



Communications & Marketing
Morehead State University
134 Third Street
Morehead, KY 40351

Phone: 606-783-9328
Email: news@moreheadstate.edu
Web: moreheadstate.edu

NEWS RELEASE

Aug. 3, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Laura Prater Russell owes personal success and family legacy to MSU

When Laura Prater Russell (Class of 1998) decided to attend Morehead State University, it was a decision that came easily. Choosing to wear blue and gold meant following in her family's footsteps. Russell would be a third-generation Eagle, with her father, mother, and paternal grandmother all being MSU alums.

Long before she enrolled in her first semester of classes, Russell knew she wanted to become a lawyer one day. Her grandmother, Lillie Mae Prater (Class of 1949), was a retired teacher with a massive heart for education. She talked with Russell early on about choosing a career that would allow her to advance while making a difference in the lives of others.

When she came to MSU for her first day of classes, it was day one of the preparation and guidance she needed to prepare herself for a career practicing law. A business major, Russell also took some advanced English classes. She credits the persuasive writing assignments in those classes for helping her to learn to use her words thoughtfully and effectively to make a case.

"I also credit my accounting and finance classes for preparing me for law school," Russell said. "They were critical in helping me develop reasoning and logic, which are really valuable tools in law."

It was more than just the content of the classes preparing her for success. The encouragement and support from countless professors, staff, and Delta Gamma sorority sisters also helped her along the way.

"There were so many wonderful and influential people at MSU that I'm hesitant to name just one," she said. "However, I had two professors – one in accounting and one in finance – both of whom believed that I could accomplish whatever I set my mind to if I

worked hard and focused. To hear that from non-family members and from people I respected was instrumental in my performance at law school, later as a practicing attorney, and even still today."

After graduating magna cum laude from MSU with a Bachelor of Business Administration in 1998, Russell later earned a Juris Doctor from the Louis D. Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville. She began practicing family law in the Jefferson County area, where she still works. In her daily work, she not only applies her knowledge but unique qualities that she believes stem from her upbringing in eastern Kentucky and time at MSU: hard work, respect, compassion, and integrity. Working in family law has Russell fulfilling her dream of making a daily difference in the lives of others.

In 2023, her dream went further when she was appointed a judge's seat in Jefferson County. Still in family law, Russell now goes by Judge Laura P. Russell, 30th Judicial District, Jefferson Circuit Court, Family Division Five. She admits the role is challenging but also vital and gratifying.

During this promotion, Russell was serving her alma mater on the Morehead State University Board of Regents, a role she was appointed to by Governor Andy Beshear. Though she had to step back from her position on the board to pursue her judgeship, Russell still maintains a solid commitment to seeing MSU succeed.

"Morehead State is still an amazing place. My service on the board allowed me to reconnect and affirm that MSU has great leadership and is truly one of the best universities in the region," she said. "I am grateful for my experience, and I know I would not be in my position on the bench without my time at MSU. Go Eagles!"

For more information on how to connect with Eagle alums, contact MSU's Office of Alumni Relations and Development at [606-783-2033](tel:606-783-2033), email alumni@moreheadstate.edu, or visit alumni.moreheadstate.edu.

###

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Ruth McLain Smith nominated for IBMA Mentor of the Year

Kentucky Center for Traditional Music instructor Ruth McLain Smith has already influenced bluegrass through her musicianship and artistry. Now, she is getting recognition for her work of passing on her knowledge to generations of students.

The International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) nominated Smith for 2023 Mentor of the Year at the Industry and Momentum Awards. The annual awards presentation is at IBMA's World of Bluegrass Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina, from Sept. 26-30.

The Industry and Momentum Awards recognize bluegrass musicians and industry professionals for contributing to bluegrass music. The Mentor of the Year award honors a bluegrass professional who has impacted the lives and careers of newcomers to the bluegrass industry. Nominee selection occurs by committees of respected bluegrass musicians and industry leaders.

Smith performed around the world and on national television with The McLain Family Band, which included former KCTM director Raymond McLain. While serving as a KCTM instructor, she has also spent decades teaching private lessons and 28 years contributing lessons to PaperPie, an educational book company.

"This prestigious nomination speaks to the quality and effectiveness of the traditional music program and the positive impact our uniquely qualified faculty have on the lives and careers of our students," said KCTM director Daxson Lewis.

The IBMA Industry Awards and Momentum Awards will take place at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27.

Ruth McLain Smith can be reached at r.smith@moreheadstate.edu.

To learn more about [KCTM and its programs](#), contact kctm@moreheadstate.edu or 606-783-9001.

