

December Newsletter



Contents

Meet Dr. Mary Beth Asbury

Meet Holly Allen

Lambda Pi Eta

Communication Studies Club

Speech & Debate Update

Classes Look Different in 2020

Comm Studies Internship

Meredith Craig

Meet Dr. Mary Beth Asbury

Who am I?

Dr. Asbury joined MTSU in 2011, after she completed her Ph.D. at the University of Kansas. She is originally from Knoxville, so MTSU has been the perfect fit for her – close enough to see her family and to be there if something happens but not so close that she's asked to babysit every night. 😊 Dr. Asbury loves the campus and the Murfreesboro community. She is active in her church as a deacon and enjoys community events and places, such as the Farmer's Market and the greenway system.

At MTSU, Dr. Asbury teaches Quantitative Research Methods, Interpersonal Communication, Introduction to Communication, Interviewing, Nonverbal Communication, Family Communication, and will be teaching classes in the new Health Communication concentration. In the classroom, her main goal is to instill in students a love of the subject of communication. She wants them to understand what communication is, how it affects their lives, and how we can always improve our skills. She also hopes that they encounter and understand that communication is constantly evolving, which means they will always need to learn how to communicate effectively in different contexts

Dr. Asbury's research focuses on health communication in terms of interpersonal communication and identity. Her current research focuses on family communication and the development of weight stigma, body image, #fitspiration posts on social media, and 3D body scanning. The ultimate goal of her research is to help people learn how to communicate in ways that are not stigmatizing and hurtful to other people, especially in the areas of body weight and body size.

Overall, Dr. Asbury's life can be summed up with the following: she loves tacos, Jesus, teaching, her family, her friends, college basketball and football, reality competition shows, and The Golden Girls (not necessarily in that order).

She wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season! She is thankful for all of you and will see you next fall when she returns from sabbatical!



Dr. Mary Beth Asbury
Associate Professor

Zoom Accounts

Students have access to a Zoom account and can host their own meetings. [Click here to get started!](#)

Meet Holly Allen



Holly Allen
Career Advisor
MTSU Career Development Center

Who am I?

Holly Allen is a career advisor in the Career Development Center and serves as the liaison for the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Media & Entertainment. She was hired in February this year and comes to MTSU from Northwestern University in Chicago where she was a career advisor for the School of Communication.

Holly has a liberal arts background herself and spent 20 years in the film and theatre industries (thirteen years in Nashville and seven in Chicago). She specializes in working with students pursuing a creative career path who often have multiple interests and want to explore freelancing in addition to a fulltime job. As a professional that has freelanced and had salaried jobs herself, she brings a unique perspective to her role as career advisor.

The Career Development Center offers three main services: one-on-one career advising, professional document reviews, and employer events such as career fairs, meet and greets, and webinars.

Holly loves working with students and is happy to meet with you anytime! Make an appt. with her on Navigate to talk about your career goals and how she can help you get there!



Twitter: @mtcommstudies

Instagram: @mtcommstudies

Facebook Page: MTSU Communication Studies

Linkedin: MTSU Department of Communication Studies

LAMBDA PI ETA

ABOUT

Lambda Pi Eta (LPH) is the National Communication Association's (NCA) official honor society at four-year universities in the nation.



REQUIREMENTS

- Completed 60 semester credit-hours
- Have a minimum overall cumulative GPA of 3.0
- Completed 12 semester credit-hours in Communication Studies
- Have a minimum GPA of 3.25 for all Communication Studies courses
- Currently enrolled as a student in good standing

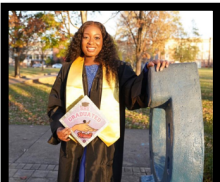
Contacts

Dr. Dee Priddis (Faculty Advisor)

dee.priddis@mtsu.edu

Meredith Craig (Student President) at

mec6p@mtmail.mtsu.edu



Congratulations to the Lambda Pi Eta graduating students this semester:

Janecia Gales (President), Meghan Hickman, Rachel Robertson (Secretary), Nathan Wang (Treasurer), Briley Ward

COMMUNICATION STUDIES CLUB

ABOUT

Communication Studies Club is a student-led networking, professional development, and service club. We are open to all students, and there are no major or GPA requirements to join. Some of our activities have included:

- Bringing in outside speakers to educate us on career opportunities in the field of communication and talk about job readiness
- Coordinating with the Career Development Center at MTSU to offer professional service such as resume and LinkedIn workshops, headshots, and mock interviews
- Participating in service activities as a group in Nashville area

We aim to provide a space where Communication students can pursue their interests and take on leadership roles to add to their resumes, so we're always open to suggestions from new members on meeting ideas for the semester. Use the link below for our survey:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1f1MWp8teCiNlPG2o5Wyte8lx14BhEFbHttKfrrMFjCo/edit>

Speech & Debate Update!

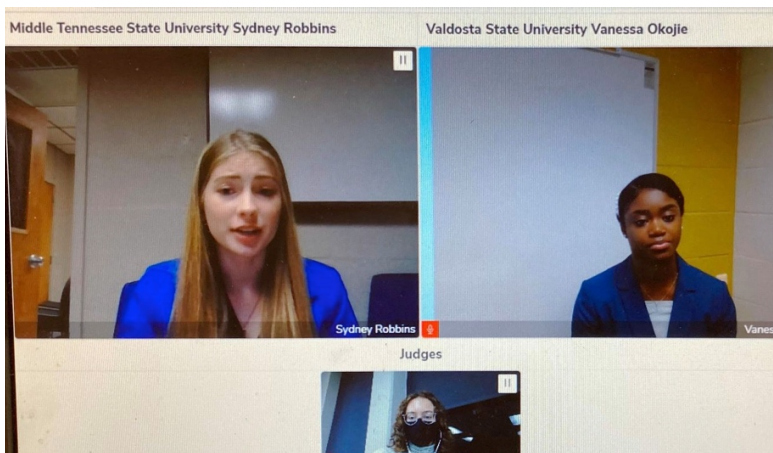
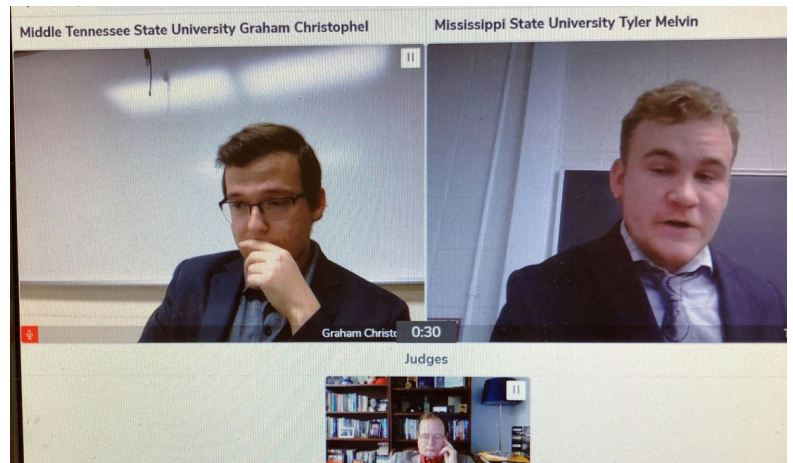
The Debate Tournaments look different in 2020. Here are some action shots of the MTSU Debate Team in action!

Date of debate tournament:
07 November 2020



On the right:
Solomon Barber
MTSU Student

On the left:
Graham Christophel
MTSU Student



On the left:
Sydney Robbins
MTSU Student

On the right:
Anastasia Ortiz
MTSU Student



On the left:
Winton Cooper
MTSU Student



Special Thanks to **Bien Espera** for managing the Communication Studies social media sites, creating the newsletter, and assisting in research and department projects this semester.



Classes Look Different in 2020

Interpersonal Communication Dr Priddis

"One benefit of having a class on Zoom is that we can discuss topics together such as conflict over a cup of coffee in the comfort of our own homes."

November 12, 2020 Remote



Honor's COMM2200 Dr Richey

November 17, 2020 Face-to-Face



If there is something you would like to add to an upcoming newsletter (e.g., announcements, pictures, events), please contact Dr. Priddis

Communication Studies Internship

We are looking for an Intern for the Spring 2021 semester to work on the newsletter, social media, outreach for our students and prospective students, club support, and research and project assistance. This is a great opportunity to gain some work experience and earn three credits towards your degree for an average of 8 hours a week. The hours are flexible and can be done at MTSU or remote. This is an unpaid internship.

Please contact Dr. Priddis for more information.

Meredith Craig

Communication major ministers to refugees in paying position while learning to tackle problems

I have always been a person with a plan. Goals and lists and dreams order my steps. But when I got to college, things were different. I knew who I wanted to be—a minister to children and families; helping people has always mattered most to me. But I had no idea *how* to get there. There isn't a specific college degree that teaches you how to help people. I needed a problem-solving tool belt—not just a problem-solving prescription.

That's where MTSU and a degree within the College of Liberal Arts stepped in. Liberal arts empowered me to fulfill the calling I have always known by allowing me the space I needed to grow. Through my Communication Studies education, I have learned over and over again how to consider the perspectives of other people, creatively solve problems through cognitive flexibility, and—most importantly—develop the ability to display true empathy by stepping into pain with others and walking out with them hand-in-hand. These skills have come out of learning practical disciplines such as public speaking, intercultural communication, interpersonal communication, and the theory behind human needs.

