



Communications & Marketing
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www.moreheadstate.edu

Jan. 9, 2022
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Morehead State's Fall 2022 Dean's List announced

Morehead State University has ranked among the top public regional universities in the South for 19 consecutive years. In 2022, MSU earned its highest ranking to date, moving up to the "Top 15" as the #15 ranked public school in the South. MSU is also recognized as one of the Best Colleges for Veterans, Best Value Schools, and Top Performers on Social Mobility.

The Fall 2022 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 Dean's List, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/deanslist.

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



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Jan. 10, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU closed, events planned for MLK Day

Morehead State will be closed Monday, Jan. 16, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Administrative offices will be closed, and classes will not meet. However, the University will host a special event to commemorate Dr. King's legacy.

Dr. William Turner will speak at 6 p.m. on the third floor of the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC). The lecture is free and open to the public.

A native of Harlan County, Turner has spent his professional career studying and supporting marginalized groups. He is best known in academia for his research on African American communities in Appalachia. He has held positions at Winston-Salem University, Kentucky State University, the University of Kentucky and Berea College. At the time of his retirement in 2017, Turner was a research scientist leader at the Prairie View A&M University College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, where he led the collection and analysis of data on underserved, economically insecure Texans.

For more information, contact the Office of Student Affairs at [606-783-2070](tel:606-783-2070) or visit moreheadstate.edu/student-life/student-affairs/index.

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NEWS RELEASE

January 11, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU receives multi-million-dollar estate gift for construction management

The MSU Foundation has announced an estate gift valued at nearly \$3 million dollars, the largest estate gift in the school's 135-year history. The donation is from the estate of Dr. Staley F. Adams and his wife, Grace Adams.

Dr. Adams, professor emeritus in the civil engineering department at the University of Kentucky, passed away in July 2016 at the age of 95. Beloved by his former students who called him brilliant in his field, Adams left behind his wife, Grace, who passed away in 2022. After her death, the couple's estate informed the MSU Foundation of the planned gift.

"Planned giving is such an important, impactful and everlasting gift," said Rick Hesterberg, CEO of the MSU Foundation. "We are honored to be the recipient of the Adams' generosity and the support it will give MSU students for generations to come."

The gift will establish the Dr. Staley F. Adams and Grace C. Adams Memorial Scholarship. The fund provides scholarships to Eastern Kentucky students majoring in engineering. Recipients must be full-time undergraduate students from MSU's 22-county service region majoring in engineering technology with an emphasis on construction management.

Scholarship preference includes students who demonstrate a personal commitment to helping fund their education by holding a part-time job during college. A committee of faculty members from the Department of Engineering & Technology Management selects recipients, and scholarship renewal is possible from year to year.

MSU's [Department of Engineering and Technology Management](#) provides hands-on learning opportunities for students in construction management, automation, robotics, manufacturing, electronics, systems engineering and industrial education.

"Our program has grown and developed over the last several years, and the Adams' estate gift is monumental in ensuring our growth continues," said Dr. Ahmad Zargari, associate dean and professor in the School of Engineering and Computer Science. "Through this generous estate gift, the faculty will have the opportunity to recruit and educate the next generation of civil engineers and construction management

professionals who will contribute to the further development of modern construction industry in MSU's service region."

Individuals who support MSU through planned gift commitments are members of the Visionary Society. The Visionary Society builds and encourages a heritage of giving at MSU by acknowledging planned gifts and celebrating the generosity of planned-gift donors. Planned gifts ensure a bright future for MSU and our students.

If you're interested in becoming a member of the Visionary Society, please call the [Office of Alumni Relations & Development](#) at 606-783-2033 or email giving@moreheadstate.edu.

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



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Jan. 23, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Morehead State named Affordable College of Distinction

Morehead State has received a new accolade recognizing its affordable programming in relation to its peers. The award comes from Colleges of Distinction, a resource whose cohort of schools is selected based on the quality and breadth of hands-on experiences in lieu of the popular rankings model.

