



**Communications & Marketing**  
**Morehead State University**  
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**Email: [news@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:news@moreheadstate.edu)**  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Nov. 1, 2023**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Annika Weaver is first recipient of Prater Scholarship**

Annika Weaver, a senior veterinary science major from Richmond, is the first recipient of the Dr. Phil Prater Veterinary Science Scholarship.

The scholarship was launched in July in honor of Dr. Phil Prater, former professor of veterinary technology, who retired in June after 25 years at MSU.

Prater was instrumental in securing funding for the University's Equine Health Education Center at the Derrickson Agricultural Complex. Prater earned many professional awards during his time at MSU, including Veterinarian of the Year from the Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association, Outstanding Senior Teacher Award from the American Association of Colleges of Agriculture and Renewable Resources in 2006, MSU Distinguished Teacher Award in 2008, and Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association (KVMA) Distinguished Service Award in 2018.

Veterinarians, students, and colleagues contributed approximately \$10,000 in funding to establish the Dr. Phil Prater Scholarship Endowment. The Kentucky Veterinary Medicine Association pledged additional support to grow the fund.

Weaver said she's grateful for the support the scholarship will provide as she pursues her dream of becoming a veterinarian.

"I'm honored to receive this scholarship and be the first recipient. My goal is to become a large animal veterinarian, and this additional support in my final semester is such a weight off my shoulders," she said.

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, email [giving@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:giving@moreheadstate.edu) or visit [alumni.moreheadstate.edu](http://alumni.moreheadstate.edu).

Learn more about MSU's [veterinary science](#) and [veterinary technology](#) programs by emailing [agsi@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:agsi@moreheadstate.edu) or calling 606-783-2662.

###

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



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**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Board of Regents meets Nov. 3**

The Morehead State University Board of Regents will hold a quarterly meeting on Friday, Nov. 3, at 3 p.m., in room 329 of the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC).

Before the board meeting, the Audit Committee will meet at 2:30 p.m.

The board will act on several items, including:

- Approval of an updated job description for President Dr. Jay Morgan.
- Approval of a University endowment match.
- Approval of an update to the Staff Congress bylaws.
- Approval of changes to University Policy PG-22.
- Approval of changes to the University's Intercollegiate Athletics Committee.
- Approval of the University audit report.
- Ratification of the 2024-26 biennial budget request.
- Approval of a University budget adjustment.
- Approval of asset preservation projects.
- Approval of the employee compensation plan.
- Approval of the track program.
- Approval of exception from LEED certification.

The board will also hear a report on a new housing feasibility study and consider authorizing construction and bonding for the project. The board will also hear an update on the new science and engineering building.

Following the meeting, board members will participate in Homecoming activities. For a complete schedule of events, visit [alumni.moreheadstate.edu/homecoming](http://alumni.moreheadstate.edu/homecoming).

For more information on the [Board of Regents](#), email Board Secretary Jessica Stigall at [j.stigall@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:j.stigall@moreheadstate.edu) or call 606-783-2053.

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Morehead State announces 2023 Homecoming Court**

Morehead State University has selected candidates for Homecoming Queen and King. The crowning ceremony occurs at halftime during the Eagle football game versus Butler; kick-off is at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4.

#### **HOMECOMING QUEEN CANDIDATES**

- Abigail Cooper is a senior accounting major from Vanceburg. She is sponsored by Delta Zeta Sorority.
- Chloe Marstiller is a senior sociology major from Morgantown, West Virginia. She is sponsored by the Student Government Association.
- Lucy Simpson is a senior middle grades education major with a minor in general business from Ironton, Ohio. She is sponsored by Chi Omega Sorority.
- Alexia Wilkerson is a senior health promotion major from Pikeville. She is sponsored by Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity.
- Shaela Worsley is a senior public policy major from Richmond. She is sponsored by DREAMS.

#### **HOMECOMING KING CANDIDATES**

- James "J.T." Dials is a senior double majoring in biology and chemistry from Inez. He is sponsored by the Academic Honors Student Association.
- Vincent Harper is a sophomore computer science and engineering major from Morehead. He is sponsored by Kappa Delta Sorority.
- Blake McKibben is a senior animal sciences major from Flemingsburg. He is sponsored by Delta Tau Delta Fraternity.
- Noah Sewell is a senior double majoring in history and legal studies from Harrodsburg. He is sponsored by the Student Government Association.
- Nathan Smith is a senior history major from Hazard. He is sponsored by Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity.

To learn more about MSU Homecoming 2023 activities for students, alumni, and friends, visit [alumni.moreheadstate.edu/homecoming](https://alumni.moreheadstate.edu/homecoming).

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Nov. 2, 2023**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Dr. James Masterson publishes new article on environmental policy**

Dr. James R. Masterson, associate professor of political science at Morehead State, published a co-authored article in Asian Survey, a University of California Press publication.

Masterson co-authored the article with Jingwen Wu, a Ph.D. student at the University of Kentucky. It examines the effectiveness of public policy in incentivizing developing nations to prioritize environmental regulation with a specific focus on China's most recent environmental policy, the Ecological Environmental Protection Plan.

The study finds evidence of air quality improvements following the implementation of the policy. It also found more significant enhancements in air quality in the cities most affected by the institutional changes of the policy.

"This research shows that well-crafted public policy can improve air quality, providing crucial insights for policymakers and scholars alike," Masterson said. "Policymakers, climate researchers, and public policy students will benefit from the article's contribution to the field of air quality policy in general and China's attempts to clean up its air in particular."

Access to the full article is available [for free until October 28](#).

Masterson is chair of the Department of History, Philosophy, Politics, Global and Legal Studies, and director of the Master of Public Administration Program at MSU. He can be reached at [j.masterson@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:j.masterson@moreheadstate.edu).

For more information on [MSU's Department of History, Philosophy, Politics, Global and Legal Studies programs](#), contact [hgpl@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:hgpl@moreheadstate.edu) or [606-783-2655](tel:606-783-2655).

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Nov. 2, 2023  
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MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Dr. Amy Staton named to national veterinary organization boards**

Associate Professor of Veterinary Technology Dr. Amy Staton (Class of 2003, 2004, and 2013) has been named to the Association of Veterinary Technician Educators (AVTE) Board of Directors and the nominating committee for the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB).

