

Morehead, KY 40351

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NEWS RELEASE

June 2, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSPR Presents 'Heart of The Orchard'

Morehead State Public Radio will broadcast "Heart of the Orchard," a six-part series produced and hosted by recent Morehead State Graduate Hayley King (Class of 2023) of Ridgeway, S.C., beginning this weekend.

The series features an hour of Americana music focusing on old-time, traditional, folk, bluegrass, and country music. Through songs, stories, and personal reflections, "Heart of The Orchard" will highlight a range of styles of Americana music found in Appalachia and nearby regions. The first program will air at 11 a.m. on Sunday, June 4. MSPR will repeat each program in the summer series through Aug. 20.

King, who double-majored in traditional music and Spanish, said creating the series allowed her to explore a musical genre close to her heart.

"I will share how various music genres are connected, how they evolved over time, and some of my favorite artists," commented King. "My hope is these programs will inspire listeners in their own discoveries as music truly is a living orchard of history, emotion, and humanity. I am so thankful I ended up at Morehead State, studying the music that has become such a big part of who I am."

King explains the origins of "Heart of the Orchard" comes from childhood memories and her family's autumn visits to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina.

"My family would pick apples at a nearby apple orchard. I was amazed at the many varieties of apples, tastes, textures, and colors," King explained. "Similar to those orchards, it's fascinating that so many unique music styles could develop in the same Appalachian region, much like the variety of apples in an orchard."

WMKY serves more than 20 counties throughout Eastern Kentucky from the campus of Morehead State University. Listeners can listen to WMKY at 90.3FM online, by phone app or by smart speaker.

Additional information on Morehead State Public Radio is available online at <https://wmky.org>, by emailing General Manager Paul Hitchcock at p.hitchc@moreheadstate.edu or by calling [606-783-2334](tel:606-783-2334).

Photo Caption: Recent MSU Graduate Hayley King hosts "Heart of the Orchard," broadcasting on Morehead State Public Radio beginning Sunday, June 4.

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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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NEWS RELEASE

June 5, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Morehead State's Spring 2023 Dean's List announced

Morehead State ranks among the top 15 best public universities in the South according to U.S. News & World Report's "Best Colleges 2022." MSU is also recognized for Best Undergraduate Teaching, Best Colleges for Veterans and made the list of Best Value Schools.

The Spring 2023 Dean's List is now available online. The accomplishments of these students reflect our commitment to academic excellence and student success.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must have completed at least 12 undergraduate credit hours and earned at least a 3.5 GPA for the current semester.

To view the list, visit <https://moreheadstate.edu/deanslist>.

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NEWS RELEASE

June 5, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU art students featured, awarded at University Open art exhibit

Morehead State University students are showcasing their artwork at one of the largest competitive juried shows in the state.

Five students from MSU's Department of Art and Design had their pieces juried into the competitive University Open at the LexArts Gallery in Lexington. The exhibit highlights emerging artists that are fine arts majors from Kentucky's colleges and universities.

MSU student artists exhibiting at the University Open include:

- Logan Carnes (Photography) – Senior from Gray, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Art.
- Chelby Justice (Photography) – Senior from Hardy, pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art.
- Morgan Krantz (3D) – Sophomore from Ashland, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Art.
- Brandon Trent (Ceramics) – Senior from Morehead, pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art.
- Maija Wehr (3D) – Sophomore from Dry Ridge, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Art.

MSU was one of 10 Kentucky universities represented in the exhibition. MSU students also received three of the seven awards at the awards ceremony. Wehr received a second-place award, while Justice and Trent received an Honorable Mention.

"The number of MSU students selected for the University Open demonstrates the high quality of instruction provided in our art and design program throughout all levels, freshman through senior, and in both 2D and 3D," said Professor of Art Lisa Mesa-Gaido. "Part of our commitment to student preparation and success is faculty informing

them of professional opportunities and individually encouraging and assisting them with applying."

Krantz, whose artwork adorned the University Open's promotional materials, said displaying her art among her peers at a large exhibition was a fantastic opportunity.

"My time at the exhibition is unlike anything I have experienced. Interacting with visitors at the exhibition and participating in the Gallery Hop hosted by LexArts, has opened my eyes to the loving arts community. The artists I met were engaging and were very passionate about their works," Krantz said. "This inspired me to be more involved myself. All the teachers here at MSU provide us encouragement and opportunities. I, for one, appreciate them all and look forward to many more opportunities."

The University Open exhibit is at the [LexArts Gallery](#) at 161 N. Mill Street in Lexington. It is on display through Friday, June 30.

Learn more about MSU's [Department of Art and Design](#) programs by emailing arde@moreheadstate.edu or calling [606-783-5048](tel:606-783-5048).

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NEWS RELEASE

June 6, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU hosts StartUP Appalachia business pitch competition on June 15

Morehead State University will host a competition for the finalists of the StartUP Appalachia Regional Business Pitch Competition. The event takes place on the Morehead campus at 6 p.m. Thursday, June 15, at the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC).

StartUP Appalachia highlights young companies with unique products or services to grow their businesses with assistance from outside funding. The competition allows startups to validate their business concept to potential investors and leaders.

The Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) competition is presented by Community Trust Bank and powered by KY Innovation. SOAR received nearly 30 applications from 14 Kentucky counties, narrowed to seven finalists competing at MSU this month.

