Jennifer L. Caputo
Department of Health and Human Performance
Outstanding Teaching Award

Jennifer Caputo, a professor of Exercise Science, joined the MTSU community in 2000. She has a B.S. in Psychology from Connecticut College and an M.S. in Sport Psychology and a Ph.D. in Exercise Physiology from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She was awarded the MTSU Foundation Outstanding Teacher Award in 2009 and the Outstanding Public Service Award in 2010. Caputo served as the co-coordinator of Exercise Science for 21 years, during which an undergraduate degree and doctoral specialization were developed, and the program was accredited through the American College of Sports Medicine.

For Caputo, the opportunity to work with her students to help them grow as people and professionals is a true life pleasure and honor. Caputo works with undergraduate and graduate students in Exercise Science. She has completed MTSU Online and MT Engage training and will offer courses to her students through both designations.

Outside of the classroom, Caputo enjoys mentoring students and faculty. She has chaired more than 70 thesis and dissertation committees and has been a University faculty teaching mentor for the past decade.

Caputo is interested in the scholarship of teaching and learning. In addition to publishing and presenting on this topic, she is a founding and executive editor of Educational Practices in Kinesiology, a peer-reviewed educational journal.
Shannon Harmon

Department of Elementary and Special Education
Outstanding Teaching Award

Shannon Harmon, associate professor in the Department of Elementary and Special Education, joined MTSU in 2013. She earned her B.A. in Communications from Mississippi State University and her M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction and Ed D. in Elementary Education from the University of Mississippi. As part of MTSU’s K–5 Elementary Education Residency 1 Program, she mentors teacher candidates and partners with schools in Rutherford and surrounding middle Tennessee counties. She strives for excellence by ensuring teacher candidates are focused on how their instruction and interactions affect K–5 learners. Harmon also models best practices by providing support, encouragement, and feedback to her teacher candidates as they make the transition from students to professional educators. Her Residency 1 courses—Assessing the Elementary Level Learner and Theory to Practice—are EXL and MT Engage designated.

Harmon’s research focuses on examining field-based experiences and aims to support teacher candidates in implementing instruction that meets the needs of all learners. She uses her research to enhance the residency program’s production of well-prepared candidates as well as the effectiveness of her own teaching.

Harmon has been recognized for her work by the Tennessee Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, the Association of Teacher Educators, and the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation. She was named MTSU’s Favorite Professor in 2015 by the 21st Annual Ruthies Awards and has been recognized by graduating seniors as a person making a difference for 10 consecutive semesters.
Alyson Muenzer Lynn

Department of English
Outstanding Teaching Award

Alyson Muenzer Lynn was born and raised in Knoxville. After graduating from the University of Tennessee with a B.A. in English in 1998, she moved to Murfreesboro and enrolled at MTSU. Upon earning her M.A. in August 2001, she began teaching full time in MTSU’s English Department.

For the last 21 years, Lynn has taught numerous sections of English 1010, 1020, and 2030, frequently participating in Raider Learning Communities and the MT Engage program. Regardless of the subject matter, Lynn’s teaching philosophy is firmly grounded in learning, understanding, and flexibility. She is perpetually in the process of becoming, always learning something new about herself, her students, and her world. Ultimately, she knows that there is no “one-size-fits-all” approach to teaching, for students are diverse in every way imaginable, and every single student deserves a voice.

In 2018, Lynn was recognized as the English Department’s Full Time Temporary (FTT) of the Year, and one year later, she was awarded the prestigious John T. Bragg Sr. Distinguished Service Award. At the height of the pandemic two summers ago, Lynn decided to revisit her dream of earning a Ph.D. in English, a dream she had put on hold in 2001 to begin her teaching career. Becoming a student again after two decades of teaching has been eye-opening, as it reminds her of her own students’ struggles and, of course, their victories!

When Lynn is not teaching, serving her department, or completing her own studies, she relishes being a mother to her son, Wil, a rising MTSU sophomore. She is an avid collector, with interests ranging from metal lunchboxes and board games to retro kitchen knickknacks. With an unrelenting and unmatched enthusiasm for capturing the perfect sunset, Lynn sees each day as an opportunity for personal growth.
Ashleigh E. McKinzie

Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Outstanding Teaching Award

Ashleigh McKinzie is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. She also teaches in the Women’s and Gender Studies program and serves on its council. At MTSU since 2017, McKinzie teaches a variety of courses in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, including one of the required courses for Sociology’s new Social Justice concentration and minor. She also teaches courses that are cross listed with Women’s and Gender Studies and one class in Africana Studies. McKinzie has received several accolades for her teaching and mentoring, including three teaching awards while she was a graduate student at the University of Georgia. Just last year she was awarded the College of Liberal Arts Faculty Mentoring Award.

McKinzie enjoys teaching topics related to her research. Her research interests lie at the intersections of inequality and disaster aftermaths/climate change and of inequality and gender violence. She is currently analyzing data for a book project on sexual violence in evangelical settings. She has received national and regional recognition and financial support for her scholarship, including a grant from the National Science Foundation and awards from Sociologists for Women in Society, the Society for the Study of Social Problems, American Society of Criminology, and the Mid-South Sociological Association.
Lucy M. Matthews, an associate professor of Marketing, has a B.S. in Marketing and Management from Indiana University and an M.B.A. with a concentration in Marketing from Georgia State University. She worked in sales and management for over 15 years prior to returning for her doctorate at Kennesaw State University. She joined MTSU in fall 2015. Her research interests include sales and sales management, burnout, engagement, grit, and partial least squares structural equations modeling, as well as cross-disciplinary areas related to marketing, such as innovation and entrepreneurship.

Matthews was instrumental in developing the Professional Selling concentration and certificate program offered by the Department of Marketing in the Jones College of Business. She has obtained sponsorship partner funds for the selling program exceeding $150,000. Matthews was the recipient of the E. W. “Wink” Midgett Distinguished Research Award in 2019 and the State Farm Outstanding Professor Award in 2018 from the Jones College of Business. In 2018, she also received the Outstanding EXL Faculty Award at MTSU. A 2021 Rutherford ATHENA Award nominee, Matthews is the immediate past-president of the Atlantic Marketing Association, the president-elect for the Society for Marketing Advances, and the vice chairman of the board for Ascend Federal Credit Union, the Tullahoma-based credit union with $3.6 billion in assets.
Christina M. Cobb

Department of University Studies
Outstanding General Education Award

Christina M. Cobb, an assistant professor in University Studies, teaches mathematics, first-year seminar, and graduate professional studies courses. She earned a B.S. and M.S. in Mathematics and a Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction at Tennessee State University. She loves teaching mathematics, and her deepest desire is to make an impact on each student who walks into her classroom. Over the past 10 years, she has taught General Education mathematics courses with a focus on real-life application. Her efforts to create an inclusive learning environment have been recognized by the Outstanding Teacher Award at MTSU (2019) and the Outstanding Faculty in Learning Support Award from the Tennessee Association for Student Success and Retention (2021). Cobb has also been cited as a “Person Who Made a Difference” by MTSU graduating seniors in 2016, 2017, and 2019.

Cobb continues to seek funding for the MT Engage Math Game Night, which she has hosted for the past three years. For several years, she has also led mathematics skill-building sessions for students enrolled in the Scholars Academy early arrival program. Cobb was recognized also for student involvement in the classroom and was a recipient of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities’ High Impact Practices Grant. In 2019, she was awarded a Student Engagement, Retention, and Success Grant, for which she served as co-principal investigator for the Mentoring and Mathematics (M2) program. She was also named the 2021–2023 LT&ITC Inclusive Teaching Fellow at MTSU. She has earned her micro-credential from the Association of Colleges and University Educators (ACUE) in Inclusive Teaching (2021) as well as a Diversity and Inclusion certificate from eCornell (2022).

Cobb has been active with multiple organizations, including the National Organization for Student Success (NOSS), Tennessee Association for Student Success and Retention (TASSR), and Southwest Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics (SVCTM). She has published several articles and newsletters and has presented at numerous conferences. Cobb serves as the national co-chair of the NOSS Mathematics Network. She also is TASSR’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee chair and serves on the committee for the Tennessee Girls in STEM at MTSU. She tutors and serves on the board for multiple community organizations in Nashville and Murfreesboro. Cobb recently launched her new platform EducatHer, where she will assist women across the nation through workshops, book clubs, mentoring, and more.
Stuart Bernstein, Professor of Psychology, has worked at MTSU since 1998. He earned a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology at Michigan State University (1996) followed by a post-doctoral research fellowship at Wayne State University. Bernstein teaches classes in research methods, cognition, sensation and perception, statistics, and reading development. He uses instructional technology in all these classes to create interactive and engaging experiences for students. He recently developed a flipped classroom version of the research methods course, in which students complete interactive lectures online and work collaboratively in small groups in person.

In 2014, Bernstein was named Educator of the Year by the Stones River Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind in recognition of his use of adaptive technology to teach visually impaired students. He has also received grants from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation and the Healing Trust to support his service-learning experiences for students. Bernstein was the co-recipient of the Experiential Learning Faculty Award in 2017 and was named Volunteer of the Year by Read to Succeed in 2013.

Bernstein has over 40 publications and presentations on reading development, spelling development, dyslexia, and health literacy. His current research involves statistical modeling of factors that influence reading comprehension and exam performance.
Erica M. Stone

Department of English

Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology Award

Erica Stone joined the MTSU English Department as an assistant professor in fall 2020. Originally from Birmingham, Alabama, Stone graduated from Texas Tech with a Ph.D. in Technical Communication and Rhetoric (2020) after earning degrees in Education (University of Alabama at Birmingham) and Fine Arts (Auburn University).

As a teacher-scholar-activist, Stone works at the intersection of technical communication, public rhetoric, and community organizing. Her scholarship can be found in *Writing Program Administration; Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy; Spark: A 4C4Equality Journal; Community Literacy Journal; Teaching English in the Two-Year College; Basic Writing Electronic (BWe) Journal; Intercom*; and various conference proceedings and edited collections. In her TED talk, “Academic research is publicly funded—why isn’t it publicly available,” she urges academics to engage with popular media, publish in open access spaces, and include communities in their research.

Stone serves as the associate director of General Education English and is the co-principal investigator on several open educational resources (OER) grants and is passionate about making college accessible for every student. She teaches undergraduate courses in professional writing, technical communication, and first-year writing and has supervised graduate-level directed readings in decoloniality and medical rhetoric. Stone looks forward to teaching classes in the newly approved Public Writing and Rhetoric major.

When not thinking about public rhetoric, user experience, and human-centered design, Stone enjoys riding her bike on the greenway, hiking and camping in the Smokies, listening to podcasts and audiobooks, taking walks in new places, visiting with her family in Birmingham, and spending time with her partner, Hunter, and their two fur children Beatrix (2-year-old dog) and Imogen (18-year-old cat).
Jing Kong

Department of Chemistry
Distinguished Research Award

Jing Kong is a professor in the Department of Chemistry and a member of the Computational and Data Science Ph.D. program. After receiving his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Dalhousie University in Canada in 1996, he worked at a small chemistry software company and became the chief scientist and CEO of the company later. The company’s product is a major quantum chemistry program that is sold worldwide. Kong led an in-house research team that developed some of the most efficient density functional theory (DFT) algorithms with the support of 11 grants from the National Institutes of Health and published 33 peer-reviewed papers at the company. Since joining MTSU in 2013, he has taught courses from General Education to Ph.D. levels. He has supervised two postdoctoral fellows, five Ph.D. students, one master’s, and three undergraduate students for research.

At MTSU, Kong added a new research direction for developing methods for strong electron correlation. It is one of the most challenging problems in computational chemistry, and its ultimate solution will fundamentally transform the modeling of molecules and materials. His model is one of the first methods that has been shown capable of handling some of the strongest electron correlation. His group also has developed computationally efficient algorithms and software for molecular computation.

Kong has obtained four external research grants as the principal investigator from the National Institutes of Health, American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund, Air Force Research Laboratory, and the National Science Foundation. His group at MTSU has published 15 papers in peer-reviewed journals and developed an independent software program that contains a half-million lines of manmade code. He has given invited talks at national and international conferences and departmental colloquiums and is requested regularly for paper and proposal reviews. He has been cited about 7,600 times over his career, according to Google Scholars.
Sisavanh Phouthavong Houghton

Department of Art and Design
Distinguished Research Award

A professor of painting at MTSU, Sisavanh Phouthavong Houghton is a Lao American mixed media visual artist born in Vientiane, Laos. Her artworks have been exhibited nationally at venues including the Gadsden Museum of Art, Minnesota Museum of American Art, Asian Arts Initiative, Hunter Museum of American Art, Lauren Rogers Museum of Art, Huntsville Museum of Art, Reece Museum, and Knoxville Museum of Art. Because she is a refugee and immigrant from the post-Vietnam War era, these experiences are the driving force behind her body of work.

Her work has been featured in New Art Examiner, Wall Street International, Voyage Houston, Shoutout HTX, Clickbait, Create Magazine, Studio Visit Magazine, Tennessean, The Pinch Journal, Voices of America, and Next Door Neighbors. She has been a guest on Art Fight Podcast, The Art of Outreach, and Drawing South. Permanent collections include Hunter Museum of American Art; American Embassy, Paramaribo, Suriname; Legacies of War Office, Washington, D.C.; Tennessee State Museum; and Pinnacle Bank Headquarters, Nashville.

Houghton earned her B.F.A. from the University of Kansas and M.F.A. at Southern Illinois University. She has been nominated for the Joan Mitchell Foundation Arts Award 2020 and a 2019 ArtFields Painting Award. She was a 2017 Tennessee Arts Individual Artist Fellowship recipient. Houghton has won an MTSU Outstanding Teaching Award, and her research has been funded numerous times by the Tennessee Arts Commission with generous support from MTSU grants. She has led community art projects with nonprofit organizations such as Southeast Asian Diaspora (SEAD), Legacies of War, the Frist Art Museum, Oasis Center, and the Center for Refugees+Immigrants of Tennessee (CRIT).
After earning his bachelor’s degree from the State University of New York–Oneonta, master’s degree from St. Bonaventure University, and Ph.D. degree from the University of Pittsburgh, Tom Brinthaupt joined MTSU’s Department of Psychology in 1990. He was tenured and promoted to associate professor in 1995 and to professor in 2000. Since 2010, Brinthaupt has served as director of faculty development for MTSU’s Learning, Teaching, and Innovative Technologies Center (LT&ITC), where he helped to develop and now leads the Faculty Fellows Program, which has served over 150 faculty members. Since 2012, he has also facilitated the Faculty Learning Communities (FLC), which has provided development opportunities for more than 40 faculty groups focused on a specific issue.

Brinthaupt teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in his disciplinary specialty, personality psychology, as well as courses in research methods and the department’s seminar on careers in psychology. Brinthaupt has mentored over 100 students at the high school, undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral levels. He has also supervised more than 60 independent research and 11 Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity student projects.

Brinthaupt’s work with students has resulted in substantial internal and external student research funding. He has also supervised more than 170 student research presentations locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. Nine of his undergraduates and 21 of his graduate students are co-authors on his research publications.

Brinthaupt is an internationally recognized researcher on the phenomenon of “self-talk” or internal conversations. He has published nine books and more than 120 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters and has been awarded internal and external funding. His research has been highlighted in popular media outlets including Psychology Today, USA Today, and BBC among others. His Self-Talk Scale (Brinthaupt et al., 2009), used by researchers around the world, has been translated into numerous languages. He has given 137 local, national, and international research presentations, including 19 invited, keynote, or awarded presentations in his academic discipline. He has also published extensively on the scholarship of teaching and learning, with over 40 papers and book chapters in the field.

Brinthaupt’s extensive service record—as advisor to MTSU’s Psi Chi Psychology National Honor Society/Psychology Club since 1995; as associate editor for
Multimedia Educational Resources for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT) Psychology Editorial Board (2004-2012); as advisory board member for the Discovery Center at Murfree Spring; as a member of the Psychology Educators of Tennessee Planning committee (since 2010); and as a manuscript reviewer for 30+ academic journals—is remarkable. His commitment to service has extended to shared governance, with Brinthaupt serving on the executive board of MTSU’s chapter of the American Association of University Professors and as a representative to MTSU’s Faculty Senate (2010-13).

Among Brinthaupt’s many awards are MTSU’s Distinguished Educator in Distance Learning (2005); the Lana Doncaster Innovations Award given by the Tennessee Board of Regents Distance Education Committee (2006); MTSU’s John Bragg Distinguished Service Award (2006); the College of Education and Behavioral Science University Community Award (2007); MTSU Foundation Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology Award (2007 and 2014), and the MTSU Foundation Distinguished Research Award (2020).
Ralph Butler has been a professor at MTSU since 2000, relocating from the University of North Florida. His teaching has been exemplary. He has typically been rated among the best professors in the department, while teaching courses at all levels: bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral. Indeed, he has often been named as a professor who has made a difference in the lives of graduating MTSU students.

In the mid-1980s Butler did post-doc work at Argonne National Laboratory, and he has maintained an associate research relationship there ever since. Collaborations during work at UNF, MTSU, and Argonne have led to participation in grants totaling over $20 million. Some of those grants supported work in computational biology, computational nuclear physics, and automated reasoning.

In 2012, his Asynchronous Dynamic Load Balancing (ADLB) software was described in the Department of Energy’s portion of the federal budget request to Congress. In part, it said: “[T]his innovative programming model enables an application to reuse most of its highly tuned code and streamlines the way parallel programming resources are allocated. Although more research will be needed to fully explore the capability of ADLB, early results are promising.” Using ADLB, the researchers have successfully run the first full calculations of carbon-12, a specific target of the ASCR SciDAC Universal Nuclear Energy Density Functional project, which addresses fundamental issues in the origin of the universe, on more than 130,000 processors of the Blue Gene/P at the Argonne Leadership Computing Facility.

High performance computing software that he developed is still being used on some of the nation’s largest supercomputers. Another grant was responsible for bringing Internet2 to MTSU for the first time.
Ellen Butler Donovan was born in California but moved with her family up and down the West Coast as a child. She earned her B.A. and M.A. in English from Portland State University in Oregon and, in 1988, her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where she studied American Literature.

Donovan started her career at MTSU as an adjunct in the English Department in 1989 but was hired on the tenure track in 1990 to teach General Education courses and children’s literature. Her career at MTSU was marked by extensive service to the University and to the profession. In the English Department, she served a five-year term as the Lower Division director and designed or helped to design multiple undergraduate and graduate courses in children’s literature. For four years, she directed the Leonardo Project, an experiment in interdisciplinary general education teacher preparation. From 2007–18, she served as co-director of the Middle Tennessee Writing Project. From 1995–2009, she co-directed the biennial Conference on Modern Critical Approaches to Children’s Literature, a national conference. Into retirement, Donovan serves as the book review editor for the annual *Children’s Literature*.

Donovan’s research focuses on historical children’s literature and has appeared in the major American scholarly journals focused on children’s literature. Her final project is the joint editing of “Children, Too, Sing America,” a special issue of *College Literature: A Journal of Critical Literary Studies*.

In her spare time, Donovan reads, hikes, knits, and tries to keep the weeds in her garden under control. In her retirement she plans to enjoy the company of her husband, Kevin Donovan, and her family.
Kevin Donovan earned his A.B. degree at Boston College in 1978 and his Ph.D. in 1987 at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where he met his future wife, Ellen Butler Donovan, also a longtime member of the MTSU English Department. After finishing graduate school, he taught full time at the University of New Hampshire for two years.

Donovan has been a member of the English Department faculty since 1989. The senior Shakespearean within the department, he has taught a range of courses, with a particular focus on early modern British and Irish poetry and drama. He summarizes his pedagogical goals as follows: “I tried to communicate to my students the reasons why I am endlessly fascinated by the expressive power and imaginative visions of the literary works that most move me, and I tried to help them become more skillful critical readers, writers, and researchers.”

From 1996 to 2011, Donovan coordinated a series of six educational residencies by Shakespearean actors from the London Stage, which served the community as well as the University. From 1991 to 2015, he co-directed with Charles W. Durham and Kristin A. Pruitt the biennial Conference on John Milton, which attracted most of the leading American and Canadian scholars in the field of Milton studies as well as scholars from Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the U.K., and Norway and which led to the publication of a series of 12 collections of scholarly essays contributing to Milton studies. With Thomas Festa, he co-edited the collections *Milton, Materialism, and Embodiment* (2017) and *Scholarly Milton* (2019). With Christopher J. Wheatley, he co-edited the anthology *Irish Drama of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries* (2 vols., 2003). He has published articles in *English Literary Renaissance, Studies in Bibliography, New Hibernia Review*, and other journals as well as in edited collections on the poet and dramatist Ben Jonson. He also wrote the “Survey of Interpretive Criticism” for the two-volume edition of *King Lear* in the *New Variorum Shakespeare* series, edited by Richard Knowles, and is an associate editor of the edition (published 2020). Presently, Donovan is finishing a book-length history of King Lear criticism for the series *Shakespeare: The Critical Tradition*, which will be published by Bloomsbury under the Arden Shakespeare imprint.

In addition to the normal share of departmental and University committee work, he twice served as graduate program director in the English Department and in 2012–13 served as chair of MTSU’s Graduate Council.
John DuBois joined MTSU as an assistant professor of Biology in fall 1989. He was promoted to associate professor in 1991, earned tenure in 1993, and was promoted to professor in 1997. He has been active in research throughout his MTSU career, publishing several research articles and one textbook and co-authoring more than 50 professional presentations. He was the co-director of the MTSU Center for Environment and Energy Education from 1989 to 1994 and was the editor of its newsletter. He served as the faculty advisor/consulting editor of the MTSU e-journal *Scientia: The Journal of Student Research* from 1997 to 2009, when the journal moved to the Honors College. In spring 2006, he took over as editor of the departmental newsletter, *BioUpdate*, and served in the role until 2016. He has instructed 13 different courses in the department, along with directing undergraduate and graduate research.

He advised four master’s thesis students and 20 Honors thesis students, along with serving on several other thesis committees. He mentored 21 Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity (URECA) student projects and was principal investigator or co-PI on 11 different education and research grants, seven of which were externally funded. From 1990 until 1999, he conducted 38 teacher in-service workshops across the state of Tennessee, helping K–12 teachers learn how to teach hands-on mathematics and science. He served as a departmental CUSTOMS advisor 1999–2011 and transfer advisor 2007–2011. In fall 2012, he was appointed to the Honors College faculty and served on the University Honors Council from 2019 to 2022, chairing the group in 2020–21. He has been cited several times by MTSU students as “a person who makes a real difference” and in 2020 received the Outstanding Honors Faculty Award. In spring 2022, he received the Honors College Exemplary Faculty Service Award.
Norma Dunlap taught in the Chemistry Department at MTSU for 24 years, beginning as an assistant professor in 1998 and rising to associate professor and then professor. Prior to joining the faculty at MTSU, she was a lecturer at Vanderbilt University. Before that, she was a senior research scientist at Hoffmann-La Roche in Nutley, N.J. She earned a B.S. in Chemistry in 1977 at Eastern University in St. Davids, Penn. After four years as a lab technician at Witco Chemical, she returned to college, earning a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry at the University of Wyoming in 1985.

During her time at MTSU, Dunlap was twice nominated for the MTSU Foundation Award for Outstanding Teaching and won the Foundation’s Outstanding Research Award. She was a member of the Honors College and initiated the Honors Organic Chemistry classes. She was research advisor for three doctoral students, 14 master’s students, and 55 undergraduate students. Of those M.S. and B.S. students, 10 went on to earn their doctorates in Chemistry, and others went on to medical, pharmacy, and dental schools, as well as teaching careers. Her research with these students resulted in 12 publications and grants from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation for research and instruments worth approximately $900,000. In addition to research publications, Dunlap co-authored a textbook (with Donna Huryn) on medicinal chemistry, which has been adopted by a number of universities and has been translated into Japanese.
Timothy R. Graeff
Professor Emeritus
Marketing

Timothy R. Graeff earned a Ph.D. in Marketing from Penn State University in 1992. Since then, he has taught courses in marketing principles, consumer behavior, services marketing, and marketing research. A professor of Marketing, he founded and served as director of the Office of Consumer Research at MTSU.

Graeff received numerous external and internal awards during his tenure at MTSU. He was named Reviewer of the Year for *Marketing Education Review* (2018), named a fellow of the Marketing Management Association (2015), and received the Master Teacher Award presented through the Marketing Management Association (2005). He also received the Jones College of Business State Farm Excellence Professorship (2005) and the Jones College of Business E.W. “Wink” Midgett Distinguished Teaching Award (2017). He received the Jones College of Business Outstanding Faculty Award in 2003 and 2008. He has also received the MTSU Outstanding Teaching Award three times (1999, 2009, 2017); the MTSU Outstanding Public Service award twice (2002, 2011); and the MTSU Distinguished Research Award (2001). Most recently, he received the MTSU Career Achievement Award in 2021.

He is committed to improving teaching excellence and student learning. Since its inception in 2004, he has chaired and coordinated the MTSU Teaching Mentoring Program, affiliated with the Learning, Teaching & Innovative Technology Center (LT&ITC) Faculty Fellows Program. This program pairs faculty members in one-on-one mentoring relationships.

He has published numerous articles on teaching effectiveness and student learning; how consumers comprehend product information and form inferences for missing information; sports marketing, sponsorships, and cause-related marketing; consumer confidence and consumer privacy issues; the role of brand and self-image congruence on consumers’ attitudes and purchase intentions; and uninformed response bias in survey research. Other researchers have cited his articles more than 2,700 times. His textbook, *Marketing Research for Managerial Decision Making: Data Analytics Using Microsoft Excel* (2021), published by Kendall Hunt Publishers, is now in its seventh edition.

In 2000, he created the Office of Consumer Research (OCR) at MTSU. As an ongoing public service project, he conducted quarterly surveys of both Tennessee residents and Tennessee business leaders, measuring their outlook on the economy. He has written more than 120 research reports summarizing results from these surveys on the OCR website (mtsu.edu/consumer).
Jette Halladay

Professor Emerita

Theatre and Dance

In her time at MTSU, Jette Halladay founded VOICES Arts Institute for Youth, MTSU ArtSeason for Children, and MTSU International Children’s Theatre Touring Company. Her productions and workshops have been seen by audiences in Russia, Britain, Finland, Latvia, and Honduras.

Halladay earned her undergraduate degree in Theatre from Brigham Young University, which included an internship at the Empire Youth Theatre Institute in New York. She worked as a teacher/artist for California Young People’s Theatre before returning to school to earn her Ph.D. in Theatre in Education from the University of Utah. She has been awarded several grants for her public service and research and creative activity, as well as the MTSU Foundation Award for directing and touring American Tall Tales in Eastern Europe. Halladay worked in collaboration with other Theatre faculty, as well as faculty from the University at large, in assisting the village of La Cane, Honduras, in achieving its goals of educating its youth and securing a financial boost for its citizens.

Halladay’s long-standing courses included Child Drama, Storytelling, Theatre in Education, and Drama Across the Curriculum. Additionally, Halladay taught early morning seminars, advised numerous students, encouraged them through First Year Seminar and Senior Seminar, and was always dependable for inciting a dance party along the Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building hallway.
Thomas Heine
Professor Emeritus
World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Since arriving at MTSU in 2001, Thomas Heine has served twice as interim chair of the department and done numerous stints on committees of the department and the college. He has had more than a dozen productions of his plays staged in Nashville and at festivals across the country; published several short stories and plays; and in 2002–03 was awarded the Individual Artist Fellowship in Theatre by the Tennessee Arts Commission. As section coordinator, he especially enjoyed working with exchange university students in Germersheim, Germany, and teaching summer courses in Munich.

MTSU had a great impact on his teaching. After 19 years at Vanderbilt, he found himself working with the more diverse student pool and larger classes at MTSU. Teaching students for whom college was a sacrifice profoundly affected him. Rather than lead students, he tried to meet them where they were. An MTSU class on methods of teaching foreign languages was a completely different course in approach, goals, and students than the similar course at Vanderbilt. Teaching at MTSU proved inspirational to Heine, who learned every bit as much from his students as they learned from him.
Glenn E. Littlepage

Professor Emeritus
Psychology

Glenn E. Littlepage served as a member of the MTSU Psychology Department for 49 years. He earned his B.A. from the University of New Mexico and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Psychology from Kansas State University. A social psychologist specializing in group processes and performance, he contributed to the Industrial/Organizational Psychology program. He taught several courses but specialized in the psychology of social behavior, group dynamics, and workgroup effectiveness.

