



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

NEWS RELEASE

Jan. 11, 2022
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Morehead State's Fall 2021 Dean's List announced

Morehead State ranks among the Top 25 best public universities in the South according to U.S. News & World Report's "Best Colleges 2022." MSU is also recognized for Best Undergraduate Teaching, Best Colleges for Veterans and made the list of Best Value Schools.

The Fall 2021 Dean's List is now available online. The accomplishments of these students reflect our commitment to academic excellence and student success.

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.

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

###

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

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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Learn more about MSU at first Open House event of 2022

Morehead State University provides opportunities for students in the region, state and beyond through excellent academic programs, hands-on career skills and a commitment to student success. It is why MSU has been named a Top 25 institution in “America’s Best Colleges” by U.S. News and World Report for the past six years.

Future Eagles can sign up now for MSU’s first Open House of 2022. MSU’s Office of Enrollment Services hosts an Open House event at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 22, in the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC).

At MSU Open House, prospective students and families can:

- Speak with faculty from our academic programs.
- Get guidance from financial aid representatives.
- Learn about advising, tutoring, career planning and other student success services.
- Eat lunch with students, faculty and staff.
- Take a tour of MSU’s campus.

“Our goal is to make it convenient to get answers to questions about starting college by bringing deans, department chairs and faculty from our academic programs, as well as staff from admissions, financial aid, housing and many more services, together in one place,” said Holly Pollock, director of undergraduate admissions.

“Families will hear success stories about our graduates and learn some statistics that demonstrate the academic quality offered at MSU.”

For those who apply for admission at Open House, MSU will waive the \$30 application fee. Transcript and test scores must be turned in at the event to qualify for the fee waiver.

Open House attendees will receive free tickets to the Women and Men's Eagle Basketball games against the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) Cougars at 2 and 4 p.m. in Johnson Arena.

MSU Open House events also provide information and a campus tour for high school students interested in attending the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics. Please indicate interest in the Craft Academy on your registration form.

Students and families are encouraged to register for Open House. To register online, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/openhouse.

For more information, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/admissions or contact MSU's Office of Enrollment Services at admissions@moreheadstate.edu, 606-783-2000 or 800-585-6781.

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MSU students return for spring classes on Jan. 18

Morehead State University welcomes students, faculty and staff back for the spring 2022 semester.

MSU is closed for the Martin Luther King Day holiday on Monday, Jan. 17, and classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 18.

Residence halls re-open at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 13. For more information, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/housing or contact the Office of Student Housing at 606-783-2060 or housing@moreheadstate.edu.

Students who have not registered for courses may do so online at my.moreheadstate.edu. MSU academic advisors are also available for student assistance. Visit www.moreheadstate.edu/registernow for details.

Spring Break is Monday, March 14, through Friday, March 18. Finals Week is Monday, May 9, through Friday, May 13. For a complete schedule, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/academiccalendar.

MSU will once again offer a full range of classes, experiences, and events on-campus while taking precautions to keep our campus safe. To learn more about the 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

Jan. 12, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU Foundation Scholarship remembers Menifee County native

The MSU Foundation has announced the establishment of the William Ray “Billy” Cornett Memorial Scholarship Endowment. This \$25,000 endowment will provide annual scholarship funding to support incoming freshman who are residents of Menifee County.

The scholarship namesake, Billy Cornett, grew up in Mariba, Kentucky, a small community in southeast Menifee County. He was a 1991 graduate of Menifee County High School. Cornett passed away in 1994 at the young age of 21 after sustaining injuries in a tragic automobile accident.

Growing up, Cornett helped his parents, Stephen Ray Cornett and Judy Faye Rutherford, on their family farm. He was an avid outdoorsman. Cornett enjoyed fishing, horseback riding and exploring the scenic beauty of the Eastern Kentucky hills.

The scholarship was established by Cornett’s second cousin, Captain Bruce D. Rutherford (Class of 1971). Rutherford describes his cousin as a gentle soul whose smile brightened the world around him.

“I am proud of my Eastern Kentucky heritage and honored to be able to do something to honor my cousin Judy and remember her son’s life,” said Rutherford. “A scholarship helped me continue my education at Morehead State University and provided a pathway for me to serve not only in a medical capacity but serve my country as well. I hope this scholarship helps students from Menifee County continue their education and provides them with a brighter future.”

