

MTAP Monthly

MARCH 2026

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

JAYRAH TRAPP

Welcome to the first issue of MTAP Monthly for 2026! I am delighted to announce that we have a whole host of new newsletter committee members who have joined this year (see their bios below). Thank you so much to the "Boardies" for organizing and implementing all the new committees. This is going to be a great year for MTAP, and we on the newsletter committee will be making sure you don't miss a thing.



MEET THE **n**ews**S**letter **e**r COMMITTEE

LISA BENZINGER

Lisa is the Administrative Assistant for the CLA Advising office in Peck Hall. She is currently enrolled in the Master's of Digital Media program, and both of her children attend MTSU, as well.

CHERI BURT

Cheri is the Executive Assistant for Data Science. She has been at MTSU for four years and part of MTAP for two years.

SARAH CLARK

Sarah Clark is an Executive Assistant in the Biology Department, where she received both her BS and MS degrees. She has worked in the Biology office and has been a member of MTAP for one year. She enjoys spending her free time with her family and her horses.

JENN DIX

Jenn is an Executive Assistant in the College of Liberal Arts Dean's Office and a new member of MTAP. She is also a student in the Master of Arts in Liberal Arts (MALA) program.

LUCAS KAUTZKY

Luke is the Coordinator for the School of Journalism and Strategic Media. He's worked at MTSU for four years and just joined MTAP this semester. He proofreads for the newsletter committee, he proofreads for his coordinator job, he proofreads for his adjunct work, and in his free time, he proofreads his own writing. He firmly believes that variety is the spice of life.

LESLIE SIMS

Leslie serves as the Executive Assistant for the Department of Theatre and Dance in the Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building. She is currently pursuing her Master's in Professional Studies at MTSU and is excited to continue her education while contributing to both MTSU and MTAP for the past 3 years.

JAYRAH TRAPP

Jayrah is the Administrative Assistant for Gen Ed English. She has been at MTSU for four years and has been an MTAP member for three years. She is excited to be chairing the newsletter committee!

SOUPER LUNCHEON RECAP - "A MEMORY, AN ICE STORM, AND A RETIREMENT"

by JAYRAH TRAPP

The annual Souper Luncheon holds a special place in my heart because it was the first event I attended after being hired at MTSU. I was the guest of Regina Nelson, who has since retired. I was delighted to win a door prize that day because I never win those things. (If you must know, it was a lavender and cucumber planting set that I left in the basement for two years, and when I finally decided to plant it, nothing sprouted!)

This year, we had an ice storm to contend with. Our week of remote work meant the Souper Luncheon was postponed, and our beloved Tom Jackson Building was inaccessible. Thankfully, everyone appeared to get the date and location change because we had a near-full house in Ingram's MT Center. Crockpots of liquidy goodness lined the food table, and Aramark donated a tray of their delicious cookies. Of course there were door prizes, and of course I did not win one this time.



MTAP members did not let weather challenges stop them from gathering with friends in Ingram's MT Center for the MTAP Souper Luncheon.



The ice couldn't stop the warmth of MTAP as we celebrated the retirement of Ms. Pat Thomas Head, the Administrative Associate for the Board of Trustees. She was gifted two flower arrangements—in the words of Cindy Dinwiddie, who presented Pat with her gifts, "one real one and one that will last forever." Many MTAP members also showered her with cards wishing her a well-deserved retirement. Overwhelmed by the surprise, Pat later emailed the group, "Retirement is scary and I will miss my MTSU Friends, but it is also an exciting time in our lives. YOU are members of my family, and I will carry your friendship and memories in my heart forever!" Well said, Pat. Thank you for your service to the University.

thank you



MTSU PARKING SERVICES: LUNCH & LEARN



Thanks to MTSU Parking Services for providing MTAP members an opportunity to Lunch and Learn in February! It takes a lot to keep parking and transportation running smoothly on campus, and we appreciate the work that Parking Services does to keep everyone safe.



January Birthdays:

Wendy Hyatt (1/3), **Kristen Rabinowitz** (1/9), **Kim Evans** (1/12), **Emily Madison** (1/13), **Kerry Foley** (1/15), **Michelle Tezak** (1/16), **Charlene Huffman** (1/25)

February Birthdays:

Sherry Preston (2/1), **Cindy Dinwiddie** (2/3), **Melissa Burnett** (2/4), **Jenna Buck** (2/5), **Jayrah Trapp** (2/8), **Kyle Baker** (2/11), **Megan Richards** (2/16), **Lilia Jensen** (2/22)

March Birthdays:

Delila Reed (3/1), **Danielle Gruber** (3/2), **Yvonne Elliot** (3/12), **Dawn Key** (3/20), **Katie Morris-Fitch** (3/22), **Julie Powers** (3/22)

MTAP MEMBERS TAKE ON NEW ROLES

It is said that "change brings opportunity". Two MTAP members have changed locations to seize those opportunities.

In January, **Becky Milliken** moved to the Physician Assistant Studies Program as an Administrative Specialist. Becky was previously a Financial Administrator for the Jones College of Business.

Melinda Beel moved to the P-card Compliance Office as an Analyst. Melinda was previously an Executive Assistant in the Human Sciences Department.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND REMINDERS

- **Tuesday, March 24:** Lunch & Learn with Kristy O'Neal, Marketing P1 | Virtual Teams Meeting, 12-1 pm
- **Thursday, April 9:** Town Hall Business Meeting | Tom Jackson, 1-2 pm
- **Wednesday, April 29:** Lunch & Learn with Cathy Delametter and Jennifer Hyde | What You Need to Know About What You Already Know | Tom Jackson, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm