programs, and an emphasis on the region and beyond. 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

**Dec. 2, 2021
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

Board of Regents holds quarterly meeting

The Morehead State University Board of Regents held its audit and quarterly meetings on Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021, in the Adron Doran University Center.

The regents ratified the Fall 2021 graduates, personnel actions and reaffirmed and renewed a University regulation.

They voted to accept the 2020-21 audit report and the University's first quarter financial report and ratified the amended operating budget. The board also ratified the University's 2022-24 Biennial Budget Request for the Kentucky General Assembly and voted to approve the extension of the University Strategic Plan to 2025.

The regents heard reports on the University's financials and personal service contracts from Vice President for Fiscal Services Mary Fister-Tucker, as well as the president's report from MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan.

President Morgan and the board recognized Dr. Ignacio Birriel, professor of physics, Frank Greene, ROTC junior from Lexington, and Kevin "Bubby" McGlone, maintenance technician.

Birriel has numerous publications in nuclear physics and physics education. He has been very active in recruitment activities and regularly represents his department and discipline at Meet MSU Nights and with individual, on-campus prospective student visitors. Many of his students have presented regionally and nationally. He serves as a mentor for students in the physics program and junior colleagues and serves on several University committees.

Greene is a member of the Student Government Association (SGA) and the MSU Army ROTC program. He has made the Dean's List on several occasions and has served as a student senator, chief of staff and chair of the Campus Involvement Committee for SGA. He earned the Distinguished Cadet Award during his first-year class in ROTC. This year, Greene was captain of the Ranger Challenge Team. He also serves as a First Year Seminar Peer Leader.

McGlone has been a maintenance technician in Facilities Management for over 22 years. He is dedicated to his work and has volunteered to help with issues including snow and ice removal. He has also worked early mornings and late nights to ensure the streets and sidewalks are safe for students to get from the residence halls to the Rocky Adkins Dining Hall and the Recreation & Wellness Center.

For more information about the Board of Regents, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/bor.

Photo: Left to right, MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan, Kevin McGlone, Frank Greene, and Dr. Ignacio Birriel.

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NEWS RELEASE

Dec. 3, 2021
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Tech CEO Gopal discusses economic development with Craft Academy students

Students from The Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics recently heard a presentation from a technology CEO promoting economic development in Kentucky.

Ankur Gopal, CEO of mobile/web application development company Interapt, spoke to 54 students when he visited MSU Monday, Nov. 29, in the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC) theater.

Gopal has founded skills apprenticeship programs such as TechHire Eastern Kentucky (TEKY.) In addition, he is a member of the Kentucky Entrepreneur Hall of Fame and has earned numerous other awards and achievements. He spoke to the students about his career and how he decided to build a technology company in his home state of Kentucky.

"Instead of trying to climb the Silicon Valley ladder, he saw value in creating an apprenticeship program by taking unemployed workers from Kentucky and training them in software development," said Ryan Arney, Craft Academy student activities and events coordinator. "The students were tough; they asked hard questions to gain ideas and perspective on how they can use his experience for their own dreams. Ankur did a wonderful job of giving advice and explaining the importance of having mentors."

The Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics is a dual-credit academy for academically exceptional Kentucky students. Craft Academy provides students with a postsecondary residential experience to complete their junior and senior years of high school by enrolling in college courses. 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.

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

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Bryant publishes research on marginalized student groups

Samantha J. Bryant, associate director for Upward Bound Math and Science at Morehead State and a Doctor of Education candidate, recently published her research in a peer-reviewed journal.

Bryant's paper, "An examination of high-impact strategies that increase success in marginalized student groups," will be featured in the Fall 2021 edition of Community College Enterprise. In preparation for her doctoral dissertation, Bryant is conducting research related to best practices for marginalized student groups, primarily those from low-income, first-generation backgrounds.

"I am elated to share the beginning of my research with others," Bryant said. "Hailing from a low-income, first-generation background myself, I realize the importance of such research and have felt the implications first-hand."

Community College Enterprise publishes original research that expands knowledge of the structure and nature of teaching and learning within the community college arena. To learn more, visit home.schoolcraft.edu/cce.

To learn more about Upward Bound programs at Morehead State, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/ub, email upwardbound@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-9300.

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Morehead State faculty members elected to board, students win awards at annual KAS Conference

Several students from Morehead State and the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics won awards and two faculty members from Morehead State's Department of Biology and Chemistry were elected to serve on the governing board at this year's annual conference of the Kentucky Academy of Science (KAS).

The students presented research they conducted alongside MSU faculty members at the conference held Nov. 5 and 6 at Eastern Kentucky University. Each student gave a 12-minute talk that was evaluated by a team of non-MSU faculty.

