

FOUNDATION AWARDS





Priya Ananth

*Department of World Languages,
Literatures, and Cultures*

Outstanding Teaching Award

Priya Ananth is a professor and coordinator of the Japanese program in the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. She holds a B.S. from the University of Delhi, an M.A. from Jawaharlal Nehru University, and a Ph.D. in East Asian Languages and Literatures from Ohio State University. Ananth began working at MTSU in 2008 and received the College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Advisor Award in 2012. She was recognized in 2019 as Teacher of the Year by the Southeastern Association of Teachers of Japanese for outstanding teaching and leadership in Japanese language education.

At MTSU, Ananth has taught all levels of Japanese language courses and created and taught courses in professional Japanese, Japanese linguistics and translation, and Japanese culture. She has organized faculty-led study abroad programs in Japan and conducted online collaborative classrooms with a Japanese university via the COIL platform. As the coordinator, she has been instrumental in growing the Japanese program by creating a concentration and minor. She has served in various capacities as a major and minor advisor, Honors thesis committee member, Master of Arts in Liberal Arts capstone project advisor, and study abroad faculty advisor. The growth of the Japanese program at MTSU received external validation when the late Kiyoshi Kawahito (MTSU Professor Emeritus of Economics) made a generous endowment toward merit-based scholarships for students in the Japanese program.

Ananth's scholarly work focuses on second language acquisition, language pedagogy, applied linguistics, and study abroad. In 2019, she co-edited a book, *Incorporating Foreign Language Content in Humanities Courses*, published by Routledge Press. In 2023, she published her second co-edited book, *Intercultural Engagement through Short-term Faculty-led Study Abroad: A Practitioner's Guide with Multidisciplinary Perspectives from a Public University*, through MT Open Press. She also has presented at numerous national, regional, and state conferences.



Douglas Dabbs

Department of Art and Design

Outstanding Teaching Award

Douglas Dabbs is an associate professor in the Department of Art and Design, with nearly 15 years of experience teaching illustration and fine art at undergraduate and graduate levels. He earned his B.F.A. and M.F.A. from Savannah College of Art and Design, where he received the Presidential Medal for his research and creative activity.

Dabbs was instrumental in designing and launching MTSU's first illustration curriculum pathway, significantly enhancing the University's academic offerings. His teaching focuses on experiential learning, guiding students to produce creative work, take part in professional activities, and complete industry-relevant projects. He has co-developed educational resources like MTSU's Illustration Library and Biennial Illustration Exhibition and engages students in dynamic learning experiences like professional competitions, juried exhibitions, guest workshops, independent studies, and business collaborations. Dabbs prioritizes student field research in all his courses, leading studies at botanical gardens, local book shops, and the zoo. He frequently serves as a reviewer for student portfolios and the Art and Design Research Symposium and sits on thesis committees.

In recognition of his teaching practices that bridge theoretical knowledge and practical application, Dabbs received the Outstanding Experiential Learning Faculty Award. Additionally, he earned MTSU's College of Liberal Arts Faculty Student Mentoring Award, reflecting his passion for mentoring students.

Dabbs is dedicated to educating the public and professional community. He has shared his curriculum development insights at MTSU's EXL Institute and conferences hosted by Tennessee Art Education Association, Fan Expo, and Popular Culture Association. He also has led hands-on art workshops at Erma Siegel Elementary, the Nashville Zoo, and local libraries.

Dabbs' research focuses on visual storytelling and sequential art that encourage viewer participation and analysis. His comics and graphic novels have been published by Image Comics, Oni Press, 12 Gauge, and Desperado Publishing, and he's the artist of the critically acclaimed comic series *Klik Klik Boom*. His work has been displayed in over 50 exhibitions at galleries, museums, and conventions across the globe, and his illustrations have appeared in numerous art and literature journals including *Burningword*, *High Shelf*, *Coffin Bell*, *ArtAscent*, and *Under the Sun*. Dabbs has earned international acclaim for his artwork, receiving a Gold Award from Society of Illustrators Los Angeles, and 15 awards from *American Illustration*, *Brightness Illustration*, *3x3*, *Creative Quarterly*, and the Cheltenham Illustration Awards.