The mission of the AVTE is to promote quality professional education for veterinary technician students. In addition, AVTE is dedicated to facilitating lifelong learning and professional development by providing opportunities for the exchange of ideas to stimulate improvement in veterinary technician education.

The AAVSB's mission is to support and advance the regulatory process for veterinary medicine. The organization exists to ease the burden of these regulators and to help them in their ultimate mission of public protection.

"I am honored to serve on both the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) and the Association of Veterinary Technology Educators (AVTE). I will be collaborating with numerous veterinary technology educators, as well as technicians and veterinarians working in the field, throughout the United States and Canada to determine how to best prepare our students for the profession in today's world. We live in a different world, and aligning our programs to the needs of the profession will allow us to provide the best tools for our students to become successful," Staton said.

Staton was appointed to the Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners (KBVE) in April 2017 as the first licensed veterinary technician to serve on the Kentucky board. She has served on the Applications Committee, Government Affairs Committee, Education and Outreach Committee, and the Complaints Screening Committee.

Staton was named program director of Morehead State's veterinary technology program earlier this year. Learn more about Staton by listening to her ["Morehead State Today"](#) interview from Morehead State Public Radio (MSPR).

Learn more about MSU's [veterinary technology programs](#) by emailing Staton at [a.staton@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:a.staton@moreheadstate.edu) or calling 606-783-2328.

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Nov. 3, 2023**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Morehead State holds dedication ceremony for new Eagle statue**

While Morehead State has several iconic landmarks and structures familiar to students and alumni, there is now a new focal point on campus that truly soars.

On Friday, Nov. 3, MSU added the bronze Centennial Eagle to the Adron Doran University Commons area in a special dedication ceremony for students, alumni, and the surrounding community during the 2023 Homecoming weekend.

MSU alum Ronald "Ron" Cartee (Class of 1965) and the Cartee Family provided a special gift for creating the statue recognizing the University's 100 years as a public institution in Kentucky. World-renowned artist Sam McKinney (Class of 1973, 1992) crafted a bronze Eagle statue honoring MSU's Eagle mascot and the school's commitment to helping students soar higher.

"We are thrilled to officially unveil and dedicate this amazing piece," said Rick Hesterberg (Class of 1980), vice president of university advancement. "Thanks to the Cartee family's generosity and the talents of Sam McKinney, our campus now has a lasting marker to our beloved mascot - the Eagle."

With a wingspan nearly 12 feet wide, McKinney spent a year working on the statue from concept to completion. While he has sculptures and artwork displayed across the country and in other parts of the world, he said it is special to have a piece of himself on the campus that helped shape him as an artist.

"It's just so rewarding to finally have a piece there," McKinney said. "It's going to be there long after I'm gone and hopefully appreciated by new generations."

To learn more about MSU's Homecoming Weekend, visit [alumni.moreheadstate.edu/homecoming](http://alumni.moreheadstate.edu/homecoming).

If you are interested in establishing a scholarship or making 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](mailto:giving@moreheadstate.edu) or visit [alumni.moreheadstate.edu](http://alumni.moreheadstate.edu).

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Nov. 7, 2023  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **MSPR fall fundraiser and membership drive is Nov. 6-10**

The Morehead State Public Radio (MSPR) WMKY fall fundraiser and membership drive is Nov. 6-10. New listeners can become members, while current members may renew their membership to MSPR.

“The number of members who support MSPR helps us receive grants from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting,” said Paul Hitchcock, MSPR general manager. “Our ability to raise funds and increase our membership is important in meeting criteria for grants to purchase national programs such as NPR’s All Things Considered, Morning Edition, and World Café.”

MSPR’s commitment to regional news continues with the recent appointment of Samantha Morrill (class of 2016) as news director. Morrill earned her bachelor’s degree in convergent media from MSU. She has worked at WYMT-TV in Hazard and WEKU-FM in Richmond.

“We’re excited to have Samantha Morrill join the MSPR team,” commented Hitchcock. Her knowledge and experience will enhance the return of our daily newscasts and feature reports as part of MSPR’s commitment to excellence in responsible journalism.”

Equally important to MSPR’s emphasis on regional news is the commitment to provide learning opportunities to MSU work-study students throughout the year as reporters, announcers, and producers.

“It’s an important part of our mission to provide hands-on student opportunities, award-winning local news, and to preserve this region’s cultural heritage with programming that is educational, informative, and entertaining,” said Hitchcock.

Financial gifts to the MSPR Fund support student work studies and local programming. There’s also an option to designate gifts to MSPR’s Enhancement Fund, providing scholarships to qualified students at Morehead State University. Gifts to the MSPR Fund or the MSPR Enhancement Fund may be made online at [www.wmky.org](http://www.wmky.org).

MSPR 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](http://www.wmky.org), by phone app, or by a smart speaker ("Play WMKY").

Learn more about MSPR by contacting Hitchcock at [p.hitchc@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:p.hitchc@moreheadstate.edu) or calling 606-783-2334.

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**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Eagles came home for Homecoming 2023**

Students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of Morehead State University returned as proud Eagles to celebrate the blue and gold during this year's annual Homecoming celebration.

"This campus is home to thousands of alumni and Homecoming here is special. It is amazing to see so many Eagles reconnect and talk about their MSU memories and experiences," said Allison Caudill (Class of 2005, 2009), executive director of alumni relations and development. "This University changes lives and we are honored to have so many loyal alumni who come back to campus to celebrate their love for MSU."

On Friday, Nov. 3, MSU held its Memorial Brick Ceremony to honor faculty and staff who passed away during the last year at the Memorial Plaza near the Little Bell Tower.

[View Memorial Brick Ceremony Gallery.](#)

Also on Friday, the Centennial Eagle statue, funded by a gift from Ron (Class of 1965) and Diane Cartee and created by world-renowned artist Sam McKinney (Class of 1973, 1992), was unveiled in a special ceremony in the ADUC Commons.

[View Centennial Eagle Gallery.](#)

Morehead State recognized the newest members of the Alumni Hall of Fame. The newest Alumni Hall of Fame winners are:

- Dr. Roger Cleveland (Class of 1986)
- Sean Shumate (Class of 1996)
- Dr. Frank Spaniol (Class of 1984, 1986)

The Founders Award for University Service winner for 2023 was the late Dr. Jerry Gore (Class of 1971, 1972, 1975).