The winners were:

- Breanna Epperson, a senior physics-MSU Teach major from Wallins Creek, second place in science education, "High School Physics with a Smartphone."
- Anna Grace Erh, a senior biomedical sciences major from Lawrenceburg, first place (tie) in physics and astronomy, "The Reduction of the Intensity of Gamma Rays as they traverse through Humimic's Medical Gel #5."
- Blake Hoover, a senior biomedical sciences major from Richmond, first place in microbiology, "First individually circularized chromosome in the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*."
- Duncan McGinnis, Craft Academy senior from Flatwoods, third place in cellular and molecular biology, "Circularizing Chromosome VII in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*."
- Andrew Roberts, a Craft Academy senior from Winchester and Bryce Charles, a Craft Academy senior from Mt. Sterling, third place in science education,

“College students' ability to read analog clocks: Performance under temporal constraints.”

- Robert Tackett, a senior biomedical sciences major from Stanville, and Ellen Ledford, a senior biomedical sciences major from Mt. Sterling, third place in organic/inorganic chemistry, “Development of Anti-Cancer Small Molecules to Inhibit the Base Excision Repair Pathway.”
- Isaiah Stephens, a senior biomedical sciences major from Salyersville, first place in science education, “A Novel Colorimetric Assay of Apurinic/Apyrimidinic (Abasic) Sites of Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) Using Bicinchoninic Acid.”
- Jacob Wagoner, a senior applied physics major from Morehead, first place (tie) in physics and astronomy, “Testing the Limits of the RSpec Explorer Spectroscope.”

“The opportunity to present at a conference like the KAS helps students learn how to communicate as scientists,” said Dr. Wayne Miller, dean of MSU’s College of Science. “It teaches them how to communicate scientific ideas, data, concepts, theories, etc. with their peers in a way that promotes the exchange of scientific knowledge and leads to new thoughts, ideas, and research.”

Two MSU professors also were elected to the KAS governing board during the meeting, Dr. Melissa Mefford, assistant professor of biology, is the board’s biological science representative. Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Dr. Elizabeth Thomas, is the board secretary. MSU is hosting the KAS Annual Meeting in Fall 2022.

“This is an impressive feat by our faculty in general and by two of our assistant professors in particular,” said Dr. Charles Lydeard, chair of the Department of Biology and Chemistry.

KAS is a membership-based scientific society with more than 4,000 members across the Commonwealth. The mission of KAS is to foster scientific discovery and understanding in Kentucky. The KAS brings scientists together to share research, awards research grants to members, sends scientists out into the community to share their work, and recognizes outstanding science education and outreach. More information is available at www.kas.org.

For information about programs in MSU’s Department of Biology and Chemistry, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/biochem, email bioc@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2945.

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

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MSU 2021 Fall Commencement is Dec. 11

Morehead State University has announced details for its upcoming 2021 Fall Commencement.

Two commencement ceremonies will be held for fall and winter 2021 graduates on Saturday, Dec. 11, in the Academic-Athletic Center (AAC). The event will be socially distanced, and masks are required indoors.

Tickets will be required for guests attending the ceremony. Each degree candidate participating in the ceremony will receive eight (8) tickets. Ceremony times are below:

9:30 a.m. - Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education and College of Science

1 p.m. - Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology, and Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, and

The student speakers for the 2021 Fall Commencement are Dalton Cole Lewis and Anthony Kyle Gibson.

Dalton Cole Lewis of Sterling, Virginia, will serve as commencement speaker representing the College of Science. He is the son of Steve and Celesta Lewis. He will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Physics – Mechanical Engineering Area.

Lewis is the recipient of the Non-Resident Merit Scholarship and has made the Dean's List every semester as a student and maintained a 4.0 GPA. He participated in an Undergraduate Research Fellowship working with Physics Professor Dr. Ignacio Birriel examining safety equipment using prototypes to test concussive force to helmet and player.

He also volunteered with Physics Professor Dr. Jennifer Birriel to help teach lessons in her Introduction to Physics and Engineering Professions course. He recently completed an engineering internship with Rockland Manufacturing in Bedford, Pennsylvania.

Lewis was an offensive lineman for Eagle Football and made the Pioneer Football League Honor Roll each season. He was also presented with the MSU Sledgehammer Award for Toughness in 2019.

Lewis plans to attend Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh in Spring 2022 to study mechanical engineering. His career goals are to work as a mechanical engineer in the automotive or heavy machinery industry.

Anthony Kyle Gibson of Ashland will serve as commencement speaker representing the Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. He is the son of Anthony and Kimberly Gibson, and Pam Welch. He will graduate with a Bachelor of Social Work degree.

Gibson previously served in the United States Marine Corps and earned an associate degree from Ashland Community and Technical College before transferring to MSU in 2019. During his two years in the social work program, he made the Dean's List every semester, maintaining a 3.93 GPA.

