



Communications & Marketing
Morehead State University
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Morehead, KY 40351

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

NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 5, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

NASA administrator kicks off 2023 McBrayer Lecture Series

NASA Administrator Bill Nelson will kick off Morehead State's McBrayer Presidential Lecture Series this year with his keynote address at the inaugural Appalachian Space Technology and Research Advancements Conference (ASTRA-CON) on Friday, Sept. 15, at 1 p.m. in the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC) ballroom.

Nelson was named the 14th NASA administrator on May 3, 2021. Before becoming administrator, he represented the state of Florida for 18 years in the U.S. Senate and 12 years in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1986, he trained and flew with the crew of the Space Shuttle Columbia. They orbited Earth 98 times over six days, and Nelson conducted 12 medical experiments, including the first American stress test in space on a treadmill and cancer research.

ASTRA-CON will be held Sept. 14-16 at Morehead State. The conference aims to create a space for collaboration between aerospace companies, space research institutions, and students. The event will feature speakers, student presentations, discussion groups, workshops, exhibitor booths, and more.

Space Science Center Executive Director, Dr. Ben Malphrus, said students have played a key role in creating the conference.

"ASTRA-Con is student-led and student-invented. Everyone from students to Space Science Center staff to university officials here at Morehead State University has had some role in planning, organizing, and hosting ASTRA-Con," Malphrus said. "We couldn't be more excited to give our students this networking experience and a chance to listen to professionals in the field and hope to foster a future of success through this conference. Anyone interested in space, the aerospace industry, or high-tech economic development in the region has a reason to attend."

The McBrayer lecture series is named in honor of MSU alumnus W. Terry McBrayer (Class of 59), who gave the University a generous gift supporting the lecture series and

student scholarships. McBrayer was a lobbyist, attorney, and former politician in Lexington. He was a senior partner and lead lobbyist for the McBrayer, McGinnis, Leslie, and Kirkland law firm. McBrayer was a native of Greenup County, and in addition to graduating from MSU, he also attended the Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville. He was elected to the MSU Alumni Hall of Fame in 1966 and was awarded an honorary doctoral degree in 1975.

Learn more about ASTRA-CON by emailing Mission Operations Engineer and Spacecraft Operator Emily Ballantyne at eballantyne@moreheadstate.edu.

For more information about Morehead State's [Department of Physics, Earth Science, and Space Systems Engineering](#) programs, email phes@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-2381](tel:606-783-2381).

Photo credit: NASA

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NEWS RELEASE

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Macie Lowe hired as KAC arts program administrator

Macie Lowe (Class of 2023) recently took on an administrative role with the Kentucky Arts Council (KAC). KAC hired Lowe for its arts program administrator (grant manager) position where she will assist the program directors with the several grants the council offers. Lowe's other responsibilities include data entry, panels, application assistance, and record retention.

Lowe earned a Bachelor of Arts in Art and was an Undergraduate Research Fellow for two years with the Golding-Yang Art Gallery on campus. She also contributed a design to the 18-panel Morehead Rotary Club mural on the side of the Local Taco restaurant in downtown Morehead.

Her time at MSU sparked an interest in a career in arts administration. This past summer, Lowe completed an internship fellowship with the Gateway Regional Arts Center (GRAC) in Mt. Sterling.

Professor of Art Lisa Mesa-Gaido was one of Lowe's instructors who recommended her for the GRAC internship.

"Macie took advantage of so many opportunities while a student and recent grad to prepare herself for the Kentucky Arts Council position - taking studio and art history classes, working in the Golding-Yang Gallery as an Undergraduate Research Fellow, interning at the Gateway Regional Art Center, and volunteering to promote art in her community," Mesa-Gaido said. "Her working for the Kentucky Arts Council is an incredible accomplishment. Macie's passion for the arts and the vital role it plays in communities will benefit the entire Commonwealth."

Lowe said she hopes to utilize her Morehead State experience in her new role, helping artists of the Commonwealth complete their grant applications so they have "the support to express their various cultures and backgrounds through art."

"MSU helped me realize my passion in many ways. From having the opportunity to work in the gallery through my Undergraduate Research Fellowship, I was able to be exposed to arts administration and all the opportunities to support artisans and makers that come with that," Lowe said. "The professors in the art department were the most supportive people. They truly rooted for my success and gave me tools to become the artist I am today."

To learn more about [MSU programs in art and design](#), email arde@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-2766](tel:606-783-2766).

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Morehead State Family Weekend is Sept. 15-16

Morehead State University students will be ready to welcome loved ones to campus for a special weekend this month. MSU will hold its annual Family Weekend on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 15-16.

The University will plan two days' worth of campus activities for Eagle students and families. The Family Weekend schedule also includes events in downtown Morehead.

"We have several fun activities that families can do together, such as the Eagle Family Carnival and the Eagle Family Brunch. This year, the carnival is a new event and will offer a lot of carnival games, prizes, food, as well as an 18-hole mini golf course," said Lora Pace, director of First and Second Year Programs. "Family Weekend is a great opportunity for families to visit campus, see their students, and make lasting memories."

SCHEDULE:

Friday, Sept. 15

- Check-in, registration and Family Weekend T-shirts – 6-9 p.m., Bell Tower
- Eagle Family Carnival – 7-9 p.m., ADUC Lawn

Saturday, Sept. 16

- Check-in, picking up registration tags and Family Weekend T-shirts – 8:30-10:30 a.m., ADUC Prefontaine Pub
- Eagle Family Brunch – 9-11 a.m., Prefontaine Pub
- Family Association Meeting – 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., ADUC 310
- [Morehead Arts & Crafts Festival](#) – 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Main Street

Registration fee is \$15 per person and \$5 for MSU students. The fee includes the Eagle Family Carnival, Eagle Family Brunch, Family Weekend T-shirt, a 10% discount at the MSU Bookstore, and free access to the Recreation and Wellness Center on Sept. 15-16.

[Register online](#) for Family Weekend events.

To learn more about [MSU student activities](#), contact studentactivities@moreheadstate.edu or [606-783-2071](tel:606-783-2071).

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Former MSU President Dr. Morris Norfleet dies

Former Morehead State University President Dr. Morris Norfleet passed away Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023, at the Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital Jean Waddle Care Center at 92.

Norfleet was inaugurated as MSU's eighth president in 1977 and served until 1984. Before serving as president, Norfleet worked for 26 years as an administrator, starting his MSU career as the director of student teaching in 1962 and later becoming the vice president of research and development. During his tenure, he served as a special consultant of corporate relations for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and as chair of the Jesse Stuart Foundation Board of Directors.

Morris graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1952 and began teaching in Spiceland, Indiana. He then obtained his Doctor of Philosophy from Purdue University in 1962.

Norfleet was a faithful Christian who served as a church deacon and a Sunday school teacher. He participated in numerous mission trips to Russia, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Djibouti, Brazil, and eastern Kentucky. In 2006, he received the Missionary of the Year award in Kentucky.

Morris is survived by his wife of more than 70 years, Loistene Tarter Norfleet; a son, Douglas Lee (Lora Lee) Norfleet of Nancy; a grandson, Brandon Lee Norfleet of Nashville, TN, and a granddaughter, Ashley Elizabeth Norfleet of Louisville.

At 1 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 7, a funeral service will be held at the Chapel of Morris and Hislope Funeral Home with Bro. John Piercy officiating. Interment will be in the Norfleet Cemetery.

A visitation will be held after 10 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 7, at Morris & Hislope Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hospice of Lake Cumberland or Gideons International in memory of Morris Norfleet.

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Sept. 7, 2023
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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Emily Randall Colclough Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund established

The Morehead State University Foundation is honored to announce the establishment of the Emily Randall Colclough Memorial Scholarship.

Emily Colclough, the scholarship namesake, passed away unexpectedly in February 2022. She graduated from Sayre School in Lexington. She was a member of the National Honors Society and earned the College Board Advanced Placement Scholar Award, and Alumni Award. She received a Provost Scholarship to attend the University of Kentucky, where she majored in history and economics. Not only was she recognized for her academic achievements throughout her educational career, but she had a deep-rooted love for animals and left behind three cherished pets.

To honor her memory and love for animals, Colclough's mother, Elizabeth, created a generous scholarship fund at Morehead State. The timing of the scholarship coincided with her late daughter's 30th birthday.

"I am honored to be able to help students with their educational journey," Elizabeth said. "Emily's love for animals was an important part of her life. She was such an upbeat and positive light in the world. She was once described as lighting the room up on the darkest of days. I hope that this scholarship brings a bright light to the students that it supports. Celebrating her legacy and providing scholarships in her name to others who love animals is something that is so special to me."

