



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

## NEWS RELEASE

**May 2, 2022**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **MSPR earns 17 state broadcasting awards**

Morehead State Public Radio (WMKY, 90.3FM) earned 17 awards in the 2022 Kentucky Broadcasters Association (KBA) Impact Broadcast Awards. The awards recognize the best in television and radio journalism for 2021.

"Morehead State is the only institution in the state that gives students the opportunity to do hands-on learning in the field as soon as their classes begin," said News Director Leeann Akers. "There are other stations that are affiliated with higher education in Kentucky, but none of them have student workers. I am so proud of the student work at MSPR. Our listeners tell us all the time that they enjoy listening to students' progress in their skills from their first day on the air and through until graduation. We have a unique opportunity to really impact their educational journey, and the community feels like they are part of it as well."

"It's always been about the students at MSPR. When I was doing my undergrad, the guidance I received and the work ethic demonstrated by the staff here got me to where I am today," said Assistant News Director Tanner Boyd. "Being on the other side of it now is wonderful. We help the students produce interesting, professional-level work, and then they go on to win these awards that will help set them apart as they enter the field. It makes me excited for their futures."

The awards were announced for both professional and college entries. The station received 13 student awards and four professional awards, with first-place wins in six categories.

Radio College Division:

- 1st Place – Best Newscast, senior convergent media major Sarah Meade of Louisa ("WMKY News")
- 1st Place – Best Radio Reporter, senior psychology major Rachel Turner of Crestwood
- 1st Place – Best Feature Story, junior art major Ethan Jenkins of Morehead ("Dr. Russ Zokaites Presents Bootleg: Appalachian-Inspired Music")
- 1st Place – Best Sports Coverage, senior convergent media major Alyssa White of Sonora ("WMKY Sports")
- 2nd Place – Best Digital Journalist, senior convergent media major Kennealy Roberts of Morehead
- 2nd Place – Best Newscast, Rachel Turner ("WMKY News")
- 2nd Place – Best Sports Coverage, Ethan Jenkins ("WMKY Sports")
- 2nd Place – Best Public Affairs, Rachel Turner ("MSU Professor Researches Pop Culture Problems")
- 3rd Place – Best Digital Journalist, Rachel Turner
- 3rd Place – Best Radio Reporter, Kennealy Roberts
- 3rd Place – Best Newscast, junior university studies major Sha'Maurie Mosley of Uniontown, Pennsylvania ("WMKY News")
- 3rd Place – Best Sports Coverage, Kennealy Roberts ("WMKY Sports")

#### Radio Professional Division:

- 1st Place: Best Sports Reporting, Leeann Akers ("WMKY Sports")
- 1st Place: Best Website, Operations Director Greg Jenkins, MSPR Website ("wmky.org")
- 2nd Place: Best Long Newscast, Leeann Akers ("Mountain Edition News")
- 2nd Place: Best Sports Reporting, Assistant News Director Tanner Boyd ("WMKY Sports")
- 2nd Place: Best Political Coverage, Leeann Akers, Tanner Boyd and Sarah Meade ("Candidates for Morehead Mayor")

"It is always an honor to be recognized by my peers. The journalism field is challenging and has seen much criticism in the last few years. I feel lucky to work for an unbiased organization that can focus on facts, information, education and entertainment without worrying about what advertisers might think," Akers added.

The Impact Broadcast Awards competition is designed to recognize KBA members and staffers for outstanding performance in broadcast journalism. The competition is open to all KBA members in Kentucky and outside Kentucky with designated market areas that extend into Kentucky. To be eligible, entries must be about news, features or sports that occurred solely in Kentucky. Entries must have been broadcast in calendar year 2021.

The KBA college competition is designed to recognize Kentucky student broadcasters

for outstanding performance in college broadcast journalism. The contest is open to any college in Kentucky. Entries must have been broadcast in calendar year 2021.

Serving more than 20 counties throughout eastern Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia, Morehead State Public Radio (WMKY) broadcasts at 90.3FM from the MSU campus. Learn more at [www.wmky.org](http://www.wmky.org).

###

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Therapy Dog Day at ADUC May 6**

Morehead State Counseling and Health Services (CHS) and students from the class Marketing 365: Services and Relationship Marketing (MKT 365) are co-sponsoring Therapy Dog Day Friday, May 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC), ballroom C. The event is free with a student ID.

Students who sign a liability waiver will have the chance to play with therapy dogs and service dogs in training at the event. Area police departments will also bring K9 units to the event. The event offers students in the class a chance to gain hands-on experience in the planning, development and delivery of events and services.

Dr. Lydia Njoroge, assistant professor of marketing, teaches the class sponsoring the event. She said students wanted to do something as part of the class to help their fellow students.

“The service they selected was an event to help their fellow students: a doggie play day to help cope with the stress of the semester, finals, and COVID,” Njoroge said.

Additionally, Njoroge said the event creates opportunities for various departments to give their students hands-on experience, including nursing, clinical psychology and vet tech. Students from those programs will volunteer for basic triage care to support this event. Students from MKT 365 are also working with local and national companies to provide treats, toys, and photography for the event.

Njoroge added the students decided that the nature of this event would be an excellent way to memorialize Dr. Michelle Kunz, professor of marketing, who died last year. Kunz requested that memorial donations be made to Lexington Humane Society.

“This will give students a chance to honor her memory,” Njoroge said.

For more information, contact Njoroge at [lnjoroge@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:lnjoroge@moreheadstate.edu) or call 606-783-2263.

For more information about marketing programs at MSU, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/business](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/business), email [cbt@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:cbt@moreheadstate.edu) or call 606-783-2090.

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Winners of 2021 Experiential Education Awards announced at Celebration of Student Scholarship**

Morehead State University's Office of Career Services has named the 2021 Experiential Education Awards winners. The annual awards honor a student, an employer and a faculty member with exceptional contributions to and investments in career development via experiential education. All students, employers and faculty engaged in experiential education – internships, co-ops, clinicals, practicums and student-teaching – during 2021 were eligible for nomination.

"As the coordinator of internships at MSU, I am grateful for all the students, faculty and organizations that make internships such a dynamic and impactful experience for all constituents involved," said Megan Boone, interim director of the Center for Career Development and Experiential Education. "Research shows how significant an internship is for students, not only in regard to employability but for the development of desirable career skills that they can apply in academic, professional and personal settings."

#### **2021 STUDENT INTERN OF THE YEAR: CATRINA CRAIG**

Catrina Craig is a business administration major in the Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology. She completed an internship in human resources at Lion, a company that offers products and services designed to ensure the health, safety and performance of first responders and military personnel. Craig helped coordinate the recruitment and training efforts for Lion's expansion of operations in Kentucky.

#### **2021 FACULTY SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR: MARSHALL JENKINS**

Instructor Marshall Jenkins, an instructor in the Department of Kinesiology, Health and Imaging Sciences, was recognized for his outstanding support of students completing

their internships as part of their radiological science education. Jenkins' positive relationships with the clinical internship sites, his accessibility to students throughout their internship experience and his focus on students having the knowledge and confidence to be successful in their internships ensure that students get the most out of this career-ready practice.

## 2021 EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR: CAMDEN-CARROLL LIBRARY'S SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

MSU's Camden-Carroll Library's Special Collections and Archives are responsible for acquiring and providing access to information about the cultural history of the Appalachian region of northeastern Kentucky while serving as the institutional memory of the University. This award recognizes Dieter Ullrich, the head of Camden-Carroll Library's Special Collections and Archives, for his impact on MSU's student internships.

Learn more about internships at MSU by visiting [www.moreheadstate.edu/career/internships](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/career/internships).

For more information on the Center for Career Development and Experiential Education, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/career](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/career), email [careerservices@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:careerservices@moreheadstate.edu) or call 606-783-2233.

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Celebration of Student Scholarship gathers in-person to recognize academic research and achievement**

For the first time in two years, students were able to gather in-person to showcase their academic research to the Morehead State University campus community at the 16th Annual Celebration of Student Scholarship. It took place on the third floor of the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC) on Wednesday, April 27.

The event featured presentations that involved 174 undergraduate and graduate student scholars and their 58 faculty mentors. It was presided over by 31 faculty, staff, guest judges and session moderators.

Initiated in the Spring of 2006, the Celebration of Student Scholarship shares and spotlights the outstanding work of students involved in research, scholarship, creative work and performance arts to the campus community. The day-long event consists of presentations, exhibitions and performances by students from the Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; the College of Science; the Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology; and the Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education.

“Morehead State University truly believes in the importance of supporting our undergraduate research program,” said Megan Boone, interim director of the Center for Career Development and Experiential Education. “This event is one of my favorites as it is an opportunity for our students to showcase the hard work and innovation that went into their research. The participating students clearly developed in-demand career skills of critical thinking, oral communication and written communication that will serve them well in their careers.

In the ADUC Ballroom, students presented research through posters that demonstrated their work outlining and displaying their research took up much of the ballroom floor.

Among the presentations, the celebration included 37 oral presentations in the morning and 60 poster presentations in the afternoon, followed by a reception and awards presentation for projects of exceptional merit.

“The Celebration Committee is delighted that we have been able to return to an in-person event this year,” said Katy Carlson, professor of English at MSU. “We applaud the efforts of so many students and faculty members in going beyond the classroom and we are proud of the range and quality of work they have been able to do.”

A photo gallery for the Celebration of Student Scholarship can be found at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/msu1887/sets/72177720298467868/>.

For more information about the Celebration of Student Scholarship, including a complete program and list of award winners, contact the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs at 606-783-2356, email Dr. Shannon Harr, director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, at [s.harr@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:s.harr@moreheadstate.edu) or visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/studentcelebration](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/studentcelebration).

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## NEWS RELEASE

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"As the coordinator of internships at MSU, I am grateful for all the students, faculty and organizations that make internships such a dynamic and impactful experience for all constituents involved," said Rebecca Wright, coordinator of internships and instructor of English as a Second Language at MSU. "Research shows how significant an internship is for students, not only in regard to employability but for the development of desirable career skills that they can apply in academic, professional and personal settings."

#### **2021 STUDENT INTERN OF THE YEAR: CATRINA CRAIG**

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## NEWS RELEASE

**May 4, 2022**  
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**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **At MSU, Madison Anderson went from art student to artistic director**

Madison Anderson (Class of 2020) always had a passion and talent for art as a kid. As the Paintsville native grew up and was approaching her graduation from Johnson Central High School, Anderson's art career prospects shifted.

"I remember actually looking up 'What can I do with an art degree?' I was like, 'Huh, gallery curator, that's pretty cool,'" she said. "I want to be on the arts scene doing administrative stuff."

Thanks to her decision to attend college at Morehead State University, Anderson is doing just that as the artistic director and culture of recovery coordinator for the Appalachian Artisan Center in Hindman.

Anderson's decision to attend MSU was easy for a few reasons. Her mother, Diana Pack (Class of 1992), her father, John (Class of 1992), and her older sister, Morgan (Class of 2017), are all MSU alumni. In high school, Anderson visited MSU and the Department of Art and Design when she would travel to campus every year to participate in MSU's High School Art Day and display her work in the Claypool-Young Art Building.

"I already had an inkling that Morehead State had a really good, solid art program. When I eventually decided to go into art, Morehead State is where I ended up coming to," she said.

After becoming a student, Anderson fell in love with the tight-knit nature of the campus community and the personal attention of her professors. They encouraged her while pushing her outside of her comfort zone to benefit her creatively.

"I just really enjoyed my time with all of the professors because you could really tell how much they cared about your time there and helping you hone in on your skill," she said.

While Anderson said she did not discover her preferred artistic media of photography and ink drawings with watercolor until her junior year, she immediately knew she wanted to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Art and Design with a minor in Arts Entrepreneurship. On the way to achieving that degree, she completed a practicum under art Golding-Yang Art Gallery Director Melissa Yungbluth while acquiring valuable knowledge in event planning and grant writing that would help her in her future career.

"It's not just the art classes you take with it, but you also take a lot of the classes a business major would take," she said, discussing the arts entrepreneurship minor. "It gives you an extremely good foundation of how to be a good freelance artist and how to promote yourself and get yourself out there."

After graduating in 2020, Anderson worked at the You, Me & Pottery store in Prestonsburg. She later found herself splitting her time between there and the Appalachian Artisan Center after applying for and receiving an internship. While the focus of the training was marketing, Anderson also found herself helping rearrange and set up art in the gallery, promoting workshops and maintaining the center's social media accounts. She had to cut her internship short when the center offered Anderson her current role.

In addition to planning workshops and leading the scheduling, organization and display of exhibitions, Anderson also oversees collaborations with nearby Hickory Hills Recovery Center in Emmalena and Creekside Recovery Center in Pippa Passes. Every Wednesday, residents come to work in ceramics, blacksmithing knives and tomahawks or building dulcimers.

"I consider it like a brain break. They get to do something with their hands to get their minds off the recovery that they're in," Anderson said. "I absolutely love it because mostly, we get people who come in and there are so many people who start to realize they have a skill in something they never thought they had a skill in before."

Anderson admits she thought getting a job like the one she has now would require her to move away to a big city, not a place 45 minutes away from her hometown. But being able to immerse herself in, preserve and pass on the artistic culture of the Appalachian region has been a fulfilling surprise she did not see coming.

"To be honest, I didn't know what a dulcimer was until I came here. Now, I can tell people, 'Hey, you can go over here and make your own dulcimer.' It's stuff like that that's really cool that you don't get to do every day," she said. "I have just kind of fallen in love with keeping up with the traditional arts that are native to our area."

To learn more about MSU's Department of Art and Design programs, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/art](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/art), email [arde@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:arde@moreheadstate.edu) or call 606-783-2766.

***College can change lives and communities. Higher educational attainment increases tax revenue, decreases unemployment, and even improves health***

**outcomes. Learn more from the KY Council on Postsecondary Education at [kyhigheredmatters.org](http://kyhigheredmatters.org).**

Photos: Madison Anderson (Class of 2020), who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Art and Design with a minor in Arts Entrepreneurship, is now the artistic director and culture of recovery coordinator for the Appalachian Artisan Center in Hindman.

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## NEWS RELEASE

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**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Morehead Writing Project awarded Pandemic Recovery Grant**

The Morehead Writing Project has been given crucial financial support to continue to grow and develop the region's next generation of writers and education leaders.

The National Writing Project's grant program, "Building a More Perfect Union: Pandemic Recovery Grants for Humanities Organizations," selected the Morehead Writing Project as a recipient. The grant program's primary purpose is to aid humanities organizations nationwide in recovering from the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The funding comes courtesy of the American Rescue Plan: Humanities Grantmaking for Organizations at the National Endowment for the Humanities. The "Build a More Perfect Union" program will allow for programming development that coincides with the upcoming 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.

The Morehead Writing Project will collaborate with the Hindman Settlement School, another grant recipient in Kentucky, to conceive a project-based learning humanities program for communities in Eastern Kentucky. Recruited Morehead Writing Project teacher-leaders will prepare and instruct a project-based humanities unit so students can develop passion projects in fields like art, history, foodways, music and culture to preserve pride in our country and our humanity.

Projects selected through a peer-reviewed application process will then be placed at local and regional organizations, including museums, libraries, historic sites, nonprofits and public humanities centers at colleges and universities nationwide.

"We could not be more pleased with the opportunity offered by this grant," said Dr. Deanna Mascle, English instructor at MSU and site director of the MWP. "We love the work that our partner, Hindman Settlement School, does in our region. The synergy created by the missions of our two organizations with the Building a More Perfect Union

program will unleash a contagious, creative energy among students and teachers that ripples from teacher to student to our entire region.”

The Morehead Writing Project was created in 1986 to serve teachers and writers in Eastern Kentucky. It helps develop educational leaders in grades K-16 through its Summer Institute while offering writing workshops for all ages throughout the year and developing both youth programming and professional development for school districts and other programs.

For more information, visit [www.moreheadwritingproject.org](http://www.moreheadwritingproject.org).

To explore Morehead State’s Department of English programs, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/english](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/english), email [english@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:english@moreheadstate.edu) or call 606-783-9448.

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## NEWS RELEASE

**May 5, 2022  
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### **MSU's Spring Gala was 'Back on Broadway' for a glamorous night of fun, fundraising**

Morehead State University faculty, staff, students, and friends were excited to gather in person and be "Back on Broadway" at the 2022 Spring Gala held at the Adron Doran University Center on April 30.

The event treated guests to incredible food and drinks, a silent auction and a performance by students, faculty and alumni from the School of Creative Arts. The fundraising event had more than 350 attendees and raised nearly \$100,000 to advance academic programs and improve the University.

"We were thrilled to be able to host the annual Spring Gala in person this year. This event is an amazing opportunity to welcome some of our most valued supporters on campus and showcase the talents of our students," said Rick Hesterberg, vice president for university advancement. "We are thankful for the generous donors, corporate and individual sponsors, and the local businesses who contributed to the success of the event. The community's support of this event will have an impact on current and future Eagles."

The 2023 MSU Spring Gala is Saturday, April 29, 2023. For additional information, visit [alumni.moreheadstate.edu/gala](http://alumni.moreheadstate.edu/gala) or call the Office of Alumni Relations and Development at 606-783-2033 or 1-877-783-ALUM.

View a photo gallery of the 2022 Spring Gala at <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjzN72p>.

Watch highlights at <https://youtu.be/NOWmYM07tJw>.

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### **Morehead State MBA Program ranked one of the nation's best by Fortune Magazine**

One of the world's most prominent media outlets for business and financial news recognizes Morehead State's value for prospective students.

Fortune Magazine named MSU to the Fortune 2022 Best Online MBA (Master of Business Administration) Programs list. It was one of 108 schools highlighted nationwide. MSU made the list as one of only two universities in Kentucky and it was the only public institution in the Commonwealth to receive this recognition.

The rankings come courtesy of Fortune Education, which the global business media outlet created to help guide prospective MBA students to the best institutions offering MBA programs.

"This is definitely a great honor for the MSU MBA program," said Sam Stapleton, MBA program director. "I believe that this award highlights the dedication and hard work of the faculty and staff in both the Smith College of Business and MSU Graduate School who strive to provide our MBA students with a high-quality learning experience."

The MBA program at MSU provides quality educational opportunities in business entirely online. Its focus and design are for working professionals seeking to improve their management success.

To learn more about the MBA program at MSU, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/study/mba](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/study/mba) or contact the Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology at [cbt@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:cbt@moreheadstate.edu) or 606-783-2174.

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# NEWS RELEASE

**May 9, 2022**  
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**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

## **MSU 2022 Spring Commencement is May 14**

Morehead State University has announced details for the upcoming Spring Commencement.

Two commencement ceremonies will be held for spring and summer graduates on Saturday, May 14, in the Academic-Athletic Center (AAC).

Tickets will be required for guests attending the ceremony. Each degree candidate participating in the ceremony can bring 12 guests. Ceremony times are below:

- 10 a.m. - Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology
  - Stream time: 9:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m.
  - LINK: <https://ovcdigitalnetwork.com/showcase/embed.aspx?Live=7008>
- 1 p.m. - College of Science, and Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education
  - Stream time: 12:45 p.m.-2:45 p.m.
  - LINK: <https://ovcdigitalnetwork.com/showcase/embed.aspx?Live=7009>

The student speakers for the 2022 Spring Commencement are Sarah Elizabeth Franklin and Gabria W. Sexton.

Sarah Elizabeth Franklin of Mt. Washington is the commencement speaker representing the Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education. She will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Education with dual certification in Elementary Education (P-5) and Moderate to Severe Disabilities (K-12).

Franklin held the office of president and scholarship chair for Sigma Alpha sorority. She was treasurer of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) chapter at MSU, an organization providing networking to future special education teachers and opportunities

for community outreach to students with disabilities. She was selected to represent MSU at the Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children Conference in Fall 2021. That same year, the Kentucky Reading Association (KRA) Conference chose her to attend as a Pre-service Ambassador for Literacy.

Starting in February 2021, Franklin served as a caretaker for Seven Counties in Louisville and Pathways Inc. in Morehead. She worked with clients diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and Down Syndrome in these positions. She also served as a daycare teacher for the Bluegrass Academy Childcare Center from 2019 to 2021.

Upon graduation, Franklin plans to pursue a career in special education, working with students with disabilities.

Gabria W. Sexton of Morehead is the commencement speaker representing the Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. She will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a minor in gender studies.

Sexton originally attended Morehead State University in 1989 before entering the workforce and starting a family. She attended community college to become a licensed medical office assistant.

Morehead State hired Sexton in 2000 and she has held various roles, including academic department specialist, a program assistant and a communications and business manager. Her current role is as an administrative assistant to the associate provost of the Office of Undergraduate Education and Student Success.

She returned to MSU as a transfer student in 2004 and earned an Associate of Arts in University Studies in 2007. She re-enrolled at MSU in the summer of 2019 to earn her bachelor's degree and will graduate with a 4.0 GPA.

Sexton will continue her education at MSU by earning a Master of Arts in Sociology with a Chemical Dependency Concentration with plans to pursue careers in either education or counseling. She and her husband Joe have two sons, Jesse (age 31) and Jayden (age 21), and one grandson, Blake Webb (age 2).

For more information on MSU's 2022 Spring Commencement and live stream the ceremonies, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/graduation](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/graduation).

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## NEWS RELEASE

**May 10, 2022**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Andy Prefontaine receives Doctor of Humane Letters at 2022 Spring Commencement**

Morehead State University will award alumnus and long-time MSU supporter Andy Prefontaine an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at MSU's upcoming 2022 Spring Commencement Ceremony in recognition of his humanitarian and philanthropic contributions to society, both in the United States and internationally.

Prefontaine is the founder and CEO of Family Leisure Inc. and an entrepreneur who started home, property and advertising businesses. In addition to owning nine Family Leisure retail stores across the south and Midwest, he is also the founder and CEO of Sierra Advertising and owner of Pendelton Pike Properties, Watson's Properties and Watson of Minnesota Properties.

"Morehead State University gave me the opportunity I was looking for, launching me in the right direction, which led to a great career and a wonderful life," Prefontaine said. "I'm forever thankful for my alma mater and, with great appreciation, accept this honorary doctorate degree."

As a student, he was a member of the MSU ROTC program's first commissioned graduating class and served as the last president of the Aquila Club before the social organization became the national fraternal organization Pi Kappa Alpha. After he graduated from MSU in 1971, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army.

His desire to pay it forward led him to work with Sister of the Holy Cross in a Vietnam orphanage that only took in blind and visually impaired children. He would regularly donate money and gifts to the orphanage and children. Prefontaine was recognized for his business success, charitable giving and University support when inducted into the

MSU Alumni Hall of Fame in 2016. He also serves as a member of the MSU Foundation Board of Trustees.

In 2018, Andy and his wife, Debbie, continued their generous support to ensure that same success is within reach for future generations of students. They contributed \$750,000 to create the Andy and Debbie Prefontaine Scholarship Endowment. The proceeds from the endowment will provide scholarships to assist in recruiting and retaining current and future Eagles.

In honor of their charitable commitment, two spaces in the renovated Adron Doran University Center (ADUC) are named in their honor: the Prefontaine Tower and the Prefontaine Pub. Prefontaine Tower is located at the northernmost entrance of the ADUC expansion. The Prefontaine Pub is one of ADUC's dining options and student hangouts located on the first floor just past the tower entrance.

Commencement ceremonies for spring and summer 2022 graduates will be held on Saturday, May 14, 2022, at the Academic-Athletic Center (AAC) on the campus of Morehead State University. The ceremony schedule is as follows:

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

For more information on 2022 Spring Commencement, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/graduation](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/graduation).

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## NEWS RELEASE

**May 10, 2022**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Craft Academy Graduation Ceremony is May 14**

The Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Class of 2022 will hold a graduation ceremony for its Class of 2022 on Saturday, May 14, at 4 p.m. at the Academic-Athletic Center (AAC). Doors will be open at 3:15 p.m., and there will be a reception immediately following the ceremony at the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC).

The student speaker is Zoe Baker of Alvaton. She is the daughter of Tyson and Mary Joe Baker. Baker was active in several extracurricular activities and service projects. She was an ambassador for the Craft Academy, led multiple focus groups, acted as a peer tutor, and was selected for an internship teaching college algebra for the Craft Academy over the summer. Baker further explored her love for STEM+ education by regularly volunteering at Rowan County Middle School. She also conducts research in the lab of entomologist Dr. Sean O'Keefe, associate professor of biology at Morehead State University, on his parasitoid wasp team, where she specializes in identifying Chalcidoidea wasps.

Baker's areas of interest at the Academy were medicine and zoology. She received the Distinguished Scholar Financial Award from MSU and is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences, Pre-medicine, in the fall. Her long-term goals include medical school and practicing as a rural dermatologist in her hometown, focusing heavily on fighting skin cancer for manual laborers.

Graduates and their hometowns are listed below:

- Tyler Baker, Versailles
- Zoe Baker, Alvaton
- Donavon Blevins, Clearfield
- Emma Brock, Corbin

- Po'iu Burgo, Mt. Washington
- Connor Caskey, Paris
- Bryce Charles, Mt. Sterling
- Hailey Costanzo, Richmond
- Owen Day, Georgetown
- Zoe Forrest, Louisville
- Ryland Gross, Jackson
- Paul Grubbs, Shepherdsville
- Melissa Hannemann, Lexington
- Dante Henneberg, Morehead
- Savannah Jones, Germantown
- Suleman Khan, Elizabethtown
- Grant Klingenberg, Jeffersonville
- Dhwani Kothari, Frankfort
- Ashlee Lewis, Mt. Washington
- Roxanne Lockard, Georgetown
- Sarah Massie, Garrison
- Phillip Maxson, Lexington
- Nakia McBride, Alexandria
- Duncan McGinnis, Ashland
- Wade McGuire, Littcarr
- Jordan McKinney, Shepherdsville
- Lorien Molstad, Mt. Sterling
- Kaelyn Moore, Shepherdsville
- Olivia Moore, Lexington
- Gabriella Music, Louisa
- Elizabeth Oakes, Winchester
- Blake Orr, Winchester
- Zarric Queen, London
- Charissa Reid, Falmouth
- Andrew Robert, Winchester
- Slate Robinson, Union
- Jonathan Rose, Brooksville
- Allison Scarlett, Stanville
- Alayna Slone, Lexington
- Ashley Smetanko, Nicholasville
- Ethan Smith, Frankfort
- Logan Smith, Fisty
- Rosa Smith, Lexington
- Timothy Smith, Hazel Green
- Lauren Strong, Danville

- Freder'oni Terrado, Elizabethtown
- Cayenne Warren, Butler
- Quinn Weil, Mt. Sterling
- Clara Williams, Morehead
- Hailey Williams, Kevil
- Andrew Winterman, Burlington
- Jane Zhang, Richmond
- Paul Zigo, Lawrenceburg

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

Funding for the Craft Academy comes from the generous contributions and support of Dr. Joe Craft and his wife, Ambassador Dr. Kelly Craft. They have donated approximately \$10 million to the Academy. Additional funding comes from state appropriations.

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

Photo: Zoe Baker will be the student speaker at the commencement ceremony for the Craft Academy.

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## NEWS RELEASE

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**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

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- Dante Henneberg, Morehead
- Savannah Jones, Germantown
- Suleman Khan, Elizabethtown
- Grant Klingenberg, Jeffersonville
- Dhwani Kothari, Frankfort
- Ashlee Lewis, Mt. Washington
- Roxanne Lockard, Georgetown
- Sarah Massie, Garrison
- Phillip Maxson, Lexington
- Nakia McBride, Alexandria
- Duncan McGinnis, Ashland
- Wade McGuire, Littcarr
- Jordan McKinney, Shepherdsville
- Lorien Molstad, Mt. Sterling
- Kaelyn Moore, Shepherdsville
- Olivia Moore, Lexington
- Gabriella Music, Louisa
- Elizabeth Oakes, Winchester
- Blake Orr, Winchester
- Zarric Queen, London
- Charissa Reid, Falmouth
- Andrew Roberts, Winchester
- Slate Robinson, Union
- Jonathan Rose, Brooksville
- Allison Scarlett, Stanville
- Alayna Slone, Lexington
- Ashlyn Smetanko, Nicholasville
- Ethan Smith, Frankfort
- Logan Smith, Fisty
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Photo: Zoe Baker will be the student speaker at the commencement ceremony for the Craft Academy.

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## NEWS RELEASE

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

### **Craft Academy students win Entrepreneurial Coal Lands Redevelopment Competition**

A team of students from the Craft Academy at Morehead State won top honors at the annual Entrepreneurial Coal Lands Redevelopment Program (ECLRP) proposal competition.

ECLRP was created by Cedar, a non-profit that seeks to educate the public about the coal industry. Teams from high schools in Cedar's 23-county program area develop ideas to repurpose old mine sites for uses that stimulate economic growth or improve the quality of life in the community and region. Teams must develop an idea for a business or use for the land, formulate a business plan, and create a site profile complete with physical models and prototypes. Teams presented their plans at the ECLRP Regional Challenge, held Thursday, April 14. Members of the team from the Craft Academy were:

- Emma Brock, a senior from Corbin.
- Charissa Reid, a senior from Falmouth.
- Allison Scarlett, a senior from Stanville.
- Fredre'Oni Terrado, a senior from Elizabethtown.
- Jane Zhang, a senior from Richmond.

The Craft Academy ECLRP team developed the idea to build a Center of Mental-Health Progress Adolescent Success (COMPAS). The proposal would build a facility on the Mine 23 site in Pike County. COMPAS is proposed to take in 80 students with mental health issues from the Pike County School District, approximately 16 students per high school. Students will undergo a selection process to be admitted to COMPAS. The students selected for the program would be exposed to a rotation of eight different mental health therapy techniques, followed by a reevaluation period to ensure the

program is working and helping the students succeed.

The facility would include a full care equine barn and greenhouse where students will get hands-on learning opportunities. The facilities would be a source of revenue since the school will be free of charge for students if they are enrolled in the Pike County School District.

Scarlett said she learned a lot from the program, but one lesson stuck with her the most.

“One of the biggest lessons I learned about this whole experience is that it takes a lot to get a business up and running,” she said. “Between the laws, the employees you have to find, and the money it takes a lot of effort.”

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Photo Caption: Members of the Craft Academy's ECLRP team, from left to right: Emma Brock, Fredre'Oni Terrado, Allison Scarlett, Charissa Reid, Jane Zhang.

###

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## NEWS RELEASE

**May 13, 2022**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **McGinnis wins National Merit Scholarship**

Duncan McGinnis, a senior at the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics, has been named a National Merit finalist.

McGinnis is from Greenup County and was one of 15,000 finalists in the National Merit Scholar Program and one of 7,500 chosen to receive the \$2,500 scholarship. Winners are selected based on their academic record, information about the school's curriculum and grading system, PSAT/NMSQT Selection Index score, the high school official's written recommendation, information about the student's activities and leadership, and the finalists' essays.

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## NEWS RELEASE

**May 16, 2022**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Alumni Ammons and Payne collaborated at MIT**

Morehead State Alumni Kristen Ammons (Class of 2020) and Cadence Payne (Class of 2017) took different paths to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), but now the two are collaborating on research at the prestigious school.

The two are working on a research project involving MIT, its Haystack Observatory and MSU. The project uses CubeSats to deploy antennas to observe the interactions between the sun's magnetic fields and the northern and southern auroras in Earth's atmosphere. Ammons is pursuing a master's degree and Payne is a Ph.D. candidate. In addition to the collaborative project, Payne is also working on a project to use CubeSats to monitor the effects of climate change on Earth's oceans.

Payne earned her bachelor's in Space Science at MSU, and Ammons earned her bachelor's in Space Systems Engineering. Both Payne and Ammons said they were introduced to the field through their interactions with MSU while still in high school. Payne attended the Governor's Scholars Program (GSP) at MSU in the summer of 2011 and said the experience was a turning point for her.

"As a kid, I used to look up at the stars and wonder what was going on up there, but I didn't think I could go much farther than wondering," she said. "Then, GSP showed me I can study it. I studied astronomy at GSP that summer and fell in love with it."

For Ammons, her connection to MSU began with Jen Carter, director of the Center for STEM+eXcellence at the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics and a former science teacher at Rowan County Senior High School. Carter recommended that Ammons attend Space Trek, a residential summer camp for girls interested in STEM at MSU's Space Science Center.

“That kind of introduced me to the idea that hey, I like this engineering, science field,” Ammons said.

Both Ammons and Payne attribute a big part of their success to their time at MSU, saying the hands-on experiences they had here gave them an edge once they got to MIT.

“I think it’s really creative how they allow you to learn things,” Payne said. “I learned programming and electronics in a really hands-on way because the program prioritized project-based learning.

I loved the small classes because it was an intimate learning setting, so you could be open and ask questions that you would maybe feel uncomfortable asking in a larger class.”

Ammons felt the same, saying MSU’s small, intimate classroom and lab settings allow the space systems engineering program to provide opportunities bigger schools can’t match.

“What I think Morehead has over the larger institutes that boast the big-name research is that it was a small, familial type of environment,” she said. “Had I gone to UK, I probably wouldn’t have had the chance to do the kinds of hands-on research that I got to do at MSU.”

Both Ammons and Payne said the faculty at MSU played a significant role in their success as well. Payne said she didn’t realize that her first space science professor, Professor Emeritus Bob Twiggs, was a “rock star” in the aerospace industry until she attended a conference and saw how people approached him. Ammons said many professors, both inside and outside of the space systems engineering program, helped her by being supportive, positive and encouraging as she pursued her degree.

“Just knowing there were people that stood behind me and were enthusiastic about my success outside of what I could bring to the table for them, you can’t over-sell the importance of having people who believe in you,” Ammons said.

“I was able to sit in on meetings with folks from NASA and other big aerospace companies in the Space Science Center,” Payne said. “Even if I wasn’t on a project, I was able to come and sit and just listen and get familiar with how these conversations go, and that was invaluable. If I hadn’t had that before coming to MIT, there would have been this huge learning curve, and I don’t think I would have gotten that anywhere else.”

To learn more about space systems engineering programs at MSU, visit

[www.moreheadstate.edu/phes](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/phes), email [phes@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:phes@moreheadstate.edu) or call 606-783-2381.

***College can change lives and communities. Higher educational attainment increases tax revenue, decreases unemployment and even improves health outcomes. Learn more from the KY Council on Postsecondary Education at [kyhigheredmatters.org](http://kyhigheredmatters.org).***

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## NEWS RELEASE

**May 16, 2022**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **MSU Sigma Phi Epsilon chapter celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

Members of the Kentucky Zeta Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon (Sig Ep) fraternity at Morehead State University came together to celebrate their 50th anniversary on April 22 and 23.

During this special celebration, a group of more than 175 Sig Ep alumni and active students dedicated the newly named Sigma Phi Epsilon Reception Area in the Adron Doran University Center.

Among the weekend's activities and events, members met, organized the dedication of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Reception Area and hosted a formal banquet at the newly renovated Adron Doran University Center. MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan attended the banquet and delivered a speech to those in attendance.

Sigma Phi Epsilon established the Kentucky Zeta Chapter on Morehead's campus in 1970. To date, the chapter has raised over \$50,000 in scholarship funds.

"Five generations of Kentucky Zeta Sig Eps recently gathered at MSU to celebrate 50-plus years of brotherhood. It was a blast to be back in Morehead and see how much the campus has changed," said Sig Ep alumnus and event organizer Chris Haid (Class of 1977). "Thanks to the MSU Alumni Association for helping us deliver a great experience for all."

For more information on this scholarship or to establish your own, contact MSU's Office of Alumni Relations and Development at 606-783-2033, email [giving@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:giving@moreheadstate.edu) or visit [alumni.moreheadstate.edu/give](http://alumni.moreheadstate.edu/give).

Photo: The founding members of the Kentucky Zeta Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon at Morehead State University attended a 50th anniversary celebration last month.

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# NEWS RELEASE

**May 16, 2022**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

## **MSU Special Education Program part of Kentucky LEADS Academy**

Students in Morehead State University's Director of Special Education certification program will have the opportunity to participate in the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE) third cohort of the Kentucky Leading, Educating, Advocating for Directors of Special Education (LEADS) Academy.

MSU is one of three institutions involved with the LEADS Academy, including Western Kentucky University and Murray State University. The Academy is possible through collaboration with the KDE, Kentucky's Part C Early Intervention Services and the Kentucky Parent Training and Information Center.

Candidates selected for the LEADS Academy will receive tuition reimbursement made possible by this five-year, \$1 million competitive federal grant courtesy of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs. It exists to spark systemic change by increasing the number and capacity of certified directors of special education (DoSE), special education teachers, early intervention service leaders, and Admission and Release Committee (ARC) chairs to improve services results for children with disabilities.

Dr. April Miller, dean of the Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education, said directors of special education are a "high-needs area" in the state. They are typically responsible for setting up curriculum and working with parents, faculty, teachers, and sometimes students to construct individualized education programs for each student.

"This is a population of students that need extra support and services. The director of special education can have a huge impact," Miller said.

In addition to the tuition reimbursement allowing for more students to pursue DoSE certification, the LEAD Academy's emphasis on increased professional development, mentorship, and leadership helps scholars be even more prepared to tackle the state's particular education challenges.

"They get a lot more support through this LEADS program," Miller said. "We're really focusing on that leadership and additional learning to help them stand out from others."

Eligible applicants for the LEADS Academy must be:

Enrolled in Morehead State University, Western Kentucky University or Murray State University (currently or within the next three months);

Pursuing a Director of Special Education (DoSE) certification;

Willing to participate in monthly Saturday Seminars and professional learning communities; and,

Willing to serve as a mentor to future academy participants aspiring for leadership experience and support.

The deadline to apply is Friday, June 3. Candidates must send their applications to the Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL).

For more information on the LEADS Academy, contact Dr. Thomas Williams, executive strategic policy analyst, OSEEL, at [thomas.williams@education.ky.gov](mailto:thomas.williams@education.ky.gov).