Before enrolling at MSU, he was a supervising peer mentor at Transitions' Grateful Life Center and peer support specialist/residential aid for Pathways Residential Plus. He has earned multiple certifications as a support and recovery specialist for drug and alcohol dependency. While completing his degree, Gibson became a registered alcohol and drug peer support specialist for Pathways Outpatient. He co-facilitated intensive outpatient care in this role and provided person-centered recovery from January 2018 to May 2020. He was the keynote speaker at the 2020 Bridges Out of Addiction Symposium hosted by the Healthy Choices, Healthy Communities Coalition and currently serves as an authorization lead/counselor/case manager at Riverside Recovery Services.

He and his wife, Courtney, have four children: Jasmine, Braxton, Kevin and Gabriel. He also coaches wrestling at the Ashland Area Wrestling Club, where he works with kids aged 4 to 7. He said being a coach is one of his favorite titles next to being a parent.

He will pursue a Master of Social Work degree at the University of Kentucky and gain dual licensures to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Licensed Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor.

For more information on MSU's 2021 Fall Commencement and to live stream the ceremonies, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/graduation.

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NEWS RELEASE

Dec. 6, 2021
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Appalachian Future Educators Program supports students in Eastern Kentucky

In Spring 2021, Morehead State University's Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education launched the Appalachian Future Educators (AFE) Scholars Program to provide scholarships, support and mentorship for students from Eastern Kentucky interested in teaching.

The program admitted its first cohort of students in the fall 2021 semester. In its inaugural year, the AFE program proved to be another example of MSU's long-held reputation as an institution that provides the best educational experience for the state's future educators.

"While our education graduates find employment in school districts all over the Commonwealth and beyond, the AFE program is specifically geared toward sending graduates back to districts in our historic service region," said Dr. Christopher Beckham, the Shannon-Doran Endowed Professor of Educational Leadership and director of the AFE Program.

"AFE Scholars take classes with award-winning education faculty and participate in unique opportunities to meet and network with the region's school leaders. The AFE Scholarship Program is yet another vibrant and important component in our University's commitment to providing affordable access to high-quality academic programs."

The program's first cohort of students enrolled in a specially designated First Year Seminar (FYS) course section that introduced the scholars to academic life at MSU and provided instruction in what it means to be an effective educational leader within the rural school setting. A series of speakers, including a local superintendent and school principal, came to campus to share with the AFE Scholars and other Volgenau College of Education students, faculty and staff about the opportunities and challenges found in

rural education. AFE students met with Provost Dr. Antony Norman, who began the AFE program in Spring 2021.

Additionally, students met with Volgenau College of Education Dean Dr. April Miller, who shared her experiences as an educator and college administrator.

AFE Scholars also organized a registered student organization on campus this fall. The student organization focuses on service-learning opportunities that address educational needs within the local community and MSU service region while allowing scholars to get to know each other outside the classroom setting as they work together in student-led activities.

High school graduates who intend to pursue educator preparation degrees or programs within Volgenau College of Education are eligible. A total of 22 students are chosen as scholarship recipients and program participants. To identify these students, the Volgenau College of Education dean and AFE Scholars program director, in consultation with Enrollment Services and the MSU Foundation, work with P-12 school district leadership in Bath, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Elliott, Fleming, Floyd, Greenup, Johnson, Knott, Lawrence, Letcher, Lewis, Magoffin, Martin, Mason, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, Pike, Rowan and Wolfe Counties.

One qualified student from each county is selected to receive a \$1,000 annual scholarship. As long as recipients remain in good academic standing, continue toward completing an educator preparation degree or program, and participate in AFE Scholars Program requirements, the scholarship is renewable up to three times.

Preference is given to students with a high school 3.0 or higher, evidence of leadership potential, first-generation college students, members of an underrepresented minority group, and those in financial need.

For more information on the Appalachian Future Educators Scholar program, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/afe or contact Beckham, director of the AFE program, at 606-783-2538 or c.beckham@moreheadstate.edu.

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MSU Associate Dean Dr. Ahmad Zargari and alumnus Walter Pozgay elected to ATMAE Leadership Board

Dr. Ahmad Zargari, professor and associate dean of MSU's School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) and MSU alumnus Walter Pozgay (Class of 2014,) were elected to board leadership positions with the Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering (ATMAE).

Zargari was elected to serve as the ATMAE Board of Accreditation chair from 2021 to 2025. The ATMAE Board of Accreditation has autonomy in formulating accreditation standards for educational programs through developing and implementing accreditation policies, rules, and procedures for conducting accreditation activities and determining accreditation status.