This scholarship supports juniors and seniors pursuing a veterinary sciences or veterinary technology degree. Applicants must be from MSU's 22-county service region and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above.

The 2023-24 scholarship recipient is Annika Weaver, a veterinary science major from Richmond.

"I have always had an interest in science," Weaver said. "Animals, in particular, are fascinating and important to our daily lives. I am honored to receive this scholarship as it will have a tremendous impact on my education."

For more information on this scholarship or to create your endowment, contact MSU's Office of Alumni Relations & Development by calling [606-783-2033](tel:606-783-2033) or emailing giving@moreheadstate.edu.

To learn more about [MSU's Veterinary Sciences programs](#), contact agsi@moreheadstate.edu or [606-783-2662](tel:606-783-2662).

Photo, left to right: Elizabeth Colclough and her late daughter Emily Colclough. Elizabeth established the Emily Randall Colclough Memorial Scholarship in her daughter's memory.

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Rebecca Roach appointed member of RAC Comprehensive Center Program

The U.S. Department of Education (DOE) recently appointed Dr. Rebecca Roach, assistant professor of education, as a Regional Advisory Committees (RAC) member for the Comprehensive Center Program for the Appalachia RAC.

MSU's Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education is a hub for the Rural School Collaborative (RSC). Roach is the director of MSU's Appalachian Future Educator program, a part of the RSC. Dr. April Miller, dean of the College of Education, nominated Roach for the role.

Roach's extensive experience as an educator in Eastern Kentucky and her passion for the region fuels her involvement with teachers in surrounding communities.

"My family's roots are in Eastern Kentucky, and I love this region," Roach said. "I feel a deep sense of loyalty and commitment to where we are from."

As a representative, Roach will objectively gather and organize information and stakeholders' views. She will also attend committee meetings and engage in needs-sensing activities with education stakeholders.

"I am so proud to represent Appalachia in my service. I hope to collect and provide data that will help inform the Department of Education's decisions," Roach said. "Our educators, children, families, and communities deserve to have their needs met by our government, and this outreach is a way to make this happen. It is an honor to serve."

Roach can be reached at r.roach@moreheadstate.edu.

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

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Art Professor Lisa Mesa-Gaido exhibits at Morlan Gallery

Morehead State University Professor of Art Lisa Mesa-Gaido is participating in an upcoming exhibition. The Morlan Gallery at Transylvania University in Lexington invited her to be part of a five-person exhibit titled “Dis/Belief: Skeptical Realities and the Power of Interrogating Assumptions.”

This exhibit takes place from Sept. 11 through Oct. 6, with an opening reception during Lexington’s Gallery Hop on Friday, Sept. 15.

“The theme of the exhibition explores the diverse and complicated ways in which we engage with skepticism and belief in the pursuit of knowledge,” said Anthony Meade, director of the Morlan Gallery. “Skepticism, at its core, is a mode of questioning and doubting, a demand for evidence and rigorous inquiry. It is a powerful tool for exposing biases and challenging authority for good or for ill.”

Mesa-Gaido will display two installations and multiple pieces from her personal “Then and Now Series.” The artwork touches on the unfavorable conditions in her parents’ home country of Cuba, the oppressive history of its government, and the aid offered by everyone from individual U.S. citizens to international organizations to assist the Cuban people during trying times.

Lisa Mesa-Gaido can be reached at e.mesagaido@moreheadstate.edu or [606-783-2763](tel:606-783-2763).

For more information about programs in [Art and Design](#) and the Golding-Yang Art Gallery, please email arde@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-2766](tel:606-783-2766).

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WMKY's 'Pickin' Parlor' debuts Sept. 17

Morehead State Public Radio will air a new two-hour program of acoustic-based traditional, folk, bluegrass, country, and Americana music starting Sunday, Sept. 17.

Locally hosted by Traditional Music Student Anabel Peterman, "Pickin' Parlor" can be heard on Sunday afternoon and joins other new weekend programs, including:

- "Bluegrass Diversion"
- "Folk Alley"
- "High Country Celtic Radio"
- "The Midnight Special"

Peterman, a senior traditional music major from Carlisle, has worked at Morehead State Public Radio (MSPR) and performed with the Kentucky Center for Traditional Music (KCTM).

"I've participated in old-time, bluegrass, country, and songwriter's ensembles at KCTM," said Peterman. "My main instruments are voice and bass, but I also play mountain dulcimer and guitar."

Peterman says growing up in Kentucky, she has been surrounded by bluegrass and country music. Her experiences at KCTM have helped her appreciate the culture and history of the music.

"I've truly immersed myself in Appalachian and folk music through KCTM. I've learned about the rich tradition of folk music and musicians as storytellers," says Peterman. "I love telling my stories, and I want to share the stories of musicians."

Working as a student news reporter and audio announcer at MSPR since 2022, Peterman is thankful for the opportunity to host her own weekly music radio program.

"I didn't realize these opportunities existed. I'm so grateful to all my mentors and friends at MSPR and KCTM," she said. "I especially wish to thank Michelle Wallace (retired host of Bluegrass Sunday) for mentoring me through this process."

Peterman looks forward to carrying on the rich tradition of locally-hosted music programs on MSPR by presenting a wide array of acoustic-based Americana music on “Pickin’ Parlor.”

“I have a special appreciation for the entire folk and acoustic umbrella, so I hope to feature a wide variety of acoustic music,” says Peterman. “I hope to share classic songs, ballads, and regional singers and songwriters, tunes from the 18th century to today, and everything in between.”

“Pickin’ Parlor” with Anabel Peterman debuts on Morehead State Public Radio (WMKY) on Sunday, Sept. 17, from noon to 2 p.m.

WMKY serves more than 20 counties throughout eastern Kentucky from the campus of Morehead State University. Listeners can enjoy WMKY at 90.3FM, online at www.wmky.org, by phone app, or smart speaker by saying “play WMKY.”

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Alum and poet Willie Carver to visit MSU

A Kentucky poet and former educator will visit Morehead State for a poetry workshop, reading, and book signing on Tuesday, Sept. 19.

Willie Carver (Class of 2006 and 2010) will hold a poetry workshop in Breckinridge Hall, room 217, from 2 to 4 p.m. He will have a discussion and book signing from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the Adron Doran University Center theater, featuring his new work, "Gay Poems for Red States." Carver will read from his collection of queer narrative poetry and will discuss hope as a necessary concept in meaningful, community-based advocacy. He will discuss his experiences winning Teacher of the Year, testifying before the U.S. Congress, leaving K-12 education, and advocating for some of Kentucky's most vulnerable youth.

Carver earned a bachelor's degree in English and French literature and culture from MSU in 2006, a master's degree in French and English teaching in 2010, and has completed post-graduate work in English language and literature.

In addition to being named Teacher of the Year, Carver was named the 2022 Kentucky Department of Education Teacher Ambassador and recipient of the 2021 University of Kentucky Teachers Who Make a Difference Award.

"People will have the opportunity to enjoy poignant poetry, meet the 2022 Kentucky Teacher of the Year, and reflect upon LGBT lives in red states," said Dr. Bernadette Barton, director of the gender studies program at MSU.

The events are free and open to the public.

Learn more about MSU's [gender studies program](#) by emailing Director Dr. Bernadette Barton at b.barton@moreheadstate.edu or calling [606-783-2710](tel:606-783-2710).

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Former MSU at Mt. Sterling director Kenney honored with namesake scholarship

Morehead State University's MSU at Mt. Sterling campus is celebrating 20 years this month and marked the occasion by creating a scholarship endowment in honor of the regional campus' first director, Dr. Janet Kenney.

The Dr. Janet Kenney Scholarship Endowment was created at a special celebration to celebrate 20 years of the MSU at Mt. Sterling campus. Held on Thursday, September 7, the event had nearly 150 guests in attendance and highlighted the campus' impact on students and the Mt. Sterling community over the last two decades.

The event raised nearly \$7,000 to help create the new scholarship.

Dr. Kenney was instrumental in the early successes of the regional campus and served as its first director. She served as director from 2003 to 2014. Before that, she was a professor of communication and chair of the then-named Department of Communication and Theatre at MSU.

During the surprise announcement, she received a plaque to honor her devoted service to the MSU at Mt. Sterling campus. The Dr. Janet Kenney Scholarship Endowment is for students studying at MSU at Mt. Sterling.

