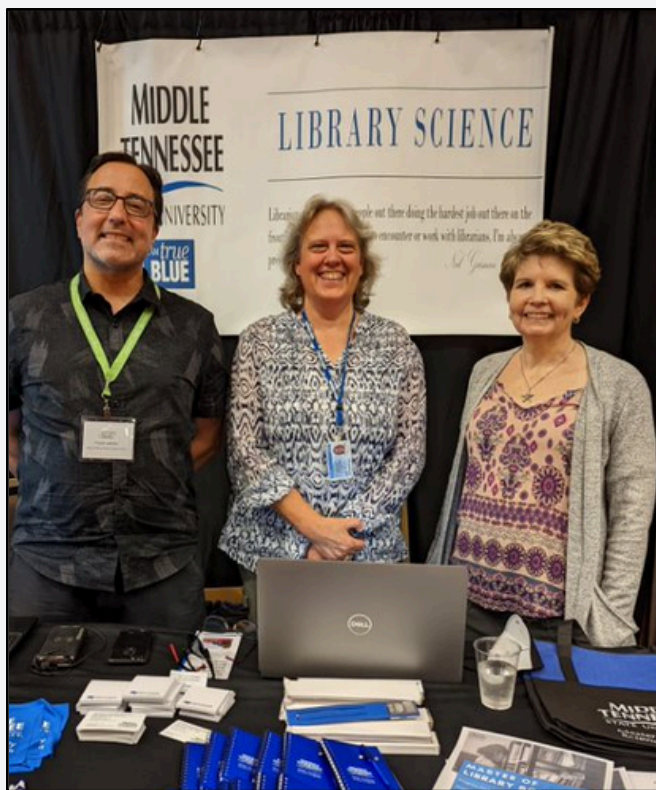


# MTSU MLS PROGRAM

FALL 2024

NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 Issue 1



Dr. Lambert, Dr. Hebert, and Ms. Luck at our MLS Program Booth

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## CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

One goal of our program is to connect students with practitioners in the field, so we encourage students to participate in professional conferences such as TASL and TNLA. Pictured to the right are faculty, students, and alumni at our reception during TASL Con 2023.



## EVENTS

In November, students **Katie Binkley** and **Lauren Schorr**, along with **Dr. Hebert**, participated in a Community Archiving Workshop at the American Baptist College in Nashville. In February, the MLS program participated in SoKidLit by offering a "Book Tasting" experience,

Pictured: Dr. Hebert, Ashley Campbell, Ms. Luck, Hannah Brown, and Lauren Schorr.



## Greetings from the MLS Program Director, Dr. Holly Hebert



### Welcome to the inaugural issue of the MTSU MLS Newsletter!

Within these pages we are pleased to share important and exciting news about our program, faculty, students, and alumni, as well as to provide updates on our ALA accreditation process. We'd love to hear from you as well, so reach out at any time!

We value all of our many partners who sponsor field experiences, provide mentorship, and offer employment opportunities. This includes our MLS Advisory Council, which is made up of ten professionals (including alumni of our program!) and two students. This fall, we welcome two new Advisory Council members, Mindy Barrett, Interim Director of the Rutherford County Library System, and Dr. John Lodl, Director of the Rutherford County Archives. Many thanks to outgoing members Rita Shacklett and Stephanie Bandel.

During the 2023-2024 academic year, 17 students graduated with their MLS degree, and three students completed their Library Information Specialist pre-K-12 endorsement. This fall, enrollment is strong with 22 new students starting our program.

This past summer, we invited three new adjunct faculty members, Patricia Rua-Bashir from Nashville Public Library, and Kathleen Schmand and Christy Groves from our own Walker Library to teach for us. They join Katie Moisant from Rutherford County Schools and Dr. Karen Nourse, also from Walker Library.

As part of our commitment to growing and strengthening our already great program, we are continuing to seek ALA accreditation. At this time, we are in precandidacy, on a three-year extension that began this June. We have renewed our efforts, and I'm confident in our committed team of faculty and administrators who are working hard make this happen.