"Dr. Zargari is an excellent choice to serve as chair of the ATMAE Board of Accreditation. He has provided service to ATMAE in numerous and important ways for a number of years now and is passionate about ATMAE accreditation," said Dr. Johnathan Nelson, dean of MSU's Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology. "Our programs have benefited from his knowledge of the ATMAE accreditation standards and process, and I am pleased that he will be able to support accreditation efforts across the United States and throughout the world in his new role. I am confident that Dr. Zargari will do a wonderful job as chair."

Currently, five MSU programs are accredited by ATMAE through November 2026. They are:

- Bachelor of Science in Construction and Civil Engineering Technology
- Electronics and Computer Engineering Technology

- Mechanical and Manufacturing Technology
- Bachelor of Science in Technology Management
- Master of Science in Engineering and Technology Management

Pozgay was elected as vice-chair of the ATMAE Board of Directors for the 2021/2022 term. He is a Certified Senior Technology Manager through ATMAE and recently completed a two-year term as the Industry Representative on ATMAE's Board of Directors. Pozgay is a member and past chair of the Advisory Board for the SECS and holds a Certified Six Sigma Green Belt through ASQ and a Certified Industrial Electronics Technician card through ISCET and ETA-I. He currently works as a senior manager of engineering labs at GE Appliances in Louisville.

ATMAE is a professional association with more than 1,000 members who share technology, management and applied engineering ideas, research, and applications that impact the future positively. Since 1967 ATMAE members, who are college and university educators, administrators, students, and industry professionals, have been dedicated to solving complex technological problems and developing the competitive technologist and applied engineering workforce.

To explore MSU's School of Engineering and Computer Science programs, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/secs, email secs@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2418.

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606-783-2033 or m.highley@moreheadstate.edu

AND

Tom Lewis, Executive Director St. Claire Foundation
606-783-6511 or thomas.lewis@st-claire.org

For Release: Immediately

Luckey Family Gift Benefits Both MSU, St. Claire

MOREHEAD, Ky. – Dr. Sue Luckey and her late husband, Dr. George “Mac” Luckey, have added another chapter to their history of generous support of both Morehead State University (MSU) and St. Claire HealthCare (SCH).

At the heart of this latest chapter is a property sale generating \$150,000 in support of oncology patient care at SCH, as well as \$150,000 in support of academic scholarships and programming at MSU.

The Luckeys have been fixtures in the community for decades, coming to Morehead State University to build careers and staying in Morehead to grow deep roots. Always forward thinking, they decided that making a lasting impact on future generations was something they wanted to do and before Mac’s passing, they made a plan that Sue has carried forward.

Earlier in the year, Sue transferred the ownership of her childhood North Carolina home and family farm so that the proceeds of its sale could be divided equally to further the missions of both the St. Claire Foundation and the Morehead State University Foundation. The property was so desirable that it sold within days of being listed.

“Morehead State University provided Mac and me with a wonderful place to make a living and, more importantly, make a difference,” Sue said. “And when we made the decision to retire, two things in particular prompted us to stay right here in Morehead: our home and St. Claire.”

“Their work on campus changed the lives of students and their service to our community has bettered the lives of countless local residents,” MSU Assistant Vice President of Alumni Relations and Development Mindy Highley said of the Luckeys.

“Sue and Mac, over the years, have displayed two of the purest philanthropic spirits I’ve ever encountered,” said Tom Lewis, executive director of the St. Claire Foundation. “And we’re honored to be joint recipients of this gift with Morehead State because we each recognize and respect what the other means to our community and region.”

To support either the Morehead State University Foundation or the St. Claire Foundation, visit www.alumni.moreheadstate.edu/give or www.st-claire.org/give.

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SUGGESTED PHOTO CUTLINE

Dr. Sue Luckey with Morehead State University President Dr. Jay Morgan (left) and St. Claire HealthCare President/CEO Donald H. Lloyd, II (right)





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Craft Academy students conduct service-learning project at Hazel Green Academy

Seniors from the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics are spearheading a project to revitalize a historic school campus in Hazel Green, Kentucky. Craft Academy seniors Blake Orr of Stanton, Jane Zhang of Richmond, Logan Smith of Hindman, Oni Terrado of Elizabethtown, and Wade McGuire of Hindman make up the project leadership team. Hazel Green Academy (HGA) was founded in 1880. Students studied and lived on campus, similar to the Craft Academy. At its peak, the academy was fully accredited by the Kentucky Board of Education and focused on science and mathematics, offering elective classes such as music and Bible studies. The academy closed in 1983.

Only a few of the academy's buildings remain functional with only one in use, the Jot 'Em Down (JED) consignment shop which serves the local community. The students have planned a two-phase project to renovate the JED and utilize the remainder of the buildings as a community entertainment venue and educational outreach center.