The recipients of the 2023 Alumni Awards included:

- Notable Alumni Award winner -- Robert Moore (Class of 1998, 2007).
- Rising Eagle Award winner -- Shannon Callihan (Class of 2015).
- Eagle Spirit Award -- Peggy Osborne (Class of 1979) and Madonna Weathers (Class of 1971, 1972).

[View Alumni Awards and Reception Gallery.](#)

Among the many activities and reunions during Homecoming, there was a 2023 Stepshow and Competition held in Button Auditorium.

[View Stepshow Gallery.](#)

On Saturday, Nov. 4, Eagles packed the athletic complex for a Homecoming tailgate. Later that afternoon, they gathered at Jayne Stadium to watch [MSU Eagle Football](#) take on the Butler Bulldogs.

During halftime, Shaela Worsley, a senior from Richmond, and Blake McKibben, a senior from Flemingsburg, were crowned as this year's Homecoming Queen and King. Members of the Homecoming Court members were Abigail Cooper (senior, Vanceburg), Chloe Marstiller (senior, sociology), Lucy Simpson (senior, Ironton, Ohio), Alexia Wilkerson (senior, Pikeville), James "J.T." Dials (senior, Inez), Vincent Harper (sophomore, Morehead), Noah Sewell (senior, Harrodsburg) and Nathan Smith (senior, Hazard).

[View Tailgate and Football Gallery.](#)

Save the date for Morehead State's 2024 Homecoming Oct. 10-12, 2024. For more information, visit <https://alumni.moreheadstate.edu/homecoming> or contact the Office of Alumni Relations & Development at [606-783-2033](tel:606-783-2033) or [alumni@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:alumni@moreheadstate.edu).

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### **Morehead State moves forward with new residence hall**

The Morehead State University Board of Regents held a quarterly meeting on Friday, Nov. 3, at 3 p.m., in room 329 of the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC).

The board heard a report on a new housing feasibility study and authorized construction and bonding for the project. "Our campus continues to push forward with new facilities and infrastructure," stated MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan. "This new residence hall will be a welcome addition."

The board also heard an update on the new science and engineering building, which is scheduled for groundbreaking next summer.

The board acted on several other items, including:

- Approval of an updated job description for President Morgan.
- Approval of a University endowment match.
- Approval of an update to the Staff Congress bylaws.
- Approval of changes to University Policy PG-22.
- Approval of changes to the University's Intercollegiate Athletics Committee.
- Approval of the University audit report.
- Ratification of the 2024-26 biennial budget request.
- Approval of a University budget adjustment.
- Approval of asset preservation projects.
- Approval of the employee compensation plan.
- Approval of the track program.
- Approval of exception from LEED certification.

Before the board meeting, the Audit Committee met to approve external and internal audits and recognized Dr. Amy Staton (Class of 2003, 2004, and 2013), associate professor of veterinary technology, for being named director of the veterinary

technology program. Staton replaces Professor Emeritus Dr. Philip Prater, who retired earlier this year.

The board also recognized Joe Stiltner, administrative support supervisor for the MSU Police Department, for his service to the University.

Zoe Brown, a junior business management major from Cincinnati, was also recognized by the board for her involvement and service to campus. Brown is a resident advisor at Mignon Tower, serves as vice president of the Women's Virtue student organization, and is actively involved with the Eagle Diversity Education Center, the Black Gospel Ensemble, and other student groups.

For more information on the Board of Regents, email Board Secretary Jessica Stigall at [j.stigall@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:j.stigall@moreheadstate.edu) or call 606-783-2053.

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Nov. 9, 2023**  
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**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Morehead State housing staff wins state awards**

Last month, Morehead State University staff members and student employees from the Office of Student Housing took home several awards at the 2023 Kentucky Association of Housing Officers (KAHO) statewide conference at Bellarmine University in Louisville.

Katie Vanover (Class of 2019), area coordinator, received the 2023 KAHO New Professional Award. The award goes to one professional annually across the Commonwealth. The KAHO New Professional Award recognizes someone for outstanding contributions and service to their institution. Recipients must have worked for the institution for at least one year but at most three years. Vanover oversees operations and staff for East Mignon Hall, Mignon Hall, and Nunn Hall.

Lauren Colyer, a senior social work major from Batavia, Ohio, received the 2023 Kentucky Association of Residence Halls. The award goes to one student annually across the Commonwealth for outstanding contributions to their institution and the Kentucky Association of Residence Halls. Colyer is the third MSU student to win this award in five years. She also received the 2023 KAHO Outstanding Student Employee award.

Mary Clare Huff, a junior exercise science major from Ashland, received the 2023 KAHO Service Award. Selected annually by a member institution's chief housing officer, the KAHO Service Award recognizes a staff member who has given outstanding service to their university.

"To be recognized by the state body for the work that we do on campus is a great honor for our department and our outstanding professionals," said Dr. Alan Rucker, director of housing and residence education. "It's a testament to the good work that all of our staff undertakes for student success."

For more information about [MSU's Office of Student Housing](http://MSU's Office of Student Housing), email [housing@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:housing@moreheadstate.edu) or call [606-783-2060](tel:606-783-2060).

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Morehead State professor Dr. Chris Miller co-authors book on educational technology management**

Dr. Chris Miller (Class of 1994), professor of education and director of MSU at Mt. Sterling, has co-authored a book in the "Leadership and Best Practices in Educational Technology Management" series by the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) and Brill Publishing titled "AECT at 100: A Legacy of Leadership."

Miller was a contributor along with Dr. Anthony A. Piña, chief online learning officer at Illinois State University; Dr. Michael Molenda, associate professor emeritus at Indiana University Bloomington; Dr. Phil Harris, retired AECT executive director; and Dr. Barbara Lockee, associate vice provost for faculty affairs at Virginia Tech University.

The book explores the 100 years of leadership by AECT in educational technology and learning. The newly released book earned the James W. Brown Publication Award at the 2023 AECT International Convention in Orlando, Florida. The award recognizes the author(s) of an outstanding publication in educational technology.