Rutherford has been a longtime supporter of the MSU Foundation. This scholarship endowment is the second endowment he has generously funded. In 2019, he established the Captain Bruce D. Rutherford Scholarship Endowment which supports scholarships for students from Bell or Harlan Counties in Kentucky.

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

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



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NEWS RELEASE

**Jan. 12, 2022
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

MSU closed, activities planned to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Morehead State University will be closed Monday, Jan. 17, in observance of the Martin Luther King Day holiday. Classes will not meet, and administrative offices will be closed.

While the University will be closed Monday, the Student Eagle Diversity Center (SEDC) and the Campus Activities Board (CAB) will sponsor a day of service and the annual MLK Unity Walk. To participate, meet at Starbucks in the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC) at 12:45 p.m. Volunteers may choose from three projects benefitting the DOVES of Gateway Domestic Violence Center, the Horizon Village residential group living complex, or Saving the Animals of Rowan (STAR), a local animal rescue.

At 3 p.m., a program honoring the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will take place in ADUC Ballroom A, followed by the annual unity walk across campus.

To RSVP for these events, email humanresources@moreheadstate.edu.

The University Store will be open on MLK Day to help students prepare for the semester, and the store is also participating in a service project. Shoppers can donate non-perishable food and personal hygiene items at the store to receive a 25% discount on items with the MSU logo (excluding textbooks and electronics.) Donations will go to Eagle Essentials, which helps students in need with basic living necessities. The University Store will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

SEDC and CAB will sponsor events throughout the week to highlight the work and achievements of the civil rights pioneer. They include:

- Jan. 18 - Film Screening, ADUC Ballroom A, 6:30 p.m.

- Jan. 19 - MLK Jeopardy, Prefontaine Pub, 6 p.m. Put your knowledge to the test by yourself or in a team to win prizes.
- Jan. 20 - Art of the Quote event, Prefontaine Pub, 3-5 p.m. The Art of the Quote is a creative way to create an artistic representation of a quote from Dr. King. We encourage you to post a photo of your art piece and tag @CAB_MSU and @EDEC_MSU on Instagram with #ArtofaQuote.
- Jan. 21 - Lunch and Learn, ADUC 329, noon-1 p.m. Students can bring their own lunch and the SEDC will provide drinks and desserts. Come learn interesting new facts about Dr. King.

“It is important for the MSU community to celebrate MLK Day to recognize Dr. King's legacy and life of service helps to remind us to give back and serve others,” said Jamie Phipps, assistant chief diversity officer for student activities at MSU. “By serving others and advocating for the needs and rights of those who are disadvantaged, it helps us to work towards the fulfillment of Dr. King’s dream and help continue to inspire future generations to uphold those same values.”

For more information, contact Phipps at japhipps@moreheadstate.edu or 606-783-2629.

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NEWS RELEASE

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MSU partners with Intuitive Machines to develop lunar communications system

Morehead State's Space Science Center recently partnered with space services provider Intuitive Machines (IM) to validate a complete lunar communications solution with the NASA Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO).

Under an agreement with NASA and as a part of a Live Sky test of IM's Lunar Telemetry and Tracking Network (LTN), MSU's 21-meter antenna locked onto NASA's LRO radiofrequency and fed the signal back to IM's Nova Control in Houston, Texas. The complete test validated the process used to communicate, command, and control IM's spacecraft during the company's 2022 lunar mission.

"The importance of these live sky tests utilizing NASA's LRO cannot be overstated," said Dr. Benjamin Malphrus, executive director of MSU Space Science Center. "These tests represent complete end-to-end systems tests of our ground station, ground data systems, and interfaces to IM's Nova Control. They also represent valuable training opportunities for our early-career mission operation specialists and engineers in training."

MSU's 21-meter dish provides telemetry, tracking, ranging, and commanding services for low-Earth, medium-Earth, and near-Earth deep space missions. All future IM missions to the Moon will require the technical support and expertise that the team at MSU is ready to provide for mission tracking and data downlink services.

"This was a critical step towards returning the United States to the lunar surface on our IM-1 mission this year," said Peter McGrath, vice president of business development at Intuitive Machines. "It is also key to validating our fully commercial lunar distance communication and data relay network that supports future IM missions as well as other

players in the emerging lunar economy."

Intuitive Machines is a space services and technologies provider. The company's Lunar Payload Delivery Services (LPDS) program will send the first American spacecraft to the surface of the Moon since the Apollo Program and send the first spacecraft ever to reach the lunar south pole. Intuitive Machines is one of NASA's contractors as part of the agency's Commercial Lunar Payload Services initiative.

To explore MSU's Department of Physics, Earth Sciences and Space Systems Engineering programs, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/phes, email phes@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2381.

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Jan. 13, 2022
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MSU Delta Tau Delta chapter raises most money in chapter's history for juvenile diabetes research

The Zeta Zeta Chapter of Delta Tau Delta (DTD) at Morehead State University always organizes an annual effort to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). During the fall 2021 semester, members of DTD combine their efforts to make the largest donation to JDRF in the chapter's history, raising more than \$5,000.

Dr. Darrin DeMoss (Class of 1989, 1991), professor of biology, faculty athletics representative and DTD chapter advisor, said there were several reasons DTD was so successful at raising money for JDRF this year. In addition to setting a target amount for all members to hit, he said chapter members also maximized its use of social media to bring in more donations.

"I think we had the greatest buy-in we ever had. It wasn't just, 'well, OK, I'm going to make this little donation myself,'" DeMoss said. "This year is the best we've ever done."

Blake McKibben, a sophomore from Flemingsburg, recruitment chair and former philanthropy chair for DTD, said increasing his knowledge of the effects of juvenile diabetes and the work JDRF does to help those impacted by the disease helps put DTD's philanthropic efforts into perspective.

"What we are doing is a big step to help these kids get what they need and get the cure that they also need."

In addition to being aware of the broad impact JDRF has, Cody Hammonds, a senior from Lovely and president of DTD, said having a fraternity brother in his chapter with Type I Diabetes and learning about his experience only motivated him and his brothers to make a difference.

"I didn't think of it as a serious thing until I realized there is no cure. It's something you deal with for your entire life," Hammonds said. "As the years have gone one, it has meant more because we are putting money toward a good cause because I see how it affects the people that surround you."

To learn more about fraternity and sorority life at MSU, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/greek, email greek@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-5023.

Photo: Members of the Zeta Zeta Chapter of Delta Tau Delta at MSU used its annual philanthropy event to raise more than \$5,000 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the largest amount in the chapter's history.

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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Young adult author Dr. Chea Parton to present about rural settings

A renowned scholar and writer of young adult (YA) fiction is giving a virtual talk on the importance of where a story takes place for MSU students on Wednesday, Jan. 26, at 4 p.m. via WebEx.

Dr. Chea Parton, assistant professor of instruction at the University of Texas at Austin and a YA author, will give a talk titled "It's More Than Setting: Reading Place in Rural Young Adult Literature." Parton will discuss YA texts that feature rural settings and challenge rural stereotypes.

"During this talk Chea Parton will explore place and rurality - how we define it; how it shapes the way we navigate the world; and how the world sees us," said Dr. Sylvia Henneberg, interim associate dean of the School of English, Communication, Media and Languages at MSU. "After using place and rurality as lenses for reading, she will discuss implications for our lives as readers, writers, and teachers."

To participate in the event, join Henneberg's WebEx room at <https://moreheadstate.webex.com/meet/s.henneberg>. For more information, email her at s.henneberg@moreheadstate.edu.

To explore programs in MSU's Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/caudillcollege, email ccahss@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2650.

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MSU participates in CPE initiative to improve career skills and readiness

Morehead State University emphasizes career readiness to improve students' hands-on learning opportunities through programs like its new Level UP Program. MSU is participating in a new statewide initiative to ensure Kentucky college graduates have the skills and knowledge necessary to obtain employment upon graduation.

The Kentucky Graduate Profile Academy comprises three members from Kentucky's eight four-year public universities and four campuses from the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. MSU is one of the institutions receiving a \$25,000 grant to support efforts to build essential skills identified by both higher education and professional organizations. The program is coordinated by Kentucky's Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE).

These skills include:

- Effective communication
- Critical thinking
- Quantitative reasoning skills
- Effective interactions with people of diverse backgrounds
- Adaptation and leadership skills
- Professionalism
- Civic engagement
- Collaboration
- Decision-making
- Applying academic knowledge, skills and talents to a chosen career field

"MSU is excited to partner in this initiative to ensure that our graduates develop the skills desired by employers," said Megan Boone, interim director of the Center for

Career Development and Experiential Education and director of career services. "The focus on these skills is woven throughout a student's MSU experience and will set them up to launch their careers upon graduation."