Craft Academy QEP Director Rachel Rogers is from Hazel Green and is intimately familiar with the HGA. She approached McGuire and Smith with the idea of utilizing HGA's crumbling campus as part of a special project. The students have also been working under the mentorship of Dr. Thomas Kiffmeyer, associate professor of history, due to his expertise in Appalachian history and volunteerism to assure the success of the project. McGuire and Smith asked the other members of the leadership team to get involved.

Work on the project has already begun. On Oct. 3, the leadership team led a service-learning opportunity with a group of approximately 50 of their fellow Craft Academy

students to work on rejuvenating the consignment store. Students removed everything from the store, cleaned the entire building and sorted through donations accumulated during the pandemic. The HGA Leadership Team made a second trip to HGA on Nov. 14 to finish organizing the store to provide volunteer opportunities to other Craft students and revitalize the area.

“Logan and I saw this as an opportunity for all of Eastern Kentucky and what could be a large-scale volunteer effort to bring opportunity and economic development to central Appalachia,” McGuire said. “Many of the students at the Craft Academy come from outside Eastern Kentucky and may not understand the customs of Appalachia or may hold views of the people consistent with the stereotypical moonshiner with soot on his face, no shoes, and no teeth. Our project is helping the break down those cultural barriers while developing the world around us.”

The Craft Academy leadership team has big plans for the HGA. They plan to restore all of the remaining buildings to provide a daycare facility, a community garden, a wellness center, performance spaces, venues for artisans and classroom space.

The team recently met with Brad Thomas of East Kentucky Power to discuss getting resources for the project. They also met with the Hazel Green Christian Church board, which owns the HGA campus, to discuss plans and get permission to use the Hazel Green Academy branding for promotion and social media.

The Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics is a dual-credit academy for academically exceptional Kentucky students. Craft Academy provides students with a postsecondary residential experience to complete their junior and senior years of high school by enrolling in college courses. 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, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/craft-academy, email craftacademy@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2093.

Photo Captions:

Hazel Green 1: Craft Academy students sorted through items donated to the Jot ‘Em Down Consignment store at the site of the Hazel Green Academy.

Hazel Green 2: More than 50 students from the Craft Academy traveled to Hazel Green to work on a service-learning project to restore the campus of the former Hazel Green Academy to better serve the community.

Hazel Green 3: left to right: Blake Orr and Oni Terrado, Craft Academy seniors and members of the Hazel Green Academy Project Leadership Team, have already visited the site twice to begin the work of restoring it to serve the community.

###

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NEWS RELEASE

Dec. 7, 2021
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU legal studies professor Laken Albrink earns first place at AAFPE National Teaching Competition

Laken Albrink (Class of 2012), assistant professor of legal studies at Morehead State University, recently earned first place in the 2021 American Association for Paralegal Education (AAFPE) National Teaching Competition. Her lecture, titled "Applying Statutes," was recognized at the 40th AAFPE National Conference, which took place in October.

Albrink's lecture was a critical thinking exercise on state statutes, specifically on the Kentucky statute on arson and examining why the statutory arson requirements were met under different fact patterns. She utilized famous figures and unique examples to allow participants to explore how courts interpret statutory definitions.

"Using Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk, I explored whether corporate sabotage involving setting an aircraft on fire could satisfy the requirements of the Kentucky arson statutes since the statute references 'building.' I demonstrated how the definition of 'building' in another statute includes 'aircraft' to indicate the importance of reading statutes together," she said.

Albrink has been an assistant professor of legal studies at MSU since August 2020. She graduated from MSU with a Bachelor of Arts in Paralegal Studies and Government in 2012 and earned a Juris Doctor from the University of Kentucky College of Law in 2015. Her prior experience includes being a paralegal, law clerk and attorney. Before coming to MSU, she was the special attorney for the Kentucky Attorney General's Office of Child Abuse and Exploitation Prevention from December 2016 to December 2019 and executive advisor for the Commonwealth of Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services from December 2019 to August 2020.

Albrink said her award-winning lecture exemplifies the style and substance she tries to impart to her students at MSU through a legal studies program that prepares current Eagles for future success.

"From our program's internship exit interviews, students report they appreciate how 'the licensed faculty wrap class material in real-life examples from their practice,' and that they appreciate the many opportunities that they have to engage with legal professionals from outside the University," Albrink said. "These are in addition to the required internship that prepares students as professionals working in the legal field. These engagement opportunities are one of the reasons that the legal studies program has 2 Top 10 national rankings."

Laken Albrink can be reached at l.albrink@moreheadstate.edu.

To learn more about MSU's Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies, contact the Department of History, Philosophy, Politics, Global Studies and Legal Studies at hpgl@moreheadstate.edu, call 606-783-2655 or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/study/legalstudies.

