Aleshia Brevard was born in Erwin, Tennessee on December 9, 1937 and was assigned male at birth. Growing up as a boy in a religious household in rural Tennessee, “Buddy” was always close to her mother and saw herself as a woman even from the earliest years of her life. After moving to San Francisco immediately following her high school graduation, Aleshia worked as a female impersonator at Finocchio’s Club in SF under the name “Lee Shaw” in the early 1960s. Beginning her transition when she was 21 years old, she underwent gender affirmation surgery (known as sexual reassignment surgery at the time). Aleshia became one of the first women in US history to undergo such a procedure, before the term transgender had even been coined. After medically transitioning, Aleshia found her way back to Tennessee and enrolled as an undergraduate student at MTSU in 1965 to pursue her B.S. degree in Speech, although she was known then as A’Leshia Brevard Lee or A’Leshia Crenshaw. An active member of the student organization the Buchanan Players, Aleshia was a vibrant part of the campus community and it was during her time at MTSU that she grew into her identity. Aleshia went on to attend graduate school at Marshall University in West Virgina, and later returned to MTSU a second time to pursue her M.A. in Theater.

“Professionally, both as a film/stage actress and, later, as a university professor of theatre, my life was lived outside the gender community. Only after publishing two memoirs, when in my 60’s and 70’s, did I first hear the term “transgender” and become aware of the community’s stated agenda.”
## LGBT+ History Month Calendar

**MTSU Lambda Weekly Meeting**  
Every Wednesday  
CNB N119  
mtsu.edu/mtlambda

### September:

- **26**: PRIDE Night for LGBT+ & Allied Students  
  6pm  
  STU Theater

### October:

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### October 2018

#### MTSU Pride Button Collection
- Presented by MT Lambda.  
- mtsu.edu/events/rockyhorror.php

#### MTSU Lambda Association Celebrates 30th Anniversary
MT Lambda was established in response to a series of anti-LGBT+ articles published by Sidelines and is the oldest higher ed LGBT+ student organization existing in the state today. The Founders of MT Lambda; Daniel Webster, John Weaver, and Ritchie Smith, rallied the LGBT+ community on campus and established MT Lambda in October of 1988. Since its establishment, MT Lambda has served as a home away from home for LGBT+ students on campus and has fought for numerous policy changes throughout its existence. Read more about the 1988 Sidelines articles by stopping by the Gore Research Center located in Todd Hall.

#### Highlighted Events
- **27**: Transgender Day of Remembrance Ceremony  
  Time: 6pm  
  STU Commons

#### Fall 2018 Spectrum Film & Lecture Series
- **Fall 2018 Spectrum Film & Lecture Series**
  See calendar for event times and locations

### MTU Pride Button Collection

- **27**: National Transgender Day of Remembrance  
  Time: 6pm  
  STU Commons

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**Note**: All events are subject to change. Please check the MTSU Pride Calendar for the most up-to-date information.