The finalists and their businesses are:

- Brayden Harris – Fragaria
- Elijah Jensen – [Blackbox Energy Systems](#)
- Payton Keathley – [Xiled Inc.](#)
- Nathan Little - [Queen City Streams](#)
- Payton May - [Tunezle](#)
- TJ Rayhill – [Bluegrass Crickets](#)
- Kyle Turner – [1620 Distilling](#)

The competition winner will receive a \$10,000 grand prize, with second place receiving \$3,500 and third place receiving \$1,500. All finalists are guaranteed a prize of \$500 and coaching from SOAR's Business and Innovation team. A networking reception will follow the competition.

Individuals and businesses can [register to attend the event](#).

To learn more about MSU's [School of Business Administration](#) and its programs, email cbt@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-2090](tel:606-783-2090).

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NEWS RELEASE

June 9, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Morehead State University announces Kelly Wells (Class of 1995) as Director of Athletics

Morehead State University and President Jay Morgan are pleased to announce that Kelly Wells, a 19-year veteran of collegiate sports and 1995 graduate of MSU, has been selected to serve as director of athletics.

Wells, a native of Morehead, has spent the last 17 years at the University of Pikeville (UPIKE), serving as head men's basketball coach from 2006 to 2020 and director of athletics from 2018 to present. His accolades at UPIKE are numerous, but returning to his alma mater is an extra special highlight to his successful athletics career.

"Coming home to MSU is a dream come true and an incredible honor," said Wells. "I look forward to serving our university and being a part of Dr. Jay Morgan's team. I am so thankful for my experiences at MSU and look forward to sharing my passion and commitment for the Blue and Gold."

Through his work as athletic director, he led UPIKE athletic programs to new heights. During his tenure, he developed and implemented numerous programs and served in a vast capacity:

- Led a team of more than 55 staff members and 25 head coaches.
- Oversaw 24 varsity sports participating in the Mid-South Conference – adding swimming and wrestling programs during his tenure.
- Partnered with UPIKE leadership on the Bear Mountain Project, a \$50 million facility project for outdoor sports.
- Led efforts to improve and enhance various athletic facilities, including the completion of an indoor hitting/pitching facility and renovations to facilities for football, men's and women's basketball, baseball, and women's soccer.
- Oversaw the rebranding of UPIKE and UPIKE Athletics.
- Grew athletics staff with new positions of senior women's administrator and athletic administrative assistant and expanded roles in sports medicine and sports communication.
- Created and implemented the UPIKE Sports Network – a streaming service for athletic events and coaches' shows.
- Implemented the UPIKE BEAR Awards – Bears Excellence Achieving Recognition – a student-athlete awards program.
- Oversaw the implementation of four athletics-focused student organizations, including the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Honest Athletes and BEARS Care.
- Served the university with roles on UPIKE Executive Staff, Operations Committee and Retention Task Force Committee.

"As MSU moves forward, we are increasing our strength and competitiveness in athletics," said Dr. Morgan. "We are confident that Kelly Wells is ready to lead that charge."

Long before he served as athletic director in Pikeville, he had built a storied career as a hall-of-fame athlete and coach. After completing his time as a Division I athlete at MSU, where he scored more than 450 career points and spent three years as a varsity letter winner on the men's basketball team, Wells began coaching boys' basketball at Marion County High School. After two seasons with the Knights, he went on to eight successful seasons at Mason County High School, where he coached eventual All-American at the University of Tennessee, Chris Lofton and led the Royals to a 2003 state championship.

From Maysville, he spent two seasons at Hawaii Pacific before returning to Eastern Kentucky and joining the staff at the University of Pikeville as head men's basketball coach. He led the Bears to 20-win seasons in 12 out of his 13 years as head coach, a 2011 NAIA National Championship and holds more basketball wins than any coach in UPIKE history with a 333-123 record.

Wells' journey as athletic director will be the next chapter in his long-running MSU story. Morehead, and specifically MSU, has always been home. Growing up in the community, he was a fixture in Rowan County with his parents, Mickey (Class of 1964, 1967) and Doris (Class of 1977, 1986) Wells. His parents held an MSU legacy of their own.

Mickey began a career at MSU as the director of Cooper Hall and later as intramural director before he joined the teaching staff in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. He also made a name for himself in the athletics arena, where he served as the winningest coach in MSU women's basketball history from 1975 to 1984 and was later inducted into the MSU Athletics Hall of Fame.

Doris also served at MSU for 27 years as an administrative assistant, where she was well-known and loved across campus. Mickey and Doris passed away in February 2021.

Through his parents' employment at MSU, it's safe to say Wells grew up on campus. From the time he first started dribbling a basketball, he was doing so on the courts of Wetherby and Laughlin long before his college basketball career took him to Johnson Arena. While playing ball at MSU, a women's basketball player caught his eye. The fellow athlete, Shawne Marcum (Class of 1997, 2008, 2022), would later become his wife – quite literally cementing his love story with MSU.

In 2018, his relationship with his alma mater went to the next level when he was inducted into the MSU Alumni Hall of Fame in recognition of his career successes, an experience he shared with Shawne and their two children, Kaylee and Mason.

"Morehead State and its community have been my whole history, and I am so proud to step into this next chapter," shares Wells. "We will be dedicated to building on past successes and growing an amazing future. Let's Fight, Fight, Fight for Morehead!"

Wells will begin his service to MSU Athletics when he steps into his new role on July 1. A press conference introducing him will be held on **Monday, June 12, at 2 p.m.** in the Academic-Athletic Center. The press conference is open to the public.

For more information, visit MSU Athletics at msuegles.com.