"It was an honor to receive the James W. Brown award for creating 'AECT at 100: A Legacy of Leadership' was a privilege to lead," Miller said. "We are proud of the chapters provided by our many authors to create a book chronicling significant leadership activities by the organization over its 100-year history."

The 2023 AECT International Convention selected Miller as the recipient of the J. Michael Spector Appreciation Award. The award is given for long-term service and leadership to AECT beyond expectations.

Miller is a 24-year member of the organization, serving as president of two different divisions. He currently serves as the AECT Board of Directors representative for a third division and previously served as president of the AECT Foundation. Miller serves as the series co-editor for the AECT and Brill publications book series "Leadership and

Best Practices in Educational Technology Management," served as lead editor on the "AECT at 100: A Legacy of Leadership" book, and most recently helped to create the AECT Center for Excellence in Publishing.

"It was also an incredible honor to be the 2023 recipient of the J. Michael Spector Appreciation Award," Miller said. "I have always simply wanted to volunteer in the AECT to help it continue to grow. I am very thankful for being nominated and selected for this award."

Brill published "AECT at 100: A Legacy of Leadership." The book is available at <https://brill.com/display/title/69006?contents=editorial-content>.

For more information, contact Miller at [c.miller@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:c.miller@moreheadstate.edu) or [606-783-2078](tel:606-783-2078).

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

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Nov. 10, 2023**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Kentucky Folk Art Center hosts “Nature & People” exhibit and competition**

Morehead State’s Kentucky Folk Art Center (KFAC) will highlight the art of surrounding schools by hosting the Kentucky International Youth Arts Competition “Nature & People.” The competition and exhibit will kick off with a special reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 14. It will run until Jan. 8, 2024.

“Nature & People” will also include artists’ work from China, Italy, New Zealand, and other countries. The broad theme of the exhibit includes topics that reflect the following categories:

- Nature & Society
- Nature & Environmental Protection
- People & Animals
- Nature & Technology

“Nature & People” is a great opportunity for the public, local community, and schools to see different views on the theme of nature and people from various cultures and perspectives,” said Tammy Stone, administrative coordinator for the Kentucky Folk Art Center.

The KFAC operates from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Admission is free and open to the public.

Located in the historic Union Grocery near the campus of Morehead State University, the KFAC offers much more than a typical museum experience. It houses a permanent collection of nearly 1,400 pieces of self-taught art. Dozens of works from the collection are displayed on a rotating basis in the center’s first-floor gallery. The center presents several new changing exhibits each year in the second-floor gallery, featuring folk art, fine art, textiles, photography, and historical content. KFAC also boasts one of the best

gift shops in the region, offering original folk art, crafts, jewelry, books, toys, housewares, and much more.

To learn more about the [Kentucky Folk Art Center](#), contact Stone at [t.stone@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:t.stone@moreheadstate.edu) or [606-783-2044](tel:606-783-2044).

For more information about programs in [Art and Design](#) at Morehead State University, please email [arde@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:arde@moreheadstate.edu) or call [606-783-2766](tel:606-783-2766).

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Nov. 13, 2023**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Spartman Skaggs Pride Scholarship Fund established**

The Morehead State University Foundation announced the establishment of the Spartman Skaggs Pride Scholarship, a fund to assist MSU LGBTQ+ students in affording their education.

Larry "Aaron" Skaggs (Class of 1996, 1998) established the scholarship in his estate plans to honor his husband of 28 years, Barry Spartman (Class of 2003). Spartman was a library specialist at Camden-Carroll Library at MSU when he passed away in 2022 at 49. He began a 31-year career at the library as a work-study student when he was 18 after graduating from Elkhorn City High School.

Skaggs, a native of Elliott County, was the first in his immediate family to earn a college degree. He graduated high school as a salutatorian in 1993 and earned MSU's prestigious Presidential Scholarship. Skaggs met Spartman at MSU while earning an associate degree in radiologic sciences. He continued his education at Kettering College of Medical Arts with a specialty in Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI).

Skaggs returned to complete his bachelor's degree in 1998. He became a top MRI educator at Siemens Healthcare in Erlangen, Germany, and received many awards and accolades for his dedication and contributions.

Scholarship recipients must be full-time students identifying as LGBTQ+ and reside in either Elliott County or Pike County. They must also have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above and major in radiologic or library sciences.

"Aaron hopes this scholarship will inspire LGBTQ+ students from his and Barry's hometowns to pursue their educational dreams and realize their full potential," said Jessi Ferguson (Class of 2011, 2012), director of advancement and alumni communications. "This scholarship was created in honor of Aaron and Barry, their love for each other, and in appreciation of their education."

At Morehead State University, 95% of students receive some form of financial aid. The MSU Foundation is instrumental in assisting with scholarship support. The Foundation's endowment, valued at over \$70 million, manages nearly 600 funds to support MSU students.

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](mailto:giving@moreheadstate.edu) or visit [alumni.moreheadstate.edu](http://alumni.moreheadstate.edu).

Photo, left to right: Larry "Aaron" Skaggs and his late husband Barry Spartman, former Morehead State library specialist. Skaggs established the Spartman Skaggs Pride Scholarship Fund in his honor.

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Nov. 13, 2023**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Student-curated 'Reflection of Life' art exhibit opens Nov. 15**

Morehead State University art and design student Alexis Brown will present the self-initiated exhibit "Reflection of Life." The exhibit will be displayed at the Camden-Carroll Library's Diversity Gallery (located on the second floor) from Nov. 15 through Dec. 5. An opening reception will occur at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 15.

Brown, a senior Bachelor of Fine Art major from Barbourville, curated a collection of works by fellow MSU art and design students. Exhibiting students include:

- Xak Adkins, junior Bachelor of Arts in Art major, Williamsburg
- Chance Basford, junior Bachelor of Arts in Art major, West Liberty
- Michele Ko, junior Bachelor of Fine Arts major, Lexington
- Cameron McIntosh, senior Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art Education major, Morehead
- Adrienne Tuttle, sophomore Bachelor of Fine Arts major, Mt. Sterling

For more information about programs in [Art and Design](#) at Morehead State University, please email [arde@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:arde@moreheadstate.edu) or call [606-783-2766](tel:606-783-2766).