Francis T. Koti

*Department of Political and Global Affairs
Outstanding Teaching Award*

Francis T. Koti is a geography professor in the Department of Political and Global Affairs in the College of Liberal Arts. He believes that his primary goal in the classroom is to develop students' ability to think about the big picture, make spatial connections about Earth phenomena, develop logical arguments to support their ideas, and ask the right questions. His commitment to excellence in teaching is evident in his professional activities and interactions with students. He is always pursuing professional certifications related to teaching to better connect with his students. He has recently completed several online teaching certification programs and recertified as a Geographic Information Systems Professional (GISP)—while receiving several teaching accolades such as being named twice as a faculty member who makes a difference, “favorite faculty pick for a treat” in his department, graduate faculty status, Education Abroad faculty status, MT Online faculty status, and Honors faculty status.

Koti's teaching contributions at MTSU in the last few years are also remarkable. These include introduction of new courses, revision of existing courses, creation and execution of a new study abroad program to Tanzania, integration of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) into existing courses, addition of field component into courses, collaborative teaching with colleagues, redesign and implementation of courses online, and redesign and implementation of general education legacy courses.

Koti is always thinking of ways to enhance the learning experience and guide students in the transition into professional careers. He submitted a grant proposal to establish a GIS lab in his department, established a “Global Engagement” digital badge for MTSU students, revived the Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) chapter at MTSU, and negotiated and established a paid planning internship at the Murfreesboro City Planning Department.

An urban geographer, Koti's research revolves around the use of GIS within participatory methodological frameworks to understand urbanization processes. He has published three recent peer-reviewed journal articles and two book chapters and also presented in conferences, invited speeches, and media appearances.

Koti holds a Ph.D. and master's degree in Geography from West Virginia University. He earned his bachelor's degree at Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya.



M. Elizabeth Barnes

Department of Biology

Outstanding Teaching in General Education

M. Elizabeth Barnes is an assistant professor in the Biology Department, where her research group studies ways to teach and communicate about contentious science topics in ways that reduce societal conflict. She received her Ph.D. at Arizona State University, where, as a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow, she began studying ways to ameliorate conflict between evolution and religion in college biology classes. For this work, she was recognized by the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT).

At MTSU, she has continued her commitment to paving the way for humane and responsible science communication about other contentious topics, such as vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic and, most recently, climate change. This body of work culminated in her receiving the prestigious National Science Foundation CAREER award, which recognizes and funds only the top researchers in their fields who have shown promise for continuing to build knowledge and make broader impacts on society.

Barnes is now focused on training the next generation of scientists in responsible and effective science communication. Her hope and underlying motivation for her research is to foster a society that approaches disagreement and contention with curiosity, intellectual humility, and a drive for understanding one another rather than a drive to tear one another down.



Judith Iriarte-Gross

Department of Chemistry

Outstanding Public Service Award

Judith Iriarte-Gross is a professor of Chemistry and director of the Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Center at MTSU. She earned her B.S. and M.S. in Chemistry from the University of Maryland and her Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry from the University of South Carolina. She completed a postdoctoral research project on inorganic polymers at Southern Methodist University. Before joining MTSU in 1996, she was a chemist for the Food and Drug Administration and a chemistry lab manager in the plastics industry.

Iriarte-Gross has been a principal investigator (PI) or co-PI on six National Science Foundation (NSF) awards. In 2009, she was appointed director of MTSU's Women in STEM Center. Iriarte-Gross and four other STEM faculty at MTSU were awarded an NSF ADVANCE grant in 2014. This study, A Catalyst to ADVANCE the Participation and Advancement of Women in Academic STEM Careers at Middle Tennessee State University, focused on identifying barriers that affect recruitment, retention, participation, and promotion of women STEM faculty.

Iriarte-Gross is nationally known for her advocacy for encouraging girls and women in STEM education and careers. She was named an Association for Women in Science (AWIS) Fellow in 2009 and is co-president of the Tennessee Chapter of AWIS. She is an active member of the American Chemical Society (ACS) and serves as subcommittee chair of the ACS Nashville Local Section Women Chemists Committee. In 2014, she was named to the ACS Leadership Advisory Board in recognition of her work with girls and women in STEM and in 2016 was named an ACS Fellow. She is the 2017 recipient of the national ACS Award for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences. She was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in 2016 and is the only AAAS Fellow at MTSU.

In 2017, Iriarte-Gross received the MTSU Foundation's Career Achievement Award, the highest award for an MTSU faculty member.

She is the faculty advisor of the MTSU Women in STEM student organization and the learning-living community.

