



## SUMMER/FALL 2012

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# WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!

The Center for Student Involvement and Leadership (CSIL) is excited that you selected MTSU . . . *Tennessee's Best* . . . as the place to pursue your college education. I am confident that your academic experience can position you to pursue a successful career in your chosen field of study. I also want to underscore the important role that your out-of-classroom involvement will play in your collegiate and postgraduate success.

Do you want a satisfying college experience? Do you want to ultimately graduate? Upon graduation, do you want to set yourself apart from those competing against you for that ideal job? I will venture to say your answer is "yes" to all these questions. While academic success in the classroom is essential for you to realize these objectives, your cocurricular experience also plays a vital role.

Students who are involved with activities outside the classroom are generally more satisfied with their college experience; they are more likely to graduate; and they are more competitive in the job market compared to students who don't elect to involve themselves in out-of-classroom activities. (Of course, high academic achievement is also essential.)

So now you may be asking, "In what ways can I become involved in my new community?" CSIL exists to supplement your academic experience with meaningful cocurricular options. CSIL is comprised of the following units: Fraternity and Sorority Life, Leadership and Service, Intercultural and Diversity Affairs, the June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students, and the Student Government Association. This newsletter highlights some of the involvement opportunities, hosted by these areas, you should consider. I also invite you to visit our website at [www.mtsu.edu/involve](http://www.mtsu.edu/involve) or MyMT at [mtsu.collegiatelink.net](http://mtsu.collegiatelink.net) and explore the wealth of activities available to you.

Again, welcome to MTSU and CSIL. Feel free to call on us if there is anything we can do to enhance your college experience. True Blue!

Danny R. Kelley, Ph.D.  
Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs  
Center for Student Involvement and Leadership (CSIL)

← **New Student Union building,  
opening in fall 2012, our new home**



# INTERCULTURAL AND DIVERSITY AFFAIRS CENTER

**ALOHA!**

**BINVINUTU!**

**WILLKOMMEN!**

**KARIBU!**

**ULIHELISDI!**

**BIENVENUE!**

**HOLA!**

No matter the language, all we are really saying is WELCOME to MTSU. You have arrived at a very exciting time, and we are glad you are here. As a matter of fact, your being here makes all of us being here so much better. Thank you for choosing MTSU and for sharing your next years with us.

Here at Intercultural and Diversity Affairs, we believe that your time is better spent when you invest it in programs that stretch your thinking and add value to your college experience. That said, we offer a number of programs and events that will provide you passage to a world filled with different colors, cultures, and cuisine. We invite you to be a part of all or some; it's totally up to you. Just know that you will not be the same when you leave as you were coming in. You are welcome!

## Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration

From September 15 to October 15, we will highlight and celebrate different facets of Latino life and heritage. Stay tuned for salsa dance lessons, mariachis roaming the campus, forums on immigration, dialogue about diversity within the Latino culture, and posters featuring prominent Latino philosophers, artists, inventors, politicians, and athletes. The 30-day celebration will be capped off by our annual Hispanic Culture Day event.

## Rep Your Roots Day

Let's face it, everyone is from somewhere. Now, someone else's somewhere may be different from your personal somewhere, but all of the somewhere's should be acknowledged. In fact, our campus community is composed of people from places as near as Smyrna and as far away as Sri Lanka. That's why Rep Your Roots Day (September 18) is so cool—no one is left out! So come by our office or the Student Government Association office to pick up one of our free special shirts touting the event or wear your own t-shirt or cap that promotes your place of birth or heritage. September 18 is your day to shine!

## International Day of Peace

For the past few years, we have been delighted to join with countries, communities, and campuses in celebrating the United Nations International Day of Peace on September 21. As Bayard Rustin, a civil rights pioneer for both blacks and gays put it: "If we desire to end with peace, we must start with peace." So we present an entire day of events to remind us that there is nothing healthy or holy about hostility toward other humans. Peace paves the way for peace! The International Day of Peace ends with a Parade of Flags, which features a large group of international students carrying flags from their native countries as a sign of peaceful coexistence.