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Nov. 14, 2023**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Dr. Christopher Beckham publishes article in Ohio Valley History**

Morehead State University Associate Professor of Education Dr. Christopher Beckham recently published an article in Ohio Valley History. The Filson Historical Society, the University of Cincinnati, and the Cincinnati Museum Center sponsor the refereed academic journal.

Beckham's article titled "The Thread That Runs So True: Jesse Stuart's Perennially Instructive and Inspiring Book" explored Stuart's time as a teacher in early 20th century Kentucky, noting parallels with some of the challenges, opportunities, and joys that educators in Kentucky continue to experience. It also touched on the founding of teacher colleges in the Commonwealth, including Morehead State University.

Beckham's education students read "The Thread That Runs So True" in an undergraduate education course, "Foundations of Education." He said students always respond positively to classroom discussions centered on the text.

"Jesse Stuart is an important historical figure in our region and in Kentucky's literary and educational history," Beckham said. "Stuart's experiences as a teacher and his descriptions of life in rural Kentucky resonate with many of our students. The way he championed the importance of education inspires my teacher-education students. His book contains both great stories and detailed historical information about teaching in Kentucky in the early 20th century."

The book featuring Beckham's contribution is available at <https://muse.jhu.edu/issue/49486>.

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

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Skaggs, a native of Elliott County, was the first in his immediate family to earn a college degree. He graduated high school as a salutatorian in 1993 and earned MSU's prestigious Presidential Scholarship. Skaggs met Spartman at MSU while earning an associate degree in radiologic sciences. He continued his education at Kettering College of Medical Arts with a specialty in Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI).

Skaggs returned to complete his bachelor's degree in 1998. He became a top MRI educator at Siemens Healthcare in Erlangen, Germany, and received many awards and accolades for his dedication and contributions.

Scholarship recipients must be full-time students identifying as LGBTQ+ and reside in either Elliott County or Pike County. They must also have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above and major in radiologic or library sciences.

"Aaron hopes this scholarship will inspire LGBTQ+ students from his and Barry's hometowns to pursue their educational dreams and realize their full potential," said Allison Caudill (Class of 2005, 2009), executive director of alumni relations and development. "This scholarship was created in honor of Aaron and Barry, their love for each other, and in appreciation of their education."

At Morehead State University, 95% of students receive some form of financial aid. The MSU Foundation is instrumental in assisting with scholarship support. The Foundation's endowment, valued at over \$70 million, manages nearly 600 funds to support MSU students.

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](mailto:giving@moreheadstate.edu) or visit [alumni.moreheadstate.edu](http://alumni.moreheadstate.edu).

Photo, left to right: Larry "Aaron" Skaggs and his late husband Barry Spartman, former Morehead State library specialist. Skaggs established the Spartman Skaggs Pride Scholarship Fund in his honor.

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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

### **Morehead State students earn national theatre recognition**

Several Morehead State University theatre students received awards and nominations from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF).

Heather Fannin, a senior theatre major from Morehead, received the Outstanding Directing Award from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) Region 4. The KCACTF recognized her for her direction in the MSU theatre production "The Women of Lockerbie."

Written by Deborah B. Brevoort, "The Women of Lockerbie" is the true story of Pan Am Flight 103, shot down over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1987. The play follows the women of Lockerbie as she clashes with the U.S. government for the right to clean and return the personal belongings of the passengers to their families.

Fannin said after registering the show for the festival, a respondent for the festival comes to see your performance and provides feedback. After the show closed, Octavia Biggs, director of Morehead State's Little Theatre Company and Fannin's mentor, revealed her nomination for the Outstanding Directing Award. The only thing that shocked her more than getting nominated was receiving the award as the winner.

"I was completely overtaken with emotion," Fannin said. "I was so proud of not only the work I had accomplished but all of the efforts the actors did to make this possible. To put so much passion and love into something and to watch others recognize my work is an amazing feeling."

In addition to Fannin's recognition, other MSU theatre students received nominations by KCACTF for their work in "The Women and Lockerbie." Hadley Pierce (junior theatre education major, Paducah) and Summer Little (junior theatre education major, Hi Hat) both earned nominations for the Irene Ryan Acting Award, while Natalie Shoemaker (sophomore theatre education major, Winchester) received recognition for her role as state manager of the production.

All these students are eligible to attend the KCACTF Region 4 conference in Albany, Georgia, in February 2024. They will compete against other college students within the seven states in our region. Should they choose to move forward, they could potentially compete for a place at the national competition at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and receive a substantial scholarship.

"I am so honored to be able to be recognized with two very talented and hardworking actors. They have continuously put in so much time and effort into our department, and it does not go unnoticed," Fannin said. "And for Natalie Shoemaker, who was my stage manager and is also nominated, we worked very closely during this entire process and were continuously devoted to putting on the best possible production in the best environment for everyone. I cannot wait to see what life has in store for these talented women."

To learn more about [Morehead State theatre and dance programs](#), email [mtd@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:mtd@moreheadstate.edu) or call [606-783-2473](tel:606-783-2473).

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Nov. 16, 2023  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **37th Annual Appalachian Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair Dec. 2**

Downtown Morehead, Inc. and the [Kentucky Folk Art Center \(KFAC\)](#) present the 37th Annual Appalachian Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair on Saturday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Laughlin Health Building.

More than 100 juried artisans will be at the event, offering a variety of handcrafted wood items, ceramics, homemade baked goods, jewelry, and more. Food vendors will be located outside the venue.

"The fair is an opportunity for customers to purchase original artisan handcrafted work directly from the artist or vendor," said Tammy Stone, KFAC administrative coordinator.

Admission to the fair is \$3, and children 12 and under are admitted for free.

The Kentucky Folk Art Center (KFAC) at Morehead State University houses a permanent collection of nearly 1,400 pieces of self-taught art. Dozens of works from the collection are displayed on a rotating basis in the center's first-floor gallery. The Center presents several new changing exhibits each year in the second-floor gallery, featuring folk art, fine art, textiles, photography, and historical content. The gift shop offers original folk art, crafts, jewelry, books, toys, housewares and more. KFAC hosts or sponsors regular cultural events and activities each year, like the Appalachian Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair, on the first Saturday in December.

For more information about [KFAC](#), contact Stone at 606-783-2204 or email [t.stone@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:t.stone@moreheadstate.edu).

