

September 2006

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Another summer has come and gone and we were kept very busy excitedly preparing for our new MTSU Freshmen and Transfer students to arrive. Thank you for all that you do to assist our incoming students through their transition to our university by participating in CUSTOMS and by giving individual assistance.

We have also appreciated your involvement in the MTSU Summer Reading Program over the past three years. We've introduced incoming students to books like *Between a Rock and a Hard Place* by Aron Ralston, *All Over but the Shoutin'* by Rick Bragg, and the controversial *Naked in Baghdad* by Anne Garrels.

In our attempt to heighten awareness and participation in the campus Obesity Project the book we have chosen is *Fat Land* by Greg Critser. On Saturday, August 26, Critser had a book signing at Linebaugh Library and spoke to community book clubs. The Distinguished Lecture Committee brought the author to campus to speak at Convocation and attend the President's luncheon on Sunday, August 27. Critser also visited one of MTSU's classes on Monday morning, August 28.

As in years past, MTSU's Summer Reading Program objectives were to:

- Provide a unifying experience for the entering class of students,
- Partner with Murfreesboro community organizations,
- Encourage intellectual interaction among students,
- Provide students with the opportunity to read and personally interact with critically-acclaimed authors, and

- Affirm the importance of reading to a successful and fulfilling life.

Thanks again for your participation in this community wide project. If you have questions about personal or classroom involvement for our future Summer Reading Programs please contact me at lwithero@mtsu.edu or 898-2339.

Sincerely,
Laurie Witherow
Director,
Academic Support Center

ACADEMIC
SUPPORT CENTER 

ACT/COMPASS PRESCRIBED COURSES

To: Deans, Chairs, Faculty, Advisors and Department Secretaries

From: Kaylene A. Gebert

Date: June 12, 2006

Re: Prescribed Courses

MTSU has implemented a new program for ACT/COMPASS prescribed courses, formerly designated as Developmental Studies, effective Fall 2006. Students who are admitted to the University may be required to enroll in these new courses based on ACT/SAT or COMPASS sub-scores. Remedial courses (DSPR0700, DSPW0700, and DSPM0700) will continue to be taught by Motlow State Community College on our campus.

The new courses are: ENGL 1009K, ENGL 1010K, READ 1000K, UNIV 1010K, MATH 1000K, MATH 1010K, and MATH 1710K. The K indicates these are prescribed courses with the "K" denoted in the section number. Students who are required to take ENGL 1009K, must enroll in an ENGL 1010K class the following semester. The ENGL 1010K, MATH 1010K, and MATH 1710K will fulfill General Education requirements. The remaining courses will apply toward elective credit.

If there are questions regarding the prescribed courses, please contact the Academic Enrichment Program (AEP) at Ext. 2568. We appreciate

your support as we continue to seek innovative practices to create a student-centered learning environment which will address the needs of a diverse student population.

If a student is required to enroll in a prescribed course, he/she must enroll in it the first semester.

IN THE CHART BELOW, PLEASE FIND A LISTING OF ALL DSP COURSES AND THE CORRESPONDING NEW COURSE THAT WILL BE OFFERED.

DSP Courses	New Courses
DSPW 0800 Developmental Writing	ENGL 1009 Introduction to University Writing
DSPR 0800 Developmental Reading	READ 1000 Reading Skills Enrichment
DSPM 0800 Elementary Algebra	MATH 1000 Essentials of Mathematics
DSPM 0850 Intermediate Algebra	*MATH 1010 (K Sections) Mathematics for General Studies <u>or</u> *MATH 1710 (K Sections) College Algebra
DSPS 0800 Learning Strategies	UNIV 1010 (K Sections) University Seminar

***It is imperative that students contact their major advisors to determine which of the two courses they should take.**

Be aware that these new courses will serve as "repeats" for students who fail the comparable DSP course.

Please note that remedial courses (DSPR 0700, DSPW 0700, and DSPM 0700) will continue to be taught by Motlow State Community College on the MTSU campus. All levels of developmental studies courses will continue to be offered through the Regents Online Degree Program. If a student wishes to take his/her prescribed courses through RODP, the course numbering system will be the same as the former DSP system.

MOVE OVER OPRAH, MTSU HAS A BOOK CLUB TOO!!