*The IDAC office is located in KUC Room 124. (Will be in Student Union building, room 330, as of fall 2012.)*

*Visit the IDAC website at [www.mtsu.edu/idaac](http://www.mtsu.edu/idaac).*

Visit **MyMT** at [mtsu.collegiatelink.net](http://mtsu.collegiatelink.net) and start getting involved today.



# OFFICE OF FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LIFE

*Be something more... Be Greek!*



As a fraternity and sorority community, our values include education, leadership, service/philanthropy, brotherhood/sisterhood, integrity, diversity, and collaboration. These values are the foundation of the fraternity and sorority community and what we seek in future new members. Becoming a member of a fraternity or sorority is not simply wearing letters on a shirt, attending social events, and going to meetings: it is a way of life. The commitment to fraternal values is what sets fraternity and sorority members apart from other organizations. This commitment is what makes our members better students, sisters/brothers, and contributing members of society.



## Be a leader. Be a scholar. Be a servant. Be a Brother/Sister.

At MTSU, there are eleven Interfraternity Council (IFC) chapters, one Multicultural Greek Council (MGC) chapter, nine National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) chapters, and six Panhellenic Council (PHC) chapters.

## How to Join a Fraternity or Sorority

To learn more about the fraternities and sororities at MTSU, please attend one of the events below:

**Greek Parent Brunch**, August 26, 2012, 11:00 a.m.,  
Tennessee Room, James Union Building

**Greekfest**, September 6, 6:00 p.m.,  
KUC Courtyard

**National Pan-Hellenic Council  
Informational**, September 12

**Panhellenic Recruitment**, September  
13-17

**Interfraternity Council**,  
September 17-21

**Multicultural Greek Council  
Informational**, September 11,  
7:00 p.m., BAS S306

Visit **MyMT** at [mtsu.collegiatelink.net](http://mtsu.collegiatelink.net)  
and start getting involved today.



*Please visit the MTSU  
Fraternity and Sorority Life  
page or contact us to get more  
information regarding the  
specific recruitment requirements  
for each council.*

[www.mtsu.edu/greeks](http://www.mtsu.edu/greeks)

Keathley University Center (KUC),  
Room 326-S  
(Will be in Student Union building,  
room 330, as of fall 2012.)  
(615) 898-5812



# JUNE ANDERSON CENTER

## FOR WOMEN AND NONTRADITIONAL STUDENTS

### COMING THIS FALL

#### Women's Leadership Series.

Each month, the June Anderson Center invites speakers to address concerns shared by women of all ages. Topics include financial management, balancing school and family, stress reduction, intimate relationships, healthy relationships among women, and more. **The series is free of charge**, so stop by the center for the schedule of programs for the fall.

#### October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Join us for scheduled events and programs to speak out, alert, educate the public about domestic violence; how to recognize domestic violence and what to do about it; learn about teen dating violence; the impact of family violence on children; and on domestic violence against the disabled, the elderly, and other marginalized populations.

#### Nontraditional Student Week (November 5–9)

celebrates the special experience of adult learners on campus with a dinner and induction of new members into the Pinnacle Honor Society. Look for other activities during Nontraditional Student Week that will focus on adult learners.

**Every day** the June Anderson Center connects nontraditional students to other students and campus resources. We are thrilled to help you thrive. Come see us and join the team of adult learning supporters.

**Married? Got kids? Work a job full- or part-time?** *You've come to the right place!* A primary focus of the June Anderson Center is to assist nontraditional students navigate college life as adults. We sponsor seminars to aid in that effort, but we also refer students to the appropriate resources on campus that may address specific needs. The June Anderson Center also helps adult learners connect with other adult students encountering college after a break in education. These connections prove critically important in building relationships, fostering community, and providing support for one another.

The JAC staff also supports and works closely with two adult learner student organizations—Older, Wiser Learners (OWLs), and the Pinnacle Honor Society—to help students make those connections and to provide opportunities for them to be deepened. Join OWLs and Pinnacle on Facebook to learn more and stay in touch with nontraditional peers on campus!

#### Concerned about women's gender and justice issues?

*We're your people!* In collaboration with other organizations and departments, the June Anderson Center promotes experiences for women to help them transform themselves and the world around them. The center provides advocacy, support, programs, and resources, and encourages students to translate concerns into action. This fall, the center will launch a new mentoring program for women to help new students make the transition to college life, build life skills, and share the joys and challenges of being women. The JAC staff also supports and works with the student organization Women in Action.