Level UP is an initiative to ensure students can engage in experiences to prepare them for success, including undergraduate research, education abroad, service learning and internships. It includes courses that build students' communication, professionalism, critical thinking and teamwork skills. Level UP further focuses on training students to convey evidence of these career skills that are highly desirable to employers across disciplines.

To learn more about the Level UP Program at MSU, email levelup@moreheadstate.edu or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/levelup.

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Former MSU President Herb. Reinhard dies at age 91

The Morehead State University family mourns the passing of former MSU President Herb. F. Reinhard, who died Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022.

He was a two-time graduate of Florida State University where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees. Reinhard served as MSU's president from July 1984 to June 1986. During his tenure at MSU, he served on the NCAA Presidents' Commission and as chair of the Committee on Governance for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. Before coming to MSU, Reinhard was president of Slippery Rock College in Pennsylvania. He was appointed president of Frostburg State University in Maryland after leaving MSU. During his three college presidencies, he participated in educational missions to Canada, Korea, Thailand, Italy, and Austria.

Reinhard is survived by his wife of 66 years, Nancy Warner Reinhard; three sons: Herb (Linda) Reinhard III of Valdosta, Georgia; Don Reinhard of Florida; and Mark Reinhard of Raleigh, North Carolina; one daughter, Ann (Tom) Schildhammer of Gainesville, Georgia; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. at Johns Creek Presbyterian Church, 10950 Bell Road, Johns Creek, Georgia 30097. For more information or to send condolences to the family, visit <https://southcare-16518.meaningfulfunerals.net/obituary/dr-herbert-reinhard-jr>.

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Attending MSU this fall? Sign up for student orientation

Morehead State University's Student Orientation and Registration (SOAR) sessions provide incoming students with information and preparation for their first year of college.

MSU offers SOAR sessions for new students, transfer students, Eagle Scholars (dual-credit) and students in the George M. Luckey Jr. Academic Honors Program. SOAR is offered in both in-person and virtual formats. Registration begins Jan. 21, 2022.

2022 SOAR SCHEDULE

- Thursday, April 21 – Eagle Scholars and Honors Program*
- Friday, April 22 – New Students*
- Saturday, April 23 – New Students*
- May 16-20 – New and Transfer Students**
- Tuesday, May 24 – Transfer Students*
- Wednesday, May 25 – New Students*
- Thursday, May 26 – New Students*
- Thursday, June 9 – New Students*
- Friday, June 10 – New Students*
- Saturday, June 11 – New Students*
- June 20-24 – New and Transfer Students**
- Tuesday, July 12 – Transfer Students*
- Wednesday, July 13 – New Students*
- Thursday, July 14 – New Students*
- July 25-29 – New and Transfer Students**

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

****Virtual sessions include:**

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

Admitted students for Fall 2022 can sign up at www.moreheadstate.edu/soar beginning Jan. 21, 2022. The Office of First Year Programs will email additional details to attendees.

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

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NEWS RELEASE

Jan. 25, 2022
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Empty Bowls fundraiser raises \$2,000 for Rowan County Christmas

Students in the Morehead State University Ceramics Guild annually commit their time and talent to the Empty Bowls fundraiser. For the 2021 event, which took place last November, members of the guild donated over 200 hand-crafted bowls to be purchased along with a meal to support Rowan County Christmas.

The event raised over \$2,000 for local families in need.

Quinn Maher, visiting assistant professor of ceramics at MSU, said he was pleased MSU ceramics students organized and planned this fundraiser that combines creativity and a cause.

"I think that it is a privilege to participate with an organization like Rowan County Christmas, an event that is truly bigger than ourselves," Maher said. "Ceramics has the amazing ability to create community, in the studio, people working together as a collective rather than an individual. So, we understand the importance of those relationships and we look forward to opportunities to participate in the community that we all live in."

Established in 1993, Rowan County Christmas provides Christmas gifts and meal vouchers for low-income children and seniors in the community. It was founded by local service organizations, churches, civic organizations, local businesses and community leaders. In 2019, the program aided more than 500 families and individuals.

For more information about Rowan County Christmas, visit www.rowancountychristmas.org or contact Board Chair Tonya LeMaster at 606-776-2997.