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Nov. 17, 2023**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Vet tech radiology suite named in memory of alum's son**

A special ceremony was held Wednesday, Nov. 15, at Morehead State's Derrickson Agricultural Complex to honor the memory of the son of an alumna of the veterinary technology program.

The Austin Wyatt Cooper Veterinary Technology Radiology Suite was named after the son of Austin and Kelsey Choate Cooper (Class of 2016, 2017) of Richmond. The dedication was made possible through a generous in-kind equipment donation made by Dr. Harry James Martin. Martin, who employed Kelsey at his veterinary clinic for many years, donated radiology equipment to MSU's veterinary technology program.

"As the owner and operator of a private veterinary practice, I am always looking for new technicians to hire," said Martin. "Morehead State is producing some of the highest quality technicians available, and I'm honored that my donation enhances their hands-on learning opportunities."

Martin's request when making the donation was that it somehow honors the legacy of Kelsey's late son.

A plaque was placed in the suite that reads, "The Austin Wyatt Cooper radiology Suite - In recognition of equipment donated by Dr. Harry James Martin, owner of Advanced Animal Care. Wyatt's mother, Kelsey Choate Cooper (Class of 2016, 2017) is a graduate of MSU's veterinary technology program and longtime employee of Advanced Animal Care."

"Morehead State prepared me for my future career," said Kelsey. "To now have my son's memory honored at the place that gave me so much has turned a traumatic event in our lives into something beautiful."

Students in the veterinary science and veterinary technology programs will use the suite to learn about veterinary radiology, gaining hands-on experience working with live animals in the complex's small animal hospital.

The 350-acre Derrickson Agricultural Complex, also known as the University Farm, houses 48 students and is home to the Equine Health Education Center. The facility also includes Richardson Arena, which seats 2,000 for regional horse shows, as well as indoor and outdoor riding facilities. The farm also houses a small animal hospital complete with kennels, along with sheep, cattle and swine operations. The farm has a greenhouse and horticulture operations, which provide plants, fruits and vegetables for the campus community and the general public.

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

Photo Caption: The radiology suite at the Derrickson Agricultural Complex was dedicated to the memory of the late Austin Wyatt Cooper, son of alum Kelsey Choate Cooper of Richmond. Pictured from left to right are: Retired Professor of Veterinary Science Dr. Philip Prater, Kelsey Choate Cooper, Dr. Harry James Martin, Dinah Martin and Associate Professor of Veterinary Technology Dr. Amy Staton.

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Nov. 17, 2023**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Agricultural sciences receives USDA grant for swine facilities**

Morehead State's Department of Agricultural Sciences is the recipient of a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to upgrade equipment in its swine production facility at the Derrickson Agricultural Complex.

"I believe that these upgrades can be a game changer for helping our students be more prepared for their careers after graduation," said Dr. Flint Harrelson, associate professor of animal science. "I also believe that these upgrades will be valuable assets to the bountiful resources at the Derrickson Agricultural Complex."

The nearly \$47,000 grant from the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will pay for updated equipment used for animal husbandry, specifically sow nutritional management and the care of sick piglets. The swine facility was built in the early 2000s, and the equipment is outdated.

"Over the past 20+ years, the industry has seen many advances in technology and housing including the almost universal adoption of pen gestation systems with electronic sow feeders. These technologies also have allowed for more efficient and sustainable management of labor, farms, and animals," Harrelson said. "These upgrades will make our students more marketable upon graduation as they will have not only the animal husbandry skills to care for the livestock but also the technical experience of working with equipment found in modern swine facilities. These upgrades can also expand the opportunities for industry applied research which can aid students in gaining valuable life skills along with building more industry connections and options for graduates."

Dr. Shannon Harr, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs' director, said MSU's location makes it more important for the facilities to be upgraded.

"MSU has taught students hands-on swine production for over 40 years and has had great success with placing students in the industry," said Harr. "Our proximity to swine

operations in North Carolina, Ohio, and Indiana have made for tremendous student opportunities with the swine industry.”

The 350-acre Derrickson Agricultural Complex, also known as the University Farm, houses 48 students and is home to the Equine Health Education Center. The facility also includes Richardson Arena, which seats 2,000 for regional horse shows, and indoor and outdoor riding facilities. The farm also houses a small animal hospital complete with kennels, along with sheep, cattle, and swine operations. The farm has a greenhouse and horticulture operations, which provide plants, fruits, and vegetables for the campus community and the public.

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Nov. 17, 2023**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Bluegrass Diversion Returns to WMKY**

After more than a decade, a listener favorite returns to WMKY (90.3FM). Focusing on new and classic bluegrass, old-time, and traditional music, "Bluegrass Diversion" can be heard on Saturdays at 10 a.m.

First launched in 1984, Lisa Lally (Class of 1986) was the creator and host of the original "Bluegrass Diversion" program, followed by John Skaggs (Class of 1990) and the late Sandy Knipp, who hosted the program for 20 years.

The new host of "Bluegrass Diversion" is John Ryster (Class of 2013,) a multi-instrumentalist, luthier, teacher, and music historian. Ryster came to Morehead State University in 2008 for the Kentucky Center for Traditional Music program and graduated with a bachelor's degree in construction management.

"Music is a big part of my life," said Ryster. "I currently play in a string band called Hogtown, which consists of myself, Thomas Albert, and Nick Lloyd. I also host the Elliott County Fiddlers Convention in Sandy Hook, Kentucky, during the second weekend in July."

"Bluegrass Diversion" on Morehead State Public Radio (MSPR) is WMKY's weekly showcase of bluegrass music, spotlighting music news, concerts and festivals, interviews, in-studio guests, and listener requests.

"I hope listeners enjoy my program as a continuation of the work Sandy Knipp, Tony Pence (Class of 2012), Michelle Wallace, and Jesse Wells (Class of 2007) did before me on WMKY," said Ryster. "I hope to highlight the wealth of local bluegrass talent in our area, as well as traditional bluegrass, national performers, and the classic traditional, old-time sounds for a true diversion in bluegrass music."

Besides being an accomplished musician, Ryster is a luthier who builds custom Appalachian violins at his home in Hogtown Ridge in Rowan County, Kentucky. A 2023

Appy Award winner for Best Luthier, Ryster is a master instructor with the Kentucky Arts Council's Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Project.