Check the JAC website at [mtsu.edu/jac](http://mtsu.edu/jac) for news and updates. Join us on Facebook!

June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students is located in KUC 320. (Will be in Student Union building, room 330, as of fall 2012.)

Visit MyMT at [mtsu.collegiatelink.net](http://mtsu.collegiatelink.net) and start getting involved today.



# LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE



## Blue Raider Leadership Summit.

The Blue Raider Leadership Summit (BRLS) is an educational opportunity for students to learn about the principles and techniques of effective leadership as well as network with other students. BRLS is for students who are new to leadership positions or are aspiring leaders. BRLS is sponsored by the Office of Leadership and Service and planned by B.O.L.T. (Better Our Leaders for Tomorrow). It is the only completely student-led conference on campus.

**Up 'Til Dawn.** Up 'Til Dawn is a registered student organization whose mission is to raise funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and educate the public about the hospital's work. Up 'Til Dawn is the largest fundraising program on campus, with 400–500 students participating annually. Students may participate as fundraisers or connect in a leadership role to help run the program!

**True Blue Traditions Day** is a great opportunity for first-year students to learn more about MTSU's history and traditions, as well as develop confidence and form the support networks they need to become MTSU's future leaders on campus and in the community. True Blue Traditions Day is only available to incoming freshmen.

**Student Organizations.** MTSU has more than 250 clubs and organizations for students to join. Choose a group that fits your interests and needs, such as a religious group, a Greek society, a sport club, a special interest group, an Honors and Leadership group, or a departmental/professional organization. Check out [MyMT](#) to see a directory listing and to begin a profile of your MTSU involvement!



**Alternative Breaks.** The Alternative Break program is one in which a group of students participate in various volunteering roles outside their comfort zones. These trips take place during fall and spring break. There is a small fee to attend. Each trip focuses on a different social issue, which might include homelessness, hunger, the environment, and more.

**Monthly Service Projects.** Each month the Office of Leadership and Service offers a service project. We work with various community agencies assisting with all types of jobs. The projects are always offered on Friday and are from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.. This program is free!

Follow us on Facebook: [MTSU Leadership and Service](#)

Follow us on Twitter: [@MTSULeadServe](#)



Visit [MyMT](#) at [mtsu.collegiatelink.net](http://mtsu.collegiatelink.net) and start getting involved today.

# STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

WELCOME TO THE  
BLUE RAIDER FAMILY!

## YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

The Student Government Association (SGA) of Middle Tennessee State University is the **VOICE** of the students.

The executive branch consists of the president, the executive vice president, the vice president of administration and public affairs, and the election commissioner, which are all elected positions filled by voting by the student body. The executive branch also includes the attorney general, philanthropic coordinator, and Homecoming director, who are appointed by the president.

The legislative branch includes the Student Senate, which is composed of representatives from the academic colleges, senators-at-large, and graduate senators. Each senator represents 500 students. Senate elections are held in the spring. The Senate is responsible for writing effective legislation about concerns and ideas presented by the student body.

The judicial branch consists of the Court of Traffic Appeals, which oversees appeals for tickets.

**And always remember: Be loud, be proud, and be TRUE BLUE!**

Visit **MyMT** at [mtsu.collegiatelink.net](http://mtsu.collegiatelink.net) and start getting involved today.

**Photo at right (left to right):**

Front Row - Jordan Hall, Vice President Administration and Public Affairs; Rachel Lee, Executive Vice President  
Back Row - Anit Patel, Election Commissioner;  
Coby Sherlock, President

## SO HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED WITH SGA AS A FRESHMAN?

As a freshman at MTSU, there are several ways you can be involved with the Student Government Association, which include:

### The Freshmen Council

Students with fewer than fifteen undergraduate credit hours are qualified to serve on the Freshmen Council. Selection criteria is based on an application and interview process. Some of the primary functions of the council include researching, writing, and proposing Senate legislation; participating and supporting SGA events; learning about the various campus departments and resources; and learning about involvement opportunities within and outside the SGA. Serving on the Freshmen Council can also be helpful for students who are considering running for a future SGA Senate seat or executive officer position. Applications for Freshmen Council will be available at CUSTOMS and in the SGA office during the first week of classes.