To learn more about programs in Morehead State's Department of Art and Design, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/art, email arde@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2766.

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NEWS RELEASE

Jan. 27, 2022
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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Students showcase work in “Works in Progress” art exhibit

Morehead State’s annual sophomore art exhibit, “Works in Progress,” opens Wednesday, Feb. 2, with a reception in the Golding-Yang Art Gallery at 5 p.m.

Twenty students will exhibit pieces in the show, and a variety of media will be represented, including painting, drawing, sculpture, digital art and more.

“This is a chance for the sophomore students to begin learning what it is to exhibit their work in a formal art gallery,” said Melissa Yungbluth, director of the Golding-Yang Gallery and instructor of art. “They will also learn to frame and present their artworks in a formal manner as well as speak about the art they have created and their progress in their first two years at MSU.”

The Golding-Yang Art Gallery, located within the Claypool-Young Art Building, is a pivotal educational and cultural component of the Department of Art & Design, the Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, the MSU campus and the community at large. Through national calls for entries for both group and thematic exhibitions, the gallery showcases the work of primarily American contemporary artists in exhibitions curated by the gallery director with the advisement of faculty or through an independent juror.

The gallery is open to the public and hosts faculty and student exhibitions, including annual sophomore and senior shows that allow art majors the rare opportunity to exhibit their work in a professional venue. The gallery is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Masks are required inside all MSU facilities.

For more information about MSU's Department of Art and Design programs, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/art, email arde@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2766.

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NEWS RELEASE

Jan. 31, 2022
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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Students showcase work in “Works in Progress” art exhibit

Morehead State’s annual sophomore art exhibit, “Works in Progress,” opens Wednesday, Feb. 9, with a reception in the Golding-Yang Art Gallery at 5 p.m.

Twenty students will exhibit pieces in the show, and a variety of media will be represented, including painting, drawing, sculpture, digital art and more.

“This is a chance for the sophomore students to begin learning what it is to exhibit their work in a formal art gallery,” said Melissa Yungbluth, director of the Golding-Yang Gallery and instructor of art. “They will also learn to frame and present their artworks in a formal manner as well as speak about the art they have created and their progress in their first two years at MSU.”

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NEWS RELEASE

Jan. 31, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Morehead State University celebrates Black History Month

Throughout February, multiple speakers, presentations, and activities are planned at Morehead State to celebrate Black History Month.

"This year, all of the programs for Black History Month encompass celebrating Black history and togetherness," said Jamie Phipps, assistant chief diversity officer for student activities. "COVID-19 has affected everyone but especially our minority communities, so we'd like to take this time to not only provide educational opportunities for students, faculty, staff and the community to learn about Black History, we also want to create spaces within these programs to gather, support and encourage all communities to contribute to working towards upholding the values celebrating Black History Month represents. "

This year's activities include:

- Tuesday, Feb. 1, Bell Tower - Receive free coffee, hot chocolate and donuts while learning about MSU Black History Month events and important figures that shaped Black history.
- Wednesday, Feb. 10, 5 p.m., Second Floor of ADUC - Soul Food Dinner featuring live music and prize giveaways.
- Wednesday, Feb. 10, 6 p.m., Prefontaine Pub - Kazual Acapella Troupe, a group that blends R&B, hip-hop and pop with dance and dubstep.
- Monday, Feb. 14, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Second Floor of ADUC - Spread the Love Service Opportunity, where letters are written to Pathways - Horizon Village residents.
- Wednesday, Feb. 16, 8 a.m. - Trip to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. Limited spaces are available. RSVP at japhipps@moreheadstate.edu.
- Tuesday, Feb. 22, 4 p.m., ADUC Ballrooms A and B - Col. Damon K. Harris, active U.S. Army Infantry Brigade Combat Team Commander, will engage and enlighten students, faculty, staff and community attendees on practical, experiential leadership tips, including thriving in diversity. Food, prizes and other performances will be provided.
- Tuesday, Feb. 22, 7 p.m. Academic-Athletic Center (ADUC Ballrooms A and B will be alternate inclement weather location) - Drive-In Movie.

- Wednesday, Feb. 23, 5:30 p.m., ADUC 321 - Card Game Tournament with Speed, Spaces and Uno.

Black History Month activities are sponsored by the Student Eagle Diversity Center, the Campus Activities Board, Camden-Carroll Library and the Veterans Resource Center.