The Nashville Technology Council recognized the Women in STEM Center with the 2020 Diversity and Inclusion Initiative of the Year. The center was honored with the 2021 Inspiring Programs in STEM Award from *Insight Into Diversity* magazine. Iriarte-Gross received the 2022 Excellence in STEM Advocacy Award from the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network.

Iriarte-Gross and other STEM advocates are now planning the 28th Tennessee Girls in STEM Conference (formerly known as Expanding Your Horizons, or EYH), which will be in October.



Dianna Rust

Department of University Studies

Outstanding Public Service Award

Dianna Zeh Rust is a professor in University Studies. She earned her master's degree in Mass Communication from Middle Tennessee State University and her Ed.D. from Tennessee State University. She is the program coordinator for the Bachelor of Science in Integrated Studies and Bachelor of Science in Professional Studies.

Her research interests are related to student success for both traditional and nontraditional student populations and the scholarship of teaching and learning. She has made several presentations on the latter at the Learning, Teaching, and Innovative Technologies Center and the MT Engage Summer Institute. She also presented at Stevenson University's faculty in-service. Her passion and research related to student success have enabled her to present on student success strategies to sororities, fraternities, and other student organizations.

She has been very active in professional service to the Association for Continuing Higher Education (ACHE), serving as the chair (2024–25), chair elect (2023–24) and secretary (2022–23) for the Southern region. She served as co-chair for the ACHE national conference in 2023 and as co-chair for the Call for Proposals for multiple years. She serves on the editorial board for the *Journal of Continuing Higher Education* as an associate editor.

As an educator, Rust has created experiential learning (EXL) partnerships with local nonprofits and an elementary school. Her classes volunteer at the nonprofits to learn more about the topic they are studying in Interdisciplinary Research. In her University Seminar Honors class, students create poster presentations and hold a career fair at a local elementary school.

She is the faculty advisor for MTSU's chapter of Colleges Against Cancer, which annually organizes the MTSU student-led Relay for Life event to support the American Cancer Society. This group also organizes an annual donation drive for the Hope Lodge in Nashville to supply cancer patients and their families with snacks and necessities during their stay. Rust has also served multiple years on the board of the MTSU Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi and is president-elect (2024–25). She has served on several department, college, and University committees, most recently MTSU's Faculty Senate and Steering Committee.

Rust is the recipient of the 2023 Career Influencer Award from the MTSU Career Development Center and is regularly recognized by students as a person at MTSU who makes a difference. She won the Outstanding Teaching Award in 2020–21.

Away from MTSU, she spends a week each summer as a counselor to fourth, fifth, and sixth graders attending Character Quest camp, volunteers with fourth and fifth graders on a weekly basis, and formally mentors sixth graders in the Student Action Leadership Team at her church.



M. Elizabeth Barnes

Department of Biology

Distinguished Early Career Research Award

M. Elizabeth Barnes is an assistant professor in the Biology Department, where her research group studies ways to teach and communicate about contentious science topics in ways that reduce societal conflict. She received her Ph.D. at Arizona State University, where, as a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow, she began studying ways to ameliorate conflict between evolution and religion in college biology classes. For this work, she was recognized by the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT).

At MTSU, she has continued her commitment to paving the way for humane and responsible science communication about other contentious topics, such as vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic and, most recently, climate change. This body of work culminated in her receiving the prestigious National Science Foundation CAREER award, which recognizes and funds only the top researchers in their fields who have shown promise for continuing to build knowledge and make broader impacts on society.

Barnes is now focused on training the next generation of scientists in responsible and effective science communication. Her hope and underlying motivation for her research is to foster a society that approaches disagreement and contention with curiosity, intellectual humility, and a drive for understanding one another rather than a drive to tear one another down.



Grant E. Gardner

Department of Biology

Distinguished Senior Research Award

Grant Gardner has been a Department of Biology faculty member at MTSU since 2013. He earned his B.S. in Biological Sciences from Vanderbilt University, an M.S. in Zoology from North Carolina State University, and a Ph.D. in Science Education Research from North Carolina State University. Gardner focuses on discipline-based education research associated with the interdisciplinary Mathematics and Science Education Ph.D. program. His current research focuses on the professional learning and preparation of graduate students in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields.