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NEWS RELEASE

June 12, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

KEA Teacher of the Year and alum Missy Jenkins has a heart for helping students

Long before Morehead State alum Missy Jenkins (Class of 2003, 2008) became a science teacher at Rowan County Senior High School (RCSHS), she was holding class much differently.

The first class she ever conducted wasn't in a schoolhouse. It was in her family's smokehouse in Greenup County, teaching lessons to her stuffed animals as a little girl. Back then, she couldn't have predicted becoming a fixture at RCSHS for nearly two decades, let alone receiving the honor of the Kentucky Education Association (KEA) 2023 Teacher of the Year.

One thing Jenkins did figure out at an early age was her calling.

"I think I'm just a teacher at heart," she said.

The combination of being close to home and having Eagle connections through her sister Tamara Mulkey (Class of 1999) and Aunt Judy Brown (Class of 1970), she enrolled at MSU as an undecided major. As she began taking various biology courses, she shifted her focus to earning a bachelor's degree in biological sciences with a secondary teaching endorsement. She also met her husband, Jason Jenkins (Class of 2008), during their Chemistry 112 class.

Jenkins said earning her biological sciences degree was "the most challenging but invigorating program that I've been through." However, supportive biology faculty like the late biology professor Dr. David Magrane guided Jenkins through many of these moments.

"There were times, especially when I took the chemistry and physics components...where I was very challenged," she said. "But the passion and dedication

of my professors really helped empower me to want to do better and to stay the course even though it was challenging."

While Jenkins would later hold a full-time substitute teaching at Morgan County High School from 2003 to 2004, MSU assigned student-teaching to Jenkins at RCSHS left an impression on her due to their support, warmth, and mentorship. Jenkins was offered her current job in 2004. During her time at RCSHS, she also earned a Master of Science in Biology from MSU in 2008 and Rank I certification for science grades 8-12 in 2010.

Currently, Jenkins teaches classes in biology, anatomy and physiology, and disease pathology (titled "Disease Detectives"). Jenkins said her primary goal as a teacher is to promote inquiry and discovery. She wants to embed a basic understanding of the natural world, how changes in science and research lead to modern advancements and how individual choices can impact the world around them.

Part of what has helped Jenkins make her teaching so immersive and exciting for her students is the relationships she maintains with MSU and professors in the Department of Biology and Chemistry. Jenkins' students benefit from MSU instructors, who bring their expertise, instruments, and materials to enhance learning.

"Being here and being close to this university and the relationships that allows me to have professors in the school...it also motivates me as a teacher that I can still learn and provide that for my kids," she said.

In addition to receiving assistance from MSU professors, Jenkins has also given her time to MSU programs throughout her teaching career. She was an educator for the University's summer Upward Bound program from 2002 to 2005 and was a teacher for the Craft Academy Blast OFF! Summer Camp in 2018.

Throughout her 19 years as a teacher, she says the content and how she teaches it has evolved, both based on the overall science and the individual students.

While Jenkins has high expectations for her students, she was not expecting to be named the KEA Teacher of the Year Award. The award goes to a teacher based on the criteria of professional practice, advocacy for the KEA, community engagement, attention to diversity and exercising leadership in the profession.

"It is an extremely humbling reward. When I think about it, I get teary-eyed every time because I just do a job, but it's not just a job to me," Jenkins said. "This job is so hard. You could do it 24 hours a day and still have more to do...but you really have to be passionate and really love what you do."

Jenkins' fascination with teaching as a child to imaginary students has grown into a very real and impactful career with an appreciation for and collaboration with MSU. She said while she was honored to receive a prestigious award from the KEA for her teaching

efforts, the real reward she gets is watching her students appreciate science, find a passion they never knew they had and exceed her expectations.

"I want to be in my room with my students, and I want to set a standard, and there is no ceiling in here. There is no ceiling, and the students get to learn, and that's what I try to do," Jenkins said. "If I can encourage other teachers to do the same thing, then I will try to do that as well."

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

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Scholarship named to honor retiring veterinary science professor

A newly established scholarship at Morehead State is being named to honor a retiring professor of veterinary science.

Dr. Philip Prater, D.V.M., has been honored with a scholarship fund in his name that will provide financial aid for students in the veterinary science program at MSU. Approximately \$10,000 in funding was provided by veterinarians, students, and colleagues impacted by Dr. Prater's instructional service over the past 25 years at MSU. In addition, the Kentucky Veterinary Medicine Association has pledged additional support to continue to grow the fund, with the hope of eventually endowing the fund, ensuring it will continue for years to come.

Dr. Prater wasn't aware of the project until his retirement reception, where he was surprised with the announcement.

"This is the most humbling honor that any instructor could ever have bestowed on them," Prater said. "My hope is that these funds would serve to relieve some of the tremendous debt burden that pre-vet students incur in their eight-year education."

Prater began his career at MSU in 1998 as an assistant professor of veterinary technology. He was instrumental in securing funding for the University's Equine Health Education Center at the Derrickson Agricultural Complex. He served in leadership positions for several professional groups, including the Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association's Board of Directors, the Kentucky Cattleman's Association's advisory board, the Kentucky Beef Network, and the American College of Theriogenologists (ACT). He also served as faculty advisor to pre-veterinary medicine students and the Pre-Vet club, in addition to authoring and co-authoring several peer-reviewed articles and two book chapters on large and small animal reproduction.