"It was a wonderful night to celebrate with alumni and friends the importance and significance of MSU's Mt. Sterling family," said Rick Hesterberg (Class of 1980), vice president for University Advancement. "This community and campus continue to be a testament to the power of education, unity, and the enduring spirit of our shared journey over the past two decades."

View a photo gallery from the event at <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjATWze>.

A video can be found at <https://youtu.be/ISMblquEtpw>.

To financially contribute to support the Dr. Janet Kenney Scholarship Endowment, visit alumni.moreheadstate.edu/kenney.

Photo: Dr. Janet Kenney, the first director of MSU at Mt. Sterling, was honored with the creation of the Dr. Janet Kenney Scholarship Endowment during the MSU at Mt. Sterling 20th Anniversary Celebration.

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Art Professors Gary and Lisa Mesa-Gaido chosen for ArtPrize international exhibition

Morehead State University art faculty will exhibit at the ArtPrize in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The international art competition and exhibition chose MSU Professors of Art Gary Mesa-Gaido and Lisa Mesa-Gaido to display their work in the Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC) Art Gallery. They will show their work during the ArtPrize competition from Sept. 14 through Oct. 1.

ArtPrize is an independent art competition that highlights and celebrates international artists across all mediums and displays art in various locations around the city.

Gary will exhibit a digital animation, "String Theory Series Part 2." His vision statement describes the eight-and-a-half-minute digital animation with audio attempts to provide a visual representation of the quantum physics concept of String Theory.

"I am inspired to visualize this theory, not literally, but through invention and experimentation," he said. "I use trial and error techniques as well as variations on themes with digital tools to create purely digital images, and through built-in algorithms, edit, manipulate, and process those images to create snapshots of the conceptual representation of the theory."

Gary previously exhibited work during the 2022 ArtPrize competition and art showcase and was the Juried Awards Digital Winner for his entry "Deviations of a Gothic Arch Part 2." This honor included a \$10,000 prize.

Lisa will exhibit her installation, "Pandemic Clouds," which was made possible with help from the Kentucky Arts Council. The installation was created with textiles from countries worldwide, speaking to the global reach of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"These make connections between the fear of a virus made up of particles, too small to be seen, with the joy of an expansive skyscape - the outdoors being a way to escape

our protective enclosures while safely engaging with others at a distance," Lisa said in her artist statement.

Gary Mesa-Gaido can be reached at g.mesaga@moreheadstate.edu or [606-783-5157](tel:606-783-5157).

Lisa Mesa-Gaido can be reached at e.mesagaido@moreheadstate.edu or [606-783-2763](tel:606-783-2763).

For more information about programs in [Art and Design](#) and the Golding-Yang Art Gallery, please email arde@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-2766](tel:606-783-2766).

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Craft Academy service project advances with 'Music on the Green'

Students from Morehead State's Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics are seeing their work on a service-learning project pay off with the launch of the Music on the Green concert series at the Hazel Green Academy (HGA).

The Craft Academy students on the HGA Leadership Team have been working on restoring HGA's campus in Wolfe County for the past two years. Their goal is to transform the campus into a vibrant educational outreach and community center while preserving its cultural significance and history.

Music on the Green is a community engagement initiative held on the HGA campus. The event will be held every Thursday from Sept. 14 to Nov. 9, from 6 to 8 p.m. The concerts and restoration project aim to attract tourism and raise funds to breathe new life into the community. The restored auditorium will be a venue for musicians, open mic nights, food trucks, concessions, and outdoor field day activities.

Admission to the event is free, but donations are welcome.

"Music on the Green not only seeks to entertain and engage attendees but also to preserve and revive the historical significance of HGA and its surroundings," wrote Dr. Rachel Rogers, visiting assistant professor of research/QEP at the Craft Academy. "The talented musicians who grace the stage will help drive momentum toward rebuilding this once-vibrant community. By showcasing the area's unique cultural heritage and offering a memorable experience to visitors, Music on the Green hopes to attract the attention and support necessary to restore Hazel Green's former glory."

Founded in 1880, the HGA was a residential academy where students learned about STEM, art, history, and religion. At its peak, the academy was accredited by the Kentucky Board of Education and focused on science and mathematics, like the Craft Academy. The HGA closed in 1983, and the remaining buildings have fallen into disrepair. The Craft Academy project aims to restore the buildings to create a community educational outreach center.

To learn more about the HGA restoration project, contact Rogers at rj.rogers@moreheadstate.edu or 606-783-2891.

The Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics is a residential academy for academically exceptionally gifted high school juniors and seniors. The Craft Academy provides students with a postsecondary residential experience to complete their junior and senior high school years by enrolling in college courses.

To learn more about the [Craft Academy](#), email craftacademy@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2093.

Follow progress on the project by following HGA on social media:

- Instagram: [hazel_green_academy](#)
- Twitter: [HazelGreenAcad](#)
- Facebook: [Hazel Green Academy Revitalization Project](#)

###

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NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 13, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Lacefield creates first endowed scholarship for space science

Eugene Lacefield has always had his sights set on outer space. He asked his mother for a telescope for his 11th birthday. She promised him one, but only if he read 11 books first.

Lacefield dove into science fiction, read 11 books and kept going. Since then, he has been fascinated by space exploration and extraterrestrial life.

Lacefield hopes to support other young minds interested in the field by creating a new scholarship endowment at MSU: The Eugene Lacefield Space Studies Endowment. Thanks to his generous \$100,000 contribution, future generations of MSU students will continue to shoot for the stars.

Lacefield, a graduate of the University of Kentucky and a longtime resident of central Kentucky was familiar with MSU's space science program. When a special edition of Kentucky Living magazine arrived in his mailbox, he chose to build an authentic connection between the program and himself.

The Lunar IceCube cube satellite, which was part of NASA's Artemis I mission, landed the MSU space systems engineering on the cover of the magazine. The cover story shared the impressive developments and learning opportunities at MSU's Space Science Center. Lacefield was fascinated to read that MSU's space systems engineering program was taking off for the moon.

The story was just what Lacefield needed to decide to sponsor a scholarship at a Kentucky university. His interest in space and the opportunities Morehead State was providing gave him the final nudge to turn his thoughts into action.

"Space exploration is the wave of the future. We can only see a glimpse of the opportunities the future holds," says Lacefield. "Seeing an increase in space exploration and education for our youth puts a smile on my face, and I'm happy to support the MSU space science program."

Lacefield's contribution created the first endowed scholarship specifically for space systems engineering students. The Eugene Lacefield Space Studies Endowment will provide annual scholarship awards to junior and senior students enrolled full-time in the Bachelor of Science in Space Systems Engineering program or graduate students enrolled in the Master of Science in Space Systems Engineering program.

"The Eugene Lacefield Space Studies Endowment is a great example of true philanthropic spirit," said Rick Hesterberg, vice president for University Advancement. "MSU is honored to be the beneficiary of Mr. Lacefield's generosity. These scholarship awards will forever honor his love for the field of space science."

The first recipient of the scholarship is Noah Patrick from Frenchburg. He is a graduate student in space systems engineering. Upon completing his master's degree, Patrick aspires to work alongside NASA and other great space companies.

"I am very honored to be the first recipient of the Eugene Lacefield Space Studies Scholarship," Patrick said. "This scholarship helps me continue my studies for my dream career and will aid me in leading the community in the advancement of space systems."

The Space Science Center at MSU, led by Space Science Center Executive Director Dr. Benjamin Malphrus, holds multiple contracts with NASA and other government agencies. The curriculum offers students hands-on learning opportunities within the field, preparing them to launch into a growing and competitive industry.

To learn more about [MSU's space systems engineering program](#), email phes@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-2381](tel:606-783-2381).

To start a scholarship to support an area you are passionate about, please contact the [MSU Office of Alumni Relations and Development](#) at [606-783-2033](tel:606-783-2033) or email giving@moreheadstate.edu.

Photo: Morehead State University's space science students and faculty built a Lunar IceCube CubeSat that was launched to the moon on NASA's Artemis I rocket.

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NEWS RELEASE

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

Students gain cultural enrichment and career preparation through Education Abroad

Morehead State University offers many experiences outside the classroom so its students can get the skills and expertise needed to pursue their passion and unlock their potential.

For one of those programs, students are gaining cultural and academic experience through MSU's Education Abroad program.