Littlepage served on numerous University committees, including Faculty Liaison, Faculty Senate, Graduate Studies, Faculty Research, and SACSCOC committees. His awards include selection as a fellow of the Society of Experimental Social Psychology, the MTSU Distinguished Research Award, and a college-level University service award. He served on the editorial board of the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* and *Small Group Research*, as well as serving as associate editor of *Group Dynamics*. He authored 39 journal articles, 22 chapters and proceedings, and 128 professional presentations.
Marva Sullivan Lucas

Professor Emerita
University Studies

Marva Sullivan Lucas served as professor and chair in the University Studies Department of University College. Her formal education includes an Ed.D. from Tennessee State University; an Ed.S. and an M.S.T. from MTSU; and a B.A. from Fisk University, where she graduated summa cum laude and as a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Her ambitions always included encouraging and assisting those desiring to lead positive and productive personal and professional lives. Positions with the former Developmental Studies Department and the University Studies Department were ideal venues for promoting this cause. Initially, her primary focus was on students admitted to the University needing extra academic assistance to enhance their chances of earning a college degree. Because of her efforts and the efforts of a committed faculty/staff team, MTSU boasts that approximately 37% of students receiving a bachelor’s degree each semester have benefited directly from her team’s work. These accomplishments afforded her opportunities to act as a consultant to other institutions, locally and nationally.

Directing the University Seminar program furthered her impact on special student populations as she collaborated with the Office of Student Success in offering early arrival programs for Scholars Academy and STAR students.

As chair of University College’s only academic department, she managed the Bachelor of Science in Professional Studies, the Bachelor of Science in Integrated Studies (formerly Bachelor of University Studies), and the Master of Professional Studies degree programs. These programs focus on the needs of working adults, another at-risk student population.

Lucas’ scholarly endeavors included receiving numerous grant awards, one of which addressed the retention and success of African American males in mathematics. Focusing on teaching and learning for at-risk student populations, her scholarship also included several publications and presentations before peers nationally and internationally.
Earl F. Pearson
Professor Emeritus
Chemistry

Earl F. Pearson earned his bachelor’s degree from Western Kentucky University in 1963 with majors in Chemistry and Math and added a master’s in 1964 with a major in Secondary Education. He earned his Ph.D. in Chemistry at Vanderbilt University in 1968.

As a postdoctoral fellow at University of Southern California, he developed the first vacuum ultraviolet circular dichroism instrument. He worked for Shell Development Company for one year and was invited to apply for an opening at Western Kentucky University, where he taught for 28 years in the Department of Chemistry.

Pearson was hired as MTSU’s Chemistry Department chair in 1998. His tenure saw the planning of the new Science Building and a period of high growth leading to the largest student population in the history of MTSU. While chair, he also endured the tragic death of his first wife Nina Sue (an endowed scholarship was established in her name) and the near death of his current wife, Jenelle, which influenced him to step down as chair in 2012.

During his career, he published more than 10 publications in refereed journals, one of which brought reprint requests from every continent except Antarctica. One led to an invitation to present the paper at a National American Chemical Society meeting. He published the description of the first vacuum ultraviolet spectrometer and the definitive work on the ultraviolet transition in ethane. At Shell he solved a problem that led to an entire new business for the company. For eight summers, he was a rocket scientist for NASA and Redstone Arsenal. He holds the copyright to a kit sold by Flinn Scientific for demonstrating the Millikan oil drop experiment.

The achievement he holds most dear is affecting the lives of the tens of thousands of students he taught and the countless doctors, pharmacists, and other health care professionals he encouraged.
Roger J. Pieroni

Professor Emeritus
World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Roger Pieroni was professor of French and chairperson of the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. He earned his B.A. in American Civilization from the Université de Clermont II in France and his M.A. and Ph.D. in French Literature from Indiana University in Bloomington. Pieroni taught at the University of Puerto Rico in Mayaguez, at Central College in Pella, Iowa, and at the University of Evansville in Indiana before joining MTSU. He has taught French language classes at all levels, courses on French and Francophone literatures and civilizations, and translation.

His research interests dealt with modern fiction, post-colonial issues, and foreign language program assessment. He published articles and presented papers on authors such as J.M.G. Le Clézio, Julien Gracq, Annie Ernaux, Sony Labou Tansi, Tahar Ben Jelloun, Andrée Chedid, and Faïza Guène. Pieroni is also a professional translator, certified by the American Translators Association.
Lisa Sheehan-Smith was a professor in the Human Sciences Department for 25 years. She taught in the Nutrition and Food Science program and served as the director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics for the past 17 years. She developed and taught several experiential learning courses in sports nutrition, food systems management, and dietetics management.

Sheehan-Smith has been actively involved in leadership at the national, state, and district dietetic association levels, including serving as president of two different district groups. She encouraged and supported students to develop their leadership skills. In 2005 she facilitated the establishment of MTSU’s Nutrition and Dietetic Association. She has served as the faculty advisor to the Students of Tennessee Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. In recognition of her teaching, Sheehan-Smith received one of the 2015 MTSU Outstanding Teacher and Outstanding Experiential Learning Faculty awards. She has also been named the Outstanding Dietetic Educator by the Nutrition and Dietetic Educators and Preceptors Group and the Nashville and Tennessee branches of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.
Zachariah Sinkala

Professor Emeritus
Mathematical Sciences

Zachariah Sinkala earned his bachelor’s degree from University of Zambia in 1982. After moving to the United States, he was awarded his master’s degree in mathematics from the University of Michigan in 1986, followed by his Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of South Florida in 1989. His first professional appointment was as a visiting assistant professor at the University of Central Florida in 1989–90.

Sinkala served in the Department of Mathematics at MTSU from 1990–2022. He has more than 20 publications in mathematical modeling and mathematical biology, including in the *International Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics* and the *Journal of Theoretical Biology*. Sinkala has 16 invited addresses, including one at the 2010 International Conference in Mathematical Cell Biology in Tokyo.

The recipient of many research grants, including a $50,000 grand prize for a Glioblastoma Cancer Challenge problem in 2019, Sinkala has organized numerous conferences and mentored two Ph.D. students at MTSU.
Thomas Li-Ping Tang

Professor Emeritus
Management

Thomas Li-Ping Tang began his career at Middle Tennessee State University in 1983 in the Department of Psychology and transferred to the Department of Management and Marketing in 1991. His primary teaching interests are human resource management and behavioral management.

As a professor of Management in the Jones College of Business, Tang is best known for his research on work motivation, money attitudes, business ethics, and serenity-happiness. He has published more than 180 journal articles/book chapters/abstracts. His papers have been published in six languages, and 32 research articles appeared on the Financial Times’ Top 50 Business Journal list. The media have frequently cited his research (Financial Times, Bloomberg, Business Week, USA Today, and Tennessean, and three Voice of America Economic Forum appearances). During his MTSU career, he was twice awarded the MTSU Outstanding Research Award: in 1991 in the Department of Psychology and in 1999 in the Department of Management and Marketing.

Tang served on the editorial boards of 14 journals, as associate editor for two journals, and as an ad hoc reviewer for 76 journals. He received the Emerald Best Reviewer Award (2015). Other honors/recognitions include Outstanding Faculty Member in the Jones College of Business (2008), MTSU Career Achievement Award (2008), and Fellow of Economic Psychology in the International Association of Applied Psychology (2014).
Tanya Tewell

Professor Emerita
Art and Design

Tanya Tewell earned an M.F.A. in Painting and Drawing from Arizona State University and did graduate work in Art Therapy at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. She has been teaching for over 30 years and felt privileged to work with aspirational and idealistic young artists. Teaching has been her central focus and she has especially enjoyed working with first-generation college students from difficult circumstances. Encouraging, supporting, respecting differences, yet challenging students has consistently been her passion as a teacher. Tewell also taught at a school in Arizona where she worked with children from many different tribal nations and at a very challenging high school in South Phoenix. She stated, “I am sure that I learned more from my students in these situations than they learned from me.”

Tewell grew up as a foster child with many other displaced children in a very large and crowded boarding house owned by her “grandmother.” This extraordinary grandmother opened her doors to anyone needing a place to live, so there were people from many nationalities, backgrounds, and ages. It was a very interesting place to grow up, and residents were always willing to let her draw them. This is where Tewell’s passion for painting people began. Also, doing factory work, cleaning houses, and waiting tables provided a great training ground for developing generous perspectives on how hard life can be for many.

In addition to these kinds of jobs, Tewell worked for 15 years as a freelance illustrator for editorial and advertising groups. She found medical illustration, newspapers, and magazines enormously engaging. She also enjoyed a short stint as a layout/planning artist for Intel Corporation during its period of explosive growth in the 1980s. She was never quite sure what the job of being a creative entailed, but it was exciting nonetheless.

Tewell actively exhibits her paintings in juried national and international shows. She has been in more than 150 international and national juried shows. Her focus is on portraying strong female imagery within the context of crumbling Italian frescos and ruins.
Paula Bevels Thomas had deep roots at MTSU, where she earned her B.B.A. and M.S. degrees in Accounting and served as a member of the Accounting faculty for almost 40 years. She began her professional career as a staff accountant in the Nashville office of Arthur Andersen. After earning her CPA license, she moved to the banking industry. She created and headed the internal audit department at Union Bank in Fayetteville, Tennessee. Thomas’ interest in instruction began when she was asked to teach an evening section of Principles of Accounting at a community college. After teaching night classes for two years while working in banking, she decided to pursue an academic career, earning her D.B.A. at Mississippi State University.

She was recognized by her colleagues for teaching, research, and service awards, culminating in 2014 with MTSU’s most prestigious award, the Career Achievement Award. Thomas was also very active in local, state, and national accounting organizations. Thomas was the first woman to receive the AICPA Distinguished Achievement in Accounting Education Award, the highest national award given to an accounting educator. Among her other honors are the Tennessee Society of CPAs Lifetime Achievement in Accounting Education Award, the MTSU Public Service Award, and the Jennings A. Jones College of Business Outstanding Faculty Award. She was named Tennessee Society of CPAs Outstanding Discussion Leader for two consecutive years and received that organization’s Outstanding Educator Award. She was also inducted into Nashville Cable’s Board Walk Hall of Fame.

Thomas was active in various community organizations. She was devoted to her church, First United Methodist Church, serving on many committees and periodically teaching Sunday School. She had a calling for Murfreesboro’s Special Kids organization and started running to help raise funds to support their needs. This led to her passion for running and ignited her interest in half marathons. She completed more than 120 half marathons, doing at least one in each of the 50 states. She ran approximately half a dozen full marathons, including the Boston Marathon in 2013 and 2014.

Throughout her career, Thomas’ accomplishments in teaching, research, and service brought national and international recognition to MTSU. She succeeded in working with a wide range of constituents—both inside and outside of the classroom—to change lives for the better.
Roland Untch

*Professor Emeritus*

*Computer Science*

Roland Untch earned a B.A. in Management from Mundelein College (Loyola University Chicago), an M.S. in Computer Science from DePaul University, and his Ph.D. in Computer Science from Clemson University. Before joining MTSU in 1994, he taught at Clemson University and Purdue University Calumet.

Service highlights include several terms on the MTSU Faculty Senate, serving on numerous committees, and creating and managing the STORM website—a nexus of software testing resources for researchers and practitioners.

His research interests include software engineering, software testing, distance education technology, and computer science education. His research has appeared in *IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering*, *ACM Transactions on Software Engineering and Methodology*, and *Journal of Software Testing, Verification and Reliability*. Untch has long been involved in developing distance education solutions (for example, the GUS homework submission system), taught MTSU’s first interactive videoconferencing course over IP (in 2003, long before Zoom), and was awarded the Innovations Award in Videoconferencing by the Tennessee Board of Regents Distance Education Committee that same year.

Teaching has been his greatest joy at MTSU, and he is gratified that many of his students have cited him as “a person at MTSU who makes a real difference to our students.”
Dennis P. Walsh

Professor Emeritus
Mathematical Sciences

Dennis P. Walsh, one of 10 children of Violet and Francis Walsh, was born and raised in New Orleans. Before earning his doctorate in Statistics from the University of Southwestern Louisiana in 1991, Walsh drove a dump truck for the New Orleans Street Department, dispatched for the New Orleans Fire Department, co-managed Atlantis New Distributor, and drove a taxi for the Service Cab Company. During those years, Walsh also protested the Vietnam War, marched in the Civil Rights Movement, agitated for women’s liberation, and cut sugar cane in Cuba.

From 1991 to 2021, Walsh taught undergraduates and graduate statistics and mathematics at MTSU. He served on numerous committees and the Faculty Senate, and he assisted many graduate students, faculty, and off-campus entities with statistical consulting. Walsh has an active research agenda in discrete probability distributions and in discrete mathematics, including combinatorics, probability, and number theory. Among many results, he is especially proud for having derived a new characterization for classes of discrete probability distributions that are closed under convolution. He also developed a simple but elegant method for generating such classes. A large number (50+) of his published results reside in the On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences.
Linda Wilson

Professor Emerita
School of Nursing

Linda Wilson has been a licensed registered nurse for 47 years. She earned both her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 1975 and 1978, respectively. She completed her Ph.D. in Nursing from Georgia State University in 1996.

Wilson has held numerous positions in nursing, including intensive care unit nurse, charge nurse, and clinical educator. She has served as an academic nursing educator for 26 years. Wilson retired as a professor in the School of Nursing.
Harold D. Whiteside

Dean Emeritus

Harold “Terry” Whiteside graduated from the University of Miami with undergraduate degrees in Psychology and Sociology. He earned a master’s in Social Psychology from North Carolina State University. After earning a Ph.D. in Experimental Social Psychology from Oklahoma State University, he joined MTSU and stayed for 49 years.

A longtime active member of the Honors faculty, he also served as Chair of Developmental Studies and Interim Chair of Psychology. He taught many Psychology courses, his favorites being Persuasion and Sport Psychology. He was active in faculty governance, being the only two-time Faculty Senate president. He coordinated performance funding for seven years. In addition to authoring many research papers and presenting for multiple audiences, he was the national president of the Society of Police and Criminal Psychology.

In 2002, he was appointed by President Sidney A. McPhee to be MTSU’s NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative overseeing athletics. He held this role until retirement. He served as interim dean of Education and Behavioral Science for two years before serving as founding dean of the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences for 12 years until his retirement.
FACULTY
TENURED AND
PROMOTED
Through commitment to teaching, research, and professional service, the MTSU faculty achieves the University's mission of providing quality educational programs in a supportive campus environment.
Sarah Bleiler-Baxter

Department of Mathematical Sciences
Promoted to Professor

Sarah Bleiler-Baxter is a professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at MTSU. She also serves as associate director for the Tennessee STEM Education Center. As a mathematics education researcher, Bleiler-Baxter has made significant contributions in two main areas: (a) undergraduates’ learning of mathematical proofs in collaborative settings, and (b) STEM faculty professional development. She has secured $437,000 in external and internal funding for her research agenda, including two national-level awards through the National Science Foundation and two state-level awards through the Tennessee Board of Regents and the Tennessee Department of Education. She has published 33 peer-reviewed manuscripts—nine at the international level, 22 at the national level, and two at the state level. These include research manuscripts published in top-tier journals within the field of mathematics education, including the *Journal of Mathematics Teacher Education*, the *Journal of Mathematical Behavior*, and *ZDM: The International Journal on Mathematics Education*.

