

Morehead, KY 40351

Phone: 606-783-9328

Email: news@moreheadstate.edu

Web: moreheadstate.edu

NEWS RELEASE

April 4, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Delta Tau Delta supports juvenile diabetes research, earns award

The Zeta Zeta Chapter of Delta Tau Delta ($\Delta\Delta$) at Morehead State University celebrated two notable accomplishments.

$\Delta\Delta$ once again organized its annual effort to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). During the fall 2022 semester, members of $\Delta\Delta$ combine their efforts to raise more than \$4,000.

"It feels really good to know we are making a difference in the hopes of finding a cure to Type 1 Diabetes," said Blake McKibben, a junior from Flemingsburg and president of $\Delta\Delta$.

$\Delta\Delta$ also received the Hugh Shields Award, awarded to the Top 10 $\Delta\Delta$ chapters in the nation.

"I think it goes without saying it's awesome to be ranked in the top 10 chapters in the nation with over 100 chapters," McKibben said. "Every year, we work very hard in making sure we are striving to be the best men we can be. Our motto that we follow is 'Committed to Lives of Excellence.' Our chapter strives to live by that every day."

MSU offers more than 120 student clubs and organizations. You can join a fraternity or sorority, or explore your interests in everything from politics and social issues to academics, athletics, and faith.

To learn more about [fraternity and sorority life](#) at MSU, email Amanda Maynard, coordinator of fraternity and sorority life, at aedavis2@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-2668](tel:606-783-2668).

Photo, top: The Zeta Zeta Chapter of Delta Tau Delta ($\Delta\tau\Delta$) at MSU raised more than \$4,000 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) during the Fall 2022 semester.

Photo, right: Delta Tau Delta at MSU also received the Hugh Shields Award, awarded to the Top 10 $\Delta\tau\Delta$ chapters in the nation.

###

Morehead State University is a comprehensive public university located in Morehead, Kentucky. With a rich history and a commitment to innovation, the University's academic programs, research initiatives, and community outreach efforts are designed to empower students to succeed. Serving Eastern Kentucky for more than 135 years, MSU is ranked among the top public universities in the South by U.S. News & World Report and boasts more than 70,000 proud alumni.

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MSU launches new Master of Arts in Education program

Morehead State University is launching a new convenient program to help professional educators advance their careers. The Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education will offer a Master of Arts in Education (MAE) program beginning in Fall 2023.

The MAE program aims to help educators better contextualize education, design quality learning experiences, and teach and lead in educational settings for PreK-12. The online MAE program will support and enhance knowledge and skills for elementary, middle or secondary educators.

Each program has multiple concentrations, such as math, English, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics), gifted, and many more, to allow for the depth of study based on an education professional's interests. There is also dual-credit teaching qualification available in math, English and biology. An alternative concentration is also available for students to design a specialization.

The learning objectives of the MAE program include:

- Contextual factors, such as social, historical, philosophical and psychological factors, and applying those when making decisions.
- Professional dispositions and professional standards appropriate to their discipline.
- Data literacy and research.
- Assessment literacy and research.

The MAE program also has features uniquely beneficial for students:

- Courses intertwined with classroom practice.
- Courses are offered online during the fall and spring semesters and both summer sessions.

- The ability to complete the 30-hour program in as little as 15-18 months.
- Affordable graduate tuition- Kentucky residents can take 600-level education courses at the undergraduate tuition cost of around \$385 per credit hour. View tuition info at moreheadstate.edu/admissions/tuition.

Dr. Tim Simpson, associate dean in the Volgenau College of Education, says the combination of affordability, convenience and embedding coursework in the classroom of education professionals makes the MAE program an ideal choice for educators and a benefit to classrooms across Kentucky.

“This program will impact our region by enhancing the capacity of our teachers to educate better the next generation of leaders and citizens,” Simpson said.

For more information on the MAE program, contact Simpson at [606-783-2858](tel:606-783-2858) or tl.simpson@moreheadstate.edu.

To learn more about MSU's [Ernst and Sara Volgenau College of Education and its programs](#), call [606-783-2162](tel:606-783-2162) or email ad.miller@moreheadstate.edu.

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Morehead State Equestrian Team shines at IHSA Western Semifinals

Morehead State's equestrian team members qualified for further competition at the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA) Western Semifinals, hosted by Mississippi State in March. Three riders from MSU competed:

Shelby Carrico, a freshman agribusiness major from Piketon, Ohio, placed fourth in individual open reining.

Emma Owens, a senior agribusiness major from Lexington, came in fourth in individual rookie western horsemanship.

Kaitlyn Praisler, a junior equine science major from West Salem, Ohio, was named reserve champion in individual open western horsemanship.

The three will move on to compete at the IHSA National Championship in Lexington on May 3-7, 2023. This is the second consecutive year MSU has been represented at the IHSA National Championship.

"We are so proud of how our riders are representing themselves and our program," said Equestrian Team Coach Luke Brock. "Their dedication, competitive nature and sportsmanship has gotten them to this point, and we cannot wait to see them succeed at IHSA Nationals."

Learn more about MSU equestrian teams by contacting Brock at l.brock@moreheadastate.edu or calling [606-783-2662](tel:606-783-2662).

Engage in practical, hands-on learning experiences that give you insight into the many facets of agriculture with our [agricultural sciences](#) programs. Email agsi@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-2662](tel:606-783-2662) for more information.

Photo Caption: (Left to Right) Shelby Carrico, Kaitlyn Praisler, Emma Owens, Coach Luke Brock.

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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU music students win NATS Mid-South Regional competition

Morehead State University music students took top honors at a notable music event held by the National Association of Teachers and Singing (NATS).

In March, voice majors Tess Sergent, a sophomore from Paintsville, and Jocelyn Goldy, a junior from Morehead, won the NATS Mid-South Regional auditions held at Murray State University.

Both voice majors are students of Professor of Music Dr. Roma Prindle. Their wins qualify them to advance to the national level of competition, which takes place this month.

"Tess and Jocelyn both have a natural talent for singing. They have been gifted with beautiful voices. But success requires so much more than that," Prindle said. "They are winners because they have worked hard to develop their technical and communicative skills. They also have that famous 'fire in the belly' required to succeed."

Morehead State offers undergraduate and graduate programs in music that prepare you for a career in music as an educator, performer or professional. You'll have opportunities to participate in a variety of performances and ensembles, and to engage with the community, state, and region.

For more information on the National Association of Teachers and Singing, visit www.nats.org.

To learn more about [music programs at MSU](#), email mtd@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-2473](tel:606-783-2473).