The Education Abroad program has allowed students to study internationally at a university or complete an internship in another country. The program cooperates with the Kentucky Institute for International Studies (KIIS) and the Cooperative Center for Study Abroad (CCSA). Through these partnerships, MSU students can travel to 25 countries, covering Canada, Mexico, several countries in Central America and South America, and overseas experiences ranging from London and France to Japan and South Korea. The Education Abroad experiences can last as short as a Spring Break, a month in the summer or an entire semester.

Ava Winstel, a senior from Fort Thomas, and Lakole Fields, a senior from Grayson, are education majors who participated in Education Abroad during spring break last year. MSU education students went on a 10-day trip to a non-English-speaking school in Vila Velha, Brazil. The practicum experience was at a large P-12 school teaching Brazilian students how to improve literacy skills in the English language.

"One of my favorite highlights of the trip was going to the school for the first time and being greeted by the sweetest students and staff. They would crowd around us just to take us in and hear us speak English. Every time we would come and leave the school, everyone would wave and want to take pictures of us," Winstel said. "The students would individually thank us for coming to their school, talking to them, and wanting to experience what they experience every day."

"I learned so much more than I ever expected from this trip. I honestly thought just being able to go to Brazil and be on the beach would be the highlight of my trip, but actually going to the school was my absolute favorite part of the trip," Fields said. "Getting to interact with the students and teach them about America was something I will never forget."

Dr. Gera Nelson, assistant professor of early childhood, elementary and special education, was one of the MSU faculty members who accompanied students on the Brazil trip, and it was her first Education Abroad experience.

"I was initially apprehensive about the MSU students getting too frustrated about the language barriers. However, our students improvised with Chromebooks and navigated the communication and teaching tasks with an incredible ease," Nelson said. "In the end, our students expressed their satisfaction with their ability to communicate with the students in Brazil and succeed teaching their lessons."

Aaron Hirsch, coordinator of Education Abroad, said that while the program has always had cultural and educational benefits to students, the focus has shifted to making students more career-ready. Since becoming a part of MSU's Center for Career Development and Experiential Education, almost every Education Abroad experience will count as a Level UP course where students can gain certification in one of five desirable career skills for potential employers.

"Lots of students would go on programs that might fit their personal interest but not necessarily their academic or career interests," Hirsch said. "We try to promote it on the impact it is going to have on your career moving forward. We're just trying to get you the most benefit for your financial investment."

Hirsch points out one of the benefits of Education Abroad can be a cost-beneficial choice when it comes to internships or practicums. Many internship opportunities are in larger Kentucky cities like Lexington, Louisville, or Frankfort. Since many MSU students are from the Eastern Kentucky service region, the cost to complete these internships adds up when you factor in travel expenses like food and gas or housing. For the same price, students can sometimes complete their internship or practicum while traveling internationally, whether they are a social work student getting work experience in Spain or an education student completing their practicum in South Korea.

If students qualify for a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, their Education Abroad experience could be cost-free. This prestigious scholarship is the U.S. Department of State's grant program, allowing students in need of financial support the opportunity to study and intern abroad. Hirsch said this past year, the Education Program awarded \$100,000 in scholarships through the Gilman Scholarship last year, "and we expect to be over that for the coming year." Students eligible for Pell Grants are also eligible for the Gilman Scholarship. Hirsch said 12 students were Gilman Scholars last year, and the program aims to reach 20 Gilman Scholars per year to continue their education abroad.

“That is our biggest growth component for us is low-income students. Those are the student population growing the most for traveling abroad for us,” he said. “A lot of students think of finance as the biggest barrier. There are a lot of ways we work to get around that barrier.”

As more college students are looking for ways to obtain real-world experience and career-ready skills while standing out to potential employers, MSU’s Education Abroad program can provide all those with the added possibility of cultural enrichment and international perspective.

“To anyone considering the Education Abroad program, just do it. I would go again in a heartbeat,” Fields said. “I made so many memories on this trip that I will never forget. I formed better relationships with my classmates and formed new relationships with the students in Brazil. When I think about how hesitant I was about going initially, I am so glad I did not talk myself out of going. I honestly cannot say enough good things about this program and the mentors who went on the trip with us.”

To learn more about [MSU's Education Abroad program](#), contact Hirsch at aghirsch@moreheadstate.edu or [606-783-2044](tel:606-783-2044).

Photo, top: Ava Winstel, a senior from Fort Thomas majoring in elementary education, took this scenic picture on her Education Abroad trip to Brazil.

Photo, right: Alley Patrick, a senior from Salyersville majoring in elementary education, teaching at a non-English-speaking school in Vila Velha, Brazil.

Photo, left: Gera Nelson (far right), assistant professor of early childhood, elementary and special education, was one of the MSU faculty members who accompanied a group of students on the Brazil trip. It was her first Education Abroad experience.

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Sept. 14, 2023
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Take steps toward professional success at the Career & Internship Fair

While Morehead State University students are well into focusing on their studies this fall semester, it is also an excellent time to plan for their future after college.

The Fall Career & Internship Fair gives MSU students an advantage in career success. The fair is Wednesday, Sept. 27, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC) ballrooms.

At MSU's fair, you can connect with regional, state-wide, and even out-of-state employers and graduate programs while learning about full-time and part-time jobs, internships, co-ops, and graduate schools. It is open to MSU students and alumni.

"Employers want to hire graduates who have hands-on experience in addition to the specific discipline knowledge gained in the classroom. MSU prioritizes ensuring our students have opportunities to engage in high-quality experiential opportunities as part of their learning experience. The career fair is the signature event that connects employers and graduate programs with students who are looking to land internships and co-ops as well as full-time jobs," said Megan Boone, director of MSU's Center for Career Development and Experiential Education (CCDEE).

First- and second-year students can also benefit from attending the career fair. Seth Smallwood, a first-year student majoring in agribusiness, said it helped him get a jumpstart on his career.

"Attending the Career & Internship Fair in my first semester provided me with valuable knowledge and information about the industry I'm interested in working in. I was able to make connections with employers in that particular area, and they were able to advise me in the right direction regarding my future curriculum choices and which skills they value the most," Smallwood said. "When it comes to relevant experience or technical skills, internships are highly valued. Making a good first impression on a potential employer at the Career Fair is a great first step in the right direction."

Students should do a bit of preparation to make the most of their time at the Career & Internship Fair:

- Dress the part. Make sure to dress professionally, as potential employers will take you more seriously when you make a solid first impression. If you need a suit or business jacket, visit the Suit Bank in the MSU's Center for Career Development and Experiential Education. If you find something you like, you can have it without charge.
- Bring copies of your resume and have an introduction prepared to serve as what Boone calls your "30-second commercial."
- Research the companies and schools in attendance and be prepared with questions to ask them. Kayla Harrison, director of talent management at St. Claire HealthCare, puts it well: "When you come to the Career & Internship Fair, have your resume ready in a concise and easy-to-read format. Be prepared to introduce yourself and have some basic knowledge of our organization. This allows us to focus the time we have together on getting to know your strengths and accomplishments. Use the event as a chance to inform yourself, so don't hesitate to ask the recruiters what they are looking for in an intern or employee. We are so excited to meet you and learn about you."
- Expand your network. It is always early enough to explore industries and start building your network. You could be that student who walks out of the Career & Internship Fair with an offer to interview for a fantastic opportunity that you did not know existed. Many MSU graduates return to campus to recruit talent and are eager to assist current students in achieving career goals. "There are many advantages to attending the fair, from making your name known to employers and graduate schools in your field to getting comfortable interacting in a professional setting," Boone said.

Students who attend the Career & Internship Fair will also have the unique opportunity to receive a free professional headshot that they can use on their LinkedIn page and other social media accounts. "We want to ensure MSU students have the resources necessary to build a professional presence online and in person," Boone said.

Representatives at the fair genuinely want to recruit MSU students for jobs, internships, and graduate schools. Debbie Jones, the owner of Jackson Hewitt Tax Services, said, "Participating in the Career & Internship Fair gives Jackson Hewitt Tax Service an opportunity to meet and network with prospective candidates. We are actively recruiting students to fill internship positions. An internship can provide a plus to include on a resume, as well as help the student gain practical knowledge for their own personal benefit going forward."

Lisa Marcum, Human Resources (HR) Manager with Baldwin CPAs (Certified Public Accountants), said, "We attend the Career & Internship Fair as it is an opportunity to connect. There is no substitute for an in-person interaction that allows us to get to know candidates a bit more. We have open internship positions as well as full-time

opportunities. We don't miss a chance to connect with Morehead State University students."

MSU students and alumni from all majors are encouraged to attend. Download the free Symplicity Jobs and Careers app on Google Play and Apple Store and find out who you can meet at the fair.