Bleiler-Baxter has taught six different undergraduate Mathematics courses, including courses for Mathematics majors, courses for pre-service teachers, and courses in General Education. She has also taught eight graduate-level courses, primarily for students in the Mathematics and Science Education (MSE) Ph.D. program. Bleiler-Baxter has served as a dissertation committee member for 14 graduates and dissertation chair for four graduates of the MSE Ph.D. program, many of whom have been hired at top-tier institutions and have impacted mathematics and science education nationally and internationally. Finally, Bleiler-Baxter has led the Teaching TRIOS professional development initiative in the department and across the college, which supports teams of three faculty members to engage in reciprocal peer observation of one another’s classes and to debrief with a strengths-based approach. Bleiler-Baxter is humbled to have served the students and faculty in this great institution for the past 10 years, and she looks forward to many continued years of service at MTSU.
Kevin M. Corns  
*Department of Aerospace*  
*Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Kevin M. Corns joined the Marines after high school and served as a scout in the infantry both domestically and overseas. After serving in the Marines, he joined the Colorado Air National Guard, where he worked as a crew chief on A-7D and F-16 aircraft and as an aircraft mechanic on C-131 and T-43A aircraft. He spent eight years as a flight engineer in support of Air Mobility Command and U.S. Air Force Academy 50th Airmanship Training Squadron. While in the Air National Guard, Corns earned a B.S. in Aviation/Airway Management and Operations from Metropolitan State University of Denver before retiring.

Corns then worked for US Airways, American Airlines, Frontier Airlines, and Boeing in various capacities. He also worked as a faculty associate for Arizona State University in their Unmanned Aircraft Systems program. After getting his M.B.A. in Aviation from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Corns earned a Ph.D. in Education specializing in Instructional Design for Online Learning. He holds the following FAA certificates and ratings: Airplane Single Engine Land, Airplane Multiengine Land, Instrument Airplane, Advanced Ground Instructor, Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic, and Remote Pilot Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

After retiring from the airline industry in 2016, Corns joined MTSU as an assistant professor in the Aerospace Department, where he serves as the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operations program coordinator. His primary areas of interests are low-cost unmanned aircraft systems, unmanned aircraft for use in STEM, unmanned aircraft applications, and using unmanned aircraft to support research and applications in other disciplines. He is a co-principal investigator for a National Institute of Food and Agriculture Tennessee Digital Agriculture Center grant.
Kenneth Currie
Department of Engineering Technology
Tenured

Ken Currie joined MTSU in August 2021 as a professor and chair of the Engineering Technology Department. He earned his bachelor’s, master’s, and Ph.D. at West Virginia University, and is a licensed professional engineer.

Before coming to MTSU, Currie was chair of the Industrial and Management Systems Engineering Department within the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources at West Virginia University from 2014–21. Previously, he was director of the Center for Manufacturing Research at Tennessee Technological University, an accomplished Center of Excellence recognized by the state of Tennessee. He has taught numerous courses during his 30-year academic career, including design for manufacturability, facilities design, and industrial simulation.

Prior to pursuing an academic career, Currie was an industrial engineer at Alcoa Warrick Operations and Honeywell Solid State Electronics Division. He has been an active researcher, serving as either principal or co-principal investigator of over $9 million in externally funded research, with a client list that includes the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, Department of Energy, National Science Foundation, Oak Ridge National Laboratories, National Center for Advanced Manufacturing, Lennox Heating and Air Conditioning, Saturn Corporation, Northrop Grumman, The Aerostructures Corporation, and several other smaller industries.
Andrea M. Georgiou earned her B.S. in Aerospace and master’s in Aerospace Education from Middle Tennessee State University, and a Ph.D. in General Psychology from Capella University. Additionally, Georgiou holds an FAA Aircraft Dispatch certificate and private pilot certificate and is the flight dispatch coordinator in the Aerospace department. She serves as an Honors faculty member and teaches a wide range of undergraduate and graduate courses, including Flight Dispatch, Aviation Laws and Regulations, Advanced Aviation Weather, Professional Pilot II, Introduction to Aerospace, Human Factors, and Aviation Industries.

Her research interests focus on effective teamwork, coordination, and communication among aviation professionals. For over a decade, her primary research platform was the MTSU NASA-funded high fidelity simulation lab of an airline operations center, which provided students with the opportunity to practice teamwork in a simulated airline environment and to take the lessons learned about promoting safe operations to their careers. To ensure the simulation lab and courses reflected the current aerospace industry, she frequently visited airline headquarters and upper-level management sites, and she continues to develop an extensive global network of aerospace professionals. Her current research focuses on understanding and improving diversity in aviation.

Georgiou has published and presented teamwork research in journals and at conferences including International Symposium of Aviation Psychology, International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction, Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology, University Aviation Association, National Training Aircraft Symposium, and Aviation Accreditation Board International. As a member of Women in Aviation International (WAI), she attends the annual conferences and coordinates the MTSU Aerospace booth. In 2019, she was elected as a board member for the Tennessee Business Aviation Association (TNBAA) and helped coordinate the first Tennessee Aviation Expo at the Nashville International Airport. She has dedicated her professional life to her students and their successes and is excited to continue to prepare future students to be superb aerospace professionals.
Ye qian Liu earned a Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics from Beihang University in Beijing. He worked for a Chinese software company as a programmer before moving to the University of Arkansas Little Rock (UALR) in 2009 to pursue his dream of becoming a college professor like his parents. He earned a master’s degree in Mathematics from UALR in 2011.

He initially dreamed of becoming a mathematician in numerical partial differential equations and finite element methods. After solving a very challenging statistical research problem for his statistics professor at UALR, however, he was inspired to pursue a Ph.D. in Statistics. Under the supervision of Jianguo Sun at the University of Missouri, he earned the Ph.D. in Statistics in 2016 before joining MTSU as an assistant professor of Mathematical Sciences.

He is now coordinator of the M.S. in Professional Science program in Biostatistics and a member of the Eastern North American Region Biometric Society. His current research focuses on time-to-event data analysis, recurrent event analysis, clinical trial design, and applications of statistical methods in cancer and HIV research. He has mentored many students on projects and theses and has published 16 papers in academic journals. These publications have included three undergraduate students and two graduate students as co-authors. He is the editor-in-chief for *Annals of Biostatistics and Biometrics Applications*. 
Jennifer N. Lovett

Department of Mathematical Sciences
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Jennifer N. Lovett is a former middle school and high school mathematics teacher from Cincinnati, Ohio. She holds a B.S. in Mathematics Education and a B.A. in Mathematics from Miami University in Ohio; an M.A.T. in Mathematics from Miami University; and a Ph.D. in Mathematics Education from North Carolina State University.

Over the last six years, Lovett has taught a variety of mathematics, mathematics education, statistics, and statistics education courses. She has secured over $2 million in grant funding to support her teaching and research efforts and currently is the lead principal investigator of the National Science Foundation grant “Preparing to Teach Mathematics with Technology—Examining Student Practices,” a multi-institution collaborative research project. This grant focuses on designing curriculum to help prepare future middle school and high school mathematics teachers to teach mathematics with technology and researching its effectiveness. Her work in this field has been recognized nationally, winning the National Technology Leadership Initiative Award from the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators three times since 2015.
Justin M. Miller earned his B.S. degree in Chemistry in 2008 at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). Miller’s undergraduate research in the laboratory of Aaron Lucius employed transient state kinetic techniques to quantitatively characterize ATP hydrolysis catalyzed by the ClpA molecular motor from Escherichia coli. This formative experience convinced him to stay at UAB, where he earned a Ph.D. in Chemistry in 2013. After graduation, he sought additional research training in structural biology at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis in the laboratory of Eric Enemark, where he successfully produced diffraction-quality protein crystals resulting in the first ever atomic-resolution structure for the minichromosome maintenance (MCM) hexamer complex necessary for genomic DNA replication. In 2016, he joined MTSU as an assistant professor of Chemistry.

Miller’s primary area of research is in the characterization of enzymes responsible for biodegradation of polymer materials commonly facing improper disposal in environmental systems as well as leveraging foundational knowledge of enzyme structure and function into the design of novel biodegradation agents of societal use. This work has resulted in a role as co-principal investigator on a National Science Foundation grant supporting recruitment of undergraduate students to MTSU for summer research experiences in the field of X-ray crystallography. Because of his own educational experiences, he has sought to provide quality mentoring to both undergraduate and graduate students, resulting in multiple peer-reviewed publications with student authors. He has also served as academic editor and chapter author for Bridging Structure and Function in Mechanistic Enzymology, a book-length collection of resources for teaching introductory concepts in biophysical chemistry.
Henrique G. Momm

Department of Geosciences
Promoted to Professor

Henrique Momm earned his B.S. in Civil Engineering from the Federal University of Santa Catarina (Brazil) and his M.S. in Civil Engineering and Ph.D. in Geology and Geological Engineering both from the University of Mississippi. Prior to joining MTSU in 2012, he worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the USDA-National Sedimentation Laboratory and as a visiting assistant professor at the University of Mississippi. A computational hydrological scientist, Momm focuses his research interests on the quantification of water balance, evaluation of sources and sinks of non-point source pollutants, landforms formation and evolution, and modeling of erosional processes from laboratory to watershed scales.

To support his research, he has secured funding from the National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture (National Institute of Food and Agriculture, National Sedimentation Lab, Natural Resources Conservation Service), Tennessee Department of Transportation, Tennessee Board of Regents, and other state and federal agencies. His contributions have been documented in scientific journals in the fields of hydrology, geomorphology, soil science, remote sensing, and machine learning.

Momm has been an invited speaker at universities and laboratories nationally and internationally (China, Brazil, Spain, and Romania). He is an active member of the scientific team of two USDA-supported models: the AnnAGNPS watershed management and pollution model and the RUSLE2 soil erosion model. He has led the development of a master’s level program in Geosciences and has taught more than eight different upper-level and graduate courses in programming, geographic information systems, remote sensing, data analysis, and watershed modeling. Momm serves as graduate coordinator and Department of Geosciences chair. He also oversees the Department of Geosciences’ geospatial research laboratory.
Chaminda Prelis is chair of the Department of Aerospace at MTSU. Before moving to Tennessee in 2021, he served as the director of Aviation programs and associate professor of Aviation at the University of Dubuque in Dubuque, Iowa. Prelis has been active within the University Aviation Association (UAA) and is currently the vice president of the Board of Trustees. He also serves as a visiting team member for UAA and the Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI).

Prelis completed his Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership at Northcentral University and earned an M.S. in Aviation and a B.B.A. in Aviation Management from the University of North Dakota. His industry experience includes work as a station manager for Northwest Airlines and Delta Air Lines. Prelis is also a certified commercial pilot with instrument and multi-engine ratings.
Hanna Terletska

Department of Physics and Astronomy
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Hanna Terletska earned her B.S. in Physics from Drohobych Ivan Franko State University in Ukraine in 2003 and her Ph.D. in Physics from Florida State University in 2011. She had several postdoctoral appointments, including fellowships at the Brookhaven National Lab, Louisiana State University, and the University of Michigan. She is broadly trained in computational and theoretical physics with national and international collaborations. Terletska’s research interests lie in quantum materials with strong electron interactions and systems with disorder.

Since joining MTSU in fall 2017, Terletska has authored and co-authored more than 15 high-impact journal articles. She has given more than 35 invited talks, including prestigious invited talks at the American Physical Society (APS) March Meeting, Aspen School of Physics, the Telluride conference, and the Darema Physics Lecture Series Colloquium. She has been awarded national recognition, including the prestigious National Science Foundation Early Career Development Award and the Kavali Institute for Theoretical Physics scholar award. She has been awarded many national grants, including two NSF grants ($635K), and served as a respected reviewer for journal articles and grant proposals.

Terletska is dedicated to advising and mentoring current and future students beyond the classroom. She established the Women in Physics group in the MTSU Physics and Astronomy Department and serves as a faculty mentor of the group. Terletska organizes the physics workshop for middle and high school girls during the annual Tennessee Girls in STEM Conference. She has also organized computational workshops for undergraduate and graduate students as well as professional development and mentoring events for Physics majors at MTSU. She has mentored eight undergraduate students completing B.S. theses in Physics and several recipients of Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity (URECA) awards; one graduate student; and one postdoctoral fellow. An MTSU research leader, Terletska has served on multiple committees and boards: her college’s research committee, the URECA committee, MTSU’s Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Advisory Board, and MTSU’s Women in STEM Board.
Dong Ye  

*Department of Mathematical Sciences  
Promoted to Professor*

After earning a B.S. in Mathematics and an M.S. in Operational Research from Lanzhou University in China, Dong Ye completed his Ph.D. in Mathematics at West Virginia University in 2012. He joined MTSU immediately thereafter.

Ye teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses for the Department of Mathematical Sciences and the Computational and Data Science Ph.D. program. Ye enjoys mentoring students and supervising their master’s theses in Mathematical Sciences and dissertations in Computational and Data Science. He has also served as a committee member for doctoral students at both Vanderbilt University and West Virginia University.

Ye’s research interests lie mainly in combinatorics, discrete mathematics, and applications in complex networks and data science. He has been awarded grants from the National Science Foundation and the Simon Foundation and has published more than 50 papers in professional journals. Ye has been invited to give over 30 talks at national and international research institutes, including those at Vanderbilt University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Texas A&M University, and Max Planck Institute. Currently, he serves as a managing editor of *Theory and Applications of Graphs* and as an editor of *International Journal of Mathematics and Statistics* and *Journal of Combinatorics, Information and System Sciences*. 
V. Paige Youngkins

*Department of Physics and Astronomy*

*Promoted to Master Instructor*

V. Paige Youngkins earned her B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Tennessee Technological University and her Ph.D. in Physics from Texas Christian University. During her time at Tennessee Tech, she was awarded a fellowship from NASA for a research project on engine health of the space shuttle main engine. During graduate school, she continued her association with NASA and was awarded a fellowship from the Texas Space Grant Consortium. She later worked at Lockheed Martin in Fort Worth, Texas, performing operations analysis during the research and design phase of the F-35 aircraft.

After moving to Tennessee, she worked as a senior software engineer for Schneider Electric before joining MTSU’s Physics and Astronomy Department in 2007. She has since been involved with curriculum development for the algebra-based Physics sequence and D2L development for Astronomy laboratories. She was promoted to instructor in 2018 and to senior instructor in 2020.
Ginny Bogle began her career at MTSU as an adjunct instructor in 2003 and became a full-time instructor in Nutrition and Food Science in 2008. She earned her B.S. in Nutrition and Food Science in 1998 from MTSU, completing her dietetic internship and M.S. with a concentration in Health Education at Mississippi State University in 2000. She has completed 12 hours in Rutgers University’s clinical nutrition doctoral program in its School of Biomedical and Health Sciences.