"I learned to build instruments from Tommy Case of Georgetown through the Kentucky Arts Council apprenticeship. I love it, and I've been busy building them for folks ever since," said Ryster. "Musicians from all over own my violins, including Tyler Childers, Sarah Pirkle, and Pete Thompson."

Ryser says he understands that bluegrass music has a long and strong tradition in Appalachian culture.

"We're like a family," said Ryster. "Bluegrass and traditional music are vital parts of our culture in eastern Kentucky. It's important to have a program on WMKY to showcase this music. The fact that it's on a public radio station is even better because we're free to play the real stuff!"

"Bluegrass Diversion" with John Ryster can be heard on Morehead State Public Radio (WMKY) on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 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 ([www.wmky.org](http://www.wmky.org)), by phone app, or by smart speaker ("Play WMKY").

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Nov. 20, 2023**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Dr. Tathagata Ray receives NSF grant for wind energy research**

Morehead State University Assistant Professor of Construction and Civil Engineering Technology, Dr. Tathagata Ray, was recently awarded a grant from the Kentucky National Science Foundation's (NSF) Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) to support his research project exploring ways to mitigate roof damage caused by high winds.

High winds flowing over roofs of low-rise buildings can cause damage in two ways:

Uplifting and removal of the roof causing the total collapse of the building.

Localized damage that causes water leaks that result in more significant structural and functional loss.

One of the reasons behind both damage mechanisms is the suction (upward pressure) created on the roof by the wind. Ray developed a control system that will be activated by suction and later reduce suction.

Ray visited Florida International University (FIU) in October 2023 and conducted a set of experiments utilizing the NSF Natural Hazards Engineering Research Infrastructure (NHERI) Wall of Wind (WoW) Experimental Facility. The controller was fabricated for Ray by The Honey and Bee Connection, a local wood workshop in Morehead. Ray worked with Undergraduate Research Fellows Ryan Justice from Pikeville, a senior construction and civil engineering management major, and Hunter Cook from Bidwell, Ohio, a sophomore majoring in space systems engineering.

"I applaud the work of Dr. Ray. His work in studying the effects of wind on structures is of great value to the construction industry from the local to national level and beyond," said Dr. Eric Jerde, associate dean of the School of Engineering and Computer Science.

In addition to these two students involved, James Bradley, lab and facilities manager for the School of Engineering and Technology Management, was also involved in the initial small-scale testing at MSU. The trials entailed testing those specimens on the MSU campus using a wind tunnel purchased with NSF KY EPSCoR grant funds.

"I completed the tests at FIU ahead of schedule. This happened because of camaraderie and the congenial atmosphere that the Wall of Wind team provided me, together with the hard work they did with me," Ray said. "I also thank you for the support from the MSU management, including the Office of Research [and Sponsored Programs]."

Dr. Shannon Harr, director of research and sponsored programs, said support from EPSCoR has been vital to research across campus.

"This research was made possible by funding received through the NSF KY EPSCoR program. Faculty at MSU have been generously supported by KY EPSCoR, receiving millions of dollars to support research and teaching," he said.

For more information about MSU's [School of Engineering and Computer Science](https://www.moreheadstate.edu/schools/school-of-engineering-and-computer-science/), email [secs@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:secs@moreheadstate.edu) or call 606-783-2090.

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Cooperative Agreement No. 1849213. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

Photo Caption: Dr, Tathagata Ray, Assistant Professor of Construction and Civil Engineering Technology, at the Wall of Wind experiment facility at Florida International University.

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Nov. 20, 2023**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **KCTM Semester Finale Concert Nov. 28**

The Kentucky Center for Traditional Music (KCTM) will hold its “Sounds of Our Heritage” mid-semester concert on Tuesday, Nov. 28, at the Morehead Conference Center at 7 p.m.

The event will feature performances from all sections of the student ensemble. KCTM students will present various 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](mailto:kctm@moreheadstate.edu) or call 606-783-9001.

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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

### **Morehead State students participate in Model UN Conference**

Morehead State University students participated in the 44th Annual Model United Nations Conference held Nov. 2-4 at the University of Louisville. Sponsored by the Indiana Consortium of International Programs, the event brought students from six universities in Kentucky and Indiana to simulate the United Nations Security Council.

Students who attended include:

- Carter Abshire (senior history/political science major, Ashland)
- Taylor Bishop (junior history major, Greensburg)
- Rexford Castle (junior political science major, Paintsville)
- Bryce Fletcher (junior history major, Warfield)
- Calleigh Gray (sophomore political science major, Elizabethtown)
- Peyton McWilliams (sophomore political science major, Hendersonville)
- Nathaniel Walden (senior history/political major, Lexington)

Bishop won first place as the top member of his council meeting and the top diplomat, based on votes by fellow council members. Walden won the third-place award in his council.

Issues discussed over the three-day event included:

- The Israeli-Palestinian conflict
- Russia-Ukraine war
- Haiti
- The peacekeeping situation in Niger

The students had a particular responsibility given to all Model UN meetings on how countries should address the plight of Internally Displaced Persons.

"This is a great opportunity for our students to learn more about conflict across the world and how countries try to work together to solve it," said Dr. Jason M. Adkins, co-advisor to Model UN and assistant professor of political science. "I am also proud of the hard work the students put in, and it showed with the awards two of them came home with."

Dr. James Masterson, chair of the Department of History, Philosophy, Politics, Global Studies and Legal Studies and associate professor of political science, also served as co-advisor.

"Model events like UN and EU provide students in all majors in our department with active learning opportunities to engage with students from other universities to work towards the common interests found among the nations they represent," Masterson said. "After studying deeply about their assigned country students are well equipped to work their negotiating tactics and diplomatic skills to draft resolutions that can be passed within the framework of the particular institution. All of the student delegates have found these activities enjoyable and worthy of their time."

Morehead State University also plans to participate in the Model European Union meeting from April 13 to April 15 at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

For more information on Model UN or Model EU, please contact Dr. Adkins at [jm.adkins@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:jm.adkins@moreheadstate.edu). Students from all majors are welcome to participate.