MSU's Center for Career Development and Experiential Education helps students access numerous resources geared toward their success. The CCDEE offers chances to gain real-world learning experiences through education abroad, undergraduate research, service learning, internships and work-study positions. [See upcoming events](#) that give students more helpful tools, knowledge, and opportunities.

Potential employee recruiters can register for the Career & Internship Fair at morehead-csm.symplicity.com/events/Fall23CF.

For more information about the Center for Career Development and Experiential Education, call [606-783-2233](tel:606-783-2233) or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/career.

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First- and second-year students can also benefit from attending the career fair. Seth Smallwood, a sophomore student majoring in agribusiness, said it helped him get a jumpstart on his career when he attended as a first-year student.

"Attending the Career & Internship Fair in my first semester provided me with valuable knowledge and information about the industry I'm interested in working in. I was able to make connections with employers in that particular area, and they were able to advise me in the right direction regarding my future curriculum choices and which skills they value the most," Smallwood said. "When it comes to relevant experience or technical skills, internships are highly valued. Making a good first impression on a potential employer at the Career Fair is a great first step in the right direction."

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NEWS RELEASE

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

Morehead State hosts annual Constitution Day events

Morehead State University's Department of History, Philosophy, Politics, Global Studies and Legal Studies is again sponsoring several events in honor of Constitution Day.

On Monday, Sept. 18, there will be a presentation on both the recently concluded and upcoming terms of the Supreme Court (i.e., the 2022-23 term and the upcoming 2023-24 term). Assistant Professor of Legal Studies David Grise and C.J. Nunley, staff attorney for Legal Aid of the Bluegrass, will serve as panelists highlighting important constitutional cases from last year and previewing the constitutional cases on the docket for the upcoming year. The event will occur in Room 310 of the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC).

On Tuesday, Sept. 19, a public reading of the U.S. Constitution will be at the Little Bell Tower at noon. Assistant Professor of Political Science Dr. Jason Adkins will lead the reading.

On Wednesday, Sept. 20, there will be a public lecture by Judge Cole Adams Maier, Chief Circuit Judge, Kentucky's 25th Judicial Circuit, titled "The Constitution, Law and the Judiciary." It will be at 12:30 p.m. in Rader Hall, Room 112.

On Thursday, Sept. 21, the presentation "The Supreme Court as Constitutional Guardian: A Reassessment" will examine the Supreme Court's role in American government and society. Topics discussed will include what the Supreme Court does, what it should do, and how it fulfills its role as constitutional guardian today, placing that in some historical context. Panelists will include Assistant Professor of History Dr. Benjamin Fitzpatrick from History, Associate Professor of Philosophy Dr. Charles Prusik, Political Science Lecturer Dr. Erik Lewis, and Assistant Professor of Political Science Dr. Douglas Mock. Associate Professor of History Dr. Tom Kiffmeyer will be the panel's moderator. It takes place from 6 to 8 p.m. in Room 329 of ADUC.

"Constitution Day - September 17 - celebrates the remarkable governing document that was signed on that date in 1787 in Philadelphia. At Morehead State, we have a long

tradition of a week of activities, including public lectures, panel discussions, and a Supreme Court review, and we've strived both to make these events reflective of current discussions in the public square and to lead those discussions into new territory," Mock said. "Our week of activities this year continues and builds on that tradition. All are welcome and encouraged to come to these public events. We seek to contribute to the civic education of the community and to provoke thought, but these events will also be fun and well worth your time."

For more information or to explore [MSU's Department of History, Philosophy, Politics, Global Studies and Legal Studies](#) programs, email hpgl@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-2655](tel:606-783-2655).

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NASA administrator Bill Nelson speaks at MSU

NASA Administrator Bill Nelson was the keynote speaker at the inaugural Appalachian Space Technology and Research Advancements Conference (ASTRA-CON) on Friday, Sept. 15.

Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY) introduced Nelson and announced that he requested nearly \$10 million in funding for MSU satellite tracking operations in the next federal budget. Rogers said it's important to support the potential of students.

"As I look around this campus, I wonder if I'm looking at the next Sally Ride, or Neil Armstrong, or the other heroes of NASA's space exploration programs," he said.

Nelson was named the 14th NASA administrator in 2021. Before becoming administrator, he represented the state of Florida for 18 years in the U.S. Senate and 12 years in the U.S. House of Representatives. His lecture kicked off the 2023-24 McBrayer Presidential Lecture Series at MSU.

In addressing the students at the event, Nelson discussed MSU's involvement in NASA's Deep Space Network and its satellite tracking operations, saying students here are at the forefront of the next phase of space exploration.

"You are the Artemis generation," Nelson said, referencing NASA's Artemis moon missions. "These are some of the exciting things that are happening right here at Morehead State, and you're a part of that."

Nelson also answered questions from students in the audience about his experiences and the future of space exploration.

The conference aimed to create a space for collaboration between aerospace companies, space research institutions, and students. It featured speakers, student presentations, discussion groups, workshops, exhibitor booths, and more.

The McBrayer lecture series is named in honor of MSU alumnus W. Terry McBrayer (Class of 1959), who gave the University a generous gift supporting the lecture series and student scholarships. McBrayer was a lobbyist, attorney, and former politician in Lexington. He was a senior partner and lead lobbyist for the McBrayer, McGinnis, Leslie, and Kirkland law firm. McBrayer was a native of Greenup County, and in addition to graduating from MSU, he also attended the Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville. He was elected to the MSU Alumni Hall of Fame in 1966 and was awarded an honorary doctoral degree in 1975.

[View Photo Gallery](#)

Learn more about [ASTRA-CON](#) by emailing Mission Operations Engineer and Spacecraft Operator Emily Ballantyne at eballantyne@moreheadstate.edu.

For more information about Morehead State's [Department of Physics, Earth Science, and Space Systems Engineering](#) programs, email phes@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2381.

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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.

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



Communications & Marketing
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NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 18, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Meet MSU Day comes to Somerset on Sept. 26

Morehead State University's Office of Transition Services will have a Meet MSU Day in Somerset. The event takes place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26, at the Hal Rogers Student Commons Building Community Room on the main campus of Somerset Community College.

Meet MSU Day is for prospective adults, transfer, veteran, and active military students interested in learning more about MSU. University Center of Southern Kentucky at Somerset Community College partnered with MSU for the event.

MSU representatives will be available from various academic departments and admissions. Information about online completer degrees, transfer scholarships, transfer student life, and veteran/military support services will also be available. Student attendees are encouraged to apply for admission free during the event, and no pre-registration is required.

Meet MSU Day will emphasize a seamless transition from Somerset Community College to Morehead State. Students are encouraged to bring unofficial transcripts to be reviewed by advisors.

MSU offers online bachelor's degree "completer" programs designed primarily for graduates of KCTCS (Kentucky Community and Technical College System). These programs allow KCTCS graduates to earn bachelor's degrees while continuing to meet work and family obligations without traveling long distances.

"This event is perfect for students considering transferring to a four-year school after their Somerset Community College graduation," said Jen Timmermann, director of Transition Services. "During this time, they can meet with advisors, learn about financial aid, and get a head start on their application. All information provided will be specific to the needs of transfer, adult, and military-connected students."

For more information on Meet MSU Day, contact Timmermann at transfer@moreheadstate.edu, call [606-783-2000](tel:606-783-2000) or visit moreheadstate.edu/transfer.

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NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 19, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Morehead State University soars as a Top 20 Public University Again

Morehead State University has now spent two decades as one of the top public universities in the South according to U.S. News & World Report, including the past few years as a Top 20 public regional school.

For 2024, MSU once again made the rankings of U.S. News & World Report as one of the Top 20 public regional universities in the South. This is the 8th consecutive year MSU has made the Top 25 (highest rank was #15 in 2022) and marks Morehead State's 20th consecutive year as a top-ranked institution.

MSU's overall ranking comes from a consistent commitment to academic excellence, a welcoming campus atmosphere, beneficial learning experiences inside and outside the classroom, and student support.

"We are committed as a campus to excellence, and we are demonstrating that excellence in our rankings and through other ways," said MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan. "We continue to look for ways to improve for our students."

The rankings emphasize outcomes such as graduation and retention rates, faculty quality, student demographics, and other university performance metrics.

Morehead State is an environment where first-generation college students can thrive from their first day on campus until graduation. Class size and personal attention remain strengths for MSU, with a 15:1 student-faculty ratio and an average class size of 16 allowing for more significant one-on-one time with the University's experienced and dedicated faculty and staff. MSU provides numerous opportunities in internships, study abroad, service learning, undergraduate research, Greek Life, athletics, band, the performing arts, and other opportunities for students to excel in.