Over the years Bogle has taught Nutrition for the Health Sciences, Sports Nutrition, Community Nutrition, Life Cycle Nutrition (formerly Maternal and Child Nutrition), Medical Nutrition Therapy I and II, Nutrition Coaching and Counseling Skills, Dietetic Practicum, and Nutrition Education. She also redesigned and developed many courses, including Nutrition for the Nursing Profession, Medical Nutrition Therapy I and II, Nutrition Coaching and Counseling Skills, and Nutrition and Weight Management.

As a registered dietitian, Bogle has held positions in several clinical and management areas, including dialysis clinics, long-term care facilities, and acute care facilities. She is a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the Tennessee Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She serves as faculty adviser to the student Nutrition and Dietetics Association.
John M. Coons

Department of Health and Human Performance
Promoted to Professor

John M. Coons earned a B.S. in Athletic Training at Southeast Missouri State University in 1996. Upon graduation he was hired as the head athletic trainer at Missouri State University–West Plains (formerly Southwest Missouri State–West Plains). In 1998, he enrolled in the Health and Physical Education program at Frostburg State University and was awarded a graduate assistantship to serve as a certified athletic trainer. While at Frostburg State University, Coons was hired as an intern athletic trainer for Washington’s National Football League team, now known as the Commanders.

After earning his M.Ed. in Health and Physical Education in 2000, Coons was hired as the head athletic trainer at William Penn University. In 2002, he enrolled in the Human Performance Ph.D. program at Middle Tennessee State University and was awarded two graduate assistantships: the first to serve as the head athletic trainer at Riverdale High School, and the second as a graduate teaching assistant. In 2007, Coons was hired as an assistant professor/coordinator of the Exercise Science and Wellness program at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Coons earned his Ph.D. in 2008 and joined MTSU as an assistant professor of Exercise Science in 2010.

Coons specializes in skeletal muscle physiology. His current primary area of research studies the effects of physical activity and interventions on inflammatory diseases such as osteoarthritis. He has served as a consultant on a National Institutes of Health grant exploring the effects of underwater treadmill training on persons with spinal cord injuries and has been awarded various internal and external grants. A mentor for students on research projects and chair of several theses and dissertations, he is also a member of the Positive Aging Consortium.
Frederick S. “Rick” Cottle
Department of Human Sciences
Promoted to Professor

Rick Cottle is a textile/apparel industry veteran turned educator. He earned a B.S. in Textile Technology from Auburn University in 1984, an M.B.A. from the University of Phoenix in 2003, and a Ph.D. in Consumer Affairs from Auburn University in 2012. He spent more than 25 years in the textile/apparel industry in roles like manufacturing management, industrial engineering, cost accounting, marketing, and sales.

Cottle joined MTSU’s College of Behavioral and Health Sciences in 2013 and teaches a broad array of topics within the textile/apparel industry. His research focuses on three-dimensional (3D) body scanning as it pertains to the fit of apparel items to the human body. Cottle has served as president of the MTSU Faculty Senate and as a member of the MTSU Board of Trustees, and he was recently appointed MTSU’s NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative.
Joshua Harms graduated from Harding University in 2005 with a B.A. in psychology. Before graduating, he began his professional criminal justice career at the Dallas County District Attorney’s Office in Dallas, Texas. He completed an M.A. in Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Texas at Arlington in 2007 and began working as a field officer for the Dallas County Adult Probation Office. He completed the Ph.D. in Criminology at the University of Texas at Dallas in 2011.

Following his graduate studies, Harms began teaching in MTSU’s Criminal Justice Administration Department as an assistant professor. Despite being lifelong Texans, he and his wife moved to Murfreesboro in 2011 and have called it home ever since. They are proud to have two children born in Murfreesboro.

Within the Criminal Justice Administration Department, Harms teaches predominantly research methods and corrections courses, which allow him to mentor undergraduate students completing capstone research projects. Additionally, he has worked with numerous graduate students on theses, chairing many of them. He has also chaired undergraduate Honors theses. He believes that these personal connections with students are the most fulfilling part of his job as a professor. He currently serves as interim department chair.

His own research includes publication on a wide range of topics, including terrorism and accomplices, police use of social media, gangs, package theft, and knife violence—topics on which he has presented at national and regional conferences. His research interests focus on terrorism and violent crime. He has served on multiple committees at the University and department levels, including three years as a faculty senator. Harms was tenured and promoted to associate professor in 2017.
Lauren E. Rudd

Department of Human Sciences
Promoted to Professor

Lauren E. Rudd is professor and program coordinator in the Textiles, Merchandising, and Design program at Middle Tennessee State University. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art from the University of Memphis, a Master of Science from MTSU in Industrial Studies concentrating in Computer-Aided Design, and a doctorate in Education Leadership and Professional Practice from Trevecca Nazarene University.

Rudd’s love of learning, practicing, and sharing new techniques is what led her to teaching. She won the Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology in 2011; the Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology in 2012; and the Experiential Learning Scholars Program Outstanding Faculty Award in 2016. Rudd has been using high impact teaching practices in hands-on studio courses for Apparel Design and Fashion Merchandising at the University level for 20 years and has been instrumental in the certification of the TXMD program for Experiential Learning (EXL) and as an MT Engage Major Pathway.

Rudd has served on Faculty Senate Steering Committee for two terms and as chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

Rudd’s research and creative activities are quite varied, with textiles lying at the intersection of her interests. She has published illustrations for a textiles textbook; presented a Gallery Talk on the cultural, psychological, and historical influences of Frida Kahlo’s clothing style; and shared with others how to use design fundamentals effectively to create more attractive work. She works with people with disabilities fostering creative expression using numerous fiber arts methods. Through this work with Borderless Arts Tennessee, fiber art pieces are included in the U.S. State Department Art in Embassies program, the United Nations, several National Parks, the MTSU Charlie and Hazel Daniels Veterans and Military Family Center, the Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium in Sarasota, Florida; and the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County. Rudd also has had two quilts accepted and shown at the prestigious International Quilt Show in Houston, Texas. She has also shown her quilts at numerous regional quilt shows and events.

Her plan for future collaborative research is to use the 3D body scanner and spatial computing to help post-menopausal women visualize the changes to their bodies and use this knowledge to dress for style, function, comfort, and modesty.
Chandra R. Story

Department of Health and Human Performance
Promoted to Professor

Chandra R. Story has a B.S. in Medical Technology from the University of Tennessee; a Master of Health Science (Health Promotion) from Boise State University; and a Ph.D. in Community Health Education from the University of Tennessee. She is also a Master Certified Health Education Specialist. Her career began with clinical work as a certified medical technologist in diverse settings across five states. After receiving her Master of Health Science, Story served as a statewide grant coordinator for two federally funded projects. In 2013, Story was appointed as an assistant professor of health education at Oklahoma State University. During this time, she delivered a TEDx talk on cultural social support and wellness. In 2017, Story was appointed as an associate professor with the MTSU Department of Health and Human Performance. She served as Health and Human Performance graduate director from 2019–21.

Story has published and presented widely on the topic of health disparities, while mentoring both graduate and undergraduate students. Her primary research focus is the use of culturally responsive assessment and program evaluation to promote health equity. Story’s evaluation portfolio includes mental health, women’s health, equity in education, and HIV/AIDS advocacy programs. She is an alumnus of the American Evaluation Association fellows program.

In spring 2020, Story was appointed to the Tennessee Office of Minority Health’s Health Disparities Task Force. She also received an influential faculty award from the Tennessee chapter of Phi Kappa Phi. Story recently received grant funding through the Tennessee Department of Health to assess mental health needs for people of color in Rutherford and Davidson counties. Story serves as board president for the Middle Tennessee Fund for Women and Girls.
Lee M. Wade

Department of Criminal Justice Administration
Promoted to Professor

Lee M. Wade holds a B.S. in Criminology and Master of Public Administration from the University of West Georgia and a doctorate in Criminal Justice from the University of Southern Mississippi. He has over 20 years’ experience in the criminal justice system—as a law enforcement officer in the state of Georgia, where he worked as a patrol supervisor, special unit officer, and investigator, and in the office of professional standards—and in the U.S. Army as a chemical operations specialist.

Wade currently serves as the interim associate dean of the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences. As a member of the Criminal Justice Administration faculty, he has taught law enforcement courses to both Forensic Science and Criminal Justice students. He has published on law enforcement topics related to the use of force, police pursuits, search and seizure of evidence, and crime scene investigation procedures. His current research interests involve police use of technology in operations and criminal investigation effectiveness.

Over the last 10 years, Wade has developed many courses for the Criminal Justice Administration curriculum, including Special Issues – Crime Scene Evidence, Crime Scene Photography and Documentation, and Innovations in Law Enforcement. Wade has also developed an exchange program with Northumbria University in England so that CJA students may take law school classes internationally. He has co-developed and led CJA’s signature study abroad program to London for both undergraduate and graduate students and consulted with state and local government agencies on criminal justice curricula, community policing, and police staffing. Furthermore, Wade has provided in-service training related to police management and crime scene investigations methods.

Beginning in 2014, Wade has earned continuing education credits from both the International Association of Identification (IAI) and the Tennessee chapter of IAI at the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. He is a longtime member of the Southern Criminal Justice Association and the Tennessee Chapter of International Association of Identification.
Monica E. Davis

Department of Accounting
Promoted to Senior Instructor

Monica E. Davis, a native of Huntsville, Alabama, is a first-generation college graduate. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Master of Accountancy degrees from Auburn University, where she served as an instructor of Principles of Accounting and Managerial Accounting.

She later developed a tax software package for a Sarasota, Florida, accounting firm. After moving to Tennessee, she returned to her first love—teaching—and taught secondary math for Rutherford County Schools before coming to MTSU in 2005 as a lecturer of Accounting in the Jones College of Business. This fall semester begins her 18th year at MTSU, where she has taught a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses. In 2014, she was honored as a Faculty Fellow through MTSU's Academy of Teaching Excellence program. She was awarded instructor status in 2019.

She is a Tennessee Certified Public Accountant and regularly consults with local nonprofits on accounting issues. Her greatest job is the ever-changing landscape of the classroom with its wonderful student interactions.
Greg Nagel

Department of Economics and Finance
Promoted to Professor

Greg Nagel earned his M.B.A. and Ph.D. in Finance from Florida State University and an M.S. in Engineering from Purdue University. He joined MTSU in 2010.

Nagel has received four MTSU awards: the Bridgestone Americas Distinguished Lecturer Award, the Outstanding Dale Carnegie Trainer Award, the Bob Womack Distinguished Faculty Award, and the E.W. “Wink” Midgett Distinguished Teaching Award. He teaches undergraduate and M.B.A. finance classes and strives to create a classroom where every student enjoys learning about the real world.

His research focuses on executive (and student) talent development, succession practices, institutional investors, and family firms. Nagel has published in journals such as Harvard Business Review (HBR) and other A-level journals, and his work is cited by professionals as well as the Federal Reserve, HBR, and the New York Times. He participated in a well-received podcast with the Council of Institutional Investors (approximately $44 trillion under management), and his team developed an M.B.A. class to engage in projects for corporations such as Schneider Electric, Hibbett Sports, and Old Time Pottery; for entrepreneurial firms; and for a nonprofit. Forty of these Industry Supported Learning Experience (ISLE) projects have been completed since fall 2020.

Before becoming an academic, Nagel worked in middle management at General Motors, where he was recognized for his contributions to automotive and welding engineering. He has seven patents and has worked on a joint venture with Toyota.
Kristen Shanine has an M.B.A. from Bradley University and a Ph.D. in Management from the University of Alabama. She has work experience in the public, private, and education sectors. Upon completing her doctoral program, she joined MTSU, where she teaches Introduction to Entrepreneurship and Social Entrepreneurship.


Shanine is the internship coordinator for the Department of Management, the chair of MTSU’s chapter of Sigma Nu Tau (Entrepreneurship Honor Society), an active member of Rutherford Cable, and a recipient of the Jones College of Business State Farm Outstanding Professor Award.
Sara Shirley

Department of Economics and Finance
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Sara Shirley graduated from Canisius College in 2008 as the valedictorian of the Richard J. Wehle School of Business with a B.S. degree in International Business and in 2009 with an M.B.A. with a concentration in Finance. She received her Ph.D. in Finance from Southern Illinois University in 2014.

Her primary research interest is in mutual funds and exchange traded funds (ETFs). She has published in top-ranked journals and presented her research in regional, national, and international conferences. Sara is currently a Faculty Fellow in the MTSU Data Science Institute and is excited for all the opportunities ahead.
Originally from New York, Jeffrey Stark also lived in Illinois and Rhode Island before moving to Tennessee. While in New York he earned a B.S. in Finance from Canisius College and an M.B.A. from SUNY Binghamton. Upon completing his M.B.A., he enrolled in the Finance Ph.D. program at Southern Illinois University. His interest in how information flows into financial markets developed during his doctoral studies. This research has resulted in numerous publications and presentations at regional, national, and international conferences.

Stark currently directs MTSU’s graduate program in Finance and is a Faculty Fellow for the MTSU Data Science Institute, where he works on public health projects. His primary teaching interests lie at the intersection of finance and data science, where he focuses on helping students use financial data to make business decisions. His primary teaching responsibilities are within the M.S. in Finance program and in the interdisciplinary undergraduate Data Science program.
Ryan “Seth” Jones

Department of Educational Leadership
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Ryan “Seth” Jones grew up in Polk County, Tennessee, and earned his undergraduate degree in Secondary Mathematics Education at Tennessee Technological University. After teaching high school mathematics for six years in middle and southeast Tennessee, Jones earned an M.Ed. and Ph.D. at Vanderbilt University in Mathematics and Science Education. As a graduate research assistant at Vanderbilt, he led efforts to measure changes in student thinking and teacher practices as schools used innovative curricular materials to teach data, statistics, modeling, and inference. After graduating from Vanderbilt, he worked as a research assistant at North Carolina State University building digital tools to support middle school math teachers.