MSU's Director of Special Education certification will prepare you to be an effective administrator of public school special education programs. The online certification requires 21 credit hours and meets the requirements of the Education Professional Standards Board. There is also an option to package the certification with a second master's degree, Rank I, Ed.S., or Ed.D.

To learn more about MSU's Department of Foundational and Graduate Studies in Education programs, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/fgse](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/fgse), email [fgse@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:fgse@moreheadstate.edu) or call 606-783-2261.

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## NEWS RELEASE

**May 18, 2022**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Spring commencement recognizes newest graduates**

Morehead State University honored nearly 1,000 graduates at ceremonies on May 14 inside the Academic-Athletic Center.

The graduates celebrated their academic accomplishments with family, friends, loved ones and the MSU community. It included congratulations from MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan. Provost Dr. Antony Norman welcomed graduates into the MSU Alumni Association.

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

Gabria W. Sexton (Class of 2022) of Morehead served as commencement speaker representing the Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Sarah Elizabeth Franklin (Class of 2022) of Mt. Washington served as commencement speaker representing the Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education.

Sexton graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a minor in gender studies. Sexton will continue her education at MSU by earning a Master of Arts in Sociology with a Chemical Dependency Concentration with plans to pursue careers in either education or counseling.

“This is your life, your adventure. The only rules and timelines to meet are the ones that you set for yourself,” Sexton said. “Have the audacity to decide for yourself who you want to be and pursue whatever it is that sets your heart on fire.”

Franklin graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Education with dual certification in Elementary Education (P-5) and Moderate to Severe Disabilities (K-12). Upon

graduation, Franklin plans to pursue a career in special education, working with students with disabilities.

“In order to believe in yourself, you first must own your worth. This is easier said than done. To own your worth, you are not defined by your grades, your achievements or your chosen profession,” Franklin said. “Our ultimate goal is to become the better version of ourselves so that we may believe in our abilities when we are setting new goals and expectations to continuously improve.”

Morehead State University awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to alumnus and long-time MSU supporter Andy Prefontaine (Class of 1971). Prefontaine is the founder and CEO of Family Leisure Inc. and an entrepreneur who started home, property and advertising businesses. He is also the founder and CEO of Sierra Advertising and owner of Pendelton Pike Properties, Watson’s Properties and Watson of Minnesota Properties. Andy and his wife, Debbie, contributed a significant major gift to create the Andy and Debbie Prefontaine Scholarship Endowment to provide scholarships assisting in recruiting and retaining current and future Eagles and have recently pledged an additional major gift to continue supporting MSU and its mission, with a special emphasis on athletics.

"All you graduates have received a very special gift and have joined a very exclusive club today. Only 7% of the world population have a four-year degree," Prefontaine said. "And to quote an Olympian and cousin Steve Prefontaine, 'To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift.'"

ROTC students Aqeel Anjum (Class of 2022) of Morehead; William Christopher Davis (Class of 2022) of Mt. Washington; Dylan Taylor Fryman (Class of 2022) of Lexington; Tristan P. Hoaglin (Class of 2022) of Paintsville; Nicholas Alexander Huron (Class of 2022) of Manchester, Ohio; Colton Zane Keeton (Class of 2022) of Salyersville; William Andrew Kelsey (Class of 2022) of Morehead; Cruz Antonio Ortiz-Ramirez (Class of 2022) of Cass County, Indiana; Jonathan B. Patrick (Class of 2022) of Winchester; and Danny Steven Richey (Class of 2022) of Mt. Orab, Ohio, were commissioned as a second lieutenant during the ceremony. Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Gensley administered the oath.

View photo gallery at <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjzQcrx>.

View the 2022 Spring Commencement program at [www.moreheadstate.edu/graduation](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/graduation).

View a YouTube video of the 2022 Spring Commencement at <https://youtu.be/AM4EoxSPUZQ>.

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## NEWS RELEASE

**May 19, 2022**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Craft Academy graduation held May 14**

The graduation ceremony for the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Class of 2022 was held Saturday, May 14. There were 53 graduates.

The student speaker was Zoe Baker of Alvaton. She is the daughter of Tyson and Mary Joe Baker. Baker was active in several extracurricular activities and service projects. She was an ambassador for the Craft Academy, led multiple focus groups, acted as a peer tutor, and was selected for an internship teaching college algebra for the Craft Academy over the summer. Baker further explored her love for STEM+ education by regularly volunteering at Rowan County Middle School. She also conducted research in the lab of entomologist Dr. Sean O'Keefe, associate professor of biology at Morehead State University, on his parasitoid wasp team, where she specialized in identifying Chalcidoidea wasps.

Baker's areas of interest at the Academy were medicine and zoology. She received the Distinguished Scholar Financial Award from MSU and is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences, Pre-medicine, in the fall.

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.

Funding for the Craft Academy comes from the contributions and support of Dr. Joe Craft and his wife, Ambassador Kelly Craft, who both attended the ceremony. The couple have donated approximately \$10 million to the Academy with additional funding coming from state appropriations.

View a photo gallery of the 2022 Craft Academy graduation at <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjzQctr>.

View the 2022 Craft Academy Graduation program at <https://bit.ly/3lonZsl>.

View a YouTube video of the 2022 Craft Academy graduation at <https://youtu.be/AGEAe766OOg>.

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

Photo, right: Craft Academy graduate Hailey Costanzo of Richmond (center right) pictured with Dr. Joe Craft (far left), Ambassador Kelly Craft (center left) and MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan (far right) at the 2022 Craft Academy graduation ceremony.

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## NEWS RELEASE

**May 19, 2022**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Morehead State recognized as one of Abound's 2022 Best Colleges for Adults**

Morehead State University is a high-value option for students pursuing a college education at any age, and it now has national recognition to prove it.

Abound, a guidance and resource website for adults seeking a college degree, has recognized MSU as one of its 2022 Best Colleges for Adults. The list highlighted institutions from 40 states and MSU was one of only four schools in Kentucky to receive this recognition.

A full list can be found at <https://abound.college/finishcollege/best-colleges-for-adults>.

Schools selected for Abound's 2022 Best Colleges for Adults emphasize flexibility and affordability for post-traditional students, including night and weekend access, online programs, affordable tuition and solid part-time student retention and graduation rates.