The rankings include public institutions that grant bachelor's and master's degrees in 12 states of the South, and they will appear in the magazine's "Best Colleges 2024" guidebook in early October.

For more information on how to apply to Morehead State University, call [606-783-2000](tel:606-783-2000) or visit moreheadstate.edu/apply.

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NEWS RELEASE

**Sept. 19, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

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The rankings emphasize outcomes such as graduation and retention rates, faculty quality, student demographics, and other university performance metrics.

Morehead State is an environment where first-generation college students can thrive from their first day on campus until graduation. Class size and personal attention remain strengths for MSU, with a 14:1 student-faculty ratio and an average class size of 16 allowing for more significant one-on-one time with the University's experienced and dedicated faculty and staff. MSU provides numerous opportunities in internships, study abroad, service learning, undergraduate research, Greek Life, athletics, band, the performing arts, and other opportunities for students to excel in.

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NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 19, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Metropolitan Opera's Jill Grove visits Morehead State for residency, concert

Morehead State University will bring world-class mezzo-soprano Jill Grove to campus for a three-day residency that will conclude with a performance.

Grove will present masterclasses at 5 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 25 and 26. A recital will take place at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27, at the newly renovated Duncan Recital Hall in the Baird Music Building. All events are free and open to the public.

Buckner and Sally S. Hinkle Foundation for Humanities, which supports distinguished visiting professors and other mission-support initiatives in liberal arts, made this residency and concert possible.

Grove is a frequent guest at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. She performed as Ježibaba in *Rusalka*, Klytaemnestra in *Elektra*, the Witch in *Hansel und Gretel*, Die Amme in *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, Amneris in *Aida*, Erda in *Götterdämmerung*, and Countess Geschwitz in *Lulu*. At the Metropolitan Opera, her performances include Erda in *Götterdämmerung* and *Das Rheingold*, Magdalene in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, Madelon in *Andrea Chénier*, Pantalis in *Mefistofele*, Emila in *Otello*, Mary in *Die fliegende Holländer*, Auntie in *Peter Grimes*, die Muschel in *Die ägyptische Helena*, and Cornelia in *Giulio Cesare*.

A sought-after concert soloist, Grove has joined the Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, National Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Utah Symphony, Houston Symphony, and Santa Fe Symphony.

Her recordings include Ulrica on a Chandos recording of Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera*; Auntie in *Peter Grimes* on the London Symphony Orchestra Live label with Sir Colin Davis and in a new production by John Doyle at the Metropolitan Opera (available on EMI DVD); Magdalene in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* under the baton of James Levine and issued on DVD by Deutsche Grammophon; and the Muschel in Strauss's *Die ägyptische Helena* with the American Symphony Orchestra on Teldec. As a

Houston Grand Opera Studio member, she sang "Tisbe" in La Cenerentola opposite Cecilia Bartoli released by Decca/London.

Grove's free recital concert at MSU includes songs by Brahms, Dvorak's Gypsy Songs, Britten's A Charm of Lullabies, arias from The Rake's Progress, and Il Trovatore. It will end with Ursula's song, "Poor Unfortunate Souls," from The Little Mermaid.

To learn more about Grove's visit to Morehead State, contact Dr. Roma Prindle at [606-783-2481](tel:606-783-2481) or r.prindle@moreheadstate.edu.

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

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NEWS RELEASE

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

Morehead State joins College Completion Accelerator program

Morehead State University has joined the Complete College Accelerator (CCA), a nationwide initiative to improve and close college access and completion gaps. MSU is one of approximately 80 higher education institutions from 11 states to join.

Complete College Accelerator is a nonprofit organization attempting to raise the ability to attain a college education as part of Complete College America. With funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Intermediaries for Scale (IFS) initiative, Complete College America will work with 11 state agencies, including the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), over the next four years. The collaboration will implement research-based practices designed to increase college completion statewide.

"We are very excited to be a part of this unique opportunity to help the students of MSU succeed in college and beyond," said Dr. Chris Schroeder, interim associate provost at MSU. "The Complete College Accelerator program will equip us with the training, skills, and resources we need to give our students every opportunity to reach their goals during their time here and after graduation."

With funding from the national grant program, MSU will work with Complete College Accelerator to conduct assessments of institutional performance, build data capacity, and develop and implement strategies to improve student outcomes. MSU's participation in Complete College Accelerator will allow access to innovations and best practices from other Accelerator systems and institutions and enable the University to share its findings with other institutions.

"While persistence and retention are finally returning to pre-pandemic levels at both two-year and four-year institutions, there are troubling gaps in access, completion, and career outcomes that continue to persist for students from underserved communities," said Yolanda Watson Spiva, Ph.D., president of CCA. "As institutions and economies continue to shift following the pandemic, taking action now is critical to long-term success. Through the Complete College Accelerator, these 11 states and more than 80 participating institutions will build their capacity to scale, implement, and sustain

evidence-based practices that improve college completion rates for all students. We are proud to partner with Morehead State University on this effort.”

To learn more about Complete College Accelerator, visit completeccollege.org.

For more information on how to apply to Morehead State, visit moreheadstate.edu/apply.

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NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 21, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Morehead State Alumni Association welcomes new board members

The Morehead State University Alumni Association Board of Directors held its fall meeting on Saturday, Sept. 16. The Board welcomed eight new representatives and installed them at the meeting.

"We are excited about the direction we're moving in," said Billie Renee Johnson (Class of 1996), Alumni Association president. "We have a great group of Eagles who proudly represent MSU."

New members of MSU's Alumni Association Board of Directors include:

PRESLEY BOYER

Boyer is one of two student representatives. Boyer is a senior biomedical sciences major from Louisa, and Student Government Association president.

RACHEL CRIDER (CLASS OF 1996)

Crider is a three-time MSU graduate with elementary education, guidance counseling, and school administration degrees. She is a chief instructional officer in Floyd County.

BLAKE DIALS (CLASS OF 2017)

Dials is a GOLD alum (graduate of the last decade) with a bachelor's degree in business administration/finance. He is based in Lexington and is a corporate account executive for Central Transport.

LATRESSA GRAHAM (CLASS OF 2001)

Graham is a business administration/accounting graduate based in Maysville. She is an equity officer for Mason County Schools.

ANNA HEINEMAN

Heineman is a healthcare management major from Ashland. She is president of the Student Alumni Ambassadors.

JACK HERLIHY (CLASS OF 1969, 1972)

Herlihy is a two-time MSU graduate who spent several decades working in education. He owns and manages an educational consulting business and lives in Lexington.

DAN JOHNSON (CLASS OF 1985)

Johnson graduated from MSU with a degree in industrial technology. He is the founder of Toolsey, a cloud-based lead management platform. He lives in Indianapolis, Indiana.

SHARON RAY (CLASS OF 1988)

Ray graduated from MSU with a degree in communications. She is CEO of S. Thompson & Associates, a human resources consulting firm in Chicago.

The MSU Alumni Association Board of Directors is a group of alumni volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to making their alma mater an even better place.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, contact Farrah Baldwin (Class of 2001), director of alumni engagement and cultivation/executive vice president of the Board, at f.baldwin@moreheadstate.edu or [606-783-2441](tel:606-783-2441).

To learn more about the Board, visit alumni.moreheadstate.edu/alumniboard.

Photo: The MSU Alumni Association Board of Directors welcomed eight new representatives.

Back row, left to right: Jack Herlihy (Class of 1969, 1972), Dan Johnson, LaTressa Graham (Class of 2001) and Blake Dials (Class of 2017).

Front Row, left to right: Anna Heineman, Rachel Crider (Class of 1996) and Sharon Ray (Class of 1988).

Not pictured: Presley Boyer.



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NEWS RELEASE

**Sept. 21, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

Morehead State hosts Blue and Gold Championship of Marching Bands Sept. 23

Morehead State University will host its annual Blue and Gold Championship of Bands again on Saturday, Sept. 23, at Jayne Stadium.

Kentucky high school marching bands will come to MSU to compete in a two-round competition (preliminary round and finals). The first band competing performs at noon in the preliminary round. The finals start at 6 p.m. The MSU Marching Band will perform a special exhibition performance at the end of the evening.

“This year, 12 bands will travel from across the state to compete in two rounds of competition in MSU’s Jayne Stadium,” said Dr. DuWayne Dale, director of bands and associate professor of music. “The event is the largest annual event hosted by MSU Music.”