For details and access to virtual events, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/eaglelink, email edec@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-9569.

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

Commented [AN1]: inconsistent punctuation - date, location - then colon or dash - not a period - some have a colon

Commented [AN2]: Veterans Resource Center? We don't have an Office of Mil Initiatives - it's part of Silas's title is all.



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NEWS RELEASE

Jan. 31, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU partners with Barnes & Noble College to improve bookstore experience for students

For Morehead State University, academic excellence, student support, and value are top priorities and why MSU consistently ranks as one of the best public universities in the South. This month, MSU is moving forward to ensure students have efficient and affordable access to resources for learning.

MSU has selected Barnes & Noble College (BNC) to manage all course materials, retail and online operations for its campus bookstore, the University Store. Beginning Monday, Feb. 7, the University Store will close and transition to Barnes & Noble College management. It will reopen as the newly rebranded Morehead State University – A Barnes & Noble College Store on Monday, Feb. 14.

“MSU is pleased to partner with Barnes and Noble to enhance the University Store experience on our campus,” said Morehead State President Dr. Jay Morgan. “We believe that our students, faculty, and staff will be pleased.”

BNC will offer a suite of programs and services to support academic success for students and faculty. The bookstore will ensure students and faculty are supported with the industry's most extensive inventory of affordable physical and digital course materials backed by a price-match program, convenient options for ordering and receiving materials such as in-store pickup or delivery.

Faculty will have access to the BNC Adoption & Insights Portal (AIP), allowing easy research and submission of affordable course material selections. AIP will also provide MSU academic leadership with the ability to view real-time adoption rates and

submission progress at the school or departmental level and communicate directly with faculty from within the portal.

The bookstore will also offer an expanded assortment of apparel, gifts, school supplies, and more. Through BNC's alliance with popular brands like Fanatics and Lids, the store will provide an increased assortment of school-branded apparel and an improved retail experience to the campus community. Eagle merchandise will be available both in-store and online through the website or mobile app.

"We are very excited to partner with Morehead State University as its new bookstore operator," said Jeffrey Miller, vice president, strategic partnerships for Barnes & Noble College. "We support MSU's mission of creating a community of lifelong learners and look forward to offering a wide range of academic solutions and a seamless

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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Through organ donation, Ashleigh Flanery's life-changing gift helped Lacey Schollenberger become an MSU graduate

When Morehead State University hosted its Fall 2021 Commencement Ceremony last year, Ashleigh Flanery (Class of 2009) supported her close friend Lacey Schollenberger (Class of 2021). When Lacey walked on stage to receive her bachelor's degree, part of Flanery was on that stage with her – a life-changing and life-saving part.

In 2019, Ashleigh underwent an organ transplant procedure to donate one of her kidneys to Schollenberger, helping correct a long history of health conditions and allowing this moment -- and the possibility of an everyday, healthy life -- to become a reality.

A Comfortable Connection

Lacey came to MSU because she fell in love with the campus and it was close to her home of Proctorville, Ohio. A native of Sandy Hook, Ashleigh enrolled at MSU for similar reasons, along receiving the Alumni Scholarship and following in the footsteps of her sister Kara Given (Class of 2009), mother Kristen Howard-Flanery (Class of 1989), and grandmother Janie Mustari (Class of 1971, 1977). Both enrolled at MSU with friends from home (Ashleigh with LaVonnie Conley and Lacey with Brittani McCormick, Class of 2008). They all connected at MSU's Annual Ice Cream Social that kicked off the fall semester in 2004.

"It was just a relatable feeling whenever we came up to them. They just made us feel comfortable," Lacey said.

All four friends would eventually go to sorority recruitment together. Lacey, Ashleigh and LaVonnie ended up in the same pledge class for Delta Zeta Sorority and later became roommates, living on the Delta Zeta floor of Nunn Hall their sophomore year. It was then that Ashleigh would learn of the many challenges Lacey faced.

"The Hair Loss Was Insane To See"

Lacey was diagnosed with lupus in July 2001 at the age of 14. A kidney test later revealed she was already in stage three renal failure, resulting in an inability to filter waste products in her bloodstream. By the time she was a student at MSU, Lacey had already undergone chemotherapy treatments to combat the disease and developed a distancing nature when it came to close friendships because of all the precautions she takes due to her illness.