"We understand that post-traditional students require convenient and flexible course formats that allow them to manage classes along with their many other responsibilities. MSU's online completter degrees, regional campuses and outstanding advisors and support staff make degree completion possible for adult students," said Jen Timmerman, director of transition services at MSU. "We offer a variety of resources, including free tutoring, career coaching and success programs, to ensure students feel supported throughout their educational journey at Morehead State."

If you are a post-traditional student interested in returning to college or attending college for the first time by enrolling at MSU, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/adult](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/adult) or contact Timmerman at [j.timmerman@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:j.timmerman@moreheadstate.edu) or 606-783-5038.

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## NEWS RELEASE

**May 24, 2022**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Johnson joins Enrollment Services transfer team**

The Transition Center in Morehead State's Office of Enrollment Services has added a new member to its team.

Racquel Johnson will be serving as an enrollment services counselor for post-traditional and transfer students. Johnson will be based in Lexington at Bluegrass Community and Technical College. She will travel throughout Central and Northern Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio to assist post-traditional and transfer students with admissions, advising, and other student services. She will meet with students, faculty, and staff to discuss opportunities available to students at MSU such as regional campuses, online degree completer programs, joint admission and transfer scholarships.

"I am thrilled to be a part of Morehead State University, especially the transfer service team," Johnson said. "My higher education career has prepared me and working with post-traditional and transfer students is very rewarding. Many of these students have had to overcome many obstacles to pursue their dream of higher education. Here at Morehead State University, I look forward to working with this student population and assisting them with realizing their dreams and obtaining their degree."

A Lexington native, Johnson has an extensive background in higher education, specifically in admissions and recruitment. She has worked as an admissions counselor at Kentucky State University, West Virginia State University and the University of Cincinnati. She holds degrees from Walden University and Kentucky State. In her spare time, she owns and operates a small travel agency and works as a contract makeup artist.

To learn more about transferring to MSU, email Johnson at

[rjohnson5@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:rjohnson5@moreheadstate.edu), call 606-783-2000 or visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/transfer](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/transfer).

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## NEWS RELEASE

**May 25, 2022**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Hatfield and Elgazzar explore how tech can help stroke victim**

Dr. Heba Elgazzar, assistant professor of computer science recently published a paper she co-authored with computer science student, sophomore Dalton Hensley of Hatfield, that explored how technology can be used to help stroke victims.

The paper, “Classification of Stroke Victims through Supervised Machine Learning Algorithms and Ensemble Learning” was presented and published as a full paper in the proceedings of the 12th Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Annual Computing and Communication Workshop and Conference in January 2022.

The research explores several machine learning methodologies for classifying stroke victims using an aggregate of ensemble learning and other supervised learning strategies. The experimental results show that conditions such as stroke can be effectively classified with considerable high accuracy and precision. The medical field could benefit from such methods to aid medical practitioners in classifying diseases and reducing the cognitive burden of independent diagnoses.

In addition to the IEEE conference, the paper was also presented earlier this year at Posters at the Capitol and at Morehead State's annual Celebration of Student Scholarship.

Elgazzar said she is proud of the work she and Hensley did together and grateful for the support they received along the way.

“I highly appreciate the encouragement and the support for my research activities from the college dean, the associate dean of the School of Engineering and Computer Science, and the MSU Office of Research & Sponsored Programs,” Elgazzar said.

“Dalton was accepted recently in the NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program in Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Louisville site which will be held this summer. The knowledge and experience he gained during his work at MSU as an undergraduate research fellow helped him to get accepted in this competitive REU program. We are so proud of him.”

To read the paper, visit <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/9720853>.

To learn more about programs in MSU’s Department of Computer Science and Electronics, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/cse](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/cse), email [csis@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:csis@moreheadstate.edu) or call 606-783-2418.

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## NEWS RELEASE

**May 26, 2022**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Hensley and Elgazzar explore how tech can help stroke victim**

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## NEWS RELEASE

**May 26, 2022**  
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**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **MSU art alumni featured in The Albion Review literary journal**

The Albion Review, a national literary journal, featured artwork of Morehead State University Art & Design alumni Saule Gollihue (Class of 2022) and Kaylee Thornsberry (Class of 2021).

Gollihue and Thornsberry had one of their pieces chosen for the journal, making them two of the eight visual art pieces selected for the 2022 issue, available at <https://albionreview.com>.

Gollihue graduated this month with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Art with minors in photography and history. She plans to continue her education and earn a Master of Fine Arts in Photography. Thornsberry graduated with a BFA in Art in December 2021. She currently maintains a studio in Morgan County.

The Albion Review is a national literary journal based in Albion College in Albion, Michigan. It features works of short fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction and visual art.

"The high level of creativity and skill in Saule and Kaylee's visual work is evident by its selection for a national juried publication from amongst their undergraduate peers," said Lisa Mesa-Gaido, professor of art at MSU. "Their submitting work for the journal also demonstrates the support students in MSU's Art & Design program receive from faculty, who prepare them as artists, as well as make them aware of and encourage them to take advantage of numerous professional opportunities."

To explore MSU's Department of Art and Design programs, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/art](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/art), email [arde@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:arde@moreheadstate.edu) or call 606-783-2766.

Photos: Pieces from MSU art alumni Saule Gollihue ("Unrecognized Clarity," wood sculpture, upper right) and Kaylee Thornsberry ("Aileene," mixed media, lower right) were selected for The Albion Review national literary journal.

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## NEWS RELEASE

**May 26, 2022**  
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**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Olivia Webb to represent MSU at Mountain Laurel Festival**

Olivia Webb, a senior from Pineville, will represent Morehead State University at the 2022 Kentucky Mountain Laurel Festival.

The daughter of Kellie Jones and Ledford Webb, she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in marketing with a minor in photography. Webb is an active member of Delta Zeta Sorority.

"I am beyond honored to be chosen as the Morehead State University representative for this legendary tradition," Webb said. "I have dreamed of participating in this event since I performed during the Queen Coronation with my ballet class as a little girl."

The Kentucky Mountain Laurel Festival began in 1931. The annual festival invites each university in the Commonwealth to send a representative. The tradition of crowning the Mountain Laurel Queen takes place on Saturday, May 28, at Pine Mountain State Resort Park.

In 2003, Jamie Nicole Blair (Class of 2003, 2004) of Oil Springs won the crown, representing MSU. Other MSU winners included Sharon Lue Goldsberry (Class of 1977) in 1975 and Kelly Michele Holdren (Class of 1982, 1984) in 1982.

For more information on the Kentucky Mountain Laurel Festival, visit [www.kmlf.org](http://www.kmlf.org) or call 606-337-6103.

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