Prater earned many professional awards during his time at MSU. In 2006, Prater was named the Veterinarian of the Year by the Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association, and he also received the Outstanding Senior Teacher Award from the American Association of Colleges of Agriculture and Renewable Resources. In 2008, Prater earned the Morehead State University Distinguished Teacher Award and was promoted to full professor. He was awarded the 2018 Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association (KVMA) Distinguished Service Award of the Year. Prater will retire at the end of the month.

If you're interested in supporting this fund, you can make a gift online at alumni.moreheadstate.edu/prater. More information about giving to MSU is available by emailing alumni@moreheadstate.edu or calling 606-783-2033.

Learn more about [Agricultural Sciences](#) programs at MSU by emailing agsi@moreheadstate.edu or calling [606-783-2662](tel:606-783-2662).

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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU Board of Regents to meet June 15

Morehead State University's Board of Regents will hold its quarterly meeting Thursday, June 15, at 9:30 a.m. in room 329 of the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC).

The regents will recognize faculty and staff:

- Stephanie Barker, women's head golf coach
- Mik Aoki, head baseball coach
- Greg Wing, professor of music

The regents will vote to ratify the spring 2023 graduates and personnel actions. They will approve the 2023-24 University organizational chart, review policy revisions, approve promotion of faculty and granting of emeritus status, approve the Founders Award recipient, approve employment contracts, and approve endowment investment matching.

In addition, the board will approve:

- Investment policy.
- 3rd Quarter Financial Statements and Amended Budget.
- 2023-24 Operating Budget, Fee Schedule, and Personnel Roster.
- Construction and Planning for Cooper Hall, New Science and Engineering Building.
- President's employment contract.

The regents will also hear reports on University Dining and First Year Programs, and an update on Student Government Association and a report from President Jay Morgan.

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MSU welcomes INSIGHT camp for 16th year

Morehead State welcomed 26 students from the Kentucky School for the Blind to campus June 5-9 for the 16th annual INSIGHT camp.

INSIGHT is a collaboration between MSU, Kentucky Office for the Blind, Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB), Kentucky Education Development Corporation (KEDC) and the KSB Charitable Foundation. The program is in its 16th year at MSU. The program is offered to students who have completed the 10th, 11th or 12th grade and gives them a real-world college experience, including living in a residence hall, attending academic classes, and practicing orientation and mobility skills in a campus environment.

For more information about INSIGHT, contact Program Coordinator Connie Hill at connie.hill@ksb.kyschools.us.

To learn more about [Disability Services](#) at MSU, email Assistant Director of Student Services Misty Litton at m.litton@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-5188](tel:606-783-5188).

Photo Caption: Participants in the 2023 INSIGHT Camp at MSU. Front row, left to right: Valerie Alvarez from Louisville, Eric Echeverria from Louisville, Gracie Smith from Radcliff, Taveon Burks from Louisville, Abrianna Sanders from Lexington, Astrondria Theus from Radcliff, and Naomi Williams from Elizabethtown.

Second row, left to right: Analisa Stevenson from Louisville, Jesse Miracle from Middlesboro, Sarah Boyd from Langley, London Smith from Radcliff, Peyton Peskoe from Louisville, DJ Johnson from Vanceburg, Wyatt Neuendorf from Hardinsburg, Jordan Leslie from Louisville, and Emmanuel Grey from Danville.

Third row, left to right: Emily Lowe from Louisa, Jontae Moore from Louisville, Brandon Rister from Garrison, Jacob Adams from Ermine, Carsen Hartmann from Union, John Burns, Jr. from Louisville, Xavier Morgan from Essie, James Sparrow from Louisville, and London Henry from Louisville Not pictured is Ash Duncan from Lexington.

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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Students shine at Collegiate FBLA competition

Morehead State's Collegiate Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) team won several categories in the state leadership Collegiate FBLA competition held this spring at Georgetown College.

MSU was represented by nine students who competed in 15 individual events and one team event. The students placed in 14 events, with 11 first-place awards.

"It is extremely rewarding to see our FBLA Collegiate students excel in their state leadership competition. They are all very dedicated and have worked hard to be successful against a field of strong competitors," said Dr. Sam Stapleton, instructor of management and FBLA advisor.

Winners and their respective awards were:

- Brendan Bush, junior information systems major from Grayson, third place in management concepts.
- Jackson Collins, senior information systems major from Pikeville, first place in information management.
- Abigail Cooper, senior accounting major from Vanceburg, first place in management analysis and decision-making and third place in organizational behavior.
- Jared Hatton (Class of 2023) from Mt. Sterling, first place job interview and first place future business executive.
- Anna Heineman, senior healthcare management major from Greenup, first place in networking concepts.
- Mann Patel, senior computer science major from Somerset, first place in cyber security and first place in computer concepts.

- John Reichenbach, senior computer science major from Union, first place in programming concepts and second place in computer concepts.
- Gabriel Trudeau, senior accounting major from Ft. Wright, first place in microeconomics and first place in project management.
- Bush, Heineman and John Maxey, junior marketing major from Hillsboro, first place in the Business Decision-Making team competition.

To learn more about Collegiate FBLA at MSU, contact Stapleton at slstapleton@moreheadstate.edu or [606-783-2770](tel:606-783-2770).

For more information about [business programs](#) at MSU, email cbt@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-5158](tel:606-783-5158).

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NEWS RELEASE

June 14, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Computer science professor Dr. Sherif Rashad wins IMPACT Award

Dr. Sherif Rashad, professor of computer science, was a winner at the Kentucky Commercialization Ventures (KCV) Innovative Mobile, Public Health, And Community-Oriented Technologies (IMPACT) Competition. The KCV IMPACT award aims to help move innovative ideas towards commercialization while highlighting the value of innovators from across Kentucky creating solutions relevant to Kentucky's problems. He was a runner-up for the award last year.