For more information on [MSU's Department of History, Philosophy, Politics, Global Studies and Legal Studies programs](#), contact [hgpl@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:hgpl@moreheadstate.edu) or [606-783-2655](tel:606-783-2655).

Photo: Morehead State faculty and students attended the 44th Annual Model United Nations Conference held Nov. 2-4 at the University of Louisville. Pictured, from left to right, are Dr. James Masterson, Carter Abshire, Rexford Castle, Bryce Fletcher, Nathaniel Walden, Taylor Bishop, Peyton McWilliams, Calleigh Gray, and Dr. Jason M. Adkins.

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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

### **MSU Closed for Thanksgiving Nov. 22-26**

Morehead State Will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 22, through Sunday, Nov. 26, for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Administrative offices will be closed, and classes will not meet.

The following offices are also closed Nov. 22-26:

- University Bookstore and University Post Office
- Camden-Carroll Library
- Recreation & Wellness Center

The MSU Police Department is staffed 24 hours a day during the break. The police department can be reached by calling 606-783-2035 or using the LiveSafe smartphone app.

Regular operating hours resume Monday, Nov. 27.

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Nov. 28, 2023**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Morehead State OperaWorks fall production Dec. 1**

An evening of classic music theatre, operetta, and opera will ring in the holiday season when Morehead State University OperaWorks presents its fall show at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, in the Duncan Recital Hall of the Baird Music Building. All students are admitted free, and adults can attend with a financial donation at the event.

The show features excerpts from Lerner and Lowe's "Brigadoon," scenes from Gilbert and Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore" and "Trial by Jury," Mozart's "Don Giovanni," Jones and Schmidt's "The Fantasticks," and Jonathan Dove's "The Enchanted Pig."

Members of OperaWorks are:

- Sarah Brown – freshman theatre major, Morehead
- Eli Campbell – sophomore vocal performance major, Ashland
- Brianna Dorsey – junior vocal performance major, Bardstown
- Jocelyn Goldy – senior music education major, Morehead
- Mason Pack – junior music major, Louisa
- Caleb Pitts – freshman vocal performance major, Flemingsburg,
- Alura Schaum – sophomore history major, Cynthiana
- Logan Smalley – sophomore music education major, Flemingsburg
- Ashley Vela – freshman music major, Lexington

"OperaWorks, like so many performance organizations, was hit hard after COVID. But we are back with our first big show since 2020. It features the most talented students in the vocal program at MSU," said Dr. Roma Prindle, professor of music and founder/director of MSU OperaWorks. "OperaWorks has always had a strong community following since it was founded 30 years ago. We will be thrilled to unite with the Morehead community once again."

OperaWorks began 30 years ago to provide valuable stage experience for voice majors and other classical singers in MSU's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. The

ensemble has performed extensively throughout the region and in England, Ireland, and Wales. Dr. Cully Bell is the show's collaborative pianist.

For more information, contact Prindle at [r.prindle@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:r.prindle@moreheadstate.edu) or call [606-783-2481](tel:606-783-2481).

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

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Nov. 28, 2023**  
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### **Dr. Timothy Simpson co-authors classical education essay**

Morehead State University Associate Dean and Professor of Education Dr. Timothy L. Simpson recently co-authored an essay with Dr. Jon Fennell, professor emeritus and former dean of social sciences at Hillsdale College, published in "Principia: A Journal of Classical Education."

Principia is a new, leading journal for classical and liberal education studies supported by Baylor University. Simpson co-authored the essay "An Epistemological Rationale for Classical Education." The paper examines the need to fortify classical education and protect it from the dangers some see as misguided conceptions of assessment and accountability.

"Our effort is supported by the strikingly insightful defender of liberal arts education, Harry S. Broudy, a preeminent voice in philosophy of education during the mid to late-twentieth century," Simpson said. "The article explores Broudy's call for general or liberal education, highlighting the seminal epistemology of Michael Polanyi, upon which Broudy's call stands."

Simpson, who is faculty in the Ernst & Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education, also recently conducted a doctoral-directed study on Polanyi's pioneering epistemological framework and its educational implications for curriculum design for K-12 education. He submitted an essay under review to "Tradition and Discovery: The Polanyi Society Journal" based on that study.

Principia is available at <https://principia.artsandsciences.baylor.edu>.

Dr. Timothy Simpson can be reached at [tl.simpson@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:tl.simpson@moreheadstate.edu).

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

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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

### **Morehead State 2023 Fall Commencement is Dec. 10**

Morehead State University has announced details for the 2023 Fall Commencement.

The commencement ceremony for fall and winter 2023 graduates begins at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, in the Academic-Athletic Center (AAC).

No tickets are required for the commencement ceremony, and there is no limit on the number of guests who may attend. Accommodated seating for guests and their families will be available at the AAC. This seating is on a first-come, first-served basis, so arriving before the ceremony begins is recommended. MSU will live-stream the ceremony for those who are unable to attend.

The student speaker for the 2023 Fall Commencement is Isaiah Davis of Fort Worth, Texas. He represents the Elmer R. Smith College of Business & Technology and is the son of Kara and Eli Davis and the brother of Elijah Davis. He will graduate with a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Finance.

Davis attended Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas, from the fall of 2019 to the spring of 2021 before transferring to Morehead State. He maintained a 4.0 GPA as an undergraduate student at both institutions and made the Dean's List for the College of Business & Technology every semester as an MSU student. As an MSU student-athlete, Davis was a starting wide receiver, kick returner, and special teams player for MSU Football and was part of the team's Leadership Council.

MSU will also host events celebrating student groups the week before commencement.

The Lavender Graduation is at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 4, in Ballroom A of the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC). This annual graduation ceremony honors LGBTQ+ students and acknowledge their campus accomplishments and contributions.

The Rites of Passage ceremony is at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 4, in ADUC Ballroom A. This ceremony celebration is a ritual for minority and international students at MSU that marks a change from one stage of life to the following, commemorating graduation.

To learn more about both ceremonies, contact Myiah Clemons, coordinator of first year programs/second year programs for diversity and inclusion, at [mclemons2@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:mclemons2@moreheadstate.edu).

For more information on MSU's 2023 Fall Commencement and to livestream the ceremonies, visit [moreheadstate.edu/graduation](https://moreheadstate.edu/graduation).

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