Tickets are available at the gate and are cash only. Adults are \$15 for one round or \$20 for a combination ticket for both rounds. Children 5-12 are \$5 for a single round or \$10 for both rounds.

For more information, contact Dale at dcdale@moreheadstate.edu or [606-783-2485](tel:606-783-2485).

To learn more about [music ensembles at MSU](#), contact the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance at mtd@moreheadstate.edu or [606-783-2473](tel:606-783-2473).

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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

Sept. 22, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Dr. Lisa Shannon assists with grant for Mountain Comprehensive Care Center

Morehead State University Professor of Social Work Dr. Lisa Shannon has again contributed to a grant that will benefit the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Congressman Hal Rogers (KY-05), Congressman Brett Guthrie (KY-02), and U.S. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) recently announced the first Comprehensive Opioid Recover Centers (CORC) grant. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded an \$850,000 grant to the Mountain Comprehensive Care Center (MCCC) in Prestonsburg.

The MCCC's mission is to provide complete treatment and recovery support services to those affected by substance abuse, particularly opioid use disorder. The center is the first grantee for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Center program in the Commonwealth.

"Mountain Comprehensive Care Center is proud to be the first grantee for the Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Center program in the Commonwealth. This grant will allow us to provide treatment for substance use disorder to persons whose insurance coverage is not sufficient for the treatment required," said Promod Bishnoi, CEO of MCCC. "These funds will create meaningful impact in the community through expanded availability of treatment. We thank Congressman Rogers for his continued dedication to the issue of opioid recovery in eastern Kentucky."

Shannon was an evaluator of the grant, helping write the evaluation section and will serve as the lead evaluator for the project. Both MSU and MCCC collaborate on the grant, with MCCC collecting data and MSU taking that data to enter, analyze, and report to stakeholders and interested parties.

Shannon said the application process was highly competitive, with SAMHSA forecasting only two awards. The project intends to develop comprehensive opioid recovery centers in Kentucky.

"I am excited that MSU and I have the opportunity to be involved in this project, as it is much needed and will hopefully provide recovery services/resources for many areas of Kentucky that have been devastated by the opioid epidemic," she said.

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

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

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NEWS RELEASE

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

Morehead State Open House events are Sept. 30 and Nov. 11

Morehead State University combines a sense of community, small class sizes, and hands-on learning to help you SOAR Higher. It is why MSU has been named one of the Top 20 best public regional universities in the South by U.S. News & World Report.

Future Eagles can learn more about MSU at Open House at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, at 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 11, in the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC).

By signing up, prospective students and families can:

- Speak with faculty from our academic programs.
- Get guidance from financial aid representatives.
- Learn about advising, tutoring, career planning and other student success services.
- Eat lunch with students, faculty, and staff.
- Take a tour of MSU's campus.

"Our goal is to make it convenient to get answers to questions about starting college by bringing deans, department chairs, and faculty from our academic programs, as well as staff from admissions, financial aid, housing and many more services, together in one place," said Holly Pollock, director of undergraduate admissions.

"Families will hear success stories about our graduates and learn statistics demonstrating the academic quality offered at MSU."

For those who apply for admission at Open House, MSU will waive the \$30 application fee—turning in transcripts and test scores at the event to qualify applicants for the fee waiver.

MSU's Open House event attendees will receive complimentary tickets to cheer on the Eagle Football team. The Eagles will take on Drake on Sept. 30 and Davidson on Nov. 11. Both games occur at 1 p.m. at Jayne Stadium.

MSU's Open House also provides information and a campus tour for high school students interested in attending the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics. Please indicate your interest in the Craft Academy on your registration form.

Students and families are encouraged to [register online for Open House](#).

For more information, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/admissions or contact MSU's Office of Enrollment Services by emailing admissions@moreheadstate.edu or calling [606-783-2000](tel:606-783-2000) or [800-585-6781](tel:800-585-6781).

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NEWS RELEASE

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

Morehead State soars in nationwide social media rankings

Morehead State University engages with students, alumni and the community to bring awareness and share the Eagle experience through social media. These efforts have been recognized with a significant uptick in a national university social media ranking.

The 2023 Higher Education Social Media Engagement Report published by Rival IQ this past August, ranks MSU's at 206 out of 364 ranked schools, up 22 spots since last year. MSU is ranked third among public institutions in the state, ahead of Murray State University, Eastern Kentucky University, Northern Kentucky University, and Western Kentucky University.

In addition to being one of the Top 200 (163rd, up 33 spots) on Instagram, Morehead State's Facebook account ranked in the Top 100 (63rd) and jumped up 73 places in just one year.

Rival IQ's 2023 Higher Education Social Media Engagement Report ranked Division 1 and Division 2 Schools based on engagement rates and totals and posting frequency across social media platforms like Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, and X (formerly known as Twitter).

"Morehead State University engages with students, alumni, and the community to bring awareness and share the Eagle experience through social media," said Rick Hesterberg, vice president for University Advancement. "These efforts are being recognized nationally, which is a tribute to our creative team in promoting what makes MSU a special place."

To learn how to follow [Morehead State on social media](#), contact the [Office of Communications and Marketing](#) at coma@moreheadstate.edu or [606-783-9328](tel:606-783-9328).

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NEWS RELEASE

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

Morehead State music presents OcTUBAfest performances this week

Thanks to Morehead State, some of music's biggest brass instruments get an annual showcase this weekend.

MSU's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance and the International Tuba/Euphonium Association (ITEA) - Earle L. Louder Chapter will perform OcTUBAfest 2023. The event takes place from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, at the Battson-Oates Common Area in downtown Morehead. Downtown Morehead, Inc. is presenting the event, and St. Claire HealthCare is the event sponsor.

The concert will feature the MSU Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble directed by Dr. Stacy Baker, professor of music – tuba/euphonium. MSU faculty guest artists include:

- Dr. Lori Baruth - professor of music, clarinet
- Dr. Brian Mason - professor of music, percussion
- Dr. DuWayne Dale - director of bands, associate professor of music
- Dr. Ben Cantrell - assistant professor, percussion

In addition to student and faculty performances, OcTUBAfest will also feature MSU alumni guest performers.

Baker said that the concert will be an excellent showcase for the talent of MSU and the tuba while featuring musical styles that fit this time of year.

"OcTUBAFest is an annual celebration of the instruments of the tuba family. The first OcTUBAfest was held at Indiana University in 1972 by Harvey Phillips," Baker said. "Our Morehead OcTUBAfest is styled after the traditional Bavarian Oktoberfest held in Germany, where the tuba was invented in 1835."

In addition to the performance this weekend, the MSU Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble will also perform during MSU's Oktoberfest event from 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26, at the Rocky Adkins Dining Commons (The Rock). It will feature themed food, crafts, and a preview performance of the OcTUBAfest show this weekend.

To learn more about these performances and [other MSU Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble shows](#), contact the [Department of Music, Theatre and Dance](#) at mtd@moreheadstate.edu or [606-783-2473](tel:606-783-2473).

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NEWS RELEASE

**Sept. 26, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

Faculty Art Show closing reception and forum set for Sept. 27

A closing reception for Morehead State's annual Faculty Art Show will be held Wednesday, Sept. 27, from 5 to 7 p.m., in the Golding-Yang Gallery of the Claypool-Young Art Building. Refreshments will be served, and the event is free and open to the public.

The show includes works from the entire Art & Design faculty, including three new adjunct instructors. There will be an open forum at 11 a.m., where faculty members will discuss their work and creative process. The exhibit will close Friday, Oct. 6.

"In all situations we should lead by example," said Gallery Director and Sculpture Instructor Mike Bowen. "This is why the faculty show is so important. It allows the student and community to see that we not only teach in the classroom, but each of us are also professional artists working hard to exhibit and create work in our own unique voice."

The Golding-Yang Art Gallery, located within the Claypool-Young Art Building, is a pivotal educational and cultural component of the Department of Communication, Media, Art & Design, the Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, the MSU campus and the community at large.

For more information on the exhibit, contact Bowen at r.bowen@moreheadstate.edu.

To learn more about MSU's Department of [Communication, Media, Art & Design](#) programs, email cmad@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2766.

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NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 27, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

J.B. Blakeman Memorial Scholarship Fall 2023 Awards announced

Morehead State University's Office of Alumni Relations & Development has announced the Fall 2023 J.B. Blakeman Memorial Scholarship Fund recipients.