Photo, left to right: MSU voice majors Jocelyn Goldy and Tess Sergent won the NATS Mid-South Regional auditions held at Murray State University.

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MSU announces 2023 Alumni Hall of Fame inductees

The Morehead State University Alumni Association announced the 2023 Alumni Hall of Fame inductees. They will be honored at MSU's 2023 Homecoming celebration the weekend of Nov. 2-4, 2023.

"We are honored to recognize these three outstanding MSU graduates," said Rick Hesterberg, vice president for University Advancement. "It's always exciting to see how our alumni have taken their MSU experience and turned it into a successful career."

2023 ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

Dr. Frank Spaniol (Class of 1984, 1986)

Dr. Frank Spaniol is an award-winning professor and researcher in sport performance, strength and conditioning, visual skills training, and sport technology. Numerous journals have published his research, and he has presented his work globally. He is currently at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Dr. Rober Cleveland (Class of 1986)

Dr. Roger Cleveland is a transformational leader, groundbreaking educator, and researcher in equity, cultural humility and academic innovation. He has dedicated his life to supporting educators, public institutions, and schools to embrace diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). He is a professor of educational leadership at Eastern Kentucky University.

Sean Shumate (Class of 1996)

Sean Shumate is a para-athlete who represented Team USA at the 2004 Paralympics in Athens, Greece. He has competed internationally and refereed at the highest levels of the sport. Shumate is the first para-athlete in the U.S. to be certified by the

International Fencing Federation (FIE) to referee internationally able-bodied events as a wheelchair user. He continues to promote para-fencing.

To learn more about becoming an active MSU alum, giving back to the University or establishing a scholarship to aid future generations of Eagles, visit alumni.moreheadstate.edu.

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MSU wraps up March for Service Initiative

In March, Morehead State University students in all majors learned the importance and impact of civic engagement through MSU's March for Service Initiative.

MSU faculty designed community and civic engagement volunteer projects throughout March to increase MSU students' civic engagement while incorporating skills developed within their respective majors. Students participated while reflecting on what they learned and the overall value of their experience.

On Saturday and Sunday, March 25-26, MSU nursing students developed leadership skills and engaged with the community of Morehead in discipline-related service. They participated in a community-wide baby shower and instrument showcase.

Over 60 families attended and were excited to learn how to best care for their children and the possibility of receiving one of several door prizes donated by various organizations in the area. Nursing students researched and presented topics including the Heimlich maneuver for babies and infants, gestational diabetes, maintaining parental identities, the value of exercise in pregnancy, and more.

"This community-wide baby shower event first started through St. Claire in collaboration with AHEC (Area Health Education Center). It was developed in response to the needs of young families in the area requiring additional support by connecting them with educational and healthcare resources to aid with prenatal care and raising young children," said Dr. Lisa Wallace, assistant professor of nursing and coordinator of Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. "Restoring trust in healthcare is vital in a seemingly post-COVID world, especially in young families who deal with issues related to mental health, substance abuse, and vaccination status."

Dr. Teresa Ellett, professor of nursing and coordinator of the Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) program, said, "This wouldn't have been a success without the work of our community partners and nursing students from both the associate's and bachelor's programs. Over 70 students presented on essential topics through evidence-based posters, developing the crucial career skills of communication, critical thinking, teamwork, and professionalism."

Nursing students participating in the baby shower event also networked with community-based agencies, such as DOVES of Gateway, Kentucky's HANDS (Health Access Nurturing Development Services) program, Hope Pregnancy Center, St. Claire, UK Healthcare, Godspeed Maternity Home, and others for future employment opportunities.

Nearly a dozen MSU orchestra students showed off a variety of instruments to children in attendance. They also visited a "hands-on" table where they could play drums, maracas, glockenspiels, and other percussion instruments. Afterward, they received free entry into the Cave Run Symphony Orchestra's concert, "Out of This World."

"Exposing young children to orchestral instruments and musical literature is essential to creating life-long audiences of symphonic music," said Dr. Michele Paynter Paise, assistant professor of music education. "Our community is fortunate to have the Cave Run Symphony in Eastern Kentucky. Partnering with them at this event will have lasting effects on not only the children who attended but also their children's children. Sharing a love of music is one of the most important ways we can connect as human beings, a skill that will become increasingly more important as our world continues to become more technology driven."

Coordinator of Service Learning Andrew Sexton said, "We are proud of events like these in which students can develop a love of serving others through their interests. Whether it be healthcare or music, MSU students can use their major to positively impact the needs of those around them."

The March to Service Initiative stems from the Council on Postsecondary Education's Kentucky Graduate Profile. This endeavor ensures that students graduating from Kentucky colleges will develop 10 skills to prepare them for life, including communication, cultural competency and civic engagement.

Community partners interested in working with Morehead State University for future service projects can complete the following survey:

<https://forms.office.com/r/ZHnqPCvvZy>.

To learn more about MSU's Center for Career Development and Experiential Education, visit moreheadstate.edu/career.

Photo, right (left to right): MSU nursing students Alex Sisco, Katheryn Wang and Allysia Lockard participated in a community-wide baby shower and instrument showcase during MSU's March for Service Initiative.

Photo, left (left to right): During the community-wide baby shower, MSU orchestra students David Keeton and Laura Baker showed off a variety of instruments to children in attendance.

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Adults returning to school event set for April 18 at MSU at Mt. Sterling

An event to help adult prospective students make connections and find resources to return to school will be held Tuesday, April 18, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at MSU at Mt. Sterling.

The event is designed for adult, transfer, and military/veteran students in the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) interested in learning more about Morehead State University. The focus of the event will be to help those students make a seamless transition from KCTCS to MSU.

Staff members from academic divisions and the Office of Enrollment Services will provide information on online courses, veterans/military educational benefits, complete degrees (2+2 agreements), transfer scholarships and more. In addition, representatives from community-based services will be on hand to provide information on resources available to adult students.

"We are so excited to meet with prospective adult students and provide them with the resources and information they need to change their lives. This event aims to serve 'the whole student' by not only getting them started academically but introducing them to agencies in their area that can provide assistance along the way." said Jen Timmermann, director of transition services at Morehead State.

Students are encouraged to RSVP by April 14 at <https://tinyurl.com/adultmts23>.

Additional information is available by contacting Timmermann at 606-783-5488 or by emailing j.timmermann@moreheadstate.edu or transfer@moreheadstate.edu.

Learn more at www.moreheadstate.edu/transfer.