Flash forward—here I am at 20, with the job I would have picked in my *wildest dreams*. I minister to children and families for a living. I use my problem-solving tool belt every day. At 19, I was given the position of site coordinator over a refugee youth program in Smyrna, where I work to bridge gaps between marginalized people and their new American homes. There are over 30 families I get to advocate for physically, financially, educationally, emotionally, and spiritually.

It was only a few years ago that I was told by someone I love dearly that I would never be able to make any money in the nonprofit world. I remember telling my peers I was going to MTSU and not receiving the affirmation I expected. Here I am now—standing in a position so fulfilling I would willingly do this if I did not make a cent, earning a livable and generous wage as a college student. If I had not chosen a program in CLA, I am not sure I would be the person who gets to do this every day. I am not sure I would be the person who knows so much about the beauty of the Karen, Zomi, and Burmese refugee peoples.

MTSU has allowed me to get an affordable education while serving the community I love. My liberal arts story is that out of this education has bloomed an ability to bring heaven a little closer to Earth. ■



*Liberal arts
empowered me to
be able to fulfill the
calling I have always
known by allowing me
the space... to grow.*

Meredith Craig shared her story in the CLA News Fall 2020 Edition.

Congratulations Graduates

MTSU Class of 2020!

Micah Bradley

Jessica Mathad

Jayda Buford

Erica Minter

Emily Butler

Madeline Powell

Ella Denney

Rachel Robertson

Caitlin Denson

Samuel Sullivan

Christian Feaster

Nathan Wahl

Alex Ferguson

Chaoling Wang

Mikayla Flagg

Briley Ward

Janecia Gales

Asia Hamilton-Nowatzki

Meghan Hickman

Ashton Huffines

Electra Jernigan

Colton Kapavik

Joshua Lawrence

Alyson Lawrie

Manuelle Lempin

Ready Reference Resource How Does a Student...

Receive Writing Support?

The University Writing Center, in Walker Library 262, provides writing resources for students via remote learning including one-on-one, 45-minute appointments. Sign up at mtsu.edu/writing-center

Get Tutoring Assistance?

Find tutoring schedules for free remote tutoring in over 180 courses at mtsu.edu/studentsuccess/tutoring.php

Schedule an Academic Advising Appointment?

Find the link on Pipeline MT's Registration and Student Records page at pipeline.mtsu.edu

Receive Food Assistance?

The Student Food Pantry provides access to free food, meal vouchers, and personal items with a student ID and is located with MT One Stop, SSAC second floor. Or make an online request at mtsu.edu/foodpantry.

Receive Medical Care?

The Health Services Building located at the Rec Center is open Monday-Friday during fall and spring semesters. Contact the office at **615-898-2988** and mhealth@mtsu.edu.

Get Counseling Assistance?

Fully committed to the emotional health and wellness of our students, Counseling Services is housed in KUC 326-S. Schedule an appointment by calling **615-898-2670**

Report Sexual Violence, Harassment, and/or Discrimination?

Visit the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance in Cope 116 or at mtsu.edu/iec

Access Free Professional Clothing?

Raiders' Closet in KUC 327 has professional attire for both men and women (suits, jackets, slacks, shirts, ties, skirts, scarves). Email kim.collins@mtsu.edu or call **615-898-5467**

Receive Life Needs Support?

The June Anderson Center, located in Student Union 330, offers housing/utility assistance, legal clinics, child care services, food vouchers, and scholarships. mtsu.edu/jac

Learn about Internships and Employers?

The Career Development Center's services include career advising appointments, professional document review, virtual interview practice, and job search databases. Contact them at **615-898-2500** and career@mtsu.edu.

Apply for an Emergency Grant?

The MTSU Emergency Micro-Grant Program helps students in good standing with short-term financial emergencies to enable them to cope with unexpected hardships and remain in school. Apply on your academic college's home page.

Contact Campus Police?

Reach the University Police 24-7 by calling **615-898-2424** on a cell phone or campus phone or **911** on a campus phone only

Qualify for an Accommodation?

Visit the Disability and Access Center in KUC 107, call **615-898-2783**, or email dacemail@mtsu.edu

Access Training Videos Online?

MTSU students have access to the online training video library, LinkedIn Learning, which has over 3,000 training videos. mtsu.edu/itd/lil.php

Report Misconduct by a Student?

Submit incident to the Office of Student Conduct, located in KUC 208, through the online form at mtsu.edu/student-conduct

Succeed as a First-Generation Student?

Student Support Services, housed in KUC 308, works especially with first-generation and Pell grant-eligible students to ensure they navigate college successfully and graduate. One-on-one help with tutoring, advising, mentoring, and major selection are a few of the services provided. mtsu.edu/ssupport

Learn More about Veterans' Student Benefits?

The Charlie and Hazel Daniels Veterans and Military Family Center, in KUC 124/316, provides transition services for veterans and their families after returning to civilian life. Contact the center staff through mtsu.edu/military



0720-9104 / Middle Tennessee State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability. See our full policy at mtsu.edu/iec.