Rashad received a \$10,000 award from KCV to support his idea of designing and implementing an Innovative system for real-time translation of American Sign Language (ASL) using machine learning. The proposed system introduces an innovative method to solve the problem of automatic real-time conversion from ASL to English using a motion controller and machine learning algorithms to capture and analyze hand movements in real time. The algorithm then converts the interpreted signs into spoken words. The method would not require the user to wear a sensor of any kind and does not require any physical contact with the system for user input. This system will be able to work adaptively to learn new signs to expand its dictionary and allow higher accuracy on an individual level. Possible applications include healthcare, education, gamification, communication and more.

"I am honored to receive this award from KCV to assist in developing this idea and moving it towards commercialization. I highly appreciate all the support that I had from the KCV team and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs at Morehead State University to apply for this award. Millions of people globally use some form of sign language in their everyday lives, and we seek to build a system that is easy to use, intuitive to understand, adaptable to the individual, and usable in everyday life. This project provides also an excellent opportunity for students in the Computer Science program to work as undergraduate research fellows and participate in high-impact activities," Rashad said.

To learn more about the project, contact Rashad at s.rashad@moreheadstate.edu or 606-783-9179.

For more information about MSU's [computer science program](#), email csis@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2090.

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



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NEWS RELEASE

June 15, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU Board of Regents holds June meeting, approves four-year contract extension for President Jay Morgan

Morehead State University's Board of Regents held its quarterly meeting Thursday, June 15.

The regents recognized faculty and staff:

- Stephanie Barker, women's head golf coach, NCAA tournament appearance and winning season
- Mik Aoki, head baseball coach, NCAA tournament appearance and winning season
- Greg Wing, professor of music, years of service and upcoming retirement

The regents voted to ratify the spring 2023 graduates and personnel actions. They approved the 2023-24 University organizational chart, reviewed policy revisions, approved the promotion of faculty granting of emeritus status, the Founders Award recipient, employment contracts, and endowment investment matching.

Commented [RR1]: This paragraph needs to be past tense.

In addition, the board approved the investment policy, the 3rd quarter financial statements and amended budget, the 2023-24 operating budget, tuition and fee schedule, and the personnel roster. They also approved the construction and planning for Cooper Hall, the new science and engineering building, and the president's employment contract, including a four-year contract extension.

Commented [RR2]: capitalization

MSU approved the 2023-24 tuition and fee schedule. Tuition will increase by 2.9%, and the housing rate will be frozen. President Jay Morgan noted, "MSU continues to be one of the most affordable colleges in Kentucky, and we're glad to continue offering affordable opportunities to the students and families of Kentucky and beyond."

The regents also heard reports on University Dining and First Year Programs, and an update on Student Government Association and a report from President Jay Morgan.

Commented [RR3]: capitalization

Photo Caption:

MSU's Board of Regents recognized faculty and staff for their achievements and service. Left to right, Mik Aoki, head baseball coach; Greg Wing, professor of music; Stephanie Barker, women's head golf coach; and Dr. Jay Morgan.

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NEWS RELEASE

June 16, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Morehead State will be closed Monday, June 19, in observance of the Juneteenth holiday. Administrative offices will be closed, and classes will not meet.

The Camden-Carroll Library, University Post Office and MSU's Barnes & Noble College Bookstore will be closed.

The Recreation and Wellness Center will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., and the pool will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Outdoor Adventures will be open from 2 to 7 p.m.

The University Police Department will be staffed 24-7 for the holiday. The department can be reached at [606-783-2035](tel:606-783-2035) or via the [LiveSafe smartphone app](#). In the event of an emergency, always dial 911.

MSU will reopen Tuesday, June 20.

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NEWS RELEASE

June 20, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Audrey Lyons earns Cathy Goble Gullett and Thomas Raymond Curtis Scholarships

The [Morehead State University Foundation](#) named Audrey Lyons as the recipient of the two scholarships: the Thomas Raymond Curtis Scholarship and the Cathy Goble Gullett Memorial Scholarship.

Lyons is an incoming first-year student from Paintsville. She is a Johnson Central High School graduate with plans to earn a degree in English education.

"I'm honored to be chosen as the recipient for both of these special scholarships," Lyons said. "Johnson County is a special place, and it's amazing to see these two funds, named in honor of incredible people, give back to our students."

The namesake of the Thomas Raymond Curtis Scholarship was an unassuming teacher of 30 years from Flat Gap who chose to leave a legacy for the education of Johnson County students in 1997. When he passed away, he left what, at the time, was the most significant bequest in the MSU Foundation's history, \$1.3 million, to establish the fund.

Johnson Central High School students who plan to further their education at Morehead State University are eligible to apply for the award. Preference goes to students from Flat Gap who plan to pursue a [d](#)egree in education. The award is renewable for three years if academic eligibility requirements are maintained.

The Cathy Goble Gullett Memorial Scholarship was established in 2020 to support Johnson Central High School students who plan to study to become teachers. The MSU Foundation created the scholarship in memory of Cathy Goble Gullett (Class of 1974). She started teaching at Porter Elementary School before moving to Johnson Central High School. It was there she finished her teaching career before officially retiring in 2004.

Scholarship criteria include being a Johnson Central High School graduate and majoring in an education program with aspirations to become a teacher and a minimum 3.0 GPA.