In 2016, Jones joined MTSU as an assistant professor in the College of Education, where he leads the Interdisciplinary Science Education Concentration of the Mathematics and Science Education Ph.D. program and serves as the program liaison between the College of Education and the College of Basic and Applied Sciences. Jones is an interdisciplinary scholar who has taught, pursued external funding, and conducted research with students and faculty from across campus to support the teaching of data, statistics, modeling, and inference. He leads MTSU’s Integrated Data research group and is the principal investigator of a National Science Foundation Early Career Development Award. This five-year grant supports collaborative design research with middle school math and science teachers to develop and study innovative approaches to coordinating instruction about data across math and science disciplines. In these efforts, Jones supports student efforts to develop the capacity to author and critically engage with data models and the claims they support.
Katie Schrodt

Department of Elementary and Special Education
Tenured andPromoted to Associate Professor

Katie Schrodt is an educator with 17 years of experience as a classroom teacher, reading specialist, literacy consultant, and professor. She earned a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies at the University of North Texas and an M.Ed. and Ph.D. at MTSU, where she was awarded Outstanding Doctoral Student. Schrodt and her husband, Jacob, had their twins, Matilda and Monroe, 10 weeks early at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where she finished her dissertation in the neonatal intensive care unit.

From 2013–18, Schrodt worked as a literacy consultant, adjunct professor, and full-time temporary faculty at MTSU and Lipscomb University. In 2018, she was hired in MTSU’s Department of Elementary and Special Education, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on literacy instruction and research. Schrodt has mentored many students on projects and served on dissertation committees as affiliate faculty in the Literacy Studies Ph.D. program.

Serving teachers and children is at the heart of Schrodt’s work. Each semester she plans and implements community-wide literacy events and teacher professional development opportunities, including Family Literacy Nights with Read To Succeed; the Southern Kid Literary Festival with Rutherford Arts Alliance; Literacy and Math Training with Project OPTIMAL and Murfreesboro City Schools; and Writing Conferences and workshops with the Middle Tennessee Writing Project. In 2020, Schrodt was awarded the Bonnie Campbell Hill National Literacy Leader award for her long-term partnership with literacy coaches in Metro Nashville Public Schools.

Schrodt’s research interests include early reading and writing achievement and motivation. She has published more than 30 times and earned approximately $640,000 in grants in collaboration with her colleagues. Her work appears in leading journals such as Reading and Writing Quarterly, The Reading Teacher, and Young Children. She is co-director of the Middle Tennessee Writing Project and a consulting editor for Young Children.
Amy L. Atchison joins MTSU as a professor and chair of the Department of Political Science and International Relations. Her research focuses on women’s representation in European politics and the status of women in academia. She has published in many peer-reviewed journals, including Politics & Gender, the Journal of Political Science Education, the Review of Policy Research, and Politics, Groups, and Identities, among others. Her forthcoming co-authored work in PS: Political Science & Politics was sponsored by a grant from the American Political Science Association. She is the creator of political science is for everybody (2021, University of Toronto Press), the first fully intersectional introductory political science textbook. She is also the co-author of Survive & Resist: The Definitive Guide to Dystopian Politics (with Shauna Shames, 2019, Columbia University Press).

She is a member of the American Political Science Association, where she served on the Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession and as an officer in the Women, Gender and Politics Research Section. She is also a member of the Midwest Political Science Association, where she served on the inaugural Status of Women and Sexual Minorities in the Profession and is the president-elect of the Midwest Women’s Caucus for Political Science. She volunteers with the American Red Cross (Service to the Armed Forces), where she led the Indiana Region’s International Humanitarian Law peer education program. Her work helped to make the Indiana Region’s program one of the most successful in the country, recruiting more than 100 student peer educators who, in turn, educated more than 1,000 college students about International Humanitarian Law. She also consults on the American Red Cross Exploring Humanitarian Law program, helping to design educational materials for middle schools.

Prior to joining the faculty at MTSU, she was a member of the Department of Political Science and International Relations (2010–22) and chair of the Division of Social Sciences at Valparaiso University. She earned a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Tennessee (2010), an M.A. in International Relations from Florida State University (1996), and a B.A. from Jacksonville State University (1995).
Olaf Berwald  
Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures  
Tenured

Olaf Berwald (Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; M.A., University of Tübingen, Germany) joins MTSU as chair of the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, and a professor of German.

His research examines how trauma is explored in literary works and how creative texts can help us find our resilient voices. Berwald’s peer-reviewed publications include two single-authored monographs, five edited volumes, and numerous articles and book chapters. He is an elected member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts.
Doug Dabbs

*Department of Art and Design*

*Tenured*

Doug Dabbs is an illustrator and comic book artist who has taught visual storytelling in higher education for over 12 years. His comic books and graphic novels have been published by Image Comics, Oni Press, 12 Gauge, Artisanal Media, and Desperado Publishing, and his current work, a five-issue comic book series to be published in 2023, is generously supported by an MT-IGO (Internal Grant Opportunities) award.

Dabbs has exhibited his work nationally and internationally in galleries, comic book conventions, and museums, including Czong Institute for Contemporary Art (South Korea), Heroes Convention (North Carolina), Toronto Comics Art Festival (Canada), Del Mar College (Texas), Shockboxx Gallery (California), and the National Gallery of North Macedonia. Dabbs’ illustrations have been featured in journals such as *High Shelf Press*, *Burning Word Journal*, *Sand Hills Literary Journal*, *Under the Sun Literary Journal*, *Pittville Press*, *Box Literary Journal*, *Coffin Bell*, and *ArtAscent Art & Literature Journal*. He has been recognized by some of the most respected and competitive international illustration competitions: Brightness Illustration Awards (Selected Winner), American Illustration (six-time Chosen Winner), Cheltenham Illustration Awards (Winner), Communication Arts (Finalist), and 3x3 (three-time Merit Award).

Dabbs has taught illustration courses in MTSU’s Department of Art and Design as an associate professor since 2017. Prior to MTSU, he taught undergraduate and graduate sequential art courses for seven years as a professor at Savannah College of Art and Design. Dabbs has led numerous independent studies and field studies, served on M.F.A. and B.F.A. thesis committees, and curated student art exhibitions. He has served as an art consultant at a number of nonprofit organizations; is on the board of advisors for a scholarly publication, *Graphesis*; regularly teaches community art workshops; and received a grant from MTSU’s University College for public service. In 2020, Dabbs was awarded MTSU’s College of Liberal Arts Faculty Student Mentoring Award, and he currently serves as a member of the Multiculturalism Committee and Faculty Senate.
Betsy Dalton  
*Department of Communication Studies*  
*Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Nashville native Betsy Dalton earned her B.A. from the University of the South with a major in English and minor in Psychology. After graduating, she worked on a ranch in Wyoming, as a CAD drafter for a Nashville engineering firm, and as an advertising consultant in Atlanta. She then earned an M.S. in Mass Communication from MTSU and Ph.D. in Communication and Information from the University of Tennessee. She joined the MTSU faculty in 2016 and researches and teaches in the areas of health, interpersonal, and organizational communication.

Dalton’s academic research has focused on understanding how communication both reflects and creates meaning in health contexts. She has presented and published in the areas of nurse-patient communication about pain, speaking up on interprofessional health teams, patient trust in maternity care, uncertainty and risk during the COVID-19 pandemic, and sexual scripts in emerging adults. In addition to these primary lines of research, she has consulted on projects related to open access publishing, scientific data-sharing behavior, educational software for stroke patients, drug and alcohol resistance campaigns for Nicaraguan youth, and user experience (UX) research for health tech startups.

Dalton worked with her Communication Studies colleagues to build the new Health Communication concentration, which launched in fall 2020. She has been awarded over $12,000 in MT-IGO (Internal Grant Opportunities) funding as she continues research in the areas of nurse-patient communication, pregnancy after miscarriage, and sexual refusal processes. Dalton enjoys mentoring undergraduate student researchers and has chaired and served on multiple Honors theses. At home, she is the proud parent of Will (9), Stuart (6), and Fiona (3), and is deeply grateful to her husband, Rob, and her parents for their steadfast support of her career.
Andrea Dawson

School of Music
Promoted to Professor

Violinist Andrea Dawson earned a B.A. in Anthropology, with a minor in French, and a Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance from Oberlin College. She went on to earn the Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts from the Eastman School of Music, where she was awarded the coveted Performer’s Certificate. She served on the faculty of the University of Texas–Pan American before joining MTSU in 2007. At MTSU, she teaches violin and viola, string chamber music, string pedagogy, and string literature. She also conducts the Chamber Orchestra. Since 2008, she has also been a member of the faculty of the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Arts.

In addition to more than 60 solo and chamber music performances at MTSU, Dawson has performed as a violinist, violist, and Baroque violinist throughout Tennessee, the United States, and internationally. As a member of the Stones River Chamber Players, she has performed at Steinway Hall in New York City, as well as numerous times on WPLN Nashville for Live in Studio C. She performed with colleagues in Hangzhou, China, as well as solo recitals in Brazil, Mexico, and Curaçao. She recorded two pieces by MTSU Professor Paul Osterfield (Navona Records). Dawson also spent over a decade in various orchestra positions, including Valley Symphony Orchestra (as associate concertmaster) and Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. She has performed solos with orchestras including the Valley Symphony Orchestra, the Bucknell Orchestra, and the MTSU Symphony. She has also performed extensively as a Baroque violinist and violist (following historically informed performance practices) with Music City Baroque, Early Music City, and Atlanta Baroque Orchestra.

In 2021, Dawson published *24 Etudes for the Modern Violinist, Book I: Intermediate I*, as well as a version for viola (Sleepy Puppy Press). The second and third books of the series are in process. At the 2022 American Viola Society Festival and the 47th International Viola Congress in Columbus, Georgia, Dawson presented her book with violist Ayn Balija.
Eric Detweiler grew up outside of Louisville, Kentucky, and moved to middle Tennessee in 2003. He holds a B.A. in English from Belmont University, an M.A. in English from the University of Louisville, and a Ph.D. in English with a specialization in rhetoric and writing from the University of Texas. Detweiler directs MTSU’s new Public Writing and Rhetoric major, which is launching in fall 2022. The major will prepare students to write effectively for a variety of civic and professional audiences and purposes.

His research and teaching focus on the history and current state of rhetoric and writing education, with particular emphasis on the possibilities and challenges involved in teaching students to write with digital platforms and media. He has developed and taught writing-focused courses including Rhetoric and Recorded Sound; Video Games and/as Literature; Digital Rhetoric and Writing; and Fermentation, Culture, and Writing.

Detweiler’s book *Responsible Pedagogy: Moving Beyond Authority and Mastery in Higher Education* will be published by the Penn State University Press in late 2022. The book argues that well-funded, rhetorically informed public colleges and universities can provide a crucial alternative to privatized, autocratic forms of higher education that exploit students and teachers alike. His scholarship has been published in journals including *Rhetoric Review; Pedagogy;* and *Philosophy & Rhetoric;* as well as the edited collections *Tuning in to Soundwriting* and *Teaching Games and Game Studies in the Literature Classroom.* He also runs a podcast called *Rhetoricity.*

He welcomes inquiries and conversations about the new Public Writing and Rhetoric major as well as sustainable vegetable gardening, podcasting, and weird little dogs.
Paul N. Eubanks
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Paul N. Eubanks is an archaeologist specializing in the indigenous history of the American Southeast. He graduated from the University of North Carolina with a B.A. in 2008, and he completed his Ph.D. at the University of Alabama in 2016. Funded by the National Science Foundation, his dissertation examined the role of salt production and trade in pre-Colonial and early Colonial northwestern Louisiana. At MTSU Eubanks continues his research on indigenous salt production and trade while leading MTSU’s annual summer archaeological field school, which teaches students how to do archaeology. It also includes a public outreach component where Eubanks and his students open the site for free tours and student-led tutorials in archaeological excavation methods.

His and his students’ work is routinely presented at local, regional, national, and international conferences, and in 2018 he served on the Scientific Committee for the 3rd International Congress on the Anthropology of Salt in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain. In 2021, Eubanks authored or co-authored four chapters in his co-edited volume *Salt in Eastern North America and the Caribbean: History and Archaeology*.

He teaches a range of courses at MTSU, including Anthropological Research Methods, World Prehistory, Southeastern U.S. Archaeology, North American Archaeology, Archaeology Lab Methods, and Archaeology of Salt. The Archaeology of Salt examines how salt was (and is) made, traded, and used by societies throughout the world. It also includes a salt tasting, where students sample salts from every continent except Antarctica.

In his free time, Eubanks enjoys cooking, traveling, hiking, running, and almost any other outdoor activity.
Lori Kissinger

Department of Communication Studies
Promoted to Master Instructor

Before arriving at MTSU, Lori Kissinger served 10 years as the executive director of a regional Arts Council in Indiana, was a certified fundraising executive and an established musician, and taught for three years in the Communications Department at the University of Southern Indiana. In 2001, Kissinger became an adjunct for MTSU while also teaching at Belmont and Volunteer State Community College. Within two years, MTSU offered her a lecturer position.

Kissinger founded Borderless Arts Tennessee, a statewide arts nonprofit for people with disabilities. It is the current recipient of the Governor’s Arts Award in Arts Leadership. The organization has won numerous additional awards and achieved state, national, and international success. Kissinger often brings Borderless Arts Tennessee programs onto campus or into her classrooms to provide students with networking and real-world experiences.

As an educator, Kissinger has won numerous MTSU teaching awards, including the Outstanding Public Service Award, Disabled Student Services Award, Outstanding Teaching in Public Education, EXL Outstanding Faculty Award (twice), and the Faculty Student Success Award. In addition, she has won the Communicator of the Year Award and the Outstanding Educator of the Year Award from the Tennessee Communication Association. She has also won the Influential Faculty for Student Success from Phi Kappa Phi and the Service to Mankind Award from Sertoma. At MTSU Kissinger has been involved in the EXL and MT Engage programs since their inception. She has also participated in numerous Faculty Learning Communities and served as the advisor for student organizations.
Eunbyol Ko

School of Music
Promoted to Senior Instructor

A native of South Korea, Eunbyol Ko has been praised for her artistry and intelligence as a soloist, chamber musician, and concerto soloist. She maintains an active international career playing a highly diverse range of repertoire. Performances have taken her to Brazil, Canada, Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Italy, Australia, China, South Korea, and the United States.

Her competition honors include first prizes in the South Korea National Competition, the Eumyoun Competition, and the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) Chamber Music Competition. She was also a prize winner in the International Yellow Springs Chamber Music Competition, the Kankakee Concerto Competition, and the Ibla Grand Prize Competition.

An active chamber musician, Ko has performed with members of the Cincinnati Symphony, Nashville Symphony, Lexington Philharmonic, Columbus Symphony, Grand Rapids Symphony, China National Symphony, and the Seoul Philharmonic. She has performed and recorded with SymbiosisDuo, the Awea Duo, Intersection, Gateway Chamber Orchestra, and acclaimed violinist Gao Can.

Ko has served as a chamber music coach for the Starling String Project and has been the official collaborative pianist for the Young-Pyong International Clarinet Festival, the Henri Marteau International Violin Competition, the Mozarteum International Summer Academy, and the Great Wall International Music Academy.