Gardner's research has been primarily funded by the National Science Foundation, with notable grants including: Promoting Active Learning Strategies in Biology (\$437,931) in 2013–18; The Biology Teaching Assistant Project 2.0: Networking for Change (\$499,685) in 2015–21; A Delphi Study of Department Cultural Effects on Biology Graduate Student Teaching Professional Development (\$272,956) 2023–; Preparation and Refinement of Postdocs in STEM for Disciplinary-Based Education Research (\$1,249,445) 2023–; and Advancing the Culture of Teaching in STEM through Diffusion of Strengths-Based Reflexivity (\$1,333,690), which began this summer. He also has received funding from the Tennessee Board of Regents and MTSU's Faculty Research and Creative Activity Committee to support his team's work.

Dissemination of this work includes six book chapters, over 40 peer-reviewed publications, and over 200 invited and peer-reviewed scholarly presentations.

He is most proud of the opportunity this scholarship has allowed for collaboration and mentorship. Gardner has mentored or is currently mentoring four postdoctoral research scholars, 14 Ph.D. students, three M.S. students, and over 20 undergraduate researchers. Without the collaboration of mentees, the discipline-based education research community at MTSU, his biology disciplinary community, and national and international collaborators, none of this work would have been possible. He also values the continued support of leadership at MTSU within his department and college and through the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.

It is collaboration that makes his work enjoyable, and he is honored to have been nominated and receive this award.



Bess Rogers

Department of Recording Industry

Distinguished Early Career

Creative Activity Award

Bess Rogers is assistant professor in the Department of Recording Industry's Commercial Songwriting program and an award-winning singer/songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and music producer whose work has been featured in national advertising campaigns, on hit television series, and at venues across the world.

Rogers graduated from State University of New York at Purchase with a master's degree in Studio Composition. For nearly a decade, she was lead guitarist and backup singer for platinum-selling artist Ingrid Michaelson. Together they performed on iconic stages such as Madison Square Garden in New York, on live television including *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* and *Good Morning America*, and on many of Michaelson's records. Rogers was also co-producer on Michaelson's album *Songs for the Season Deluxe Edition*, which included a duet with musician and actress Zooey Deschanel.

Rogers has released four solo records, and her original songs have been featured on many TV shows including *Pretty Little Liars*, *One Tree Hill*, and *Love Is Blind*, as well as in advertisements for brands such as Cheerios, Mott's, Hershey's, Google, Facebook, New Balance, Cadillac, and more. Her rock band, Secret Someones, released their self-titled album on Interscope/Cherrytree Records and toured internationally with artists such as Feist, Ingrid Michaelson, Marianas Trench, A Great Big World, and more. Rogers also played guitar in Broadway's first all-female pit band for The Go-Go's musical, *Head Over Heels*.

After moving from New York to Nashville, Rogers joined MTSU's Recording Industry faculty. In her first year, she collaborated with filmmaker and colleague Allie Sultan on "We Do It All," a commercial showcasing MTSU's College of Media and Entertainment that centered around an original song written by Rogers' students and co-produced by Rogers. The spot was broadcast nationally on CMT and has won numerous awards, including an Emmy for Best Commercial Spot and three Silver Telly awards.

Currently, Rogers is writing an audio sci-fi drama called *Moonbound*, which will be released as an Audible Original Series in 2025.



Kristine Potter

Department of Media Arts

Distinguished Early Career

Creative Activity Award

Kristine Potter, an assistant professor of Photography at MTSU, is an artist whose work often explores masculine archetypes, the American landscape, and the mythologizing of the past. She holds an M.F.A. in Photography from Yale University and a B.F.A. in Photography and a B.A. in Art History from the University of Georgia. Her first monograph, *Manifest*, was published by TBW Books in 2018, followed by her second, *Dark Waters*, published with Aperture in 2023. Major awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2018, the Grand Prix Images Vevey for 2019–20, and the Hariban Award in 2023. In 2024, she was nominated for the prestigious Deutsche Börse Prize in Photography.

Potter's work has been featured in prominent solo and group exhibitions nationally and internationally. Highlights include a major solo exhibition in 2024 at The Momentary, a venue of the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas. Other recent solo shows include Gallery Main in Kyoto, Japan; MiCamera in Milan; and the Institute for Contemporary Art in Chattanooga. Her work has been part of significant group exhibitions at the International Center of Photography in New York, Saatchi Gallery in London, Houston Center for Photography, and the High Museum of Art in Atlanta. She is represented by Sasha Wolf and Pace Gallery at international fairs such as Paris Photo and PhotoFairs in New York.