### SGA Committees

Freshmen may also serve on an SGA committee. These committees include, but are not limited to, the Big Event committee, Traffic Court, the Election Commission, and more. There are plenty of opportunities for you to be involved with SGA!

### WHAT DOES SGA DO FOR FUN?

The Student Government Association plans a lot of events throughout the school year. The SGA has a major responsibility for the success of MTSU's annual Homecoming Celebration, when we all show our Blue Raider pride. Homecoming includes many traditional events such as the Fight Song competition, the Chili Cook-off, the Homecoming Parade, and more! Another SGA signature event is **Student Appreciation Week**, a week hosted by SGA that includes a cookout and free giveaways to show our appreciation for our fellow Blue Raiders. SGA also hosts **Road Rally** each year, in which the student body is invited to travel to an away football game on a chartered bus and cheer on the Blue Raiders. The SGA subsidizes the cost so that students can attend at a reduced rate. Another event we host is MTSU's largest community service project, **The BIG Event**, in partnership with United Way. The BIG Event is a nationwide one-day largest community service project in which students perform community service throughout Murfreesboro.

For more information on Student Government, visit our office in Keathley University Center, room 208 (Will be in Student Union building, room 306, as of fall 2012.), or our website at [www.mtsu.edu/sga](http://www.mtsu.edu/sga). Stop by our office if you'd like to be a part of the organization that represents students.

**And always remember: Be loud, be proud, and be TRUE BLUE!**



# CONTACT INFORMATION

**YOUR  
SUCCESS  
IS OUR  
PURPOSE!**

## Center for Student Involvement and Leadership

Now located in KUC 326 S,  
will be located in new  
Student Union building  
room 330 in fall 2012

[www.mtsu.edu/involve](http://www.mtsu.edu/involve)

## Spring 2012 Newsletter

Edited by Miranda McClanahan,  
intern, Center for Student  
Involvement and Leadership

Visit **MyMT** at [mtsu.collegiatelink.net](http://mtsu.collegiatelink.net)  
and start getting involved today.

**MIDDLE  
TENNESSEE**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

0312-621 – Middle Tennessee State University is an AA/EEO employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Executive Director of Institutional Equity and Compliance, 1301 E. Main Street, CAB 220, Murfreesboro, TN 37132, 615-898-2185. Additionally, the MTSU Title IX Coordinator, designated to monitor and oversee Title IX complaints, may be contacted at: Sam Ingram Building 2269 Middle Tennessee Blvd. Murfreesboro, TN 37132 615-898-5133, or via this webpage: <http://www.mtsu.edu/titleix/>.

### Dr. Danny Kelley

Assistant Vice President for  
Student Affairs  
(615) 898-5812

[www.mtsu.edu/involve](http://www.mtsu.edu/involve)

### Mrs. Jacqueline Victory

Director, Leadership and Service  
(615) 898-5812

[www.mtsu.edu/leadandserve](http://www.mtsu.edu/leadandserve)

### Mrs. Anne Fraley

Interim Director,  
June Anderson Center for Women  
and Nontraditional Students  
(615) 898-2193

[www.mtsu.edu/jac](http://www.mtsu.edu/jac)

### Mrs. Valerie Avent

Assistant Director, June Anderson  
Center for Women  
and Nontraditional Students  
(615) 898-5725

[www.mtsu.edu/jac](http://www.mtsu.edu/jac)

### Mr. Vincent Windrow

Director, Intercultural  
and Diversity Affairs Center  
(615) 898-2831

[www.mtsu.edu/idac](http://www.mtsu.edu/idac)

### Mrs. Angela King Taylor

Director of Fraternity and  
Sorority Life  
(615) 898-5812

[www.mtsu.edu/greeks](http://www.mtsu.edu/greeks)

### Mr. Dave Sullivan

Coordinator, Fraternity and  
Sorority Life  
(615) 898-5812

[www.mtsu.edu/greeks](http://www.mtsu.edu/greeks)

### Ms. Penny Nichols

Account Clerk, Center for Student  
Involvement and Leadership  
(615) 898-5242

### Mrs. Virginia Ellis

Executive Aide, Center for  
Student Involvement  
and Leadership (CSIL)  
(615) 898-5812