Ko’s students have received numerous awards, including Music Teachers National Association state and regional competitions and the prestigious National YoungArts Competition. She maintains an active schedule as an adjudicator, presenter, and masterclass teacher throughout the United States and abroad.

Prior to joining the faculty at MTSU, Ko served as assistant professor of piano at Morehead State University. She also taught for the CCM Piano Department.

Ko earned the Doctor of Music Arts in Piano Performance from CCM and the Master of Music in Piano Performance from Indiana University. Her former teachers include Soo-Jung Shin, Eugene Pridonoff, and James Tocco.
Natonya Listach earned her B.A. with a double major in Communication Studies and Political Science from Belmont University and an M.A. in Communication Studies from Western Kentucky University. She is currently a doctoral candidate in the Department of Communication at the University of Memphis with a focus on Rhetoric and Public Address. Her research interests lie in rhetoric, gender, and instructional communication with a focus on the rhetoric and pedagogy of African American women. Her most recent publication focuses on the use of womanism in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Listach also serves as the assistant director of the award-winning MTSU Speech and Debate team. She is a member of and has presented her work at annual conferences for the National Communication Association (NCA); the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language & Gender (OSCLG); the Religious Communication Association (RCA); the Southern States Communication Association (SSCA); the Tennessee Communication Association (TCA); the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. (NSPDK); and Pi Kappa Delta Forensics Honor Society.

Listach currently serves as Black Caucus representative for NCA’s IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access) Council and chair of both the Race and Gender Division and the Rhetoric and Public Address Division of TCA. She also received the 2021 NCA Public Address Division Benson-Campbell Dissertation Research Award for her dissertation, “Lifting as We Climb”: A Rhetorical Analysis of the Speeches of Hallie Quinn Brown.
Pete McCluskey grew up in Rogers, Arkansas, and earned his B.A. in English from Hendrix College (1987), M.A. from Indiana University (1988), and Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas (1998), where he specialized in Shakespeare and Early Modern literature, writing his dissertation on representations of immigrants in Early Modern drama. He came to MTSU in 1999 from an instructorship at the University of New Orleans.}

His teaching and research interests include Shakespeare, Early Modern literature, crime fiction, and popular culture. McCluskey has taught courses for the Honors College and the College of Graduate Studies and is currently developing a version of his Introduction to Shakespeare course for MTSU Online. In 2010 he received a grant from the MTSU Forensics Institute for Research and Education (FIRE) to develop a new course, Sherlock Holmes and Forensic Science. He has also led several study abroad courses in the United Kingdom.

McCluskey has presented papers at numerous regional, national, and international conferences, including the Renaissance Society of America, the Popular Culture Association, the Popular Culture Association in the South, the South Atlantic Modern Language Association, the Society for Utopian Studies, and the South Central Renaissance Conference.

His first book, *Representations of Flemish Immigrants on the Early Modern Stage*, was published in 2019, and he is currently working on a volume for the series *Shakespeare: The Critical Tradition*. His contribution anthologizes literary criticism written between 1780 and 1950 on Shakespeare’s *Richard III*. His next project will be a book-length study of seminal punk band The Clash. He has published articles and book chapters on Shakespeare, Milton, Thomas Dekker, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Robert Greene, John Kennedy Toole, Robert A. Heinlein, and, inexplicably, the Teletubbies.
Dawn McCormack

*Department of History*

*Promoted to Professor*

Dawn McCormack is an Egyptologist who earned her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 2008. She directed three excavation seasons at Abydos, Egypt, and participated in additional projects at Abydos, Wadi Natrun, and the White Monastery in Sohag. She has won national and international grants supporting her research and is recognized internationally as an expert on 13th Dynasty kingship and royal tombs. She also has completed studies regarding the unscripted role-playing pedagogy Reacting to the Past and played an integral role in bringing this high impact practice to MTSU. She has authored/co-authored 18 articles, a white paper, and six formal archaeological reports.

McCormack has contributed significantly to the University’s educational offerings and program assessments. From her contributions to the creation of the M.A. in Liberal Arts program to her service as chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and as assistant/associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and College of Graduate Studies, she has worked to facilitate innovative, high-quality programs for the students of MTSU. She also has been recognized for her efforts in and outside the classroom with the Public History Dissertation Directors’ Award in 2018, the Outstanding Teaching in General Education award in 2014, and the College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Advisor Award in 2010.

Currently McCormack serves as the associate dean of the College of Graduate Studies and the interim co-director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. She has been instrumental in updating the operations and procedures in both offices, including the upcoming launch of Cayuse, MTSU’s first electronic research administration suite. She has served on numerous committees at the department, college, and University levels and continues to teach in the History Department and work on her ongoing research projects.
Candace “Candie” Moonshower came to MTSU in 1979 and has rarely left her “True Blue” roots. She holds a B.A. with Distinction in University Honors in English and Philosophy and an M.A. with Honors in English, both from MTSU. In January 2022, she earned her M.F.A. from Seton Hill University in Pennsylvania.

As an undergraduate, Moonshower received the Richard C. and Virginia Peck Award, a Paul Martin Scholarship, and Honors Senior of the Year recognition. In 2004, she sold her master’s thesis, a novel for young people titled The Legend of Zoey, to Random House. Published in 2006, the book won the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators’ Most Promising New Work Award and was named a Volunteer State Book Award nominee. Moonshower also has published a biography for the school library market and continues to work on novels for children, young adults, and adults. In her freelance career, she has accumulated 150-plus publication credits writing for regional and national outlets.

After working as a freelance writer and children’s author for many years, Moonshower entered academia as a lecturer in 2009 and was immediately motivated to put her skills to use. She teaches freshman- and sophomore-level English courses and enjoys helping students get over their fear—and sometimes hatred—of writing. In addition, Moonshower has developed courses for MTSU Online, serves as a course mentor for online instructors, and created and teaches a new English 2020 literature course, Happily Ever After: The Modern Romance Novel. Through MTSU Write, she works one-on-one with non-degree-seeking students as well. In 2018, Moonshower was appointed to the position of instructor; in 2019, she was promoted to senior instructor. As of August 2022, she is a master instructor.
Jimmy Mumford is a visual storyteller who communicates thoughts and feelings through images and words that challenge viewers to interpret aesthetics in a different context. He touts the power of art as a tool for communicating, celebrating communities, and influencing positive behavior. He turns classrooms into design studios for students to express themselves, to develop technical skills, and to think critically and creatively.

Encouraged to stretch his own imagination, Mumford studied the art of visual communication, earning his bachelor's degree in Graphic Design at Delta State University and an M.F.A. in Computer Art from the Memphis College of Art. Subsequently, he was invited to the prestigious Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) Summer Institute of Graphic Design Studies.

Mumford began teaching as an assistant professor of Graphic Design at the University of Alabama at Pine Bluff in 2000. He joined Jackson State University in 2002 as an assistant professor of Graphic Design, coordinating its Graphic Design program. In 2008, he became an associate professor and in 2017 chair of the Department of Art and Theatre. He joins MTSU as chair of the Department of Art and Design.

Mumford has influenced students' professional growth by exposing them to the larger world of art, facilitating exhibitions that featured the works of Gordon Parks and Miles Davis. He has also directed students to residency programs to amplify their skills and has partnered with organizations including Google, Uber, the Corning Museum of Glass, and Oracle. He works to help shape the careers of others using the words of his mentor: “Everything has been thought of before. Your job is to think of it again in a different way.”
Luciana Prestes was born in Natal, Brazil. She attended Universidade Federal da Paraíba in João Pessoa, Brazil, where she completed a bachelor’s degree in Letras (Language and Literature) in 2002. After graduation, she worked as an English and Spanish instructor at CCAA in João Pessoa. In 2004, she was accepted into MTSU’s master’s program in Foreign Languages, completing her degree in 2006, and teaching Spanish and Portuguese language and culture. In 2008, Prestes began working on a Ph.D. in Modern Foreign Languages and Literature at the University of Tennessee, majoring in Spanish and minoring in Portuguese.

Prestes has helped develop MTSU’s Portuguese and Spanish programs in the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. She is currently developing the Portuguese online program and is also working on a research paper dealing with gender, ethnicity, and identity in Caribbean and Brazilian literatures.

Prestes lives in Nashville with daughter Emilia Clare.
DeAnne Priddis, a first-generation college student, earned her associate’s degree in Supervisory Management. While balancing work and a family, she returned to earn her bachelor’s degree in Organizational Administration from University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh as her youngest child attended kindergarten. She earned a master’s in Training and Human Resource Development from University of Wisconsin–Stout two years later. She began her Ph.D. in Communication Studies at University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee in 2010, when her oldest child went to college. After graduating in 2015, she taught a year at UW–Oshkosh before coming to Middle Tennessee State University as an assistant professor in 2016.

Priddis’ work experience beyond the academy includes more than 20 years of working in nonprofit and corporate environments, primarily in human resource or training roles. These experiences have informed her areas of expertise in conflict management and training and development. Priddis is currently researching the impact of substance use disorder on the family system. Outside of her teaching and research, she serves as a Tennessee Supreme Court (TSC) Rule 31 civil mediator, as chair of the Central States Communication Association (CSCA) Health Communication Interest Group, and as a member of the board of directors for the Nashville Chapter of Association for Talent Development (ATD).
Amy Aldridge Sanford

Department of Communication Studies
Tenured

Amy Aldridge Sanford is a professor of Communication and the vice provost for academic programs at Middle Tennessee State University, where she oversees degree development, the True Blue Core, undergraduate and graduate academic catalogs, and the registration and records functions of the Registrar’s Office.

A full-time university administrator since 2016, Sanford was previously the associate provost and department chair at Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi and a department chair at Northeastern State University. She is past president of the Central States Communication Association and the board of directors for YWCA Corpus Christi and is a lifetime member of the American Association of University Women.

Sanford is an established communication scholar and practitioner, with specific interests in activism, social justice, allyship, not-for-profit organizations, and leadership. She utilizes qualitative methods, including interviews, journal entries, and participant observations in her scholarship. Sanford has served as a reviewer for multiple national journals and has published dozens of book chapters, journal manuscripts, newspaper editorials, and newsletter articles.

Her 2020 book, From Thought to Action: Developing a Social Justice Orientation, is utilized in classrooms and book clubs throughout the world. It often appears on Amazon’s Top 100 list of bestselling political advocacy books, and the second edition is expected in 2023. A TEDx speaker and curator, she is frequently asked to present at national conferences and to university audiences and local community groups.

Sanford received a Ph.D. in Communication Studies from the University of Iowa in 2006. She has received many local, state, and national awards, including two 40 Under 40 awards, YWCA Corpus Christi’s Y Women in Careers, Communication University Educator of the Year in both Texas and Oklahoma, and Outstanding Administrator from the National States Advisory Council of the National Communication Association.
Molly Taylor-Poleskey
Department of History
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Molly Taylor-Poleskey earned the B.A. in History and Music from Mount Holyoke College and the M.A./Ph.D. from Stanford University. She also has studied at the Universität Osnabrück in Germany and the Universitá di Bologna in Italy.

Taylor-Poleskey has published on the topics of digital humanities and Early Modern Europe. Her first book, *Food and Culture at the Court of the Great Elector*, is under contract with the University of Virginia Press. That work was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the German Foreign Academic Service, among others. Her German History article, “A Baker, the Great Elector and Prussian Statebuilding: Territorial Integration in the Everyday,” won the German History Society’s 2019 article prize. She recently published “Teaching Culture Games: Re-interpreting Slavery at a Living History Museum,” for the *Journal of Computing and Cultural Heritage* with Richard Lewis, professor of Animation. Furthermore, she has published six additional articles in peer-reviewed edited volumes and numerous journal book reviews. She is a co-author on an *American Historical Review* article drawn from her work on the NEH-funded Mapping the Republic of Letters Project. She is a contributor to the Recipes Project blog (recipes.hypotheses.org) and the *New Books Network* (the world’s most popular book podcast).

Taylor-Poleskey was a Humanities + Design Fellow at Stanford’s Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis. She was a guest scholar at the Ludwig Maximilian Universität in Munich and at the Interdisciplinary Institute for Cultural History at the Universität Osnabrück. She has given invited and conference talks in the U.S., Germany, Italy, England, the Czech Republic, France, Ireland, Canada, and Austria.

Taylor-Poleskey enjoys collaborating with students and other faculty members on public history and digital humanities initiatives. She mentored Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity (URECA) grantees on her Digital Holy Roman Empire Mapping Project. She has led two graduate field schools to North Carolina resulting in the Hidden Town in 3D project in collaboration with Old Salem Museums and Gardens and MTSU’s Animation program. She won an MTSU Foundation award for Instructional Technology Development for her undergraduate digital history class, which created the interactive historical tour sites bygone-nashville.mtsu.edu and momentous-murfreesboro.mtsu.edu.
Angela Tipps

School of Music
Promoted to Senior Instructor

Angela Tipps is beginning her 25th year at the MTSU School of Music, where she conducts the SOAL (Soprano-Alto) and TEBA (Tenor-Bass) chorales, teaches basic and choral conducting, oversees the Introduction to Music courses, and frequently serves as musical director for theatre productions. Tipps is the musical director of the Middle Tennessee Choral Society as well as the organist and director of music at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Murfreesboro. She is active as an adjudicator and clinician, having conducted the Governor’s School for the Arts, Virginia All-State Choir, and several regional festival choirs.

A graduate of MTSU (Organ Performance, class of 1985) with a master’s degree in Church Music, she is married to an MTSU alumnus (Dale, class of 1983, a judge with the state of Tennessee). Their oldest, Virginia, earned a B.S. in Theatre in spring 2020 and is pursuing an M.F.A. in Stage and Production Management at Carnegie Mellon University. Their son, Sam, is a freshman at the University of Memphis, majoring in Architecture. Tipps’ father and siblings are all MTSU graduates, so her blood runs #trueblue.
Jae Turner

Department of History
Promoted to Senior Instructor

Jae Turner holds a Ph.D. in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Emory University and a Master of Historic Preservation from the University of Georgia. She worked for almost 20 years as a public historian with expertise in historic preservation before completing her Ph.D.

She teaches U.S. History General Education courses including those in the Reading History Initiative for student success. Turner’s research interests take her into American material and popular culture to explore gender and sexuality. For fun, she enjoys wildlife photography, especially catching birds in flight.
Jennifer Vannatta-Hall, the interim director for the School of Music, teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Music Education. She earned the Bachelor of Music degree from Middle Tennessee State University in 1998. After teaching music in the public schools, she returned to MTSU and graduated with a Master of Arts in Music Education in 2004. She then completed her doctoral coursework in Music Education at the University of Illinois, earning a Doctor of Education degree in August 2010.