"Morehead State University has become well-known for academic excellence while providing a student-friendly, family-oriented experience on a safe campus," said Dr. Jay Morgan, MSU president. "When you can also offer that experience at an affordable cost, you really have one of the best values in higher education. We certainly appreciate receiving this distinction."

Schools are selected by Colleges of Distinction based on the quality and breadth of hands-on experiences instead of the popular rankings model. Colleges of Distinction's methodology is informed by institutional data published by the U.S. Department of Education. Those on the list showed low net prices directly proportional to student household income.

Beyond net price, MSU was further recognized for its low median debt as well as its graduates' mean earnings data on the Department of Education's College Scorecard tool. Colleges of Distinction also considered the graduates' median debt and mean earnings data.

Fewer than 150 institutions have been selected as Affordable Colleges of Distinction. Last year, MSU was named a 2022-2023 College of Distinction, Kentucky College of Distinction, and Public College of Distinction.

The Colleges of Distinction selection process comprises a sequence of in-depth research and detailed interviews with schools, accepting only those that adhere to the Four Distinctions: Engaged Students, Great Teaching, Vibrant Community, and Successful Outcomes.

Since 2000, Colleges of Distinction has been committed to honoring schools throughout the U.S. for excellence in higher education. The member schools within the Colleges of

Distinction consortium distinguish themselves through their dedicated focus on the undergraduate experience. For more information, visit CollegesofDistinction.com.

Learn more about MSU's rankings at <https://moreheadstate.edu/about-msu/rankings>.

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Jan. 24, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU mourns recent deaths of retirees

Morehead State is mourning the recent deaths of three retirees: Dr. Marilyn Sampley of Lebanon, Tennessee; Dr. Green Miller and Dr. Wade Cain Jr., both of Morehead.

Cain died Friday, Jan. 20, at 82. He began his career at MSU in 1982 as an assistant professor of chemistry. He earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Kentucky and his master's and doctoral degrees from Auburn University. He was the MSU chapter president of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, an assistant scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts of America and a member of the American Chemical Society. He retired from MSU in 2013.

He is survived by his wife, Judy; his children and their spouses, Claire (Matt) Timmer and Trey (Heather Swanson) Cain; five grandchildren; his brother Bill (Janie) Cain; his cousins, David Roach and Fritz Okie; and several nieces and nephews.

Services will be held Friday, Jan. 27, at the Morehead United Methodist Church, 227 West Main Street, with Rev. Eric Espada officiating. Visitation is from 9 to 11 a.m., with a funeral service at 11 a.m. Military honors will be conducted by Morehead American Legion Post No.126. Interment follows at 3:30 p.m. at the Somerset Cemetery, 511 W. Columbia St., Somerset, Kentucky.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Morehead State University Foundation in support of chemistry, 150 University Boulevard, Morehead, Kentucky 40351 or God's Pantry Food Bank, Morehead, 100 Carolyn Ingram Drive, Morehead, Kentucky 40351.

Miller died Wednesday, Jan. 18, at his residence. He was 83. He began his career at MSU in 1979 as an associate professor of economics and director of the MSU Center for Economic Education. He earned his bachelor's from the University of Texas at El Paso, his master's from the University of Oregon and his Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky. He was a member of Kentucky Economic Educators, the Midwest Economic Association, the National Association of Economic Educators and the Joint Council on Economic Education. He retired from MSU in 2010.

Funeral services were conducted Monday, Jan. 23, at St. Alban the Martyr Episcopal Church, with The Rev. Mary Kilbourn-Huey and The Rev. Keila Thomas officiating.

Interment was in Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens. Military honors were conducted at the graveside by Morehead American Legion Post 126.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Alban the Martyr Episcopal Church.

Sampley died Saturday, Jan. 14, at Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital in Lebanon, Tennessee, at age 86. She came to MSU in 1987 and served as chair of the Department of Home Economics. She earned her bachelor's degree at Auburn University, her master's degree at the University of Alabama and her Ph.D. from Texas Women's University. She was a member of the National Council of Administrators of Home economics, the American Home Economics Association, the American Dietetic Association and the Association for the Advancement of Science. She was granted the title of Professor Emeritus after she retired from MSU in 2008.

She is survived by one daughter, Sandra Sampley Rogers (Mike) of Waco, Texas; two granddaughters and three great-grandchildren; her sister, Myrtleene Staggars Lee of Pasadena, Texas; a nephew, Thomas Staggars (Joy) of Dickinson, Texas; and sister-in-law Ramona Hartsell of Montgomery, Alabama.

A memorial service was held Friday, Jan. 20, at Northcutt & Son Home for Funerals Memorial Chapel in Morehead, Kentucky, with the Rev. Bill Konstantopoulos officiating. Interment was in Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens.

Northcutt and Son Funeral Home is in charge of all arrangements. Sign the guestbooks at www.northcuttandson.com.

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Morehead State’s President Dr. Jay Morgan Spearheads Efforts to Revitalize MSU’s Campus

Morehead State University is a top-ranked university, and as part of its commitment to academic and student success, the institution is seeing numerous improvements. MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan is leading efforts to enhance the campus for faculty, staff, current and prospective students.

“Morehead State is pushing forward – academically, athletically, and now with our facilities,” Dr. Morgan said.

Through strategic budgeting, state funding and some generous private gifts, renovation projects will improve the campus experience for faculty, staff and students. Completed, current and future projects include:

- Construction of a new \$98 million Science & Engineering Building
- Renovation of the MSU Baseball Stadium.
- Renovations to transition the Eagle Center tennis courts into an indoor turf facility by adding field turf, lighting, painting, graphics and support equipment.
- Replacement of the basketball court at the Academic-Athletic Center (AAC).
- Renovations to the MSU Post Office and eSports Lounge in the Adron Doran University Center.
- Renovations to the ground floor of Alumni Tower for new on-campus housing for students in the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics.
- Installation of new lockers and new seating in Duncan Recital Hall located in Baird Music Hall.
- Improvements to stairs, windows and flooring in Baird Music Hall, in consultation with staff in the building.
- Multiple new roofs & HVAC Units

Other projects planned in the future are improvements to the MSU Recruit Walk across campus, including new flower beds, concrete stairs, sidewalk repairs and painting.

In the 2022 Kentucky Legislative Session, MSU was approved for significant Asset

Preservation Funds. The University received approximately \$20 million in the 2022-23 academic year, with another \$20 million forthcoming for the 2023-24 academic year.

"These funds are wonderful investments into state assets and our students," Dr. Morgan added.

Kim Oatman, chief facilities and operations officer with MSU is excited about the many projects lined up to make these campus improvements. "We already have a good start on these projects, and we are roughly 25% complete. The remainder of the projects are either in the planning, design or construction phase and expected to be completed in 2024," Oatman said. "These projects will improve the living and learning environments across campus by providing more reliable and comfortable air quality and temperatures as well as helping to keep spaces safe, dry and appealing."

MSU will also utilize state funding to construct a new Science & Engineering facility to help prepare students for the 21st-century job market and contribute to the economic transformation of the region. The new facility will significantly impact science and engineering at MSU which are already very strong programs. The University is in the preliminary planning phase for this project which will have a 3- to 4-year design/construction duration.

President Morgan said these concerted efforts to improve the overall MSU experience are just another example of MSU valuing its students and prioritizing their success. "We are on our way to doing great things for our students."

To learn more about Morehead State University, visit moreheadstate.edu.

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Jan. 26, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Morehead State students earn top rankings for scientific research

Twenty-four Morehead State students earned top honors for their presentations at the Kentucky Academy of Science's annual meeting, held in November at Morehead State University.

"These presentations made clear that Kentucky's next generation of scientists is already making significant contributions to scientific research," said Amanda Fuller, executive director of the Kentucky Academy of Science. "Giving students opportunities to conduct research and present their findings gives them guidance and encouragement to pursue even greater achievements in science."

More than 700 students and professional scientists from across the state attended the KAS Annual Meeting. Panels of scientists who judged students' research presentations designated top-tier presentations as "Thoroughbreds."

Morehead State students who earned the "Thoroughbred" designation are:

- Mackenzie Neal, a senior biomedical sciences student from Richmond, and Hailey Rietz, a senior biology major from Rancho Cordova, California, for a presentation on "Telomerase Activity Enhancement in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*."
- Mara Stout, a junior chemistry major from Shepherdsville, for a presentation on "The Development of a Colorimetric Assay to Detect Uracil in Monomeric and Oligomeric DNA."
- Joshua Hicks, a senior biomedical sciences student from Olive Hill, and Eliana Eldridge, a senior biomedical science student from Blackey, for a presentation on "A Meta-Analysis of Collection Methods in Spider Ecological Research."
- C. Jolene Fairchild, a senior geology student from Leburn, for a presentation on "Preliminary fungal palynology of the RA-3 Ash Zone from Paleolake Clarkia, Latah Fm., Idaho."
- Craft Academy Students Taylor Horsfall of Lexington and Alyssa Patel of Barbourville and senior Laikin Tarlton, a biology major from Chillicothe, Ohio, for a presentation on "Preliminary High-latitude fungal palynology of coals and

interseam rocks leading to the Miocene Climate Optimum warming event, Victoria, Australia."

- Junior geology student June Lennex-Stone from Morehead for a presentation on "Improving palynology processing in support of the FiaWW project."
- Junior veterinary science major Ollie VanderEspt from Brooks, Christopher Marsh, a sophomore geology student from Ashland, Liberty Smallwood, a senior biomedical sciences student from Mount Sterling, and Craft Academy student Jeremyah Cabrera from Cynthiana, for a presentation on "Preliminary tropical fungal palynology of early-middle Miocene sediments from Northwestern Peru."
- Senior biomedical sciences major Mollee Flannigan from Vanceburg, for a presentation on "RT-qPCR experiments show regulation by UmuDAb and DdrR of genes repressed after DNA damage in *Acinetobacter baumannii*."
- Breno Pontes, a sophomore space systems engineering student from Morehead, and Brannon Jones, a junior physics major from Lexington, for a presentation on "CXBN-3: Toward an Improved Understanding of Diffuse Emission Produced by High-Redshift Active Galactic Nuclei."
- Timo Klausnitzer, a freshman neuroscience major from Sinsheim, Germany, and sophomore neuroscience student Emily Bryant from Martin, for a presentation on "Opiate-dopamine interaction during acute withdrawal from amphetamine in rats."
- Mathematics education major Noah Cooley from Fort Thomas for a presentation on "Implementing Wolfram Mathematica into Kentucky High School Curriculum."
- Physics major Abigail Fagan from Cumming, Georgia, for a presentation on "Assessing the Effectiveness of a Physics-Based Light Pollution Curriculum."
- Senior biology education major Kelsey Heard from Louisville for a presentation on "Measuring the Effect of Professional Development for Best Practices in Crafting Exam Questions."
- Freshman biology major Josiah Kilburn from Castle Rock, Colorado, for a presentation on "Investigating the Underappreciated Biodiversity of Solenopsis Thief Ants."

The Kentucky Academy of Science is a nonprofit organization founded in 1914. Its mission is to catalyze scientific communication and collaboration to improve research, education, and evidence-based public engagement within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Morehead State University faculty, staff and students may become Kentucky Academy of Science members at no cost. For more info, go to www.kyscience.org.

To learn about [science](#) programs at MSU, call [606-783-2626](tel:606-783-2626).

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