



This week's Graduate Student Spotlight features Von Richcreek, a student in our fully online MPS program. As a real estate professional, he discusses how to balance life, work and school, and we are so glad to have his family in our True Blue Family

Graduate program: Master of Professional Studies with a concentration in Strategic Leadership

Undergraduate institution: MTSU

Favorite memory at MTSU: I met my wife in an Organic Chemistry course we had together in 2007, and we just celebrated our 11th anniversary. We are a True Blue MTSU family as my wife has two degrees from MTSU, I am working on my second degree at MTSU, and my stepdaughter will graduate this December from MTSU.

Favorite place on campus and why: As an undergrad student in 2006, my favorite place was the KUC which was the student union at the time. I have a lot of great memories from then. As a graduate student, my favorite place on campus is the library. Our library is an amazing resource and the "Graduate Students Only" rooms are extremely helpful.

Why did you choose MTSU for graduate school: It seemed like a natural progression for me as I was very happy with my undergraduate program, and I love everything MTSU has to offer.

Career plans: I am currently an Area Vice President for a real estate firm in charge of five states in the south, but I hope my master's degree will help me advance even further.

Advice to people who are thinking about graduate school: In my personal experience, there is a lot more reading and less "hand holding" or direction. You are an educated adult now and the professors will often treat you as such. Be prepared for that. The standards are higher, and the feedback is tougher, but in the end, you will come out with a fantastic education and experience that makes it all worthwhile.

What are your favorite things to do while practicing social distancing: I'm enjoying some rather intense games of hide and seek with my 4-year-old these days. I also enjoy woodworking, and I'm finally finishing some of the projects around my house.

What tips for success do you have for working from home while also being a student taking classes remotely: It's important to find balance and create a space that you can focus in. Before the pandemic I really enjoyed going to the library on campus, but now I have to retreat to my home office. You have to balance work, family, and school. For me, my work usually comes in the evening after my youngest is asleep, but you just have to find what suits you best. Don't forget to take time for yourself to rest, relax, and recharge as well. If you have kids or other distractions, noise cancelling headphones are a big help as well.