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NEWS RELEASE

Aug. 10, 2023
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MSU announces 2023 Distinguished Service Awards recipients

Morehead State University has announced the recipients of the 2023 Distinguished Service Awards. These awards recognize faculty and staff for their service to the campus community and their fields of study. The awards were presented at MSU's Fall Convocation ceremony on Wednesday, Aug. 9.

DISTINGUISHED STAFF SERVICE AWARD - MAXWELL AMMONS

Max Ammons is the assistant vice president for student affairs and dean of students since 2015. He joined MSU from 2007-10 as a professor of military science and chair of the Department of Military Science. Ammons returned in 2012 after serving as the deputy chief of future operations and special assistant to the commanding general for U.S. Army Central Command. A graduate of North Georgia College (University of North Georgia) and Troy University, Ammons served in the U.S. Army as an active-duty aviator and operations career field officer for 21 years before employment with MSU. He has over 16 years of experience in academia, serving as an instructor, assistant professor, professor, department chair, program director, and in his current roles with the University.

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY SERVICE AWARD - DR. ELIZABETH ASH (CLASS OF 2007, 2009)

Dr. Elizabeth "Liz" Ash is a two-time graduate of Morehead State. Employed with MSU since 2009, she is an instructor of health and wellness in the Department of Kinesiology, Health, and Imaging Sciences (KHIS). At MSU, Ash has served on various committees, including Undergraduate Curriculum, College of Science Honors Day, General Education Proposal, and Faculty Advisory Committee. She has dedicated 13 years as the faculty sponsor of Eta Sigma Gamma, the National Health Education honorary, and has recently worked to develop the Kinesiology & Health Club. Ash has also been active in the Eagle Scholars Program since its founding in 2011 and has represented her

department, college, and MSU by actively participating in various events and conferences.

DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD - DR. BERNADETTE BARTON

Dr. Bernadette Barton is a professor of sociology and director of gender studies in the Department of Sociology, Social Work and Criminology. She has served as an instructor at MSU since 2000. She is the author of “The Pornification of America: How Raunch Culture is Ruining Our Society” (2021); “Stripped: More Stories from Exotic Dancers” (2017); “Pray the Gay Away: The Extraordinary Lives of Bible Belt Gays” (2014); and “Stripped: Inside the Lives of Exotic Dancers” (2006). Barton writes about and teaches contemporary issues of gender, sexuality, religion, culture, happiness, and the sex industry.

DISTINGUISHED RESEARCHER - DR. JEN O'KEEFE

Dr. Jen O’Keefe came to Morehead State in 2002 and built foundations for her research endeavors while completing her doctorate in geology at the University of Kentucky. As a geology and science education professor, she is a broadly trained earth systems scientist committed to fostering student success through research experiences and global collaborations. This has resulted in an extensive publication and grants record that ranges from microscopic and geochemical analysis of the formation and transformation of organic sediments to coal fire dynamics to the impacts of climate change on plant and fungal communities to pollen as indicators of bee foraging habits, among others. O’Keefe is also the 2023 Distinguished Service Award recipient from AASP-The Palynological Society and among the geoscientists elected Fellows of the Geological Society of America (GSA) in 2023.

DISTINGUISHED CREATIVE PRODUCTION - GREG CARLISLE

Greg Carlisle completed his 22nd year of teaching at Morehead State University as an associate professor of theatre. His courses included Advanced Acting electives, Voice and Articulation, Directing, Theatre History, Dramatic Literature, and Senior Seminar in Theatre. As part of an interdisciplinary service-learning effort, Carlisle assisted MSU students in volunteering as simulated patients for the UK (University of Kentucky) Physician Assistants program. He has hosted theatre conferences held on MSU’s campus and served for two years as the program lead for Theatre and Dance. Carlisle has directed 21 theatrical productions in his time at MSU. From 2017 to 2019 and again this summer, he was a teaching artist for Shooting Stars Youththeatre. Carlisle has also published three works of literary criticism through Sideshow Media Group Press in Los Angeles.

View a gallery of MSU's 2023 Fall Convocation at <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAQxcw>.

For more information, contact [Academic Affairs](#) at [606-783-2002](tel:606-783-2002).

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Eagle Fest set for Aug. 16

Morehead State students will get a chance to learn about University clubs and organizations, local businesses, civic clubs, and community organizations at Eagle Fest Wednesday, Aug. 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC) Commons and on the lawn of Fields Hall.

Morehead State offers more than 120 student clubs and organizations, including academic clubs, faith-based organizations, Greek organizations, and athletic and social clubs. Students attending Eagle Fest can learn more about University clubs and organizations, mingle with fellow students, play games, win prizes, and more.

According to the Office of Student Activities, approximately 2,000 new and returning students participate in Eagle Fest annually. In addition to student organizations, local businesses, civic organizations, and nonprofits also participate.