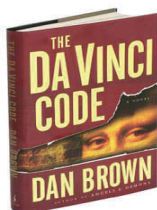
The Raider Book Club is part of our initiative to model life-long learning and a love of reading to our freshmen. Faculty members and administrators are asked to select a book for students to read that touched them, changed their way of thinking, or they simply enjoyed. Each participant will then "facilitate" a discussion reception with the students. Several instructors from the UNIV 1010 course give their students a chance to participate for either a grade or extra credit. The following is a list for the Fall 2006 Raider Book Club Discussions.



Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix by J.K. Rowling

Facilitator: Dr. Martha Hixon
Associate Professor - English

Meeting: Tuesday, September 19th,
4:30pm – 6:00pm Library Room 475



The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown

Facilitator: Dr. Shapiro, Professor—
Philosophy

Meeting: Thursday, October 5th, 4:30pm –
6:00pm – BAS SunTrust
Room



Welfare Brat: A Memoir by Mary Childers

Facilitator: Amy Staples, Associate
Professor
History

Meeting: Monday, November 6th,
4:30pm – 6:00pm – Library Room 475

If you would like your students to participate for a grade or for extra credit, please contact Michelle McDaniel at 898-5709 or email: mmcdanie@mtsu.edu.



BUZZ FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

Greetings!

We are happy to announce that MTSU has established the FIRST chapter of Tau Sigma (National Honor Society for Transfer Students) in Tennessee with 64 inductees this spring.

Please remind all new transfer students to take advantage of UNIV 2020 – Successful Transitions. This seminar is geared to transfer students'

needs and interests. Six sections are being offered in the fall.

Be sure to watch for "Transfer Student Week" September 11-14 at the KUC. This event is a welcome and celebration for our new transfer students.

Starting this fall, all new transfer student will be receiving a weekly e-letter. This communication will serve as an on-going orientation of events and academic calendar announcements for the new student's first semester at MTSU.

For more information, please contact Dr. Virginia Donnell. (vdonnell@mtsu.edu)

ADVISOR NEWS

We are pleased to announce that Mr. Horace Stogner, an Advisor in the Academic Support Center, recently won the NACADA Regional Academic Advising award. We are also happy to announce the Spring semester hiring of multiple Professional Advisors to better serve our MTSU students. There are two new Advisors from the College of Liberal Arts: Ms. Judy Albakry and Dr. Lucy Langworthy; one new Advisor for the College of Basic and Applied Sciences: Ms. Jennifer Danylo; and one new Advisor for the Academic Support Center: Mr. Luther Buie.

Ms. Judy Albakry comes to us with a B.A. in Liberal Studies and a M.Ed. in Counseling from Northern Arizona University. She has previous work experience in counseling and was the Secretary of the English Department at NAU. Her expertise in advising students and helping them choose and enroll in classes will be an asset to the College of Liberal Arts. She is pleased to be at MTSU and looks forward to working with students, staff, faculty, and other advisors.

Dr. Lucy B. Langworthy began working at MTSU in February as an Advisor in the College of Liberal Arts. To this position she brings advising and teaching experience from Cumberland University, MTSU, and Vanderbilt University. At these schools she

taught various classes in English with her specialty being Technical Communication. Also, she worked at her alma mater, Mississippi College, as an Admissions Counselor. Her hobbies are hiking, running, and reading, and when time permits she enjoys volunteering with Hope Ministries, the American Red Cross, and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. She is married to Dr. Warren Langworthy and has three children, Megan, 19, Lara, 16, and John Ross, 6. Her favorite leisure activity is spending time with her family in their various interests. She enjoys working at MTSU in her new role as an Academic Advisor and getting to know the many caring and helpful people at the University.

Ms. Jennifer Danylo, previously an Area Coordinator for the MTSU Housing Office, rejoins the MTSU family as the newest College of Basic and Applied Advisor. Jennifer was born in Maryland, but grew up in Huntsville, Alabama. She completed her Masters in Community Counseling from the University of North Alabama. After graduating, she moved to Murfreesboro and worked at MTSU as an Area Coordinator in Housing for four years. She then moved to Bowling Green, Kentucky, working as a Housing Coordinator at Western Kentucky University. Jennifer has recently moved back to Murfreesboro and is now an advisor for the College of Basic

and Applied Sciences. She was involved in various leadership positions while in college and developed a passion for working with college students. In her free time she likes to be outside, go to concerts, drive, cook, or hang out with her dog Stella. We're certain that Jennifer's experience working with college students will make her transition as an Academic Advisor an effortless one.