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NEWS RELEASE

**Dec. 9, 2021
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

MSU 2021 Fall Commencement is Dec. 11, livestream will be available

Morehead State University has announced details for the 2021 Fall Commencement ceremonies.

Two commencement ceremonies will be held for fall and winter 2021 graduates on Saturday, Dec. 11, in the Academic-Athletic Center (AAC). MSU is following guidelines for social distancing, and masks are required indoors.

Tickets are required for guests attending the ceremony. Each degree candidate participating in the ceremony will receive eight tickets.

Ceremonies:

- 9:30 a.m. - Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education and College of Science
- 1 p.m. - Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology, and Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Livestream information:

- Volgenau College of Education and College of Science:
<https://ovcdigitalnetwork.com/showcase/embed.aspx?Live=6998>.
- Smith College of Business and Technology and Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences:
<https://ovcdigitalnetwork.com/showcase/embed.aspx?Live=6999>.

For more information about MSU's 2021 Fall Commencement ceremonies, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/graduation.

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NEWS RELEASE

**Dec. 10, 2021
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

MSU education instructor Dr. Sabrina Little selected as Emerging Education Policy Scholar

Morehead State instructor of education, Dr. Sabrina Little, was selected for the 2021-22 Emerging Education Policy (EEP) Scholars class. She teaches in the Department of Foundational and Graduate Studies in Education.

“The Volgenau College of Education congratulates Dr. Sabrina Little for recognition as an Emerging Education Policy Scholar. She is a bright, engaging, thoughtful scholar and we are proud of her accomplishments,” said Dr. Tim Simpson, professor and chair of the Department of Foundational and Graduate Studies in Education (FGSE) at Morehead State University. “She will represent Morehead State and the Volgenau College with distinction. She is putting the foundations of the education programs of Morehead State on the national stage.”

Created by The Thomas B. Fordham Institute and the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), the Emerging Education Policy Scholars program brings together the latest Ph.D. scholars and Ph.D. candidates in Washington, D.C. to discuss new education policy and research ideas.

Little’s latest research has been in classical pedagogy, virtue acquisition and philosophy of education. She said she loves thinking about education research while “refining the ways I teach my own courses.”

“Being an EEP scholar will permit me to engage with like-minded peers who take seriously the task of education, and I am excited to interact with education policy-makers in Washington, D.C.,” she said. “In my work as an academic, it is – and has always been – a priority for me to make a practical difference and to connect my work with life outside of the academy in a serious way. This is a great opportunity to do that.”

Dr. Sabrina Little can be reached at sblittle2@moreheadstate.edu.

To learn more about MSU's Department of Foundational and Graduate Studies in Education, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/fgse, email fgse@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2261.

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NEWS RELEASE

**Dec. 10, 2021
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

MSU mourns death of retiree Denice Copher

MSU retiree Denice Copher, 67, died Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021, at the Pikeville Medical Center.

Born July 2, 1954, in Lexington, she was the daughter of the late Dennis Coyle and Betty Cummins Coyle. She worked at MSU for nearly 17 years and held the position of international student service specialist when she retired in 2018.

She is survived by her husband of 46 years, Conner Copher; one son, Eric (Lashonda) Copher of Flemingsburg; one daughter, Kelli Copher of Ewing; 11 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Visitation will be from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021, at Northcutt & Son Home for Funerals in Morehead. Funeral services will be conducted 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021, at Northcutt & Son Home for Funerals Memorial Chapel with Pastor Tracy Fannin officiating. Burial will follow in Jones Cemetery in Midland.

For more information, visit www.northcuttandson.com.

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NEWS RELEASE

**Dec. 14, 2021
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

Fall Commencement celebrates MSU's newest graduates

Morehead State University honored nearly 600 graduates at ceremonies on Dec. 11.

Graduates celebrated this milestone of academic achievement with family, friends and the MSU community, including congratulations from MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan. Provost Dr. Antony Norman welcomed graduates into the MSU Alumni Association.

The morning ceremony recognized graduates of the Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education and College of Science graduates, and the afternoon ceremony celebrated graduates of the Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology and Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences graduates.

Dalton Cole Lewis (Class of 2021) of Sterling, Virginia, served as commencement speaker representing the College of Science and Anthony Kyle Gibson (Class of 2021) of Ashland served as commencement speaker representing the Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

ROTC student Katherine Faye Boyd (Class of 2021) of Lexington was commissioned as a second lieutenant during the ceremony; the oath was administered by Major Jonathan Gensley.

Lewis is the son of Steve and Celesta Lewis. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Physics – Mechanical Engineering Area and was an offensive lineman for Eagle Football. He made the Pioneer Football League Honor Roll and received the MSU Sledgehammer Award for Toughness in 2019.