Learn more about student activities online by visiting [Eagle Link](#) by emailing studentactivities@moreheadstate.edu or calling 606-783-2071.

[Register](#) your student or community organization or business for Eagle Fest online.

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Dr. Janet Ratliff named to Leadership Kentucky Class of 2023

Dr. Janet Ratliff (Class of 1991, 1992), associate professor of management and entrepreneurship at Morehead State, has been inducted into the Leadership Kentucky Class of 2023.

Created in 1984 as a non-profit educational organization, Leadership Kentucky brings together a diverse group to gain insight into complex issues facing the Commonwealth to foster an understanding of how the state's issues are interconnected. This year's class comprises 52 members representing businesses, organizations, colleges, and universities across the Commonwealth. Ratliff is the only MSU faculty member chosen for the program this year.

Leadership Kentucky's flagship program consists of seven three-day sessions where participants learn about the state's challenges and opportunities. Members will meet with many of Kentucky's current leaders and explore the state's opportunities and resources. Participants must apply for the program after being nominated.

Ratliff said she applied for the program because of its focus on experiential education.

"I believe so much in experiential education for my students because it helps them to connect theory to reality. It provides them with the opportunities to see for themselves what they can do with what they know leveraging the resources around them to not only do what they were educated to do but also to improve the lives of everyone around them," she said.

Ratliff added she is grateful for the support she's received from her colleagues and MSU as an institution.

"This is a commitment, and it is amazing to have the support of your employer to be able to take advantage of such opportunities. I look forward to using what I learn to contribute that knowledge back to MSU and our service region, as well as the state of Kentucky. I am thrilled and honored to be a part of this very prestigious program."

Ratliff started working at MSU in August 1992. She works throughout Morehead State University's service region as a consultant, professional development provider and program provider to teachers and students (P-12) in economics, personal finance, and entrepreneurship. Additionally, Ratliff has encouraged numerous students to make a difference by creating projects and new businesses that have the potential to change the quality of life and standard of living for those around them.

To learn more about Leadership Kentucky, contact Ratliff at j.ratliff@moreheadstate.edu or 606-783-2390.

For information about programs in Morehead State's [Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology](#), email cbt@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-5158.

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Board of Regents meets Aug. 18

The Morehead State University Board of Regents will hold a regular quarterly meeting Friday, Aug. 18, at 9:30 a.m. in room 329 of the Adron Doran University Center.

New regents will take the oath of office at the start of the meeting. New regents include:

- Student Regent Presley Boyer
- Faculty Regent Dr. Joyce Stubbs
- Appointees John Holbrook and Rhonda Blackburn

The board will also elect a chair, vice chair, and secretary and appoint a treasurer.

A number of items are on the consent agenda for the meeting, including:

- Approval of contracts for the athletic director and coaches.
- Approval of revisions to the student code of conduct.
- Approval of Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) Governing Board certification
- Approval of the 2023-24 operating budget.

MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan will present reports to the board on personal service contracts, an annual report on real property leases, a presentation on the 2024 employee health plan, an update on a university bond sale, and a feasibility study for a proposed new residence hall.

The board will also act on several items, including approving asset preservation projects for Nunn Hall, Ginger Hall, Laughlin Health Building, and a water retention basin. They will also approve seeking reimbursement for costs related to asset preservation capital projects. The board will also approve the razing of Wetherby Gymnasium.

The regents will also enter a closed executive session and will take no action during the closed session.

Following the meeting, the regents will tour the campus, and an orientation will be held for incoming regents.

For more information, visit the [board's website](#).

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Dr. James R. Masterson co-edits newly published book

Dr. James R. Masterson, chair of the Department of History, Philosophy, Politics, Global and Legal Studies, along with Professor Sam Edwards, assistant professor of legal studies at Quinnipiac University, published and co-edited the book, "Government Responses to Disruptive Innovations: Perspectives and Examinations." Released in May 2023 by IGI Global, it delves into the critical role of government in addressing and adapting to the policy challenges posed by disruptive innovations.

Masterson said he became interested in this topic by seeing how smartphones and the internet rapidly change how society functions.

"While the government wrangles over how to regulate social media, which has been around for nearly a quarter century now, we have cars and delivery vehicles being driven by GPS and artificial intelligence, a new form of digital currency used to buy everything from tickets to a Dallas Mavericks' game to illegal guns and drugs, and artificial intelligence providing essays and test answers to students around the globe," Masterson said. "All of these innovations, and many more, will require governmental oversight at some level. This book examines how various governments respond to some of these issues."

"Government Responses to Disruptive Innovations" explores the dynamic relationship between governments and disruptive technologies. It examines how different nations and governmental bodies respond to and shape these transformative forces.