If you want to establish a scholarship or make a planned gift commitment, contact MSU's Office of Alumni Relations and Development at [606-783-2033](tel:606-783-2033), email giving@moreheadstate.edu or visit alumni.moreheadstate.edu.

Photo, upper right: Audrey Lyons (center right) pictured with Gabe Schaedle (far left), assistant director of undergraduate admissions, and representatives of the Thomas Raymond Curtus Scholarship.

Photo, lower right: Lyons (center) and Schaedle (left) pictured with Nelson Gullett, the husband of the late Cathy Goble Gullett.

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NEWS RELEASE

June 20, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU earns national ranking for teacher preparation by National Council on Teacher Quality

Morehead State University has a long legacy of preparing educators to impact the region and beyond. That legacy continues to gain recognition on a national level.

The National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) gave MSU's elementary education program an "A" grade in its new report titled "Teacher Prep Review: Strengthening Elementary Reading Instruction." The program is one of four colleges in Kentucky and one of two public university programs in Kentucky to earn this grade. Only 23% of universities nationwide earned this distinction.

The NCTQ is a non-partisan research and policy organization focused on ensuring teachers have opportunities to be effective, and every child has access to an effective teacher. It sets standards determined by literacy experts for covering the most effective methods of reading instruction, or the "science of reading."

NCTQ evaluated 693 traditional undergraduate and graduate programs nationwide, including 15 in Kentucky. Overall, just 112 programs earned an "A" grade. To gain an "A," programs must meet NCTQ's targets for covering the five core components of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Universities must teach at most three instructional methods unsupported by the research on effective reading instruction.

Schools like MSU produce instructors with the knowledge and skills to combat an increased number of fourth-grade students being unable to read at a basic level.

"The Volgenau College of Education is proud of our NCTQ 'A' rating in the EDEM 300-Foundations of Reading Course offered in the Elementary Education Program," said Dr. April Miller, dean of the Volgenau College of Education. "This rating is based on the

course's adherence to the science of reading, specifically evidence-based practices in phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Due to the gap in student reading achievement that may be the result of the recent pandemic, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has made the science of reading a major focus."

MSU's Bachelor of Arts in Early Elementary Education helps students develop skills and gain hands-on experience to be effective teachers for kindergarten through 5th-grade students. You will develop the ability to assess children's developmental and instructional needs while planning and implementing appropriate instructional programs. MSU offers degrees at campuses in Morehead, Ashland, and Prestonsburg.

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

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NEWS RELEASE

June 21, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU mourns the death of Tim Holbrook

Tim Holbrook (Class of 1994, 2001), chief photographer for Morehead State University, died Monday, June 19, at the age of 50.

Known for his quick smile and humble attitude, Holbrook began his career in what is now the Office of Communications and Marketing in 1995. During his years of service, he documented some of Morehead State's most historic moments and served as an adjunct instructor in the Department of Art and Design.

Holbrook also worked as a freelance photographer and a sports stringer for the Morehead News. His photographs played an integral role in several award-winning publications over the past several years.

Holbrook's photography was published in state and national magazines and was displayed in exhibitions across the Commonwealth. He was a former member of the Rowan County Educational Foundation and spent summers as a campground host at Cave Run Lake area campgrounds.

Holbrook was a two-time graduate of MSU, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art with honors in 1994 and a Master of Arts in Studio Art in 2001. In 1991, he was named the University's Outstanding Freshman Art Student, and in 1994, he was named the University's Outstanding Senior Art Student and Outstanding Undergraduate Student. He was a graduate of West Carter County High School.

Holbrook is survived by his husband, Tony Netherly; a daughter, Kendra Holbrook; a son, Grant Holbrook, and numerous family members, friends, and colleagues.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Morehead State University Foundation's Timothy W. Holbrook Memorial Scholarship, PO Box 628, Morehead, Kentucky 40351, or online at alumni.moreheadstate.edu/timholbrook.

A visitation will be held at Northcutt & Son Home for Funerals on Friday, June 23, from 4 to 7 p.m.

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NEWS RELEASE

June 23, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Morehead State welcomes Governor's Scholar students to campus for 13th year

Morehead State University welcomed 341 students representing 89 Kentucky counties to campus Sunday, June 18, for the Governor's Scholars Program (GSP).

Established in 1983, the Governor's Scholars Program is a residential summer program for outstanding Kentucky students who have completed their junior year in high school. GSP provides academic and personal growth in a challenging, nontraditional environment that balances a solid liberal arts program with a full co-curricular and residential life experience. Students who attend GSP must complete an application and compete with others from across the state. Those selected attend the program free of charge.

MSU first welcomed GSP in 2006 and this will be the 13th year the University has hosted the program. Centre College and Murray State University are also hosting GSP students this summer.

Numerous activities are planned throughout the students' five-week stay on campus. GSP will conclude with a closing ceremony on Friday, July 28.

To learn more about [GSP](#), email gsp@moreheadstate.edu.

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NEWS RELEASE

June 23, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU mourns the death of retiree Leo Blair

The Morehead State community mourns the loss of retired Professor of Music Leo Blair of Georgetown, who died Tuesday, June 20, at the age of 81.

Blair began his teaching career at MSU in 1975 and retired in 1998, but worked as a part-time instructor up until 2018. Previously, he was a professor of music at Murray State University and Ohio University. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree at West Virginia University in 1963; a Master of Fine Arts degree from Ohio University in 1965; and completed graduate work at the University of Kentucky and Peabody College. He was a member of the Kentucky Education Association (KEA), the American Federation of Musicians, the College Music Society, and the American String Teachers' Association and was a men's music honorary of Phi Alpha Mu.