Potter's work is held in numerous public and private collections, including recent acquisitions by the High Museum of Art, the Swiss Camera Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, The Do Good Fund, Benrido Atelier, and Foundation Vevey.

Her work has been featured by prominent media outlets, including dedicated reviews in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Paris Review*, *Domani*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes*, *NPR*, *Juxtapoz*, *Oprah Daily*, and *Burnaway*. She is also included in several contemporary art compendiums, such as *A Long Arc: Photography and the American South*; *Photowork: Forty Photographers on Process and Practice*; *Dark Mirrors*; and *The Photograph as Contemporary Art*.

Potter's editorial commissions include work for *The New York Times*, *Time*, the *Financial Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *California Sunday*, often involving portraiture of notable figures like Rep. Adam Schiff and musicians such as Gillian Welch, David Rawlings, Sturgill Simpson, Maren Morris, and Lucinda Williams. She also accepts assignments to photograph resilient women from diverse backgrounds who advocate for justice and equality.



Allie Sultan

*Department of Media Arts
Distinguished Senior Career
Creative Activity Award*

Allie Sultan is an award-winning independent filmmaker whose work spans narrative fiction, documentary, and experimental modes. Her films have screened and won awards at over 60 domestic and international film festivals.

A graduate of the M.F.A. Cinema program at San Francisco State University, Sultan has worked as a picture and sound editor with some of the San Francisco Bay area's finest film production companies and organizations, including Francis Ford Coppola's American Zoetrope, ZAP Zoetrope Aubry Productions, Berkeley Sound Artists, the Bay Area Video Coalition, and Tippett Studio.

Sultan is an associate professor in the Department of Media Arts, where she teaches film/video editing, analog filmmaking, and web series production to the next generation of independent filmmakers. She also has taught filmmaking and video editing at Vanderbilt University, the Art Institute of Tennessee–Nashville, and the Bay Area Video Coalition.

She is a board member of the National Association of Television Arts and Sciences Midsouth chapter and a founding member of Edit Media, an initiative to promote diversity and inclusion in film production education. She has served as a board member for the University Film and Video Association, FilmNashville, and Women in Film and Television–Nashville. Sultan is currently leading the development of an M.F.A. in Film and Television at MTSU, which would be the first program of its kind at a public university in Tennessee.

Sultan directed, co-produced, and edited *Incognita's Infamous Adventures*, an award-winning musical superhero web series that is streaming on Amazon Prime. In February 2020, her micro-short film *Pearl Diver*, a feminist reimagining of the opera *Rigoletto* filmed and hand-processed on Kodak Super 8 motion picture film stock, was selected as a finalist for the inaugural Nashville Opera Film Noir contest. Sultan's most recent project, "We Do It All," a 60-second commercial spot on MTSU's College of Media and Entertainment produced in collaboration with music producer and colleague Bess Rogers, was broadcast nationally on CMT and has won numerous awards, including an Emmy for Best Commercial Spot and three Silver Telly awards. She is currently wrapping up post-production on a feature documentary about LGBTQ Christians titled *Prodigal Mary*.

She is an alumna of MTSU's Recording Industry program.



Paul A. Craig

*Department of Aerospace
Career Achievement Award*

Paul A. Craig came to MTSU as a college freshman in 1975. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Aerospace in 1979 and a master's in Aerospace Education in 1980. Craig became an Aviation Department chair at another school but returned to MTSU in 1993 and was hired as the University's first flight instructor. He earned his Education Specialist degree in 1995 and his Doctor of Education degree in 1998.

Craig is an airline transport pilot and Gold Seal flight instructor with authorization to teach instrument, multi-engine, and seaplane. He has won the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) District Flight Instructor of the Year award twice. He flew MTSU's executive airplane on over 150 trips, all over the country, with administrators, Tennessee Board of Regents members, faculty, staff, coaches, student-athletes, football sideline physicians, and the Blue Raider radio broadcast crew.

As of 2024, Craig has authored 15 books on aviation safety and flight training. His books have been translated into Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, and Polish. Two are audiobooks. He has published 21 peer-reviewed journal articles on his research. He has been the advising professor for 67 master's capstone projects, chair of five thesis committees, and chair of five Honors theses; he served on five dissertation committees as an outside subject matter expert at other universities.