The book presents a collection of thought-provoking essays and case studies worldwide. Contributions from scholars in various fields highlight the dimensions of disruptive technologies, including their impact on industries, economies, and societies at large. Topics discussed include artificial intelligence, vehicle automation, cryptocurrency, social media, and modern communication technology.

Masterson is also an associate professor of political science at MSU and serves as the director of the University's Master of Public Administration (MPA) program.

Readers can find more information about "Government Responses to Disruptive Innovations: Perspectives and Examinations" on the [book's official website](#).

To learn more about the [MPA program at MSU](#), email Masterson at j.masterson@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-2658](tel:606-783-2658).

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MSU mourns the loss of alumni and generous benefactor Dr. Richard "Dick" Walls

Dr. Richard Walls (Class of 1971), a charitable donor to the Morehead State geology program and member of the MSU Alumni Hall of Fame, recently passed at 74.

Walls was from Maysville, Kentucky, and came to MSU to major in journalism. A geology course sparked his interest, so he changed his major - and, ultimately, the entire trajectory of his life. He graduated top of his class at MSU and pursued a master's degree in geology from UNC Chapel Hill. Upon graduation from UNC, he was slated to go to Yale to pursue his Ph.D. However, his path changed, and he followed a Canadian carbonate expert to McGill University. Through this connection, he began mapping his thesis on horseback in the Canadian Rockies and soon struck oil. He graduated from McGill with his Ph.D. in Geology in 1977.

Walls was instrumental in discovering significant oil and gas deposits in Canada and the U.S. He was recognized as an entrepreneurial leader in the Canadian oil and gas industry. He owned multiple companies such as Pan East, Canadian Midstream, Fairborne, and an international company with production in Columbia.

Walls received numerous accolades for his professional accomplishments. In 2005, the MSU Alumni Association inducted him into the Alumni Hall of Fame. In 2015, he received the Stanley Slipper Gold Medal for outstanding contributions to oil and gas exploration in Canada.

Walls never forgot where his geology journey began and supported the Morehead State Geology program throughout his life. He created two endowments with the MSU Foundation to help students involved with the Morehead Geological Society. The Dr. Richard A. Walls Scholarship is awarded annually in the name of three of Wall's mentors, Dr. H. W. Straley III, Dr. Jules DuBar, and Dr. John Philley. The endowment also funds scholarships for students to attend field camps. Additionally, Walls provided the funding to create a research endowment supporting faculty and student-applied

research activities. The two endowments he established have a combined market value of over \$600,000.

"Dick was always willing to support the Geology program here at MSU," said Walls' longtime friend and MSU geology professor emeritus, Charlie Mason (Class of 1975). "He was a good friend who cared about the students here in Eastern Kentucky. He wanted to support them to get out in the field and learn. So many students have benefitted from his generosity, and I am glad his legacy will be passed down and continue to inspire future geologists."

Walls passed away Wednesday, Aug. 2, surrounded by his wife, Carolina, and their children. To read Walls' complete obituary, please visit <https://calgaryherald.remembering.ca/obituary/richard-walls-1088646980>.

To learn more about the Geology Program at MSU, please visit <https://www.moreheadstate.edu/academics/programs/geosciences-bs>.

Photo Caption: Walls, left, with his colleague and friend, Professor Emeritus Charles Mason.

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Board of Regents welcomes new members

Four new members were sworn in at the meeting of the Morehead State Board of Regents on Friday, Aug. 18.

The new regents are:

- Student Regent Presley Boyer
- Faculty Regent Dr. Joyce Stubbs
- Appointees Rhonda Jennings Blackburn and John Holbrook

Boyer is a senior biomedical science major from Louisa, Kentucky, and president of the MSU Student Government Association. She was elected by the student body.

Stubbs is an associate professor of engineering and technology management and is administration certified for career and technical education. She was elected by the faculty.

Blackburn is an associate general counsel with Pikeville Medical Center, Inc. focusing primarily on risk management and litigation management.

Holbrook is the business manager-financial secretary-treasurer of the Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council, covering 32 counties in Eastern Kentucky, South Central Ohio, and Southern West Virginia.

In addition, the board elected officers during the meeting. Eric Howard will serve as chair, Sanford Holbrook will serve as vice chair, and Mary Fister-Tucker was reappointed treasurer. Jessica Stigall will serve as board secretary.

MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan recognized Groundskeeper Melissa Brown, the MSU Women's Golf Team and Head Coach Stephanie Barker, and Dr. Wilson González-Espada, professor of physics and science education, for their accomplishments and contributions to the University.

President Morgan presented reports to the board on personal service contracts, real property leases, the 2024 employee health plan, a university bond sale, and a feasibility study for a proposed new residence hall.