She is certified through the master level of the Orff Schulwerk approach to music education, as well as the Smithsonian Institute’s World Music Pedagogy, Little Kids Rock Modern Band Approach, and the Eastman School of Music Leadership. Vannatta-Hall has presented workshops and conference sessions all over the United States and was a visiting professor of music at Hangzhou Normal University in China in March 2019. She frequently conducts and adjudicates choral festivals.

Vannatta-Hall’s research interests include early childhood music teacher education and K–12 general music. Her book, *Music Teaching Self-Efficacy in Early Childhood Teacher Education*, was published in 2013. She chairs the Research Interest Subcommittee for the American Orff-Schulwerk Association and is one of four conference chairs for the Mountain Lake Colloquium for Teachers of General Music.
Louis Woods’s love affair with African American history began at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. in Africana Studies. Woods attended graduate school at Howard University, where he earned his master’s and Ph.D. in African American History, receiving a Doctoral Scholars Fellowship designed to prepare future faculty for the professoriate. The minority dissertation fellowship he was awarded at DePauw University afforded him the invaluable time to write while gaining teaching experience. Woods completed his Ph.D. in 2006.

Following a year as a visiting assistant professor at the University of Texas at El Paso, Woods was named an assistant professor at MTSU, where he served on departmental search committees and on master’s and Public History dissertation committees. Woods also published in nationally recognized journals in his field, including the *Journal of Urban History* and the *Journal of African American History*.

In 2014, Woods helped to resurrect MTSU’s Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) and was elected president. In this capacity, he helped establish organizational bylaws and mission and vision statements, develop a web presence, and gain institutional recognition and accompanying funding for BFSA. In 2017 the dean of the College of Liberal Arts appointed Woods director of the new bachelor’s degree in Africana Studies.


In addition to his University teaching and service, Woods is finalizing the revision to his manuscript tentatively titled *A Quest for a Democratic Society: The NAACP Crusade for African American Veterans, 1918-1955*, to be published by the University of Tennessee Press.
Marie Michelle Barnas

Department of Media Arts
Tenured and Promoted to Professor

Marie Barnas has earned two M.F.A. degrees, first in Film Production from Ohio University and then in Creative Writing from Georgia College and State University. Her professional interests include online education, study abroad, and documentary production. Her short films have won more than 50 awards and honors at numerous domestic and international awards, including Telly, Cindy, and Worldfest Houston.

From 2014–18 she was awarded fellowships by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, the International Radio and Television Society, and the National Association of Television Producers and Executives, and in 2022 she was chosen as a Japan Studies Institute Fellow by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. She has completed classes and obtained over a dozen licenses and certifications in online teaching and learning from Quality Matters, the Learning Resources Network, the Online Learning Consortium, and the University of Tennessee. She is a member of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Nashville/Midsouth Chapter, the Broadcast Education Association, and the Telly Council. She has given more than 20 academic presentations in multiple conferences and has performed service to the University and public for over 15 years.

Her publications include journal articles published in *The International Journal of Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences* and *The Journal of Media Education*, and she has co-authored three textbooks: *Broadcast News Writing, Reporting, and Producing*, and the upcoming *Scripting Media* (2023) and *Radio in the Movies* (2023). Since 2017, she has twice been an MTSU MT-IGO (Internal Grant Opportunities) recipient and has raised over $156,000 in MTSU Department of Media Arts departmental funds for online instruction and enhancement.

In 2021–22 she raised over $150,000 through grants, private donations, and crowdfunding for her latest films, *The Cost of Caring* and *Saving Mishka*, and she co-produces the award-winning podcast *Voca Vacay*. She is a native of South Charleston, West Virginia, and worked in the film industry in Atlanta from 2004–11. She currently serves as interim department chair.
Rodrigo Gómez Claros

Department of Media Arts
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Rodrigo Gómez is a native of Colombia, where he worked as a graphic designer and received the National Graphic Design Award from the Culture Ministry, an award given by the country’s president, in 1994. Gómez holds a bachelor’s degree in Graphic Design from the National University of Colombia and a master’s degree in Computer Animation from Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York.

Gómez worked for over 14 years for Mattel/Fisher-Price Inc. as a producer and director of animated cartoons for children, corporate videos, and commercials. He became a U.S. citizen in 2018.

He is passionate about the creative process of animation and the search for new stories to create innovative visuals. He enjoys working with students to explore their most creative ideas while striving for the highest quality. He is the author of the children’s book Milly and Roots, The Headscarf. He produced a mini web series on autism titled “Percy Talks.” He co-directed the virtual reality short film What Took You So Long, which received the U.S. Broadcast Education Association’s 2021 Best of Festival Interactive Media Award. Gómez is the current advisor of the MTSU VR-AR Student Club.

Gómez is married with two teenage children. He enjoys art and sports, especially soccer.
Philip A. Loubere

*School of Journalism and Strategic Media*

*Promoted to Professor*

Philip A. Loubere has been working professionally as a graphic artist and educator for nearly three decades. From 1996 to 2008 he worked as a visual journalist for three major metro news organizations, *The Seattle Times*, the *San Jose Mercury News*, and *The Orange County Register*. Prior to that, he taught art and design classes at the University of Puget Sound and at Pierce College, both in Tacoma, Washington, while operating his own graphic design agency.

He earned an M.F.A. in studio art at the University of Wisconsin in 1990, an M.A. from Eastern Illinois University in 1987, and a B.F.A. from SUNY Buffalo State in 1986. He also earned a certificate in computer graphics from the University of Washington in 1993.

From 2009–19, he served in officer and leadership positions in the Visual Communication division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC), including as head of the division.

His areas of specialty include information graphics, illustration, print and digital publication design, and front-end web development. In addition to his news work, he has done work for organizations including the Max Planck Institute, Digital First Media, Irvine Company, and Xplane Graphics. He has earned or participated in awards from AEJMC, the Society for News Design, Best of the West, and the San Francisco Peninsula Press Club, and his artwork has been exhibited in six solo shows, 21 juried group shows, and 10 invitational shows, earning six awards including Best of Show, Patron, and Purchase.

Misty Jones Simpson

Department of Recording Industry
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Born and raised in Texas, Misty Jones Simpson is one of the few female Ableton Certified Trainers in the United States. She graduated from Baylor University with a degree in Music Education and studied Music Technology Innovation at Berklee Valencia in Spain, where she received the Outstanding Scholar award and earned a Master of Music degree. Simpson’s research has been featured in Billboard and on Ableton’s website.

Specializing in MIDI programming, Ableton Live, controllerism, and pop/electronic music, Simpson teaches sound synthesis, electronic music, and controllerism at MTSU. She has presented and performed at various festivals and conferences, including Ableton’s Loop Summit, Association for Popular Music Education (APME), Music and Entertainment Industry Educators Association (MEIEA), MIT’s EmTech España, Madrid Music Days, and the king of Spain’s Impulsa Music Forum. Simpson is a contributing author to The Music Technology Cookbook, published by Oxford University Press, and recently self-published a book titled Decompressed: How to Find Joy as a Music Producer in a Flattened World, available on Amazon.
Matthew D. Duncan earned both his B.S. in Mathematics and his M.S. in Mathematics with a concentration in Theoretical Algebra from Jacksonville State University. As a graduate teaching assistant, he grew to love teaching mathematics.

After earning his degrees, he seized the opportunity to teach algebra and statistics in the University Studies Department at MTSU, where he enrolled in MTSU’s new Mathematics and Science Education Ph.D. program, earning his doctorate in 2018. Following graduation, he began in a tenure-track position as an assistant professor, where he expanded his teaching duties to include teaching statistics and survey design for the highly successful Professional Studies program. He is also highly involved with the Scholars Academy, an early arrival program designed to serve all students, with emphasis on the needs of first generation, underrepresented, and/or underprepared students.

He is currently the primary investigator on a Tennessee Higher Education Commission grant for a Veteran Reconnect project and has worked with several students on publishing research manuscripts. He currently serves as interim department chair.
Carla Hatfield

Department of University Studies
Promoted to Senior Instructor

Carla Hatfield earned a B.S. in Psychology at Mars Hill College, an M.A. in Psychology at Tennessee Technology University, and an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from Tennessee State University.

During the past six years at MTSU, she has taught University Seminar, Interdisciplinary Research and Problem Solving, and Successful Transitions, all in the University Studies Department. Collaboration with colleagues in curriculum redesign for University Seminar has allowed her to expand on various teaching methodologies, including implementing “kick-starter” videos for web-assisted courses. The resources of the MT Engage Office, especially e-portfolio, have enhanced the University Seminar curriculum development.

Many of the UNIV 1010 sections use a career exploration assignment titled Career Snapshot, which Hatfield designed. Career Snapshot was named the outstanding creative and innovative assignment at the 2018 Tennessee Association of Student Success and Retention Conference. Students use O’Net and personality inventories to provide information on their interests, skills, and abilities. The assignment asks reflective questions to stimulate students’ thinking to critically evaluate their reasoning for selecting a chosen major or field of work. It also aids students who are undecided on majors.

Several students she has mentored have been accepted into the Phi Kappa Phi honor society and have been awarded academic scholarships to fund their undergraduate and graduate educations.
Susan J. Martin

*Department of Collection Development and Management*  
*Tenured*

Susan Martin serves as the Collection Development and Management (CDM) department chair in the James E. Walker Library.

Prior to this position, she served as the head of Acquisitions Services at the University of Chicago Library and as acquisitions librarian at Texas Woman’s University. Her other experiences include writing and editing for an internet startup and working as a professional librarian in acquisitions, cataloging, circulation, and reference departments.

She has presented and written on workflow automation, open access, staff recruitment, and special collections. She is active in the American Library Association, currently serving as an elected Councilor at Large. She is also active in Core, a division of the American Library Association, serving as chair and member of several interest groups and committees. She has been active with the Open Library Foundation’s FOLIO project and recently finished a term as convenor of the Acquisitions Special Interest Group.

Martin holds an A.B. in American Studies and French from Mount Holyoke College and an M.S. in Library and Information Science from Simmons College.
Jordon Nielsen

Department of User Services
Tenured

Jordan Nielsen has been an academic librarian for more than a decade. They began their career as an assistant professor and business librarian at the University of Arkansas. Prior to joining MTSU, Nielsen was the librarian for business and lecturer in Management in the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University. They earned a bachelor’s degree in marketing and a master’s degree in Business Administration from the University of Tennessee at Martin before earning a master’s degree in Information Science from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

Nielsen’s research interests include organizational development in academic libraries, learning design, and critical librarianship. They have published articles on these topics in peer-reviewed journals such as portal: Libraries and the Academy, Evidence-Based Library and Information Practice, and the Journal of Business & Finance Librarianship. Their current research projects focus on inclusive hiring practices in academic libraries, and they have presented research on this topic at the Association of College & Research Libraries’ most recent national conference. Nielsen is also co-editing a book on inclusive hiring in academic libraries, a project that grew out of their earlier research.

Nielsen currently serves on the editorial board of Emerging Library & Information Perspectives, and they have previously served on the executive boards of the California Faculty Association’s San Francisco State University chapter, the California chapter of the Association of College & Research Libraries, and the University of Tennessee School of Information Sciences. They have also chaired numerous national committees within the American Library Association, including the Business Reference and Services Section’s Education Committee and the Business Information Sources Committee.
Denise FitzGerald Quintel

*Department of Collection Development and Management*

*Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Denise FitzGerald Quintel is the discovery services librarian at the James E. Walker Library. She earned the M.S. in Library and Information Science from the University of Tennessee and her B.A. in English Literature from Northeastern University. She joined MTSU’s faculty in 2016.

At Walker Library, she brings a steady focus on enhancing the user research journey and improving resource discoverability, and she advocates for user privacy. She manages the front-end and administrative functions for the library’s discovery system, works to enhance electronic resource access, and maintains the library’s online presence. Before joining MTSU, Quintel was the web applications librarian at the University of Alabama, where she launched the library’s first user experience research studies to inform website redesigns and improve search functionality.

Her current research involves information-seeking behavior, user-centered design, web analytics, and privacy. She has made numerous presentations and has published work in the *Journal of Academic Librarianship, Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship*, and *Information Technology and Libraries*.

She is a member of the Asian Pacific American Library Association (APALA) and the Library Freedom Project. She serves on the editorial board for *Weave: Journal of Library User Experience*. 
Kathleen Schmand

User Services
Tenured

Kathleen L. Schmand is a library professional with more than 30 years of experience in academic libraries. She received her B.A. in International Relations from the University of Southern California. While attending USC, she worked in the libraries as a student employee and after graduating took on a full-time staff position. She went on to earn her Master of Library Science from the University of Pittsburgh in 1996.

She spent more than 24 years with the Cline Library at Northern Arizona University (NAU) in a variety of roles, including unit supervisor, head of access services, interim associate university librarian, head of library technology services, and director of development and communications. In 2018, she completed a second master’s degree in Organizational Leadership from NAU. In January 2021, she joined the James E. Walker Library at Middle Tennessee State University as dean. In this role she is responsible for leading and promoting excellence across the organization, enhancing the quality of library programs, and advocating for the library locally, regionally, and nationally. She is committed to fostering an organizational climate based on respect, transparency, service, results, collaboration, diversity, inclusion, and innovation. She is an ardent advocate for experiential learning and providing access and expertise to users navigating the abundance of available information.

She is active in the library profession and leads a monthly networking meeting for academic library development directors and deans from across the United States and Canada. Her research is varied and includes book chapters on organizational change and leadership to projects in makerspaces. She has presented on her work at national conferences, including the American Library Association. She currently serves as a co-chair for the Quest 2025 Priority 4 Committee and represents MTSU on the Higher Education Leadership Initiative for Open Scholarship.
To the faculty and staff:

Welcome to the Fall Faculty Meeting of Middle Tennessee State University. On behalf of the MTSU Foundation Board, I would like to thank you for your dedication and leadership, which have made MTSU the institution of choice for the region’s top scholars.

We are grateful to all the faculty and staff seeking to provide a supportive learning environment to our students and an experience that is as personal and unique as our diverse student population. Since the establishment of the MTSU Foundation in the early 1960s, the University has been the beneficiary of gifts that have contributed significantly to its growth and development. Our mission is to provide financial assistance from alumni, friends, and the community to build an even stronger MTSU.

I congratulate today’s recipients and all the faculty. Best wishes for an exciting, fulfilling, and successful academic year.

Sincerely,

Ronald Roberts, ’84
President, MTSU Foundation
FOUNDATION
AWARDS AND FACULTY RECOGNITIONS

FALL FACULTY MEETING
AUGUST 18, 2022