

MTAP Monthly

AUGUST 2026

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

JAYRAH TRAPP

When I first joined MTAP in 2023, Sherry Fuller was president. When elections came around, and I learned that her term was over, I could not imagine a world without Sherry's smiling face being in charge of our organization. Now, I realize I had no need to worry! Every single "Boardie" that has been in office has worked so hard and done a great job at keeping MTAP going. Enjoy this edition of MTAP Monthly, where we celebrate incoming and outgoing board members. We will also hear about what folks are looking forward to this semester, what great things our members have done recently, and how MTAP came to be. Happy reading!



MTAP LOOKS FORWARD

Find out what members of the MTAP Newsletter Committee are looking forward to in the upcoming semester. What are YOU looking forward to?



"I am looking forward to seeing all of the new students I met during summer orientation!"

- **Lisa Benzinger**

"Seeing the students and a new office. Data Science moves back to KOM in August."

- **Cheri Burt**

"I'm looking forward to teaching classes as an adjunct instructor again!"

- **Luke Kautzky**

"I am looking forward to meeting the new instructors we hired over the summer, helping them navigate the job through our annual training sessions, and eating the free food at those sessions!" - **Jayrah Trapp**

"I am looking forward to welcoming new students on campus while seeing familiar faces!"

- **Leslie Sims**

"Fall weather!"

- **Jenn Dix**

MTAP BOARD CHANGES



Outgoing Secretary Patti Agnew

Thank you for allowing me to serve as MTAP Secretary these past two years. It has been my honor and my privilege to work with you all. I'm excited about how far we have come, and the momentum that is continuing to build. Thank you to my fellow board members, past and present, for your tireless efforts to advance us to where we are today. Thank you to all the committees. Without you, MTAP would not be the well-oiled machine it is now. If there is one thing I have learned, it is that the board cannot do it all, and they certainly cannot do it all well! The leadership and participation that has come from the committees is vital to the strength of this organization. And finally, thank you to our incoming board members. I'm excited to see you take us to the next level!

Incoming Secretary DeAnne Hathaway

My name is DeAnne Hathaway, and I am honored and excited to serve as the new MTAP Secretary. Before anything else, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Patti Agnew, our outgoing Secretary, for the kindness, patience, and support she has shown me over the past few weeks. I have big shoes to fill!

My journey has been full of unexpected turns. I joined the Navy at 18, got married, had a son, divorced, remarried, and later welcomed a daughter. Before I knew it, 21 years had passed. After retiring from the Navy, I moved to Murfreesboro and spent 15 years at Saint Rose Catholic School. Then, what I jokingly call my "midlife crisis" led me to pursue a new opportunity. Deciding I deserved a little more financial stability, I accepted a position in the Daniels Center and have now been here for three years. It was one of the best decisions I've ever made.

I earned my associate's degree and am currently working toward my bachelor's degree one class at a time. My goal is to finish before I retire!

If I had to describe myself, I'd say I'm an introvert who aspires to be an extrovert. One of my goals as a member of the MTAP Board is to step outside my own comfort zone—even if it means embarrassing myself from time to time—in hopes of helping other introverts feel welcome and included.

Outside of work, I enjoy exercising, and I'd love to start a walking group where we can get some steps in, enjoy great conversations, and maybe even solve a few of the world's problems along the way!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve alongside each of you. I look forward to the next two years and all that we can accomplish together as a team.



MTAP BOARD CHANGES *continued*



*2025-26 MTAP Board Members
enjoying the Summit*

Outgoing Vice President Cindy Dinwiddie



I have been so blessed to serve you these past two years. I am always overwhelmed with the generosity and dedication of you all as you serve this great organization.

I have loved getting to know you, old and new alike. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you and work with such amazing people as yourselves. Thank you for entrusting me to take care of you and your needs in this term. It truly means the world to me.

I want to encourage you to serve MTAP in whatever capacity is asked of you. You make this organization so special. With tears and the fondest of memories, I leave you to your new Executive Board. You are in good hands. Be heard and VOTE! Don't forget to vote!

Incoming Vice President Katie Morris-Fitch



Hi! I'm Katie Morris-Fitch, and I've proudly worked at MTSU for 10 years. I currently serve as the Executive Assistant for the School of Journalism and Strategic Media, where I support faculty, staff, and students.

Outside of work, I've been married for five years and have an 18-

year-old son who is a rising senior at Siegel High School. We also have two dogs, Gizmo and Lady, who are so spoiled they have their own La-Z-Boy recliners! My faith is an important part of my life, and my husband and I lead a weekly Life Group in our home.

I love musicals, gardening, flowers, decorating my house, and traveling to New York City with my sister to see Broadway shows.

I'm excited to serve as Vice President of MTAP and hope to help our administrative professionals feel more connected, supported, and appreciated. Please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm always happy to help however I can!

*Thank you for
going above
& beyond.*

CELEBRATING MTAP'S 50TH BIRTHDAY

By SANDRA CAMPBELL AND JAYRAH TRAPP

This year marks the 50th anniversary of our group. In 1976, clerical employees here at MTSU formed the Clerical Caucus to represent their collective interests. Virginia Fowler, secretary of the Geography and Earth Science department, was named the organization's first president. Membership was a mere \$3 back then; that's the equivalent of \$15 today with inflation.

The Clerical Caucus later changed their name to the Association of Secretarial and Clerical Employees (ASCE) and then to Middle Tennessee Administrative Professionals (MTAP) in 2022.

Throughout its history, the group has focused on encouraging professional and personal development, as well as providing opportunities for networking and knowledge exchange among its members. MTAP continues to serve as a valuable resource for administrative professionals at MTSU, promoting growth and collaboration within the university community.

If you would like to investigate further, notebooks and files from previous volunteer leaders are in the University Archives, located in the lower level of the Todd Building (Gore Research Center).



Denise Gonzalez was accepted into the Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society (an international business honor society) as she works on her Master's degree.



Flora McCullough & Corneilus Elder

Flora McCullough was in sunny Aruba on June 20th for Aliyah and Corneilus Elder's wedding. Her grandson, Corneilus, is a former NFL player for the Carolina Panthers and the Washington Commanders. They will be residing here in Murfreesboro, where he will be coaching at Ensworth High School, his alma mater, and Ailyah will be working for a law firm in Atlanta.



August Birthdays

Lisa Cherfan (8/2)
Betsy Taylor (8/11)
Becky Milliken (8/19)
LaCresha Longwell (8/25)
Abree Gonzalez (8/31)
Dannette Mooneyham (8/31)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, August 12
Lunch & Learn with Kristy O'Neal
Marketing Part 2