The board approved asset preservation projects which included renovations for Nunn Hall, Ginger Hall, Laughlin Health Building, and a water retention basin. They also approved seeking reimbursement for costs related to asset preservation capital projects and the razing of Wetherby Gymnasium. The board approved contracts for the athletic director and coaches, revisions to the student code of conduct, Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) Governing Board certification, and the University's 2023-24 operating budget.

The next meeting is Nov. 3, 2023.

Photo Captions:

From left, MSU president Dr. Jay Morgan, Melissa Brown, the Women's Golf Team, Head Coach Stephanie Barker, and Dr. Wilson González-Espada.

Members of the Board: Front row, from left: Dr. Joyce Stubbs, Dr. Joel Pace, Presley Boyer, Rhonda Jennings Blackburn, Wayne Martin, and MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan. Second row, from left, Craig Preece, Adam Hinton, Sanford Holbrook, Eric Howard, John Holbrook, and Arthur Walker.

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



Communications & Marketing
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Email: news@moreheadstate.edu
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NEWS RELEASE

Aug. 21, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Board of Regents welcomes new members

Four new members were sworn in at the meeting of the Morehead State Board of Regents on Friday, Aug. 18.

The new regents are:

- Student Regent Presley Boyer
- Faculty Regent Dr. Joyce Stubbs
- Appointees Rhonda Jennings Blackburn and John Holbrook

Boyer is a senior biomedical science major from Louisa, Kentucky, and president of the MSU Student Government Association. She was elected by the student body.

Stubbs is an associate professor of engineering and technology management and is administration certified for career and technical education. She was elected by the faculty.

Blackburn is an associate general counsel with Pikeville Medical Center, Inc. focusing primarily on risk management and litigation management.

Holbrook is the business manager-financial secretary-treasurer of the Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council, covering 32 counties in Eastern Kentucky, South Central Ohio, and Southern West Virginia.

In addition, the board elected officers during the meeting. Eric Howard will serve as chair, Sanford Holbrook will serve as vice chair, and Mary Fister-Tucker was reappointed treasurer. Jessica Stigall will serve as board secretary.

MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan recognized Groundskeeper Melissa Brown, the MSU Women's Golf Team and Head Coach Stephanie Barker, and Dr. Wilson González-Espada, professor of physics and science education, for their accomplishments and contributions to the University.

President Morgan presented reports to the board on personal service contracts, real property leases, the 2024 employee health plan, a university bond sale, and a feasibility study for a proposed new residence hall.

The board approved asset preservation projects which included renovations for Nunn Hall, Ginger Hall, Laughlin Health Building, and a water retention basin. They also approved seeking reimbursement for costs related to asset preservation capital projects and the razing of Wetherby Gymnasium. The board approved contracts for the athletic director and coaches, revisions to the student code of conduct, Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) Governing Board certification, and the University's 2023-24 operating budget.

The next meeting is Nov. 3, 2023.

Photo Captions:

From left, MSU president Dr. Jay Morgan, Melissa Brown, the Women's Golf Team, Head Coach Stephanie Barker, and Dr. Wilson González-Espada.

Members of the Board: Front row, from left: Dr. Joyce Stubbs, Dr. Joel Pace, Presley Boyer, Rhonda Jennings Blackburn, Wayne Martin, and MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan. Second row, from left, Craig Preece, Adam Hinton, Sanford Holbrook, Eric Howard, John Holbrook, and Arthur Walker.

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NEWS RELEASE

Aug. 21, 2023
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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

KCTM student Lucy Becker receives IBMA Foundation scholarship

Lucy Becker, a student in Morehead State University's traditional music program, recently received two prestigious scholarships from the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) Foundation. She earned the Sally Ann Forrester Scholarship and the Rick Lang Music Songwriter Scholarship.

Originally from Lexington, Becker is a singer, songwriter, and fiddle player who teaches private lessons and performs with various bands. She had previously attended the University of Kentucky and studied classical violin and opera. After spending two years there, Becker took time off and worked full-time. She later contacted her fiddle teacher and Kentucky Center for Traditional Music (KCTM) instructor Jesse Wells and mentioned wanting to pursue music again.

"He encouraged me to come take a tour at the Kentucky Center for Traditional Music at Morehead State University, and after spending a day meeting all of the faculty, I had fallen in love with the program and the campus," Becker said. "Morehead is such an incredible place for creative students to thrive. There are countless places to get outside and enjoy nature, tons of performance opportunities, and constantly faculty and staff looking for ways to provide these opportunities to students and prepare them for the professional world."

Becker came to KCTM and took classes in everything from chart writing to songwriting while gaining the professional playing experience and guidance she needed to pursue a professional career.