Blair performed as a soloist at venues including The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Marshall University, and The Lexington Philharmonic. He performed as a member of symphony orchestras including The Nashville Symphony, The Owensboro Orchestra, and The Lexington Philharmonic. He was a guest conductor for the West Virginia Allstate Orchestra and was a member of traditional music ensembles including The White Horse String Band and Spit and Polish.

Survivors include two sons, Eric (Jeannie) Blair and Jason (Tricia) Blair; and four grandchildren, Brooke, Lauren, Jacob, and Jalynn Blair, all of Georgetown. Other survivors include two sisters, Robin (Mike) Anthony, and Judy (Paul) Guinn of Parkersburg, West Virginia, and nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

Visitation will be from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 24, 2023, at Northcutt and Son Home for Funerals. Interment will be held at Friedens Lutheran Church Cemetery in Friedens, Pennsylvania, at 2 p.m. Tuesday, June 27, 2023.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the American Cancer Society.

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NEWS RELEASE

June 27, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU once again earns multiple Colleges of Distinction recognitions

Morehead State University's commitment to academic excellence and student success for every member of the Eagle Nation led to it earning College of Distinction recognition in multiple categories for 2022-23. MSU has continued to provide the quality academic experience that led to the University being designated a College of Distinction in 2023-24.

MSU earned College of Distinction recognition in the following categories:

- 2023-24 Colleges of Distinction
- Public Universities
- Kentucky Universities
- Business
- Education
- Nursing
- Career Development
- Military Support
- Affordability

Created in 2000, Colleges of Distinction helps students and families navigate the selection process to find the best college for prospective students. Colleges of Distinction recognize schools prioritizing distinctions like student engagement, community, teaching and outcomes.

"These accolades serve as a testament to the collective efforts of our entire university community," said Dr. Jay Morgan, president of MSU. "We remain dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the exceptional standards that have earned us recognition as a College of Distinction in these categories. "

In addition to being named a College of Distinction, MSU is also ranked in the Top 15 best public regional universities in the South for 2023 by U.S. News & World Report.

To learn how you can join the Eagle Nation, visit moreheadstate.edu/apply.

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NEWS RELEASE

June 28, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Dalton Curtis is first recipient of Gary LaFleur Memorial Scholarship

The Morehead State University Foundation announced the first recipient of the newly established Dr. Gary LaFleur Memorial Scholarship. The recipient is Dalton Curtis, an incoming first-year student from Olympia majoring in strategic communication.

“As a first-year student and coming from a family that lives paycheck to paycheck, a scholarship would alleviate the stress of having to fund my education,” Curtis said. “Having a scholarship will make life after college less stressful so that I can focus on my career and job tasks instead of having to worry about debt.”

According to his family, Gary began his communication and teaching career at the tender age of four, loving to converse with everyone he encountered. Though he long-valued the art of engaging others, LaFleur began his official teaching career in 1973 and came to MSU in 1991 as an associate professor of strategic communication. Throughout his career, LaFleur won numerous professional awards and recognitions. He was given the Kentucky Communication Association's (KCA) Teacher of the Year Award in 2006 and the KCA Presidential Award for Distinguished Service in 2008. He was also a three-time winner of the organization's Distinguished Service to the Profession Award, winning twice in Kentucky and once while teaching at the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut. He also served as KCA president from 2004-05.

LaFleur passed away in September 2022 at the age of 71. To honor his love and commitment to education, his wife, Cathie Long, established this scholarship in his memory.

“The Dr. Gary LaFleur Memorial Scholarship is a testament to his love of teaching and will provide financial support and encouragement to students at MSU,” Long said. “He so enjoyed being at the front of the classroom connecting with his students through stories, methods and even laughter – all things that taught the art of effective communication.”

Scholarship recipients must be full-time students majoring in strategic communication and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above. Preference goes to juniors or seniors in the program and Kentucky residents who are first-generation college students. The scholarship is \$500 a year, (\$250 per semester), pending available funding, and is a one-time, nonrenewable reward. Recipients may reapply and be considered annually.

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

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NEWS RELEASE

June 29, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Jerry Gore to be honored posthumously with MSU Founders Award

The Morehead State University Board of Regents has announced that the late Jerry Gore (Class of 1971, 1972, 1975) will be recognized as the 2023 recipient of the Founders Award for University Service.

Jerry Gore served at MSU for 27 years before his retirement in 1998. When he retired, he was the director of minority student affairs. In 1999, the then-named Office of Minority Student Services awarded him with an Outstanding Service Award for his leadership in promoting African American heritage and paving the way for meaningful change at MSU.

Gore was also a prolific historian and advocate for preserving African American history and heritage. He helped establish the National Underground Railroad Museum in his hometown of Maysville. Gore also co-founded Freedom Time, a company that offers tours of Underground Railroad sites. He traveled the country to educate children about the history of slavery, performing informative historical skits at schools. He said, "To know where you are going, you must know from which you came."

Gore passed away unexpectedly due to illness in 2016. Hundreds of MSU students were impacted by Gore's service and dedication to students, which continued long after his retirement. To cement his legacy and memory, the MSU African American Alumni Group established the Jerry Gore African American Heritage Endowment in 2018. The fund, valued at nearly \$90,000, supports a scholarship awarded to students actively participating in campus diversity initiatives, clubs, or groups.