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Model EU Club earns awards at annual conference

Morehead State University's Model European Union (EU) Club participated in the Midwest Model EU Summit meeting held at Indiana University last month. Ten students from the political science, history, and legal studies programs attended the summit, representing Austria and Bulgaria.

Two members of MSU's team earned top honors at the summit. Taylor Bishop, a sophomore political science major from Greensburg, won the Outstanding European Commissioner award, while AJ Abdel-Rahman, a senior history major from Elizabethtown, won runner-up for Outstanding Justice and Home Affairs Commissioner.

The Model EU Summit is an annual conference that simulates the functions and decision-making processes of the European Union. More than 200 students from universities across the Midwest attended this year's summit.

"We are extremely proud of our model EU club's performance at the conference," said Dr. James R. Masterson, one of the club's co-advisors and an associate professor of political science. "Under the leadership of the two countries' prime ministers, Nathan Walden and Matthew Grace, the students worked diligently to prepare for the event, and their hard work paid off."

By simulating the functions and decision-making processes of the European Union, the Model EU Club offers students a valuable opportunity to enhance their knowledge of the EU while also honing their skills in drafting resolutions and negotiating their passage.

"The European Union is not well understood, even by those in Europe, so it is a great experience for our students to know about the issues that the EU addresses," said Assistant Professor of Political Science Dr. Jason M. Adkins, who serves as a co-advisor for the Model EU.

Students who wish to participate in the MSU Model EU Club next year can contact Masterson at j.masterson@moreheadstate.edu.

The Department of History, Philosophy, Politics, Global Studies & Legal Studies helps students obtain the skills and knowledge to succeed in advanced professional study or law school. Graduates of our programs pursue careers in government, law, public service, social service positions, nonprofit organizations, private businesses and more. To explore programs in the department, email hpgl@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-2655](tel:606-783-2655).

Photo ID: Pictured from left to right are Dr. James Masterson, Taylor Bishop, AJ Abdel-Rahman and Dr. Jason Adkins.

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MSU Delta Gamma chapter hosts annual Founders Day event

The Delta Omicron Chapter of Delta Gamma (ΔΓ) at Morehead State University maintains its goal of creating lifelong friendships by bringing active student members and alums together for its annual Founders Day event. The organization hosted the event at the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC).

The Delta Omicron Chapter collaborated with the MSU Alumni Association to host the event. The festivities started with a welcome ceremony led by MSU Delta Gamma Chapter President Daisy Pratt and MSU alumni Debbie Mihalik (Class of 1983). What followed included a luncheon with two different memorial ceremonies and an update for alums and student members to keep a strong connection within the campus women's fraternity.

"Founders Day combines my two favorite things: Delta Gamma and the MSU Alumni Association. I had the privilege of experiencing my very first ΔΓ Founders Day as an alum," said Allie Rayburn (Class of 2022), coordinator of digital engagement and annual giving at MSU. "Seeing this event from the alumnae perspective made me so much more appreciative of the bond of our sisterhood and the connection we all share for good ole MSU. It's never too soon to become engaged with the MSU Alumni Association."

Leading up to Founders Day, the MSU Alumni Association hosted its annual 24-Hour Challenge, where alums are encouraged to donate to MSU. ΔΓ sisters celebrated early by representing their chapter during the challenge.

Both active members and alums collectively raised \$1,520 to support the Delta Gamma Book Scholarship, established last year, through the giving challenge.

Delta Gamma has over 250,000 initiated members in the United States and Canada, with 150 collegiate chapters. MSU Delta Gamma - Delta Omicron Chapter was founded on April 1, 1969.

For more information on events like this, contact MSU's Office of Alumni Relations and Development at 606-783-2033 or visit alumni.moreheadstate.edu.

To learn more about [Fraternity and Sorority life at MSU](#), contact Amanda Maynard, coordinator of fraternity and sorority life, at aedavis2@moreheadstate.edu or [606-783-2668](tel:606-783-2668).

Photo: Active members of the MSU Delta Gamma Chapter gathered with alumni at the Founders Day event in the Adron Doran University Center.

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Holderby selected for Kentucky APA internship program

Trevor Holderby has career aspirations of working as an auditor and becoming a certified public accountant (CPA). As he works to earn a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting at Morehead State University, Holderby is about to gain valuable experience on his way to achieving his goals.

Holderby was one of a select few students chosen to participate in Kentucky's Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) Follow the Data Intern Program this summer.

Established by State Auditor Mike Harmon, whose motto for the APA office is "Follow the Data," the internship program allows students to gain knowledge and experience working in the state capital of Frankfort doing public and government accounting.

A junior from Salyersville, Holderby was always good at numbers in high school and chose to come to MSU due to the number of people in his family who are former Eagles, namely his great-great uncle Curt Cochran (Class of 1966), who went on to work for Boeing, and his father Kevin Holderby (Class of 1999), who is a successful business manager in Ceredo, West Virginia.

"I think seeing the success stories of these individuals drew me to coming to MSU," Holderby said.

While initially enrolling at MSU as a general business major, Holderby's first two accounting classes led to him changing to his current major. He said each new lesson and influential instructors like Assistant Professors of Accounting Dr. Kimberly Fatten and Dr. Stephen Brigham increased his passion for his major.

"I'd always heard accounting is boring, don't be an accountant. You're going to regret it later on. There's sub-areas within the accounting area. There's so much you can do in

accounting," he said. "Every passing year that I'm in the business program, I feel even greater I made the right choice for my future career."

After Auditor Mike Harmon came to MSU's campus to speak in 2022 and mentioned the internship program and with the encouragement and guidance of Professor Brigham, Holderby not only decided to apply for the internship, but he also walked out of the interview with an internship offer.

"Going into the interview, I felt pretty prepared, especially after what Dr. Brigham had given me," he said. "I believe they were just pretty impressed with my preparation and eagerness."

Holderby hopes the internship will give him knowledge in auditing and governmental accounting (classes he plans to complete at MSU in Fall 2023) and provide a networking opportunity that hopefully leads to him working for the Kentucky APA one day. He said his time at MSU has strengthened his passion for his major and his confidence in reaching his goals after graduation.

"I couldn't be more thankful for what I've accomplished and endured at MSU. The faculty and staff here have pushed me to be the best I can be and to work hard and appreciate my work," Holderby said. "I feel like I've been well equipped with the knowledge and skills I have to be successful in my career."

To learn more about [business programs at MSU](#), email cbt@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-2090](tel:606-783-2090).

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NEWS RELEASE

April 12, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU's Celebration of Student Scholarship is April 19

Morehead State University students will gather this month to display their academic research to the campus community at the 17th Annual Celebration of Student Scholarship. It takes place from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 19, at the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC).

Faculty, staff, students, community members and alumni are welcome to attend the event to engage with our students and see the showcase of their scholarly and creative pursuits. The poster sessions will run from 1:15 to 3 p.m. in the ADUC Ballrooms on the third floor. The award presentation will begin at 4 p.m. in the ADUC theater on the first floor.

More than 200 students will participate in 90 poster presentations and 41 oral presentations. Over 70 faculty mentors have supported students in this work.

"Morehead State University truly believes in our students gaining hands-on experience through undergraduate research and other scholarly and creative pursuits. This Celebration of Student Scholarship is one of my favorite events as it is an opportunity for our students to be recognized and highlight the hard work and innovation that went into their research," said Megan Boone, director of the Center for Career Development and Experiential Education. "You see projects from so many different disciplines ranging from biology to history to art. An added advantage is that participating students develop in-demand career skills in critical thinking, written communication and oral communication. These skills will serve them well in terms of career success."

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 & Social Sciences, College of Science, Elmer R. Smith College of Business & Technology, and the Ernst & Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education.

All undergraduate and graduate students working with faculty on scholarly endeavors within their discipline (research, creative productions, community engagement, etc.) are encouraged to present their work annually as an oral or poster presentation. In addition to independent research projects, the event welcomes submissions that reflect undergraduate research experiences, community engagement, internships, education abroad, or Level UP experiences.

For more information about the [Celebration of Student Scholarship](#), contact the Center for Career Development and Experiential Education at careerservices@moreheadstate.edu or [606-783-2233](tel:606-783-2233).

###

Morehead State University is a comprehensive public university located in Morehead, Kentucky. With a rich history and a commitment to innovation, the University's academic programs, research initiatives, and community outreach efforts are designed to empower students to succeed. Serving Eastern Kentucky for more than 135 years, MSU is ranked among the top public universities in the South by U.S. News & World Report and boasts more than 70,000 proud alumni.

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

Morehead, KY 40351

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NEWS RELEASE

April 13, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

President's Concert on the Lawn is April 19

An annual musical highlight of the spring semester takes place this month. Morehead State University presents the President's Concert on the Lawn at 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 19, at the quad outside Lappin Hall and the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC). The event is free and open to the public.

The concert will feature performances by the MSU Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Assistant Professor of Music Dr. Ryan McGillicuddy and the MSU Commercial Music Ensemble under Associate Professor of Music Glenn Ginn.

In addition to playing big band jazz, the MSU Jazz Ensemble will blend Kentucky traditional music into the performance and collaborate with MSU's Kentucky Center for Traditional Music. The Commercial Music Ensemble will be performing highlights from its Eagles tribute concert, "Take It To The Limit," it performed earlier this month.

"The President's Concert on the Lawn provides a relaxed atmosphere for university students, professors, staff, and the surrounding community to listen to and enjoy the talented ensembles that MSU's music program offers," McGillicuddy said.

For more information on the concert, email events@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-2033](tel:606-783-2033).

To learn more about [MSU's music programs](#), contact mtd@moreheadstate.edu or [606-783-2473](tel:606-783-2473).

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NEWS RELEASE

April 13, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU Concert Choir and Chamber Singers Spring Concert is April 23

The Morehead State University Concert Choir and Chamber Singers will present a spring concert this month. The event is at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 20, at First Baptist Church, 123 East Main Street in Morehead. The concert is the conclusion of their spring tour throughout Kentucky and Ohio. Admission to the show is free and open to the public.

The program entitled "Soaring Over Earth's Beauty" will feature a variety of multicultural and popular selections. The choirs will sing pieces from Estonia, South Africa, Indonesia, Columbia, and Ireland in addition to the familiar spirituals, "Sometimes I Feel" and "Rock-a My Soul." Arrangements of popular songs include Bob Dylan's "The Times They Are A-Changing" and Dolly Parton's "Light of a Clear Blue Morning."

The Concert Choir will open and close the program with pieces capturing the concert's theme, "Soaring Over Earth's Beauty." Songs include "Flight Song" by Kim André Arnesen, "Awake the Harp" from Haydn's Creation, "The Heavens are Telling" by Ludwig van Beethoven, and John Rutter's famous anthem, "For the Beauty of the Earth." They will also sing an "Ave Maria" by the African American composer Nathaniel Dett, "Muusika" by the Estonian composer Pärt Uusberg, and "Ukrainian Alleluia" by Craig Courtney.

In addition to the multicultural "Hela Rotan," "Maquerúle," and "Celtic Dance," the Chamber Singers will also perform two English madrigals, "O Stay Sweet Love" by John Farmer and "Rest Sweet Nymphs" by Francis Pilkington.

Soloists during the tour include Elijah Campbell of Flatwoods; Jocelyn Goldy of Morehead; Summer Lighthall of Burlington; Samuel Smittle of Russell; Tess Sergent of Van Lear; Violet Updike of Lexington; Katie Webb of Mt. Sterling; and Sarah White-

Jarman of West Union, Ohio. Olivia Hall of Pikeville (flute) and Tanner Prewitt of Mt. Sterling (djembe) are instrumentalists.

MSU music professor Dr. Greg Detweiler conducts the 35-voice Concert Choir and 10-voice Chamber Singers.

"The students and I have enjoyed working on this multicultural-based concert program, and I think it will be a delight for all who attend the concert," he said.

To learn more about [music programs at MSU](#), email mtd@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-2473](tel:606-783-2473).

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NEWS RELEASE

April 13, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU presents 'Greatest Gala' on April 29

Morehead State University will welcome alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends to a night under the big top with its Annual Spring Gala.

The 2023 Spring Gala, "The Greatest Gala," is at 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 29, at the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC). The evening begins with a reception featuring hors d'oeuvres, wine, cocktails and a silent auction, followed by dinner and a spectacular circus-style show.

Under the direction of music professor Dr. Greg Wing, this year's show features some of the biggest hit songs from the popular movie musical "The Greatest Showman." There will also be performances of other hit songs from popular artists like Journey, Pharrell Williams, Van Morrison, and Taylor Swift. It highlights the talents of the faculty, staff and students from the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance, along with the MSU Dance Team and MSU Cheer Team. After the show, dessert and dancing will close out the festivities.

The proceeds from this event, which raises nearly \$100,000 annually, provide educational opportunities for MSU students.

"The Gala is our premiere event, and it's a perfect way to not only enjoy an amazing and entertaining evening but also support a great cause," said Mikayla Ray (Class of 2021), event officer for alumni relations and development.

Tickets for the MSU Spring Gala are on sale now, and the RSVP deadline is Friday, April 21. To purchase tickets online, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/gala.

Additional information is available by calling the Office of Alumni Relations and Development at [606-783-2033](tel:606-783-2033) or [1-877-783-ALUM \(2586\)](tel:1-877-783-ALUM(2586)).

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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

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NEWS RELEASE

April 14, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Founders Award nominations are now open

Nominations are being accepted for Morehead State's 2023 Founders Award for University Service. This award, established by the MSU Board of Regents in 1978, recognizes individuals who have provided extensive service to the University as an employee or volunteer.

"We encourage our faculty and staff members, retirees, students, alumni and other friends to nominate deserving candidates who have demonstrated superior service to Morehead State University," said MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan. "This annual recognition is an excellent opportunity to honor many of those whose efforts have contributed to making this institution what it is today and motivate current employees to achieve the highest level of service throughout their careers at MSU."

The award will be presented during the Homecoming Awards Banquet on Friday, Nov. 3, 2023.

Learn more about Homecoming at moreheadstate.edu/homecoming.

To make a nomination or to view a list of past winners, visit <https://alumni.moreheadstate.edu/foundersaward>. Nominations must be received by May 1. Additional information is available by calling [606-783-2033](tel:606-783-2033).

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NEWS RELEASE

April 14, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

The Center for STEM+eXcellence kicks off spring programming

The Center for STEM+eXcellence at Morehead State University kicked off spring and summer programming this week with an event at Morehead State's Space Science Center.

Local fourth and fifth-grade students are participating in the Curiosity Lab Electronic Makers Edition, which includes learning about the fundamentals of electricity and electronics, soldering, designing a dancing robot to race with other students, and completing a public presentation.

"It is exciting for our organization to see how students go from only a basic understanding to developing tangible working knowledge of a concept in such a short amount of time," said Center Director Jennifer Carter. "The students enjoy their time while also learning collaboration, confidence building, and public speaking skills."

The Center for STEM+eXcellence is utilizing a \$4.2 million-dollar Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund grant to implement a region-wide two-year STEM+X-based series of summer and academic year programs for K-12 students across the state. This initiative will provide an opportunity for Kentucky students to overcome academic barriers created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The STEM+X comes from curriculum designed for the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics, with +X representing three focus areas: Creativity and Design, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and Civic and Regional Engagement.

For additional information about summer and fall programming from the [Center for STEM+eXcellence](#), call 606-783-2300 or email Program Coordinator Brenda Porter at b.porter@moreheadstate.edu.

Photo Caption: Rowan County 4th grader Simon Crowder put new knowledge into action by rolling up his sleeves, putting on safety glasses, and learning how to solder with the "I can solder" badge kit.

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NEWS RELEASE

April 19, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Minnie Adkins exhibit opens May 1 at KFAC

An exhibit honoring one of the region's most established folk artists runs May 1-July 14 at the Kentucky Folk Art Center (KFAC).

"From Folk to Fine" is a special exhibit honoring local folk artist Minnie Adkins and highlights the works of various artists from across the country. It explores a diverse art collection, ranging from traditional folk art to more contemporary pieces. A closing reception for the exhibit will be held Friday, July 14, from 5-7 p.m. at KFAC.

The exhibit leads up to Minnie Adkins Day - an annual art market held in her hometown of Sandy Hook on the third Saturday in July. This year's event is Saturday, July 15. The Elliott County Fiscal Court signed a proclamation in 2014 to designate the day to honor Adkins. In 2018, then State Representative Rocky Adkins presented Adkins with an official state resolution proclaiming the third Saturday of July as Minnie Adkins Day across the Commonwealth.

Adkins is known for her unique wood carvings, and her work is displayed at the Smithsonian, the American Folk Art Museum, the National Gallery of Art, and numerous others. Several of her pieces are part of KFAC's permanent collection. Most recently, she collaborated with Jackson County Native Mike Norris, with her carvings used to illustrate his books, "Mommy Goose: Rhymes from the Mountains," "Sonny the Monkey," and "Ring Around the Moon."

KFAC is open Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call 606-783-2204, or visit www.kyfolkart.org.

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NEWS RELEASE

April 19, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Inscape reception is April 27

"Inscape," Morehead State University's student-led literary and visual arts journal, is about to release its latest issue, giving students from all academic fields a chance to express themselves artistically and have that work recognized.

A reception to celebrate this year's issue is set for Thursday, April 27, at 6 p.m. in room 111 of the Claypool-Young Art Building. The journal gives students from all academic fields the chance to express themselves artistically.

There will be readings and refreshments, and award winners will be recognized.

Started in 1957, "Inscape" is an annual MSU publication with a long history of cutting-edge visual and literary art. Media and genres of work range from prose, poetry, short story, long narrative, nonfiction and creative essays to photography, printmaking, painting, design, digital art, drawing illustration, mixed-media, ceramics and sculpture.

The Departments of Art & Design and English coordinate the publication.

You can support "Inscape" by making a gift to the MSU Foundation's Inscape Fund.

Additional information is available at <https://moreheadstate.edu/inscape> or by contacting Professor of Art Lisa Mesa-Gaido at e.mesagaido@moreheadstate.edu or [606-783-2763](tel:606-783-2763).

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NEWS RELEASE

April 19, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU Ed.D. program ranked as one of the nation's best for three consecutive years

For the third consecutive year, Morehead State University's Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) program is considered one of the nation's best.

The Princeton Review, a long-time resource for helping high school and college students achieve their academic goals, named MSU's Ed.D. program to its list of Best Online Doctor of Education Programs for 2023. It is one of 50 programs highlighted for its academic quality, flexibility, affordability, global opportunities, students from diverse career backgrounds and access to innovative technologies.

Find a complete list at www.princetonreview.com/education-school-rankings?rankings=best-online-doctor-education-programs.

"The MSU doctoral faculty are honored to be recognized by the Princeton Review as a top online doctoral program. We strive to support students' educational and career goals through a rigorous, flexible, and practitioner-oriented program," said Dr. Tim Simpson, professor of education and associate dean for the Department of Foundational and Graduate Studies in Education. "With over 10 years of success, our faculty are knowledgeable, experienced, and eager to lead students to address the perennial and pressing educational challenges."

For more information on MSU's Ed.D. program, visit moreheadstate.edu/education.

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

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NEWS RELEASE

April 24, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU holds Celebration of Student Scholarship

Morehead State University hosted the 17th Annual Celebration of Student Scholarship on Wednesday, April 19. The event spotlighted the academic research of students and the dedicated mentorship of faculty.

More than 200 students participated in 90 poster presentations and 41 oral presentations. Over 70 faculty mentors have supported students in this work.

AWARD WINNERS:

- A. Frank and Bethel C. Gallaher Memorial Music Performance Competition 2022-23 winner - Allyson Robinson – junior, Ashland
- 2023 Molly McBride Tutoring Excellence Award - Emily McCreary - junior, Cattlettsburg

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION AWARDS – PRESENTED BY THE CENTER FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

- 2022 Student Intern of the Year – Jordan Hensley - senior, Morehead
- 2022 Faculty Supervisor of the Year – Dr. Leeann Akers, assistant director for the Center for STEM+eXcellence, for work with students at Morehead State Public Radio (MSPR)
- 2022 Employer of the Year – St. Claire HealthCare Foundation
- 2022-23 Community and Civic Engagement Award: Faculty – Dr. Jeannie Justice, associate professor of education technology in the Department of Foundational Graduate Studies in Education
- 2022-23 Community and Civic Engagement Award: Staff – Mr. Paul Hitchcock, general manager MSPR

- 2022-23 Community and Civic Engagement Award: Students – Gabriel Barcus, Abigail Cooper, Alexa Deaton, Maddie Dodrill and Brittany Graziani

EXCEPTIONAL MERIT ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Caudill College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences

- Illustrations For Language Learning - Abby Hall. Dr. Karen Taylor, and Mr. Willie Carver, mentors, School of English, Communication, Media and Languages, Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
- Translating Contemporary Latin American Poetry - Holly Hendrix. Dr. Philip Krummrich, mentor, School of English, Communication, Media and Languages, Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
- The Study of Diffusion of Responsibility in Classroom Groupwork – Corissa Riegler. Dr. Donell Murray, mentor, School of English, Communication, Media and Languages, Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

College of Science

- A Statistical Analysis on Whether or Not Kentucky Universities Have an Impact on The Crime Rates in Their Counties - Andrew Wright. Dr. Kathryn Lewis, mentor, Department of Mathematics, College of Science
- Investigating The Impacts of Mathematical Modeling on Future Elementary Teachers' Perceptions and Communication of Mathematics- Ryleigh Napier. Dr. Will Tidwell, mentor, Department of Mathematics, College of Science
- Modeling The Financial and Ecological Perspectives of Beavers Parachuting into the Wilderness - Christian Miller. Dr. William Tidwell, mentor, Department of Mathematics, College of Science

Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology

- Innovative Method for Translation of American Sign Language into Spoken English Using Leap Motion Sensor and Machine Learning-- Jon Jenkins. Dr. Sherif Rashad, mentor, School of Engineering and Computer Science, Smith College of Business and Technology
- Machine Learning Based Pedestrian Detection and Tracking for Autonomous Vehicles-- Tyler Ward. Dr. Sherif Rashad, Dr. Heba Elgazzar, mentors, School of Engineering and Computer Science, Smith College of Business and Technology
- Classification Of Road Objects Using Convolutional Neural Networks-- Mann Patel. Dr. Heba Elgazzar, mentor, School of Engineering and Computer Science, Smith College of Business and Technology

Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education

- Teaching Low Socioeconomic Rural Appalachian Kids: Are They Different Than Other Students? - Madison Woosley, Caroline Caudill, Regan Massie. Ms.

Jeannie Justice, mentor, Department of Foundational and Graduate Studies in Education, Volgenau College of Education

MERIT ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

- Vergangenheitbewältigung: Germany and Memory - Quaydenn Fleming. Dr. Alana Scott, mentor, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
- Partnering With MSPR to Translation Local and Regional News for the Latin Community - Syria Hines. Dr. Itza Zavala-Garrett, mentor, School of Creative Arts, Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

College of Science

- Adverse Childhood Events, Safety, And Comfort: Associations with Adolescent Symptoms. - Cael Skaggs, Madison Howard, Trinity Pangallo. Dr. Shari Kidwell, mentor, Department of Psychology, College of Science
- Genetically Engineering *S. Cerevisiae* with a Circular Chromosome li- Austin Lytle. Dr. Melissa Mefford, mentor, Department of Biology and Chemistry, College of Science
- Circularization Of Chromosome Xv in the Eukaryote *Saccharomyces Cerevisiae* to Study Telomere Evolution. - Caleb Clark. Dr. Melissa Mefford, mentor, Department of Biology and Chemistry, College of Science
- Rotatel!: A Statistical Analysis of Volleyball - Bridget Bessler. Mr. Christopher Schroeder, mentor, Department of Mathematics, College of Science
- All Sky Photography with Raspberry Pi HD Camera - Hannah Phirman. Dr. Kevin Adkins, mentor, Department of Physics, Earth Science and Space Systems Engineering, College of Science
- Investigating Combat Encounter Difficulty in Dungeons and Dragons - Silas Thomas. Dr. William Tidwell, mentor, Department of Mathematics, College of Science
- Statistics In the Sand - Anya Reinhard. Mr. Christopher Schroeder, mentor, Department of Mathematics, College of Science
- Searching For Supernova Remnants in the Nearby Galaxies Ngc 247, Ngc 3184, And Ngc 6744 - Grant Switzer. Dr. Thomas Pannuti, Dr. Eric Schlegel, mentors, Department of Physics, Earth Science and Space Systems Engineering, College of Science, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Texas-San Antonio
- Latest Results from the Eastern Ky Light at Night Program - Abigail Fagan. Dr. Jennifer Birriel, and Dr. Kevin Adkins, mentors, Department of Physics, Earth Science and Space Systems Engineering, College of Science

Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology

- Proof Of Concept Test for Multiple Floor Isolated Building Under Seismic Excitation – Ryan Justice. Dr. Tathagata Ray. School of Engineering and Computer Science, Smith College of Business and Technology
- Continuous Authentication of Smartphones Using a Cnn Model-- John Reichenbach. Dr. Sherif Rashad, mentor, School of Engineering and Computer Science, Smith College of Business and Technology
- The Development of the Rapid Programming Language and Its Pedagogical Merit in Teaching Middle School Students Computer Programming-- Dalton Hensley. Dr. Heba Elgazzar, mentor, School of Engineering and Computer Science, Smith College of Business and Technology

Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education

- Growing Up Gifted: What Makes an Honors Student - Kaitlyn Buttrey. Dr. Kimbberely Nettleton, mentor, Department of Early Childhood, Elementary and Special Education, Volgenau College of Education

MERIT POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

- Gender Identity and Perception of Happiness - Victoria Miller. Dr. Lynn Geurin, mentor, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
- The Diversity of Life by E.O. Wilson - Brady Lawson, Matthew Grace, Emma Collins, Michelle Lopez, Dawson Rousey. Dr. Douglas Mock, mentor, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
- Preservice English Teachers as Writing Mentors for High School Students: Anti Racist Literature in a Mirrors, Windows, Doors Reading/Writing Curriculum - Lily (Lee) McConnell, Christopher Logan. Dr. Alison Hruby, Dr. Andrea Olinger, Dr. James Chisholm, mentors, School of English, Communication, Media and Languages, Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, English, University of Louisville, Education, University of Louisville
- A Review of the Implications of the Love Canal Disaster and the Subsequent Actions of the State and Federal Government - Hannah Albright, Brooklyn Hurtt. Dr. Douglas Mock, mentor, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

College of Science

- The Development of a Colorimetric Assay to Detect Uracil in Monomeric and Oligomeric DNA - Mara Stout, James Dials. Dr. Elizabeth Thomas, mentor, Department of Biology and Chemistry, College of Science

- Parental Criticism and Coherence in Association with Adolescent Internalizing Symptoms. - Emma Ammerman, Hope Meyers, Andrew Russel, Makayla Adams. Dr. Shari Kidwell, mentor, Department of Psychology, College of Science
- Relationships Among Maternal Characteristics in Hair Sheep - Rebekah Mills, Audrey Burton, Annika Weaver. Dr. Patricia Harrelson, and Dr. Flint Harrelson, mentors, Department of Agricultural Sciences, College of Science
- Mental And Emotional Health Determinants for Nurses - Samantha Trimble, Haley Blankenship, Tess Wallace, Madalyn Wilburn, Ashley Jenkins. Dr. Mary White, mentor, Department of Nursing, College of Science
- Parental Sensitivity in a Play Task: Associations with Preschooler Psychological Symptoms. - Abigail Chaney, Taylor Corbin, Brandi Stone, Sierra Workman. Dr. Shari Kidwell, mentor, Department of Psychology, College of Science
- Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology
- Building For the Exchange - Abigail Cooper, Gabriel Barcus, Alexa Deaton, Brittany Graziani, Maddie Dodrill. Dr. Janet Ratliff, mentor, School of Business Administration, Smith College of Business and Technology

Craft Academy

- Associations Between Poverty and Mental Disorders - Sophia Day, Charlie Knapp, Mary Sherrard, Elizabeth Arnold. Dr. Gregory Corso, and Dr. Rachel Rogers, mentors, Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics, Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics

EXCEPTIONAL MERIT POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

- Childhood Trauma and the Elementary Music Class: Obstacles, Solutions, And Suggestions for Music Educators - Shianne Smith. Dr. Michele Paynter Paise, mentor, School of Creative Arts, Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
- Photography Practicum: Learning the Basics of Managing a Fine Art Photography Studio - Brooklin Routt, Ashley Routt. Dr. Robyn Moore, mentor, School of Creative Arts, Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

College of Science

- Enhancing Telomerase Activity in *Saccharomyces Cerevisiae* Through a Genetic Screen for Gain of Function Mutations - Keenan Conley, MacKenzie Neal, Hailey Rietz. Dr. Melissa Mefford, mentor, Department of Biology and Chemistry, College of Science
- A Novel Apparatus for Assessing Anxiety in Rats Olivia Blatt, Emma Brock, Timo Klausnitzer. Dr. Wesley White, mentor, Department of - Psychology, College of Science

- Age And Growth of the Highland Shiner (*Notropis Micropteryx*) in the Rockcastle River, Kentucky - Caitlyn Senters, Zoe Baker, Jared Vise, Shelby Black. Dr. David Eisenhour, mentor, Department of Biology and Chemistry, College of Science
- Impact Of Nurse Patient Interactions on Patient Outcomes: A Quality Improvement Project - Emma Wallace. Dr. Mary White, mentor, Department of Nursing, College of Science
- Sex Differences in Parkinson's Disease: Brain Regions Affected, Symptoms, And Treatment - Sara Monfalcone. Dr. Ilsun White, mentor, Department of Psychology, College of Science

Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology

- Research On Energy Harvesting and Wireless Charging Technology for the Internet of Things (Io T) Applications - Aidan Ray. Dr. Anindita Paul, mentor, School of Engineering and Computer Science, Smith College of Business and Technology

Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education

- Classroom Management in Kentucky - Sarah Miller. Dr. Kimberely Nettleton, mentor, Department of Early Childhood, Elementary and Special Education, Volgenau College of Education

Craft Academy

- Impact Of Informal Stem Learning on Student Success - Kiera Fehr. Dr. Rachel Rogers, mentor, Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics, Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics
- STEM Persistence in Kentucky: What Disparities Affect Students? - Riley Hicks. Dr. Wilson Gonzalez-Espada, mentor, Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics, Department of Physics, Earth Science and Space Systems Engineering

A photo gallery for the Celebration of Student Scholarship can be found [here](#).

Additional information about this event and MSU's undergraduate research opportunities is available by calling 606-783-2010 or visiting moreheadstate.edu/career.

Video of the Celebration of Student Scholarship can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xo6lAxYsWSE>

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NEWS RELEASE

April 24, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Morehead State instructor's latest documentary explores creative expression during pandemic

Kentucky Educational Television (KET) will air the latest documentary produced by Morehead State Instructor of Mass Communication Steven Middleton later this month.

The film "Stages and Waves: An Excursion Through Challenging Times" explores how Eastern Kentuckians coped with the isolation and loneliness of the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown and how people used that time and solitude to explore their creativity. It will air on KET on Sunday, April 30, at 3 p.m.

"I am more than honored to have my film featured on KET," Middleton said. "KET has long been my personal source for inspiration for knowledge not just in our commonwealth but as an eye to the world. I am also honored to see the hard work of the MSU students that worked with me on this film have a project on a PBS affiliate to now add to their resumes."

To learn more about the film and other productions, contact Middleton at [606-783-9583](tel:606-783-9583) or email s.middleton@moreheadstate.edu.

Morehead State's Department of Communication, Media and Languages offers several degree options to prepare students for exciting careers at the forefront of communication in the digital age. To learn more, email cml@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-2134](tel:606-783-2134).

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April 24, 2023

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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

KCTM Semester Finale Concert May 2

Morehead State University's Kentucky Center for Traditional Music (KCTM) will hold its annual Sounds of Our Heritage Season Finale Concert Tuesday, May 2, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Morehead Conference Center.

All sections of the Traditional Music Ensemble will perform various musical styles, including bluegrass, string band and old-time country music.