Craig has worked for NASA as a principal investigator of four research projects and for the FAA as a curriculum and regulation writer. He also has provided testimony as an expert witness in court cases involving aviation accidents.

Along the way, Craig has won recognition from near and far. NASA awarded him the Turning Goals into Reality Award (2005). The University Aviation Association gave him the Wheatley Award, designating him the nation's most outstanding aviation educator (2004), and the Sorenson Award, as the nation's most outstanding aviation researcher (2014). From the MTSU College of Basic and Applied Sciences, Craig has won the Excellence in Grantsmanship Award (2008), the Excellence in Teaching Innovation Award (2011), and the Distinguished Research Award (2017). In 2018, the Tennessee Department of Transportation's Division of Aeronautics honored Craig with the Career Contributions to Aviation Award for the state.

In 2023, the MTSU Office of Research and Sponsored Programs recognized Craig for winning \$2.9 million in external funding and named him to its \$2 Million Club.

Since 2016, Craig has been the coordinator of the Master of Science in Aeronautical Sciences degree program, and his passion is for teaching the next generation of aviation professionals. He says: “My greatest success is realized when I board an airliner, and I am greeted by the airplane’s captain—who is one of my former students.”



EMERITI



Teaching

Research

Service



Leon Alligood

Professor Emeritus

Journalism and Strategic Media

Leon Alligood, an associate professor in the School of Journalism and Strategic Media at MTSU, is a native of Georgia. He earned a bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Georgia and an M.F.A. in Creative Nonfiction from Goucher College.

Before coming to MTSU in 2008, Alligood was a journalist for 30 years, with most of his service at the *Nashville Banner* and *The Tennessean*. During his career he won awards for his writing from the Associated Press, the Society of Professional Journalists, the National Newspaper Association, and the Tennessee Press Association. He was a finalist for the Dart Award (for coverage of trauma) and was an embedded reporter in Afghanistan and Iraq with units of the 101st Airborne Division from Fort Campbell.

At MTSU, Alligood was honored with the Ed Kimbrell Award, which is given annually by the School of Journalism and Strategic Media to recognize excellence in teaching. He was named a Dart Award Fellow at Columbia University and chosen to attend a weeklong course on how to train young journalists in covering traumatic issues. In 2017, he was inducted into the Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame. In 2018–19, he was president of the Southeast Journalism Conference and planned the organization's annual meeting on campus. In January 2024, he was named finalist for National Teacher of the Year, an award given each year by the Scripps Howard Fund to recognize outstanding classroom teaching practices.

Alligood has taught writing and multimedia courses, including a summer class that officially was named Feature Writing, but students dubbed it The Road Trip Class. For two and a half weeks, students lived in a small Tennessee town, producing content for a local media partner. He also developed the curriculum for the new Social Justice Journalism concentration.

He served as faculty adviser to *Sidelines*, a student-run media source, for more than a decade, as student journalists won more than 120 national, regional, and state awards. *Sidelines* alumni now work in all forms of media from large and small dailies, national online publications, National Public Radio affiliates, and television stations across the country.



Mike Alleyne

*Professor Emeritus
Recording Industry*

Mike Alleyne served as a professor in the Department of Recording Industry and is also a visiting professor at the Pop Akademie in Germany.

He is the co-editor of the anthology *Analyzing Recorded Music* (2023), which was nominated for a Society for Music Theory award; author of *The Essential Hendrix* (2020) and *The Encyclopedia of Reggae* (2012); contributing editor of *Rhythm Revolution* (2015); and co-editor of *Prince and Popular Music* (2020).

Born in London, he has lectured and presented conference papers internationally, publishing numerous book chapters and articles. His journal and periodical publications include *Popular Music and Society*, *Rock Music Studies*, *Journal on the Art of Record Production*, the award-winning *Grove Dictionary of American Music*, *Popular Music History*, *Ethnomusicology Forum*, the *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*, *Social and Economic Studies*, *Small Axe*, and *Billboard* magazine. He is an emeritus editor of the online *SAGE Business Case: Music Industry Series*.