Now, on to more news!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly Hebert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

## 2023-2024 GRADUATES



**MLS Graduates:** Jill Anderson, Susan Austin, Katie Binkley, Hannah Brown, Ashley Campbell, Hayley Clanton, Patti Daunais, Shannon Hood, Abigail Lewis, Kyle Liotta, Jessica Martin, Ivy Monk, Jessi Shipley, Pat Swetland, Molly Tresser, Claudia Visperas, Elizabeth Young

**Endorsement Only:** Marcie Nitsch, Grace Saltz

Pictured: Molly Tresser, Dr. Hebert, Jessica Martin, Abigail Lewis, and Patti Daunais

## FIELD EXPERIENCES

Thanks to our wonderful sponsors in libraries across the state, field experiences continue to be a core part of our MLS Program. Each student completes at least 60 hours of work in a library or archives that fits their pathway. The last 40 hours can be continued work in that same setting or spent observing in other types of libraries or archives.

In the last 5 years, students have completed field experiences in more than 20 school districts and private schools across the state, more than 10 public libraries, 5 colleges/universities, and several archives, including Cheekwood Estate & Gardens, the Country Music Hall of Fame, and special collections at MTSU and Vanderbilt.

Pictured: Heath Overton



## FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

**Promotions:** **Dr. Frank Lambert** was awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor in Fall 2023. **Dr. Holly Hebert** was awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor in Fall 2024. **Presentations:** **Ms. DeAnne Luck** presented, "Book Talking: Using book talks to promote reading in your library and school" at the 2023 TASL Conference. She also presented

"Cut the CRAAP" at the 2024 TNLA Conference. **Dr. Holly Hebert** presented, "Too tired to think big? Think small!" at the 2024 NWTN Conference. **Publications:** **Dr. Holly Hebert** published an article, "A two-phase study examining graduate library student knowledge gains and perceptions of information literacy modules" in the first issue of the new *Journal of Graduate Librarianship*.

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

**Awards:** **Megan Johnson** won the School Library Media Scholarship from TASL in 2023. **Lauren Schorr** (pictured at right) was selected as a Conference Intern for the 2024 TNLA Conference in Cool Springs.

**Presentations:** **Will Fisher** presented “*Redacted: A banned books week program in review*” at the 2023 Library Instruction Together (LIT) Conference. **Ashley Farrington** presented with Courtney Mobley and Ms. Luck at the 2023 TASL Conference.

**Publications:** **Claudia Visperas** collaborated with Dr. Holly Hebert on an article titled, “Exploring the use of interlibrary loan service and user preferences in a countywide public library system”, which was published in *Public Library Quarterly* in 2024.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Our first student spotlight is a well-deserved shout out to **Claudia Visperas**, who was our graduate assistant from 2022-2024 until graduating this May. She states, “One aspect of this program that has been impactful for me is the program’s emphasis on helping students. As the program’s graduate assistant, I have watched the professors go out of their way to be points of assistance and guidance. Ultimately, this MLS program has not only enabled me to pursue my dreams of becoming a librarian but has also provided me with valuable skills, knowledge, and experiences that I can use to make a meaningful impact in my community as a future librarian. I am grateful for this opportunity and look forward to applying what I have learned in my future endeavors.”



## ALUMNI NEWS

For the next issue, we’d like to create a page dedicated to alumni news, so we’ll need your help.

Please send **your** news to [MLS@mtsu.edu](mailto:MLS@mtsu.edu)!

## ALUMNI DIRECTORY

We are creating an Alumni Directory! If you would like to be included, please fill out this [form](#).

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Holly Hebert, MLS Program Director



HOLLY.HEBERT@MTSU.EDU



(615) 898-5378



1301 E. MAIN STREET, MTSU BOX 0091  
MURFREESBORO, TN 37132

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