"It isn't uncommon to hear Lucy in the practice rooms for hours at a time, see her scheduling a time with fellow students to help them with their parts, or passing these traditions on to the next generation by giving lessons to young children in our community," said KCTM Director Daxson Lewis.

In addition to the scholarships providing financial support for Becker to pursue a career as a performer, songwriter, and music teacher, it also continues to spotlight the quality and possibilities of MSU's traditional music program.

"Our students' academic and professional excellence is partially a reflection of the quality of education they receive from the traditional music program at Morehead State University," Lewis said. "These successes also highlight the effectiveness of the KCTM's teaching pedagogy and the positive impact our uniquely qualified faculty have on the lives and careers of our students. This program enables students to pursue their passions and dreams – a gift that they will carry for the rest of their lives."

To learn more about [KCTM and its programs](#), contact kctm@moreheadstate.edu or [606-783-9001](tel:606-783-9001).

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NEWS RELEASE

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

MSU Student Government Association announces 2023-24 executive officers

Morehead State University's Student Government Association (SGA) elected executive officers for the 2023-24 academic year.

The Student Government Association addresses student concerns, improves the overall quality of student life, and works to make the MSU experience the best for current and future students.

PRESLEY BOYER – PRESIDENT

Presley Boyer is a biomedical science major from Louisa. She has served as an SGA at-large senator for 2020-21 and two terms as vice president of campus involvement for 2021-22 and 2022-23. She has worked as a peer leader for Student Support Services, a work-study for Accounting and Financial Services, and serves as student regent. She is also on the executive board for the Residence Hall Association as the program coordinator. Boyer is involved in MSU 4 Paws, NRHH, the STEPS program, and the Pre-Med club. You can contact Boyer via email at pboyer@moreheadstate.edu.

CLAYTON ANDERSON – VICE PRESIDENT

Clayton Anderson is a business administration and legal studies student from Stanton. He is currently the president of the Residence Hall Association, a member of Student Alumni Ambassadors, and works as a resident advisor. He previously served as an at-large representative, the College of Business representative, the vice president of administration during the 2021-22 academic year, and the vice president of finance during the 2022-23 academic year. You can contact Anderson via email at canderson4@moreheadstate.edu.

TESS RUEHRMUND – SECRETARY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Tess Ruehrmund is a nursing and Spanish double major from Cardington, Ohio. She is a resident advisor and a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority and College Democrats.

She has served as an at-large senator during the 2021-22 academic year and as the vice president of administration for the Student Government Association during the 2022-23 academic year. You can contact Ruehrmund via email at tdruehrmund@moreheadstate.edu.

BRADY LAWSON – SECRETARY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Brady Lawson is a political science student from Ezel. He currently also serves as the president of the MSU College Democrats. He served on SGA as an at-large representative during the 2021-22 academic year, commuter representative and chief of staff from April 2022 – January 2023, and vice president of public relations since January 2023. You can contact Lawson via email at blawson3@moreheadstate.edu.

EMMA SHERMAN – SECRETARY OF CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

Emma Sherman is an agribusiness major from Sadieville. She is a sitter for MSU 4 Paws, a member of the Student Alumni Ambassadors, Agribusiness Club, and serves as secretary of the National Residence Hall Honorary. She served in SGA as a first-year representative during the 2022-23 academic year and as chief of staff from January 2023 through April 2023. You can contact Sherman via email at egsherman2@moreheadstate.edu.

To learn more about [SGA](#), contact sga@moreheadstate.edu or [606-783-2071](tel:606-783-2071).

Photo: MSU's Student Government Association elected executive officers for the 2023-24 academic year.

Left to right: Brady Lawson, Tess Ruehrmund, Presley Boyer, Emma Sherman and Clayton Anderson.

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NEWS RELEASE

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

Pre-med student gains hospital career experience in Italy

Bryce Allen always dreamed of exploring Italy's cuisine and culture, and this summer, the Morehead State junior had the opportunity to achieve that dream while gaining valuable professional experience.

Allen is from Paintsville and is a biomedical science, pre-medicine major. After researching online, he decided to participate in a job shadowing program through the Doctors in Italy Fellowship. The program combines intensive clinical rotation with in-depth immersion in Italian culture in Rome, Florence, Milan, and others. Allen's fellowship was in Rome and lasted three weeks.

"It was crucial for me to select a program that was not only based in Italy but offered the opportunity to shadow doctors. I landed on my specific program because it provided the perfect balance between acquiring hours and knowledge under doctors while offering ample time and group excursions to soak up the culture and history of Rome," Allen said.