His book chapter contributions appear in *The Cambridge Companion to the Electric Guitar* (2024); *The Beatles and Humour* (2023); *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Music Production* (2020); *Rihanna: Barbados World-Girl in Global Popular Culture* (2015); *Sound and Music in Film and Visual Media: An Overview* (2009); *Globalization, Diaspora and Caribbean Popular Culture* (2005); *Bob Marley: The Man & His Music* (2003); and *Culture and Mass Communication in the Caribbean* (2001), among other works. Alleyne contributed liner notes and project advice to the groundbreaking 9-CD box set *Smithsonian Anthology of Hip-Hop and Rap* (2021).

Alleyne was also an expert witness for the estate of legendary singer Marvin Gaye in the widely publicized “Blurred Lines” copyright infringement case, decided in favor of the estate in 2015.

In 2017, he co-organized the first popular music conference entirely dedicated to the life and career of the artist Prince; the successful event took place at the University of Salford in Manchester, England. He also taught a Masterclass at Salford in 2018 on copyright infringement issues in popular music. His involvement with popular music also includes roles as a writer and publisher member of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) and the Performing Right Society (PRS).



Jill Austin

Professor Emerita

Management

Jill Austin began her career at MTSU as an assistant professor in 1985. For 28 years, she served as department chair in what is now the Department of Management.

Austin has taught courses in business ethics, negotiation, decision-making, nonprofit management, and general management. She received MTSU's highest faculty honor, the Career Achievement Award, in 2023. She also has been recognized twice by MTSU for her contributions to online learning.

Most of Austin's research contributions have been in business ethics, nonprofit management, leadership, and college teaching and teaming. In the early years of her career, she wrote 92 comprehensive cases along with teaching notes for business strategy textbooks.

Austin is known for her commitment to service to the University, where she chaired several University-wide committees. She also served as co-chair of the MTSU National Women's History Month, president of the Faculty Senate, and coordinator of the Jones College IGNITE career planning program. She was one of the founding members of the Department Chairs Council in 1996 and led a committee in developing the Experiential Learning Scholars program, where she served as director from 2006–12.

Austin's passion for giving to the community is evident in her volunteer service on nonprofit boards. She served on the board for the United Way of Rutherford and Cannon Counties for 12 years, spent six years as board president of Kymari House, and is currently serving a second term on the MTSU Foundation board. She is the board president and co-founder of Murfreesboro's Dow Street Community Music School.

Austin has been recognized with Rutherford Cable's ATHENA Award, United Way's Volunteer of the Year, and the Harold Love Community Service Award.



Race Bergman

Professor Emeritus

Elementary and Special Education

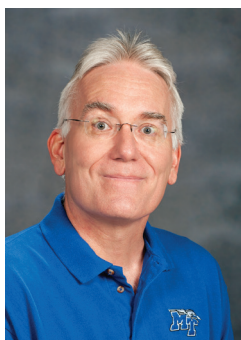
Throughout his remarkable 29-year career at Middle Tennessee State University, Race Bergman made invaluable contributions to the institution, students, and the broader academic community.

During his tenure at MTSU, Bergman served in various leadership roles within the Department of Elementary and Special Education, including associate chair and interim chair. These positions allowed him to shape the department's trajectory, advocate for resources, and foster an environment conducive to academic excellence. As a member of the graduate faculty and Honors faculty, he played a pivotal role in mentoring and inspiring the success of countless students.

Bergman's dedication to MTSU extended far beyond the classroom. His service on the Faculty Senate demonstrated his commitment to upholding the principles of shared governance and ensuring that the voices of faculty members were heard. Additionally, his role as an advisor for student organizations exemplified his ability to connect with students, provide guidance, and cultivate a sense of community.

Beyond his academic responsibilities, Bergman's involvement in various athletics roles, such as shot clock operator for basketball and scoreboard operator for football, showcased his versatility and unwavering support for MTSU's athletic programs. His service as the faculty athletics representative and compliance coordinator further underscored his dedication to ensuring the integrity of MTSU sports programs and upholding the values of fair play and sportsmanship.

Moreover, Bergman's service on numerous committees at MTSU highlight his collaborative spirit and willingness to contribute to the University's growth and development. His involvement in these committees allowed him to share his expertise and insights, shaping policies and initiatives for the betterment of our institution. Bergman has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to academic excellence, student success, and institutional advancement throughout his distinguished career.



Thomas M. Brinthaup

Professor Emeritus

Psychology

Tom Brinthaup has been a faculty member in the MTSU Department of Psychology since 1990. During his time at MTSU, Brinthaup mentored (as primary advisor or committee member) more than 100 students at the high school, undergraduate, master's, and doctoral levels. He also supervised more than 60 independent research and 12 Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity student projects. He had full graduate (1993–2024), Honors (1994–2024), and doctoral (2006–24) faculty status.