The Kentucky Center for Traditional Music (KCTM) preserves, teaches, helps develop and celebrates our rich mountain heritage. KCTM offers an opportunity to study with musicians who have performed with legends and at the Grand Ole Opry and to learn from professionals about performance, history, recording, the music industry and more.

The family-friendly event is free and open to the public.

Support KCTM through a [gift](#) to the MSU Foundation's KCTM Fund.

For more information on the [KCTM](#), email kctm@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-9001](tel:606-783-9001).

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NEWS RELEASE

April 26, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU announces student speakers for Spring 2023 Commencement

Morehead State University has announced the student speakers for the 2023 Spring Commencement. The ceremonies take place at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, May 13, at the Academic-Athletic Center (AAC).

Keenan Conley of Salyersville will represent the College of Science and is the son of Lora (Class of 2022) and Matthew Sellers and Rhonda Conley. He will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science.

As an undergraduate student, Conley earned a 4.0 GPA and was on the Dean's List for seven consecutive semesters.

Conley is a member of the MSU Chemistry Club, the MSU Pre-Med Club, and the Herron Leadership Program and served as service chair and biology tutor of the Tri-Beta Club. He is also a Delta Tau Delta Fraternity member, serving in roles including Southern Division Conference delegate, Karnea delegate, new member class president, secretary, alum coordinator, FAAR coordinator and vice president of communications. He is also a two-time recipient of the Delta Tau Delta Zeta Zeta Academic Scholarship.

Conley has participated in the Undergraduate Research Fellowship program since August 2020 under the mentorship of Professor of Biology Dr. Darrin DeMoss. He designed and performed experiments using state-of-the-art methods to screen through yeast colonies to look for novel mutations within the telomerase RNA gene. Conley also performed data analysis using DNA sequence alignment software and Microsoft Excel. Conley and others presented their findings at the 2022 Celebration of Student Scholarship, where he received an award of merit based on his group's poster presentation. He also shared his research through a virtual talk at the Southeast Regional Yeast Meeting as one of the few undergraduate students to participate.

Conley works as a Be You Medical Spa patient care coordinator in Prestonsburg.

While at MSU, Conley completed the Rural Physician Leadership Program Bootcamp. He was one of five students awarded automatic conditional acceptance into the University of Kentucky (UK) College of Medicine through its Early Assurance Program. Conley is enrolling in the UK College of Medicine's Rural Physician Leadership Program as an M.D. candidate.

"I feel like I truly belong, and that feeling is something I believe is unique about MSU. I want to remind my class of this feeling," Conley said. "I want them to reflect on the last four years and think about their own experiences and on what MSU means to them. I want to empower them and leave them with motivation as they prepare to begin the next journey of their lives. Being an Eagle is special, and no matter where our lives take us after graduation, we will always have a home here at Morehead State University."

Kelton Crank of Pikeville is the commencement speaker representing the Elmer R. Smith College of Business & Technology. He is the son of Johnna Stafford. He will graduate with a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Healthcare Management.

As an undergraduate student, Crank earned a 4.0 GPA and was on the Dean's List. He also was accepted into the AHEC (Area Health Education Center) Scholars Program, a program to strengthen skills for healthcare professionals.

Crank's extracurricular activities included serving on the Student Government Association (SGA) as vice president, commuter representative, and chief of staff. He was first chair of the Funding and Awards Committee, a member of the Traffic and Appeals Committee, the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, and the Kentucky Rural Health Association. Crank is also a Beta Gamma Sigma honors society member and an Advocacy Fellow for the Fund for Global Health.

"My time at MSU has taught me the importance of actively being a part of a community," Crank said. "My campus involvement has instilled in me a greater sense of self that has urged me to take advantage of every future opportunity to be involved."

Crank completed two healthcare internships in 2021. He was a physician practice administration intern for Pikeville Medical Center in Pikeville and a healthcare administration intern for St. Claire Healthcare in Morehead. On campus, Crank also worked as an Information Technology student resource specialist and a tutor at MSU's Tutoring and Learning Center.

Crank was awarded the James Still Fellowship and will continue his education by completing the Master of Health Administration program at the University of Kentucky. He aspires to be a director within the healthcare system and, eventually, a legislator focused on healthcare policy.

For more information on MSU's 2023 Spring Commencement and to live stream the ceremonies, visit moreheadstate.edu/graduation.

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NEWS RELEASE

April 27, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

From grants to social work graduates, Dr. Lisa Shannon impacts lives in and out of the classroom

Dr. Lisa Shannon has dedicated the last 13 years to using her social work expertise to make a positive impact at Morehead State University and the region the University serves.

Shannon is a professor of social work at MSU who also uses her skill as an evaluator to assist agencies with obtaining government funding for vital services and resources. In the past year, she was honored by the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) with an Outstanding Faculty - Commitment to Student Success award and MSU as the Distinguished Researcher. Today, Shannon continues using her knowledge of the grant and evaluation to help Kentuckians affected by mental health issues, substance use disorders, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Over the last couple of years, I've seen more grant opportunities focused on mental health and substance use," she said. "That was something COVID impacted very dramatically for many people."

Shannon said she focuses most on developing the grant evaluation component, which is crucial to getting approval and receiving funding. Currently, one agency she works with is Mountain Comprehensive Care Center, a behavioral health agency based in Prestonsburg with facilities across Kentucky. In addition to helping obtain grants for mental health and substance use issues, she has helped with grant evaluations related to individuals re-entering communities from jails/prisons.

During and after the pandemic, Shannon primarily taught courses in research methods and data analysis sequences at MSU at Prestonsburg. She said while most people think of social work as going out into the field to deal with individuals and families in Kentucky, she has witnessed an increased interest in the research side of social work

from her students. In the last two years, she had two Undergraduate Research Fellows under her mentorship and two practicum students who gained experience as part of her evaluation team.

"I think that what I'm teaching has kind of just emerged as a growing area of social work probably in the last two years," she said. "It's just because of all of what we experienced with COVID, all of the associated federal funding; it's just becoming more recognized as an emerging field of social work."

For Shannon, based on her work in the field and the education she is giving her students, she believes the next generation of social workers will utilize even more research/evaluation to make a difference in the lives of Kentucky families.

"Being able to show what social workers are doing is effective; it's kind of the best of both worlds," she said.

Dr. Lisa Shannon can be reached at l.shannon@moreheadstate.edu or [606-783-2638](tel:606-783-2638).

For more information about [social work programs](#) at Morehead State, email s.davison@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-2273](tel:606-783-2273).

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