"I am aware of how much of a liability I am on a daily basis," she said. "You kind of pull yourself away so you don't hurt people, but then you have those people who care and continue to care to make sure you aren't pulling yourself away and make sure you are OK."

Ashleigh remembers Lacey going from looking like a healthy college student her first year on campus to someone who looked like getting through the day, let alone college classes, was a constant physical battle. The lupus flare-ups would result in arthritis, inflammation, headaches, mouth sores and hives that could be triggered by stress from school or something as simple as UV-ray exposure from too much time in the sun. The chemo she was on to suppress her renal disease caused her to lose most of her hair, which meant wearing wigs before deciding to ditch them entirely.

"We all shared a bathroom, and you could literally grab handfuls of hair off the rug and in the bathroom. The hair loss was insane to see," Ashleigh said. "It was just a big reality check to see someone your own age going through so many things on that level."

"She saw nights of just being in the bathroom puking and some people think it's alcohol but for me, it's the treatments," Lacey said.

While Ashleigh, Lacey and LaVonnie went on to live in separate places after their sophomore year, Flanery being there during some of Lacey's most challenging health complications created an unbreakable bond. While they continued to grow their friendship, Lacey's health problems were not getting any better.

From Bad to Worse

Lacey thought that despite her lupus and the side effects of treatments, she and Ashleigh would end up graduating together. But while Ashleigh went on to graduate with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology and exercise science in 2009, Lacey ended up having to withdraw from MSU her senior year, a decision that gave her a "sense of failure."

Lacey held many part-time jobs after graduation, another way she was determined to push forward and live an everyday life despite her circumstances. She worked in retail, restaurants, a nursing home, various hotels and a gas station. But because of the severity of her health problems, she would never hold a job for very long due to missing work frequently or for long stretches because of her poor health.

"I've never gone to the emergency room and been able to leave (the same day)," she said.

During her time away from MSU, she signed up for disability assistance in 2012, which helped sustain her financially. However, the severity of her disease only got worse and led to some harrowing occurrences and risky surgeries.

She was put in a medically induced coma for nine days in 2012 after doctors discovered she was bleeding internally from her abdomen. Three years later, she was under the knife for her first open-heart surgery, replacing a leaky and damaged aortic valve with a pig heart valve in

2014. A year later, she went on dialysis and ended up in the hospital for five days due to high blood pressure, but that didn't stop her from taking her dialysis machine with her on vacation to places to Florida and Asheville, North Carolina, hooking up to it at the end of a long day.

"I always told people I'm just powering up," she said.

While Lacey may have gone through losing her hair or the ability to establish a savings account due to all her medical expenses, she rarely lost her positive attitude or her sense of humor.

"You have to keep it," she said about the ability to laugh at her health conditions. "You sometimes have to laugh at situations when you find yourself in them because it's like...is this real life?"

An Incomparable Gift

Throughout all of Lacey's health struggles, Ashleigh tried to be there for her friend in any way she could. Despite not living in the same city, they saw each other a couple of times a year and contacted each other weekly. When Lacey ended up in the Intensive Care Unit in Lexington due to blood pressure issues, Ashleigh drove from Huntington, West Virginia, to stay overnight with her near her hospital bed. Through her worsening health, the dialysis, the surgeries, they both knew what was happening. Her kidneys were eventually going to shut down.

"Her fear was, life is over, I'm dying," Ashleigh said. "That's when I said, hey, if you ever get to that point, I'll give you my kidney."

In 2016, Lacey and Ashleigh went through a more than two-year process that eventually led to kidney transplant surgery. During that time, Lacey had an additional open-heart surgery to replace her pig aortic valve with a stronger bovine valve in 2018 and she received counseling to prepare her for multiple possibilities, whether it be Ashleigh backing out of the transplant surgery at the last minute or her body rejecting Ashleigh's kidney altogether. Lacey moved to Lexington for the procedure to be close to Ashleigh and her mother in Aug. 2018. Meanwhile, Ashleigh was dealing with pushback from her parents and family, concerned about her putting her health at risk and the potential of leaving her son Easton (then 11) without a mother.

When the surgery date was confirmed, Lacey and Ashleigh used a whiteboard to reveal to their closest friend's and Lacey's mother at Thanksgiving similar to how a couple would make a pregnancy announcement. The sign said, "Kidney Coming: 1-29-2019."