MSU African American Alumni Group members Michael Gray (Class of 1992) and Wayne Box Miller (Class of 1979) expressed their gratitude for Gore's work and his receiving the Founders Award.

"His commitment to minority students and their families was unparalleled. It is virtually impossible to determine the impact he had on welcoming students of color to campus and how much he was personally invested in our success after graduation," they said. "With the awarding of the highly prestigious Founders Award, his legacy is now firmly and rightfully entrenched within the fabric of this University. Jerry Gore and Morehead State University are synonymous with higher education and will be for years to come."

Gore's legacy will be honored with the Founders Award for University Service during Homecoming 2023 celebrations, held November 2-4. For more information on Homecoming, visit alumni.moreheadstate.edu/homecoming.

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NEWS RELEASE

**June 30, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

MSU students get hands-on experience for surveying careers

If someone surveyed the job market for in-demand professions in Kentucky, they would learn there is a high demand for people with skills to survey for various construction and real estate projects. Morehead State University is helping to meet that demand.

Students in the construction and civil engineering program can hone their skills and graduate ready for jobs in the surveying profession through a partnership with Curd Surveying and Land Consulting Inc., owned by MSU Instructor Joe Curd.

Growing up in Falls City, Virginia, near Washington, D.C., Curd graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Affairs in 1978 and a Master of Science in Geography in 1988, both from Virginia Tech. The Kentucky state government hired him to do property valuation maps in Morgan and Rowan counties. Curd started his surveying business in 1985 and was hired by MSU in 1990. He has taught courses in geography and construction, and civil engineering.

Curd not only knows what it takes to be a licensed surveyor, he knows Kentucky needs more of them. He said Kentucky has only issued approximately 400 surveying licenses since 2016, and the increased land transactions that followed the COVID-19 pandemic meant qualified surveyors were in high demand.

"There's a real desperate need for licenses, and we hear that from a lot of people," he said. "There's been a huge new demand. We probably have two years of backup work."

He teaches many classes for students who want to get their surveying license and need the required 24 credit hours in the discipline. These include classes in surveying principles, construction surveying and route surveying. He also teaches courses in construction management and boundary law, a class crucial to helping surveyors determine locations and land ownership.

As much as he teaches concepts in the classroom, Curd knows the best way for students to understand what goes into surveying is to do it. He frequently stages hypothetical scenarios on the MSU campus for students in his classes to do surveying, and he also offers students internship opportunities for college credit working in his surveying business in Morehead.

"It is such a hands-on type of profession," Curd said. "If you can combine that with some practical experience in taking the classes themselves, that is the best learning tool in a very practical type of profession."

In addition to providing internships to MSU students, he frequently hires them. After purchasing space on East Main Street, Curd has MSU graduates who manage day-to-day operations, like Dalton Risner (Class of 2018), Jonathan Bowling (Class of 2019) and Nick Stevens (Class of 2021). They each said they owe a lot of their expertise to getting hands-on experience early in Curd's classes.

"I actually began my internship (with Curd) my sophomore year, worked a year before I took the surveying class," Stevens said. "He tries to teach and prepare you for the work you can do. In the classroom, he's trying to give you the technical and mathematical (ways) of how to do surveying. In both aspects, he's just trying to help you learn."

In Curd's classes, MSU students are doing surveying that will contribute to very concrete results. Curd contacted Kim Oatman, assistant vice president for facilities and operations, in late 2022 after the announcement that MSU received funding for the design and construction of a new science and engineering building. One of the first steps was to prepare a boundary and topographic survey of the site. Curd proposed that MSU seniors in his survey courses provide the boundary and topographic survey for the project at no charge to the University.

"He and I both have that goal of, let's give out student experience in this because it's right here in front of us," Curd said. "I proposed the idea to them (students), and they loved it. They loved it and were like, all right, this is real."

Oatman said some of the components of the survey include:

- Survey of all boundaries, including approximately 14 different tracts and deeds.
- Topographic survey of roughly six acres of land.
- Research of deeds, descriptions, plats, and utility maps.
- Survey of all utilities on and adjoining the site.
- Survey and characterization of a public street to close the road.

"After evaluating it, MSU decided that this was a great idea, not only for the hands-on experience that the students would gain but also it would allow the project to get an early start, prior to July of 2023, because no funding was required for this student project. The survey is on track to be completed in June of 2023," Oatman said.

Curd knows the demand in the job market, the challenging terrain of Eastern Kentucky and the unique family legacies that come with the land ownership of its citizens. He wants to do his part in the classroom and the field to turn MSU students into the qualified surveyors the state needs.

"The more we can do to assist the surveying profession at Morehead State, the more we can do to assist. The people of Kentucky in the surveying profession," he said.

You can reach Professor Joe Curd at j.curd@moreheadstate.edu.

To learn more about MSU's [Department of Engineering and Technology Management](#), email etm@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-2090](tel:606-783-2090).

Photo: Professor Joe Curd, instructor of construction and civil engineering technology, is allowing his students to gain surveying experience in the construction of the new science and engineering building. Pictured from left to right is Paul Porter (senior, Owingsville), Isaiah Holbrook (senior, Grayson), Kurt Whitley (senior, Franklin, Tennessee), Matthew Dicks (junior, Whitesburg), Curd, Oatman, Jonathan Bowling (Mt. Sterling, Class of 2019), Dalton Risner (Clearfield, Class of 2018) and Damaris Taborda, (Somerset, Class of 2022).

Not Pictured: Kyle Holt (junior, Versailles).

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