During his fellowship, Allen spent a week shadowing doctors at a private hospital, Bio-Medico Campus University Hospital, and two weeks at a historic public hospital, San Giovanni Addolorata Hospital. During the fellowship, Allen could observe several surgeries and unique patient interactions in cardiology, plastic surgery, ear, nose, and several other specialties. Allen said he learned about 15 specialties while he was in Italy. He was also able to interact with doctors and ask about patient care and the day-to-day stresses and rewards of the profession.

"My program provided a very realistic and varied experience of what a career in medicine looks like. As a pre-med student, getting hours shadowing doctors is something medical schools stress to undergraduate students as a top priority," Allen said. "My participation in the program allowed me to walk away feeling confident that I have made the right decision in pursuing a career in medicine."

Allen said he found the idea of navigating Rome a bit daunting but said the fellowship coordinators helped him feel at home during his travels.

"When entering a new country and especially coming from a rural background, it was nerve-racking to think about navigating such a large city and public transport systems with which I have no prior experience. However, the program coordinators were beyond accommodating," Allen said. "Having a local at your fingertips to guide you through the Italian lifestyle was convenient and allowed us to gain insight into things we wouldn't have learned without them. They truly made the trip special and ensured our comfort and safety throughout the duration of the program."

The fellowship allowed him to fully immerse himself in Italian culture, art, and cuisine. Planned excursions allowed him to see Rome's architectural, artistic, and cultural sites, and dinners with the program coordinators let him learn about authentic Italian culture.

"I feel I learned so much about life itself from the Italian people and lifestyle," Allen said. "Watching locals live their lives over a three-week period inspired me to slow down, take a deep breath, and attempt to soak up every second I'm fortunate enough to have."

For more information about MSU's biomedical sciences programs, email bioc@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2945.

To learn more about Education Abroad opportunities, email Program Coordinator Aaron Hirsch at aghirsch@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2044.

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NEWS RELEASE

Aug. 24, 2023
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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

MSU at Mt. Sterling celebrates 20th anniversary

Morehead State University has a history of educating and serving the region that includes outreach through regional campuses like MSU at Mt. Sterling.

Next month, MSU at Mt. Sterling celebrates its 20th anniversary with a special celebration that takes place at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 7, at the MSU at Mt. Sterling campus located at the Clay Community Center, 3400 Indian Mound Drive in Mt. Sterling.

The 20th-anniversary celebration is a reception followed by dinner and a program to celebrate the past and commemorate the future of MSU at Mt. Sterling.

Dr. Chris Miller, professor of education and director of MSU at Mt. Sterling, said he learned of the campus's 20th anniversary as it prepared for an upcoming SACSCOC (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges) accreditation visit. He knew the regional campus needed to do something special to mark the occasion.

"MSU is proud to be a part of the Mt. Sterling/Montgomery County community and providing a place for students to seek opportunities to learn. We have top-notch nursing and social work programs here and a vibrant Eagle Scholars collaboration with Montgomery County Schools offering multiple dual-credit classes at the campus for approximately 100 students each year," Miller said. "Having a campus in Mt. Sterling opens up more opportunities for people to take classes locally and obtain an undergraduate degree. We look forward to helping launch more MSU Eagles over the next 20 years in Mt. Sterling."

Tickets that include individual sponsorship are \$60, and corporate sponsorship tickets (a table of eight guests and special recognition) are \$550. All event proceeds will assist with creating a new scholarship fund that will benefit MSU at Mt. Sterling students.

Advanced registration is required, and all guests must RSVP by Friday, Aug. 25.

To register online, visit alumni.moreheadstate.edu/mtsterling or call [606-783-2033](tel:606-783-2033).

Photo: The Mt. Sterling Chamber of Commerce welcomed Morehead State University President Dr. Jay Morgan and other officials from MSU to recognize the 20th anniversary of MSU at Mt. Sterling.

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NEWS RELEASE

Aug. 25, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Morehead State Alum Katie Hale named semi-finalist for Kentucky Teacher of the Year

Katie Hale (Class of 2011), a third-grade teacher at Ponderosa Elementary School in Boyd County, was among the semi-finalists selected for Kentucky's 2024 Teacher of the Year award. The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) selected 10 semi-finalists, with Hale among four teachers in the elementary school category. Hale also received KDE recognition as a 2024 Elementary School Teacher Achievement Award winner.

Hale has been an educator for 12 years in Boyd County and has taught at Ponderosa Elementary School for the last five years. She graduated from MSU with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education, K-5, and earned a master's degree in teaching leadership, K-12, from the University of the Cumberlands.

Hale serves in additional roles as a teacher leader, a mentor teacher to first-year educators, and a digital learning coach. She is obtaining her National Board certification as a middle childhood generalist.