"Her and her mother are literally putting me on a pedestal for things, and I'm like 'Thank you, but you don't have to do that,'" Ashleigh said. "She just needed somebody willing, and that was me."

A Good and Bad Day

Leading up to the kidney transplant, Lacey had another person on her mind besides herself and her best friend. Her father, Thomas Schollenberger, was in the hospital and days leading up to her surgery, it looked like he wasn't going to make it.

"I thought he was going to be dying that day," Lacey said after visiting him. "That wasn't him in that bed. That wasn't him in that brain."

Lacey ran her dialysis machine one more time before her transplant surgery, which turned out to be the last time. The entire procedure was a success and worth celebrating. But while Schollenberger was undergoing the transplant, her father passed away.

"When I woke up, I had to get through some trauma," Lacey said. "I was trying to get on the internet. Nobody wanted to give me my phone."

A Recovery and a Return

Once she grieved the passing of her father and recovered from the surgery. Lacey's life was different. Quite different.

To say that Lacey's life changed for the better after her kidney transplant would be an understatement. While she still takes medications for her lupus and to ensure her body doesn't reject Ashleigh's kidney, she leads a healthy life. She went from relying on a dialysis machine and frequent hospital visits to completing a 5K walk/run with Ashleigh to raise awareness for organ donation three months after she came out of surgery.

"We got there and we're like, let's just walk the trail. And we walked the trail, and we completed the whole 5K and we were like, 'wow, we just did that,'" Ashleigh said.

"It was then that I felt I was getting stronger. It was then I did two miles. It was then I was like, 'OK, I just did that. Now I can do things,'" Lacey said.

Later that summer, Lacey decided to do one more thing: Return to Morehead State to finish what she started and earn a college degree.

"It just didn't feel right to have to start over somewhere. I have such fond memories of Morehead and I love the little town and the school," she said. "I had to close that door. I had to end it there. I had to have that pride I deserved to have and the work that I had done. I had to bring it back around and have that complete chapter shut."

Lacey re-enrolled at MSU in the Winter Session of 2019 with different results than she had when fighting an uphill battle with her health years ago.

"I was getting grades I was never able to get before. I was getting 4.0's because I had the mental headspace," she said. "My body (back then) didn't want to read chapters. My body didn't want to look at a computer screen. My body didn't want to go to class."

A Walk to Remember

Lacey was on the floor for MSU's Fall 2021 Commencement Ceremony anticipating a long-awaited walk on stage to accept her Bachelor of Arts in Strategic Communications. She felt nervous but also alone. She wasn't graduating with any of her classmates when she first enrolled at MSU. Luckily, she did have someone close to her.

Lacey was using her watch to send text messages to Flanery, who was watching in the stands of the Academic-Athletic Center to express her excitement and get some moral support for a moment she suspected would never happen.

"It goes back to this being symbiotic. We would have been able to graduate together if I was able to do this," Lacey said. "That is the only person in that room that I would still want to be talking to me through this and during this."

"It was very emotional. I just kept talking to her like, you are really here. You are doing this," Ashleigh said. "A second chance of life is really what that meant to Lacey."

Lacey and Ashleigh were close before the kidney transplant and are even closer now. The two even make it a point to go out and do something special every year on Jan. 29 to mark their "kidney-versary."

For Lacey, the combination of Ashleigh's organ donation and her earning her college degree from MSU has opened up the possibilities for her health and her future. This future was possible through her determination, the compassionate act of a best friend and a lot of support along the way.

"I was telling people at graduation when people asked me how I feel," Lacey said. "I was like, 'love got me here.'"

Captions:

Photo, Schollenberger_Lacey_grad2021.jpeg: Lacey Schollenberger (left, Class of 2021) graduated with a bachelor's degree after having to withdraw from the University years earlier due to health complications from lupus and kidney failure. Thanks to a kidney transplant from her friend and former classmate Ashleigh Flanery (right, Class of 2009), Lacey was healthy enough to return to MSU to finish college.

Photo, schollenberger_lacey-flanery_ashleigh-announcement.jpeg: On Thanksgiving in 2018, Lacey and Ashleigh came up with a creative way to announce to friends and Lacey's mother that Ashleigh agreed to donate her kidney.

Photo, schollenberger_lacey-flanery_ashleigh-kidneversary.JPG: Lacey and Ashleigh getting together to celebrate their "kidney-versary," which they have done every year on Jan. 29 since the kidney transplant.

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