**College of Media and Entertainment Highlights from 2015-16**

**College recognition:**

*School of Journalism program ranks NewsPro Magazine’s national survey names in Top 20: MTSU’s School of Journalism is ranked among the top 20 programs in the United States, according to a survey by TV Week’s NewsPro Magazine. MTSU was the only Tennessee university in the rankings. The popular trade magazine released the results of the survey in its December 2015 issue, listing the nation’s top mass communication and journalism colleges. The survey polled members of the Radio Television Digital News Association in November with four questions to determine the top communication schools. Participants also were invited to offer their views on “which schools do the best job of preparing students for working in the digital world.”*

*Hollywood Reporter ranks Department of Recording Industry #17 in Top 20 international music programs: MTSU’s Department of Recording Industry is once again on an international list of acclaimed music industry schools touted by The Hollywood Reporter. The list also includes Juilliard, Berklee, the Seoul Institute for the Arts and the Conservatoire de Paris. The department – plus its music business program – is No. 17 on the magazine’s “Top 25 Music Schools 2015,” in the Dec. 2 edition of The Hollywood Reporter. The publication’s editors, who compiled the list, focus on academia’s attempt to balance “art vs. commerce” by teaching students who want to use their creativity to make a living. “MTSU isn’t ashamed to boast about its focus on the practical side of the music industry with its major in music business in the Department of Recording Industry,” the listing reads. The Hollywood Reporter, which regularly ranks entertainment-industry programs at universities around the world for their educational quality and student job preparedness, lauded MTSU’s recording industry program in its “Top 25 Music Schools 2014” list this time last year.*

**Faculty achievements:**

*Dr. Sanjay Asthana speaks at UN: School of Journalism Professor Sanjay Asthana spoke at the United Nation’s Alliance of Civilization Global Forum, which was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, on April 24-28, 2016. There, he presented a paper, *Media Pedagogy, Youth, and Violent Extremism*. Asthana’s lecture and research was very well received. The office of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee (http://www.un.org/en/sc/ctc/index.html) requested a copy of his presentation, and there has been substantial media coverage of the forum in Azerbaijan, Baku and several regions of the world. Asthana recently published *Palestinian Youth Media and the Pedagogies of Estrangement* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016).*

*Professor Sultan wins multiple prizes for short film: Assistant Professor Allie Sultan with the Department of Electronic Media Communication presented her film “Lift Like a Girl” on March 23 in the KUC Theater as part of MTSU National Women’s History Month. The seven-minute documentary short follows Jenny Lutkins, a 40 year-old mom in Tennessee whose journey back to health involves her participation in the sport of Olympic weightlifting. Sultan made the film as part of the Fusion International Documentary Challenge, an international competition where filmmakers make a short documentary in five days that is four to seven minutes in length. “Lift” premiered in January 2016 at the Slamdance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. Since then, the film has won the grand jury prize for Best Tennessee Documentary short at the 2016 Nashville Film Festival and was nominated for the Tennessee Horizon Audience award. It also won the Audience Award for the Fusion International Documentary Challenge, an online competition where registered voters watch and choose their favorite film.*
Dr. Jane Marcellus co-convenes international Mad Men Conference on campus: MTSU hosted the international Mad Men: The Conference at the end of May. Attendees from all over the world participated in the two-day event, which included keynote speakers, guest panels and a "Mad Men" themed reception at the Foundation House. The Mad Men themed symposium was the brainchild of MTSU Professor of English David Lavery and MTSU Professor of Journalism Jane Marcellus. Marcellus recently co-authored a book explores the roles of women in the hit TV show entitled “Mad Men and Working Women: Feminist Perspectives on Historical Power, Resistance, and Otherness.” “Our purpose in writing the book was not simply to analyze Mad Men,” Marcellus said, “but to use Mad Men as a springboard to look at women’s lives in the 1960s, particularly in relation to labor, both in the workplace and at home.” Marcellus and Lavery plan to showcase the conference’s best papers in a future publication. Scholars from over 40 institutions and at least 10 countries and 15 states attended the event that featured keynote speakers Matt Zoller Seitz, author of Mad Men Carousel; Mimi White, a feminist scholar from Northwestern; and Gary Edgerton, dean at Butler University and author of Mad Men Dream Come True.

Professor Marc Barr’s chairmanship of SIGGRAPH 2015
This is the world’s most important annual conference for computer generated imagery, and also one of the world’s most important conferences for the media content industry. Marc was able to chair one of the most successful SIGGRAPH conferences in years despite being turned down for reassign time to work on this event.

Student achievements:

MTSU students dominate TN Associated Press Awards: MTSU and College of Media and Entertainment students received 37 awards and two honorable mentions at the 2016 Tennessee AP Broadcast and Media Editors College Contest on Saturday, April 9. Held at the John Seigenthaler First Amendment Center in Nashville, the contest recognizes the best work in college journalism in the state of Tennessee. Sidelines, the college’s student-run newspaper, won “Best College Website” despite stiff competition from Belmont, Vanderbilt and Lipscomb universities. Student reporter Erin Thomas walked away with two awards, one for “Best Radio Newscast” for her “Evening Drive” program and the other for “Best Use of Sound” for a Jazz Workshop for WMOT, the college’s NPR-affiliated radio station. Jackson Jones won “Best Television Reporter” for his work “Growing Fears” on the student-run television station MT10.

MTSU Students are True ‘Roo: 40 College of Media and Entertainment students working at the 2016 festival. MTSU’s involvement, in its third year, is the result of a unique partnership between the university and festival organizers Superfly Presents and AC Entertainment. Students with expertise in audio, video, photography and journalism worked the four-day event to produce a variety of multimedia content working with over 20 different acts. Our students also worked at the 2016 Grammy Awards in Los Angeles and joined us for a reception honoring highly successful songwriting alum Luke Laird.

Student songwriters perform at ASCAP showcase: The Commercial Songwriting program took center stage at ASCAP’s private showcase for local music publishers. Publishing companies Sony/ATV, Warner Chapel, BMG, Sea-Gayle Music, Creative Nation and Round Hill Music were on hand to listen to performances by songwriting students Nick Carpenter, Zach Russell, Kyle Crownover and the group “Maybe April,” which includes MTSU’s Katy Bishop and Kristen Castro along with Alaina Stacy. The MTSU Department of Recording Industry’s commercial songwriting program is led by Professor Odie Blackmon, who partners with organizations such as the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). MTSU houses the only college chapter of the Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI)
Double Take Campaign Heads to DC: A campaign to fight stereotypes in the community, created by four advertising students in the School of Journalism, received an honorable mention in an international competition. The students and their professor, Dr. Tricia Farwell, enjoyed an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to present their work on Feb. 3. Advertising majors Kate Benton, Jane McCaffrie, Haley Bartley and Danny Jones started the campaign “Double Take” as part of a global competition Peer 2 Peer (P2P): Challenging Extremism initiative, sponsored by marketing and advertising firm EdVenture Partners and the U.S. Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The P2P program asks student teams across the globe to create a digital product, tool, or initiative to counter violent extremism on their campus and in their communities. Benton, McCaffrie, Bartley presented their local campaign to a group of their peers plus Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas. Double Take has been applied to multiple social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Pinterest) plus the team distributed yard signs, posters and flyers throughout MTSU’s campus.