"MSU is known for developing strong educators. The undergraduate programs here prepare teachers who are ready to teach students in the classroom, but also for leadership roles in the schools," said Dr. April Miller, dean of the Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education.

"Katie Hale was a very good student and showed potential early on. She has used her knowledge and skills of teaching to create a rich environment for students. This nomination is well-deserved, and we are extremely proud to have another of our undergraduate graduates in the running for the Kentucky Teacher of the Year."

To learn more about the Volgenau College of Education and its programs, call [606-783-2162](tel:606-783-2162) or visit moreheadstate.edu/education.

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NEWS RELEASE

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

Morehead State names new veterans and military enrollment counselor

Morehead State University's Office of Enrollment Services announces Jeremy Glover is the new enrollment services counselor for military and adult students in the Transition Center. The Rowan County native is a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

"We are incredibly pleased to have Jeremy join the transition services team," said Jen Timmermann, director of transition services. "His extensive military experience, along with his dedication to student success, will prove to be a great benefit to each student he works with."

Glover's primary role will be to assist veteran, military-connected, and adult students with admissions, advising, and other student services. He will also be the liaison between veteran/military-connected students and MSU faculty and staff.

"I am excited to be working in my hometown but still have a connection to the military through military-affiliated students," Glover said. "I'm looking forward to helping veteran and military-affiliated, as well as adult students, through their college journey."

MSU was named a 2022-23 Gold-level Military Friendly School® for 2022-23 by Victory and recognized as a 2023-24 College of Distinction for Military Support.

[Military](#) and [adult students](#) interested in learning about MSU can contact Jeremy Glover at jglover@moreheadstate.edu or [606-783-2821](tel:606-783-2821).

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NEWS RELEASE

Aug. 30, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Craft Family Doubles Down on Craft Academy at Morehead State

Morehead State University's Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics is growing to new heights through increased support from the Kentucky General Assembly. Additionally, Dr. Joe Craft and Ambassador Kelly Craft are contributing additional funds for the expansion of the Academy.

"We are very appreciative of the Commonwealth and General Assembly for providing funds to grow the Academy, and to the Craft Family for their generous sponsorship and support of an additional 40 more students," says MSU President Jay Morgan. With this expansion, the Craft Academy will become the largest in the state, with the opportunity to enroll 240 students.

"The Crafts have been unyielding in their support of our students, and it is appreciated," said Morgan.

The announcement was made at an open house event on Tuesday, Aug. 29 where Joe Craft spoke to the 177 Craft Academy students. The event also showcased the Academy's new and modern facilities, located in Alumni Tower. Guests had the opportunity to explore the recently revamped facility. The space includes an expanded maker space, improved study spaces, a new computer lab, and tools conducive to an advanced learning environment.

The Craft Academy for Excellence in Science in Mathematics has graduated seven classes since opening in 2015. According to various reviews, it ranks among the top high schools in the United States. Most students come from east of I-64, including many from eastern Kentucky.

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

seniors in the Commonwealth. The academic rigor of the Craft Academy challenges students to excel at their highest level through project-based STEM+X courses and hands-on learning experiences with an emphasis on innovation, design and creativity, and civic and regional engagement.

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

Photo Caption: Dr. Joe Craft spoke to students during the open house for the Academy's new facilities.

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NEWS RELEASE

Aug. 30, 2023
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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Dr. Amy Staton named director of MSU's veterinary technology programs

Dr. Amy Staton (Class of 2003, 2004, and 2013), associate professor of veterinary technology, has been named as the new program director of the veterinary science program.

Staton joined the veterinary technology team at MSU in the fall of 2008 and teaches animal husbandry, radiology, and surgical nursing. She is replacing Dr. Philip Prater, who retired after 25 years at MSU this summer.

Staton said the focus of the program has always been student success.

“Graduates of this program are in high demand because of the proficiency they gain during their educational career. The MSU VT Program is one of the top in the nation. The VT faculty truly care about the success of our students, and we work diligently to be one of the best and to make student dreams become a reality,” she said.

Staton began her work with animals early, working as a veterinary assistant while attending college. She earned her associate and bachelor’s degrees in veterinary technology and her Doctorate of Education from MSU. She completed her preceptorship at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. After graduation, Staton worked as a veterinary technologist in large and small animal private practice before coming to MSU. Staton’s research interests include applying interactive virtual simulation to the classroom and the human-animal bond.

“Veterinary medicine has been my passion since I was a young girl. I am privileged to share my passion with others and to make a positive impact on the profession,” Staton said. “Being a faculty member in this program has truly been the highlight of my career. There is no greater joy than to see your students succeed in the profession.”

For more information about [veterinary technology programs](#) at MSU, email agsi@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-2662](tel:606-783-2662).

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