He plans to attend Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh in Spring 2022 to study mechanical engineering. His career goals are to work as a mechanical engineer in the automotive or heavy machinery industry.

"Success is not always the outcome we wanted or envisioned, but what it does mean is that we see the results of our efforts we put into the struggles and progress we have," Lewis said. "Here we are today, being commended for our learning and accomplishing what many do not. We can always learn more, push a little bit further and ask more questions. We must cultivate the mind throughout our lives by being curious and having the grit to see through what we started."

Gibson is the son of Anthony and Kimberly Gibson, and Pam Welch and served in the United States Marine Corps. He graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work degree and earned an associate degree from Ashland Community and Technical College, transferring to MSU in 2019. He made the Dean's List every semester, maintaining a 3.93 GPA.

He and his wife, Courtney, have four children: Jasmine, Braxton, Kevin and Gabriel. He also coaches wrestling at the Ashland Area Wrestling Club, where he works with kids aged 4 to 7. He will pursue a Master of Social Work degree at the University of Kentucky and gain dual licensures to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Licensed Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor.

"Einstein said that imagination is a preview to life's coming attractions. Imagination, therefore, is everything. Every one of us have imagined today at some point in the past, and here we are today in the present celebrating with our loved ones," Gibson said. "Let us walk across the stage with our heads held high, for we have earned the privilege of being an MSU alumni!"

[View Photo Gallery \(https://flic.kr/s/aHsmXfix6N\)](https://flic.kr/s/aHsmXfix6N)

[View Video Highlights \(https://youtu.be/mR6DQYa6Tdk\)](https://youtu.be/mR6DQYa6Tdk)

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NEWS RELEASE

Dec. 15, 2021
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Fleming County principal, MSU alumnus Stephanie Emmons visit with AFE Scholars

Stephanie Emmons (Class of 2006, 2008, 2012), principal of Fleming County High School (FCHS), shared her experience as a Kentucky educator with students in the Appalachian Future Educators (AFE) Scholars Program and students, faculty and staff in the Volgenau College of Education last month.

The event was sponsored by the Appalachian Future Educators Scholars Program and the Appalachian Regional Education Hub with support from MSU's Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education. It was made possible with funding from a Catalyst Grant from the Rural Schools Collaborative.

Emmons' presentation "Joys, Rewards, and Challenges of Being a Rural Educator" and the discussion provided insights into the challenges, demands and rewards of being a rural educator. She shared information about career pathways that have been established at FCHS over the last few years and how the changing landscape of K-12 education.

Emmons is a three-time graduate of MSU, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Universities Studies in 2006, a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) in 2008 and a Master of Arts in School Administration in 2012.

"Our AFE Scholars and other education students were excited to hear from Principal Emmons," said Dr. Christopher Beckham, Shannon-Doran Endowed Professor of Educational Leadership and director of the AFE Scholars Program. "Our students learned how resilient and innovative rural education can be, and to envision possibilities for their own classrooms as they pursue careers in education."

The AFE Scholars Program provides scholarships, support and mentorship for students from Eastern Kentucky who are interested in teaching. The program's purpose is to enhance the pipeline of qualified educators and educational leaders returning to the 22 counties in the MSU historical service region.

For more information about the event, the AFE Scholars Program, or the Appalachian Regional Education Hub, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/afe, or contact Dr. Christopher Beckham c.beckham@moreheadstate.edu.

To learn more about programs in the Volgenau College of Education, call 606-783-2162 or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/education.

Photo: Stephanie Emmons (Class of 2006, 2008, 2012, back row, center), principal of Fleming County High School (FCHS), visited students in the Appalachian Future Educators (AFE) Scholars Program at MSU.

###

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NEWS RELEASE

Dec. 15, 2021
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Delta Tau Delta Fraternity steps up its fundraising efforts for a brother in need

The Zeta Zeta Chapter of Delta Tau Delta (DTD) Fraternity at Morehead State University is no stranger to coming together to help those in need. When Cole Nickell came to MSU from West Liberty in 2017, he joined DTD his freshman year and built genuine relationships with his fraternity brothers.

"I was looking for a group of people to help build me and lead me," he said. "Having a brotherhood like that now, joining them, was one of the best things I could have ever done."

Even though Nickell withdrew from MSU and left DTD in 2019 due to financial reasons, the ties to his fraternity remained strong. Nickell experienced a tragic accident earlier this year and his brothers rallied to help.

In January, Nickell was driving an ATV at his parents' house with his friend and fraternity brother Coby Lumpkins, a senior from West Liberty. He came to a hill that he "rode a million times" and halfway up, the vehicle spun out in the mud and lost control, leading to Nickell cutting the wheel the wrong way and flying off the side of the hill.