### Mr. Brandon Chapman and Ms. Caroline Bizot

Assistant Directors, Scholars  
Academy, Intercultural  
and Diversity Affairs Center  
(615) 898-2238

[www.mtsu.edu/idac](http://www.mtsu.edu/idac)

### Mr. J. R. Becker

Secretary, CSIL and Intercultural  
and Diversity Affairs Center  
(615) 898-2238

### Mr. Donald Abels and

### Ms. Deonna Bounds

Graduate Assistants,  
Leadership and Service  
(615) 898-5812

### Ms. Kristen Russell

Programming Assistant,  
Fraternity and Sorority Life  
(615) 898-5812

[www.mtsu.edu/greeks](http://www.mtsu.edu/greeks)

### Mr. Coby Sherlock

SGA President  
(615) 898-2464

[www.mtsu.edu/sga](http://www.mtsu.edu/sga)

### Mrs. Jennifer Murphy

SGA Secretary  
(615) 898-2464

[www.mtsu.edu/sga](http://www.mtsu.edu/sga)

**CSIL WILL BE IN  
STUDENT UNION  
BUILDING, ROOM 330,  
AS OF FALL 2012.**



# MyMT

Looking to join student organizations? Wanting to fill your calendar with upcoming events? Visit **MyMT** and start getting involved today. **MyMT** is a website that students can use to find information about upcoming events and organizations they might want to join. With **MyMT**, you can browse through all activities offered on campus and choose those that best match your interests. Each organization has contact information available so that you can easily connect with them. You can go to **MyMT** by visiting [mtsu.collegiatelink.net](https://mtsu.collegiatelink.net).

## I AM *true* **BLUE**

As an MTSU student, you are joining a diverse community of learners who value service to others, academic integrity, respect for those who have different viewpoints, and peaceful conflict resolution. These values are espoused in MTSU's *True Blue Pledge*.

I am True Blue.

As a member of this diverse community,

I am a valuable contributor  
to its progress and success.

I am engaged in the life  
of this community.

I am a recipient and a giver.

I am a listener and a speaker.

I am honest in word and deed.

I am committed to reason, not violence.

I am a learner now and forever.

I am a BLUE RAIDER.

True Blue!

*I Am True Blue!* These four words represent the thread that connects students, faculty, staff, and community members to one another in embracing a mantra that supports a healthy, productive, and supportive environment. *I Am True Blue!* is meaningful, but it is not magical. In order for anything to work, it must be worked. In other words, *I Am True Blue!* is a call to duty—a call to doing. Our campus community will not become a reflection of the True Blue Pledge until we look in the mirror and commit ourselves to being so by doing so.

## CENTER FOR STUDENT INVOLVEMENT AND LEADERSHIP (CSIL)

The Center for Student Involvement and Leadership (CSIL) strives to provide opportunities to help students pursue personal growth and develop leadership skills that will be valuable not only during college but also will help them as productive contributors to society throughout their lifetimes. The *True Blue Pledge* provides us with the template that directs us toward this objective, and our CSIL Core Values give life to the *True Blue Pledge*.

### CSIL Core Values

- **Inclusive Community.** Create an environment that allows the diverse members of the University community to live openly with civility and mutual respect—where diverse opinions are fostered and cultivated.
- **Empowerment.** Provide experiences that equip students with the necessary tools, information, confidence, and motivation to succeed, and provide opportunities to use those skills to experience success through meaningful change.
- **Discovery/Learning.** Create opportunities and experiences for learning beyond the classroom that encourage growth, exploration, development, and lifelong learning.
- **Service.** Create opportunities and experiences that foster lifelong commitment to service as a catalyst for change.
- **Challenge.** Create opportunities and experiences that engage the University community to consider what could be by encouraging its members to think outside the box.
- **Balance.** Create an environment to encourage healthy lifestyle choices in response to daily challenges and competing priorities.

### Offices included in CSIL

- Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life
- Intercultural and Diversity Affairs Center
- June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students
- Leadership and Service
- Student Government Association



HOME

615-898-5812 • [www.mtsu.edu/involve](https://www.mtsu.edu/involve)