Fall 2016 Snapshot

Last Fall was an exciting and busy semester for MT Lambda. We had a plethora of informative and fun meetings kicking off with our Lambda mixer. We had a panel on diversity in the LGBT+ community as well as lectures on domestic violence and hate crimes as well as history of the “+.”

For the first time ever MT Lambda, with the help of MTSU, hosted our Transgender Day of Remembrance on Nov. 19th. We finished the semester with a film night and our annual holiday potluck!

We hope that this semester can be even more fun and exciting!

“Diversity is about all of us, and about us having to figure out how to walk through this world together” - Jacqueline Woodson

The Power of Your Voice

For twenty-eight years, MT Lambda has been a champion for the equal rights for LGBT+ people all across campus and beyond, and as the oldest LGBT+ student organization in Tennessee, we’ve long fought to better the lives of students on campus as well as the community of Middle Tennessee, and you can be a part of that change and become part of our history!

We host weekly meetings each semester and explore a variety of topics surrounding the LGBT+ community. Through our meetings and our outreach events on campus, our primary goal is to educate and engage students and community members across the state about LGBT+ issues. But we’re more than just business! MT Lambda is also a safe place for anyone to be themselves and relax, and our semesters are filled with fun, interactive events everyone can be a part of. Everyone, including Straight Allies, are welcome to join and part take in our constant learning and advocacy work!

15th Annual SpringOut! Pride Celebration

We will be celebrating out 15th SpringOut! event this year during the first week of April! We will have events throughout the week including panels, trivia, and of course, Outapalooza. Outapalooza is our pride festival. It will include games, a bake sale, and even some LGBT+ community organizations. We will end the week with our annual 3-day conference. This will include speakers such as David Jay - the founder of AVEN - Tennovation, guests from our sponsors, and students and teachers from MTSU. Don’t miss any of the conference events such as our Film Fest on Thursday and dinner on Saturday.

Allyship Panel
April 3, 3:30-5:30, CKNB 119

Pre-Stonewall History
April 4, 10-2, SUB

Trivia Night
April 4, 7-9, CKNB 119

Outapalooza
April 5, 10-4, SUB Knoll

Letter From The President

I am looking forward to an engaging semester. Last semester was a success with our first ever Transgender Day of Remembrance event - backed also by the school. This semester will be one to remember with our 15th annual SpringOut! In addition, we have activities and lectures planned as well as several social outings.

We welcome faces old and new with us through this semester, coming together as a community and engaging to help others. We want to focus on bringing people of all kinds in to celebrate our differences and raising each other up through understanding. This is a time to come together and celebrate each other. We hope to see you all there!

Best Wishes,
Rebekah Dawson

MT Lambda Launches Speakers Bureau & Educational Committee

Last year we established an official Educational Committee to review and renew many of our tabling boards that we use throughout the year to educate the student body on a variety of LGBT+ issues. From Asexual Awareness to Hate Crimes, we have a table for everything, and we’re working on creating even more!

This year, we’re taking things to the next level, and establishing the MT Lambda Speakers Bureau. Often times, throughout the year, dozens of MTSU Faculty & Staff contact us with a request for students to come and speak. Each request is different, ranging from panel discussions with a variety of students, to simply one or two talking openly about their journey and the barriers they’ve experienced as being a member of the LGBT+ community.

If you are interested in volunteering for either of these throughout the year, see an officer today!
Are you ready for this year’s conference? Well, we are, and this year’s conference will be bigger and better than ever! The theme this year is All Identities. Removing Obstacles to inclusion and will focus on a diversity of programming centered around visibility and the importance of identifying and removing barriers that prevent the inclusion of various identities. Be sure to plan ahead and free your schedule! We’ll need all hands on deck to make this year’s conference a success!

This year’s conference program will explore how key facets of identity—gender, race, age, ability, social class, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression—play a significant role in how we experience the world. We will hear from students, professionals, practitioners, and leaders on how access and opportunity intersect with identity to influence our interactions with education, commerce, community, government, and, most importantly, each other, and how to remove obstacles to inclusion based on identity.

### Transgender Day of Remembrance 2016

Transgender Day of Remembrance, held on November 20th, started in 1999 to commemorate those that we have lost to anti-transgender violence. MT Lambda was able to hold our own Transgender Day of Remembrance ceremony for the very first time last semester on November 19th. We displayed a memorial with over 500 names of those lost and even more represented in the unknown counts.

Many of our community members came to grieve the loss of those we know and the ones who lay not even in the tallies we’ve kept. We hope to keep this event going for years to come.

### In Memoriam

MT Lambda was founded in 1988 by Daniel Webster, John Weaver, & Richie Smith in response to a flurry of Sidelines articles that were slamming the LGBT+ community on campus, particularly gay men. In the midst of what was then, an extremely toxic campus climate for all LGBT+ students, our founders courageously stood up against the hate and formed the MTSU Lambda Association to unify the entire LGBT+ & Allied student body and began our journey of education and advocacy work.

*John G Weaver  
June 25, 1959 - March 18, 2016*

### 2017 Murfreesboro PRIDE

In case you missed it last year, Murfreesboro hosted it’s first ever PRIDE Festival, and MTSU was an official sponsor of the event! Over the summer, MT Lambda will be going to Nashville Pride and Murfreesboro Pride! Stay tuned in with us to find out details as they come!