"It was probably the worst spot you could fall off of that hill," he said.

By the time his body had tumbled, banging up against his four-wheeler and rocks, and stopped, he instantly realized he couldn't move. He was in terrible pain and felt like he was going to suffocate. Lumpkins, who only suffered some cuts and bruises, ran down to get Nickell's stepdad, who came and cut his jacket open so he could breathe more. They called an ambulance and he was transported by helicopter to the University of Kentucky Medical Center, where Nickell learned the full extent of his damages.

A neck fracture caused the bone to be compressed against his spinal cord, rendering Nickell a person with quadriplegia. The first two weeks after his accident, Nickell couldn't move his arms or legs.

"That was a point where it was really, like, you never felt so low in your life, not being able to feed yourself and kind of not knowing if you were ever going to do it again," he said.

After transferring to Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Center in Lexington, he started to bounce back over six to seven months. He gained the function of his arms, feeding himself and learning to get himself in bed and back to his wheelchair without assistance.

"That was a very big independent thing that I worked on," he said.

While Nickell was fighting for his independence after the accident, his brothers from DTD couldn't visit and check up on him due to COVID-19 health and safety precautions. News of the accident spread quickly on social media and the members of DTD tracked Nickell's progress by talking to his family members.

"When it first happened, I was definitely more, 'Oh my goodness, is he going to be OK?'" said Cody Hammonds, a senior from Lovely and president of DTD. "I was relieved, but at the same time, if this was as bad of an injury, how is this going to impact his life down the road?"

Dr. Darrin DeMoss, professor of biology and advisor to DTD, said the desire to organize and do something for Nickell in the spring semester of 2021 was immediate. The fraternity members worked at two spring basketball tournaments in Morehead. DTD oversaw parking at the Kentucky High School Athletics Association (KHSAA) 16th Region Boys Basketball Tournament and assisted in various roles with Morehead Parks and Recreation. The money DTD raised in the spring tended to go toward various philanthropies.

"This year, we knew where the money was going," DeMoss said.

While DTD has always had a high rate of member participation for philanthropic events, the thought of raising money for Nickell sparked an even greater response.

"Every single member participated in both of the activities. It was all hands on deck," DeMoss said. "Every single man participated. Every man. Now, that is unique."

"In some ways, if not every way, it inspired us to be better people ourselves," Hammonds said. "Every day on social media, you see him on these new machines trying to work out. It's absolutely phenomenal that he has come so far in such a short amount of time."

In October 2021, DeMoss called Nickell and wanted him to come for a special DTD presentation. While Nickell suspected his fraternity brothers were raising money for him,

he was shocked to find out that between the two games the DTD brother worked, they raised \$4,000.

"I felt so blessed. Absolutely blessed. It made me feel like more people care than what I had initially thought," Nickell said. "I had tears in my eyes for what they did and how much they raised."

The money DTD raised is going toward purchasing a modified vehicle that will allow Nickell to travel to work and school. Nickell has plans to return to MSU to earn a degree in psychology and pursue a career as a counselor.

"I feel like that's my calling and I feel like that is what I'm supposed to do with my life," he said.

DeMoss said not only will Nickell become an active member of DTD when he returns to MSU, but he also wants to make sure he is a fixture around the chapter as they continue to raise money for Nickell. For the collective brotherhood of DTD, the entire experience – from the accident to the coming together to help a brother in need -- gave everyone a new outlook.

"It's just kind of made me realize that people say life is a gift. It's short. To be honest with you, most people think they are invincible until it happens to them," Hammonds said. "It makes me want to focus on the good aspects of life and not take anything for granted."

To donate to Cole Nickell's GoFundMe page for his treatments and recovery, visit <https://gofund.me/f37eb182>.

To learn more about Fraternity and Sorority Life at MSU, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/greek.

Photo: The Zeta Zeta Chapter of Delta Tau Delta (DTD) Fraternity at Morehead State University raised \$4,000 for Cole Nickell (front row, center-right), who became a person with quadriplegia after an ATV accident.

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NEWS RELEASE

**Dec. 16, 2021
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

MSU closed Dec. 18-Jan. 2 for Winter Break

Morehead State University will be closed from Dec. 18, 2021, to Jan. 2, 2022, for winter break.

All University administrative offices will be closed. The following services will also be closed:

- Camden-Carroll Library.
- Recreation and Wellness Center, University pool, Outdoor Adventures and MSU bowling lanes.
- University Post Office.
- University Store.

MSU will reopen under regular hours on Monday, Jan. 3, 2022.

The MSU Police Department will be staffed 24-7 during the break. For non-emergencies, call 783-2035 or use the LiveSafe app on your smartphone. In the event of an emergency, always dial 911.

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