Mr. Luther T. Buie is a returning MTSU advisor. He served as the Director of Multicultural Affairs at Tulane University in New Orleans but was relocated courtesy of Hurricane Katrina. Luther also worked in a number of other roles prior to advising, such as Greek Life, Student Recruitment, and Orientation. Married and a father to a five year old, free time is mostly family time. However, interests include reading, writing, music, and researching new trends in student development. The Academic Support Center was sad to hear of his displacement due to the hurricane, but is happy that he has returned to the MTSU community and is thrilled to have him as their newest advisor.





CLOUDS IN OUR WAY: CAREER/MAJOR INDECISION AS A SYMPTOM OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

By Joe Tucibat, Assistant
Director For Career
Development

MTSU Academic Support Center

Sue Denim (a pseudonym) came in for advising because she had earned 45 hours college credit and had yet to choose a major. She seemed tired and was pessimistic that she could find a major because she'd "already tried everything that's supposed to help."

During the interview she denied interest in all of her courses and said that no academic field interested her. She said that she had no idea about what she'd like to do for a career. She listed her hobbies as reading, writing "sad poems," and shopping with friends. Review of her transcripts showed average grades, which were lower than one might expect given her significantly above average ACT Composite score of 27.

She had brought in results of earlier interest testing with O*Net's Interest Profiler, a Holland-based inventory. The results showed no high interest in any of the six Holland interest areas. In fact, the profile showed little difference between any of the six scores and all the scores were low. It seemed to show that Sue was truly just not interested in anything.

At this point, in similar cases, advisors and career counselors often feel as helpless as Sue does. We have nothing to use for clues to suggest next steps in the career development process. Or do we? Well, sometimes nothing can actually be "something."

Sue's achieving less than what her ACT scores suggest she could achieve plus her general lack of interest could be a sign of depression. Common symptoms of depression include:

- Persistent sad or anxious mood
- Trouble sleeping/sleeping too much
- Changes in weight/appetite
- Frequent restlessness or irritability
- Difficulty planning, remembering and/or concentrating and making decisions
- Fatigue, loss of energy
- Feelings of hopelessness and low self-esteem
- Thoughts of death or suicide
- Not wanting to spend time with friends and becoming socially isolated

In Sue's case, her advisor took a risk and said, "It seems like you aren't feeling too good—how are you feeling?" Sue agreed that she felt tired and hopeless and had felt that way for about a year. Her advisor showed her a sheet that had the depression symptoms listed and asked her if she had been struggling with any of them, pointing out that career/major indecision can be a product of "difficulty planning" and "difficulty making decisions." Sue indicated that the majority of the symptoms applied to her and said that she'd been treated for depression two years ago but had stopped treatment when she started college. Her advisor talked with her about the importance of feeling up to the challenges of college by managing conditions that impact academic/job performance and recommended a screening at Counseling Services.

Three weeks later Sue was in her advisor's office again and seemed to feel better. She had kept her appointment with Counseling Services and

followed up on their recommendations for treatment. She and the advisor talked again about what might be interesting for her to study and this time the conversation revealed an interest in writing. She was even thinking about contributing some of her more upbeat poetry to a campus publication.

Now that the clouds were clearing, Sue and the advisor finally got a glimpse of possibilities to begin their career/major investigation process. Not only was Sue indicating some interest and enjoyment in a subject, but her improved energy was giving her hope for the advising experience and motivation to follow through with the exploration and decision-making processes that would be recommended by her advisor.

Only licensed professionals can diagnose depression. For an advisor, being aware of the clues of underlying depression, without trying to diagnose, can be a valuable skill. Your ability to gently confirm the presence of depression symptoms in a student's life can be invaluable to them. A referral to Counseling Services for screening can be a key component of making your future work with the student productive. Someday it may literally be a life saver.

Important Dates:



August 28
Fall Classes begin

September 4
Labor Day – No Classes

October 14 – 17
Fall Break – No Classes

October 16 – 21
Mid-semester

November 23 – 25
Thanksgiving Holidays – No Classes

December 6
Last Day of Classes

December 7
Study Day – No Classes

December 8 – 14
Final Exams

Fee Payment Deadlines:
Fall 2006

August 17 for Priority Registrants

August 24 for students who register August 18-24

Academic Appeals Deadline:
Fall 2006

August 21



Cartoon created by Shelly Johnson