The scholarship recipients are David "DJ" Modaff, Colten Perkins, Nathan Smith and Samuel "Hayden" Topping. Additionally, the New Flyer Scholarship, designed for a new first-year student, was awarded to Nicholas Armstrong.

David "DJ" Modaff from Morehead is a strategic communications major. He currently serves as the vice president of recruitment for Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Colten Perkins of Morehead is an Exercise Science major. He has previously served as the vice president of finance and vice president of recruitment in Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Nathan Smith of Hazard is a history major and a legal studies minor. He has served as risk management and vice president of programming for Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Samuel "Hayden" Topping of Worthington is a biomedical science major. He is the chapter president of membership development for the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

Nicholas Armstrong of Frankfort is a sophomore physics major. Sigma Phi recognized him as the best new member for 2022-23 for being an active fraternity member and helping with philanthropy events.

Honoring the memory of Jeffrey Scott "J.B." Blakeman led to the establishment of the Blakeman Scholarship in his memory in 2012. A graduate of Morehead State University with an industrial technology degree, he was a devoted member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and a big brother to Chi Omega sorority.

As an avid lover of the outdoors, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, and practicing wildlife photography. Blakeman loved golfing and was a member of the Eagle Trace Men's Golf Association and a proud supporter of Rowan County and Morehead State athletics. He passed away in September 2011 at the age of 52.

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: The MSU Office of Alumni Relations and Development announced the recipients of the J.B. Blakeman Memorial Scholarship Fund. Pictured with Vicki Blakeman (Class of 1981, center), scholarship recipients, left to right, are Nicholas Armstrong, Nathan Smith, Colton Perkins, David “DJ” Modal and Samuel “Hayden” Topping.

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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.

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



**Communications & Marketing
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NEWS RELEASE

**Sept. 27, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

Sam Morrill is new news director at MSPR

Sam Morrill (Class of 2016) is the new news director at Morehead State Public Radio (MSPR). She started her duties on Sept. 5.

Morrill earned her Bachelor of Arts in convergent media at MSU, graduating magna cum laude. She previously worked at the station from 2014 to 2017 as a reporter and live host, and returned on a part-time basis from April of this year until she accepted the news director position. She has also worked as a news producer at WYMT television in Hazard, and as a reporter, live host, production and traffic coordinator for WEKU radio in Richmond.

During her time as a student, Morrill earned a number of awards for her work. She earned three Regional Edward R. Murrow Awards, a Kentucky Broadcasting Association Award, and a Kentucky Broadcasting Association Associated Press Award, including a Best of Show Award in 2016. She also received the MSPR Outstanding Student Award in 2016.

"This station grew me, as it has so many other broadcast and journalism professionals. The idea of coming back to WMKY with the experience I've gained, using it to give back to this station, the community and the students is an honor," Morrill said. "I plan to continue the WMKY tradition of providing trusted local and state news while giving the next generation of journalists the most thorough public radio experience available."

WMKY serves more than 20 counties throughout eastern Kentucky from the campus of Morehead State University. Listeners can enjoy WMKY at 90.3FM, online at www.wmky.org, by phone app, or smart speaker by saying "play WMKY."

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NEWS RELEASE

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

KCTM mid-semester concert is Oct. 4

The Kentucky Center for Traditional Music (KCTM) will hold its “Sounds of Our Heritage” mid-semester concert on Wednesday, Oct. 4, at the Rowan County Arts Center at 7 p.m.

The event will feature performances from all sections of the student ensemble. KCTM students will present a variety of musical styles, including Bluegrass, string band, and old-time country music.

Admission is free, and the concert is open to the public.

Located in the heart of the Bluegrass State, where Bluegrass, old-time, and country music history has its roots, KCTM preserves, teaches, helps develop, and celebrates our rich mountain heritage. KCTM offers an opportunity to study with musicians who have performed with legends like Johnny Cash and at the Grand Ole Opry and to learn from professionals about performance, history, recording, the music industry, and more.

For more information or to learn more about KCTM, email kctm@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-9001.

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NEWS RELEASE

**Sept. 29, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

Morehead State Public Radio earns numerous KBA Impact Broadcast Awards

Morehead State Public Radio (WMKY, 90.3FM) staff and students took home 14 awards in the 2023 Kentucky Broadcasters Association (KBA) Impact Broadcast Awards. The awards recognize the best in television and radio journalism for the calendar year of 2022.

The awards were announced for both professional and college entries.

The Impact Broadcast Awards competition recognizes KBA members and staffers for outstanding performance in broadcast journalism. The competition is open to all KBA members in Kentucky and outside Kentucky, with designated market areas that extend into Kentucky. To be eligible to enter, entries must be about news, features, or sports that occurred solely in Kentucky. Entries must have aired in the calendar year 2022.

The KBA college competition recognizes Kentucky student broadcasters for outstanding performance in college broadcast journalism. The contest is open to any college in Kentucky. Entries must have aired in the calendar year 2022.

WMKY earned 14 awards in the professional and college divisions, including eight first-place finishes. Student winners include:

Hallie Adams (Class of 2023), first place for Best Radio Reporter, second place for Best Digital Journalist, second place for Best Newscast, and second place for Best Public Affairs Story.

Mary Clare Carr (Class of 2023), first place for Best Newscast and second for Best Sports Coverage.

Ethan Jenkins, senior fine arts major from Morehead, second place for Best Feature Story.

Kennealy Jenkins (Class of 2023), first place for Best Sports Coverage.

Anabel Peterman, a senior traditional music Major from Carlisle, first place for Best Feature Story.

Clay Wallace (Class of 2023), first place for Best Newscast and Best Public Affairs Story.

Former News Director Dr. Leeann Potter won two first-place professional awards for Best Long Newscast and Sports Reporting. Former Assistant News Director Tanner Boyd (Class of 2016) won second place for Best Long Newscast.

WMKY also won first place for Best Website.

WMKY serves more than 20 counties throughout eastern Kentucky from the campus of Morehead State University. Listeners can enjoy WMKY at 90.3FM, online at www.wmky.org, by phone app, or smart speaker by saying “play WMKY.”

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NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 29, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Middleton to screen film at upcoming festivals

Award-winning documentary filmmaker Steven Middleton, instructor of mass communication and social media minor coordinator at Morehead State University, will have his documentary "Stages and Waves: An Excursion Through Challenging Times" shown at Louisville's International Festival of Film (LIFF) Oct. 5-7, and Oct. 6 at the 2023 Appalachian Big Ideas Festival (ABIF) in Hazard.

Held annually, LIFF welcomes filmmakers and film lovers from around the world to Derby City. The event offers three days of screenings, educational workshops, and open dialogue with audiences. The film will be screened live Oct. 5, with a second screening during the virtual festival Oct. 7 through the [LIFF website](#).

The annual ABIF is a three-day experience of storytelling, arts, culture, and community building. The festival features documentary films, round table discussions, and guest speakers, including Kentucky Poet Laureate Silas House.

"I am honored, humbled, and more than excited to have my film featured at Appalachian Big Ideas Festival with such a great range of minds, scholars, and artists," Middleton said. "I am a proud Appalachian and being part of a group such as ABIF helps reinforce my teaching, mentoring to students, and future ideas about digital for MSU's core service region."

Told through the stories of artists, musicians, and other creatives, Middleton's "Stages and Waves" is a documentary that explores how creativity existed in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The documentary has been airing on West Virginia Public Broadcasting, PBS WVPB, since March 2023 and on Kentucky Educational Television (KET) since April 2023.

"I extend such gratitude to everyone at MSU that helped make this possible. Working with MSU media students, music, and traditional music, I am honored to play a role in

helping others to build a portfolio/professional work as they leave MSU. Thanks to everyone for the continued support and help along the way.”

"Stages and Waves" was produced, directed, edited, and narrated by Middleton. The following students contributed to the project:

Lucy Becker, a junior traditional music major from Lexington, music.

Willard Ferguson, a senior convergent media major from Louisa, videography.

Elijah Boone Miller, a senior jazz studies and commercial music major from Ashland, music.

Additional stock aerial footage was provided by Instructor of Convergent Media John Flavell and retiree John Modaff. Additional music was provided by Scott Miller, KCTM instructor.

LIFF debuted in 2009. Over the years, the event has built on its success and partnered with distribution companies that review all the accepted films.

Additional information is available by contacting Middleton at s.middleton@moreheadstate.edu.

Learn more about Morehead State’s Department of Communication, Media, Art & Design by emailing cmad@moreheadstate.edu or calling 606-783-2457.

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