Brinthaup received MTSU Foundation Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology awards in 2007 and 2014. He is an internationally recognized researcher on the phenomenon of “self-talk” or internal conversations. He has also published extensively on the scholarship of teaching and learning. Brinthaup has published nine books and over 130 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters. He received more than \$317,000 in internal and external funding while at MTSU. He received the MTSU Foundation Distinguished Research Award in 2020.

In addition to his service on numerous departmental, college, and University committees, Brinthaup served as advisor for the MTSU Psi Chi Psychology National Honor Society/Psychology Club from 1995–2023. From 2007–11, he served as advisory board member for the Discovery Center at Murfree Spring. He also served on the Psychology Educators of Tennessee Planning Committee from 2010–19.

Brinthaup developed and served as coordinator of the Central Magnet School/ MTSU Psychology research partnership and senior thesis mentoring program from 2015–23. This partnership focuses on helping Central students complete their senior theses by matching them with interested faculty members at MTSU.

Brinthaup received the MTSU John Bragg Distinguished Service Award in 2006 and the College of Education and Behavioral Science University Community Award in 2007. He also served as a member of the MTSU Faculty Senate from 2010–13. Brinthaup received the MTSU Career Achievement Award in 2022.



Cathy Cooper

*Professor Emerita
Nursing*

Cathy Cooper joined MTSU's School of Nursing in 2008. She has a B.S.N. from Indiana State University, an M.S.N. in Nursing of Adults from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, and an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis. For 19 years, Cooper's clinical focus as a registered nurse and staff development consultant was in critical care, specifically cardiovascular surgery at St. Vincent's Hospital in Indianapolis. Before coming to MTSU, she taught for 13 years in the College of Nursing at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire.

Cooper was designated as a Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) through the National League for Nursing in 2009 and as a Certified Online Instructor (COI) through Learning Resources Network in 2019. As a COI, she reviewed both new and revised courses for online delivery as an online faculty mentor for MTSU Online.

During her tenure at MTSU, Cooper was a member of the Faculty Senate and many University committees, including serving as chair of several, as well as numerous departmental committees. In the School of Nursing, she taught in both the undergraduate and graduate Nursing programs and served as the associate director for the graduate program.

She has published original research and articles on a variety of health care related topics in academic and professional journals and wrote a continuing education course on anticoagulant therapy published by Western Schools. Cooper's research interests include promoting self-efficacy in individuals with chronic health conditions; pedagogical practices in nursing education; teaching and learning strategies for developing clinical reasoning skills; and assessment, recruitment, retention, and training of the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) workforce in long-term care.

Cooper has been a reviewer for *MedSurg Nursing Journal* and the *Journal of Physical Activity and Health* and a member of Sigma, the international nursing honor society, serving twice as president of MTSU's Xi Alpha Chapter. She also is on the boards of directors of Greenhouse Ministries and Community Helpers of Rutherford County.



Ellis Anthon Eff

Professor Emeritus

Economics and Finance

Ellis Anthon “Tony” Eff joined the Department of Economics and Finance as an assistant professor in 1990. With a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Texas, he has spent over 33 years teaching at various levels, including undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral programs. Eff believes in the simple joy of teaching, often stating, “If you like your students, you will enjoy teaching, and it is fortunate that MTSU students are easy to like.”

Since 1998, Eff has contributed to the Honors Program, teaching Honors Economics and participating in the Honors Council. He has supervised numerous Honors theses and served as a second reader for many more. His dedication to the program earned him the Outstanding Honors Faculty award in 2001 and the Honors College Exemplary Service Award in 2019.

In the Economics and Finance Department, Eff has taught core courses in econometrics and history of economic thought for 25 years and directed the master’s program for three years. He has been a member of over 40 doctoral dissertation committees. His research includes 27 peer-reviewed publications and presentations at nearly 40 academic conferences.

During his first 10 years at MTSU, Eff served as a core member of the newly established Business and Economic Research Center. In that capacity he authored or co-authored a score of studies commissioned by businesses, local governments, or other organizations. His main role was as editor of *Midstate Economic Indicators*, a quarterly four-page report focusing on the Nashville-area economy, sent to over 3,000 people from business, the media, and academia. His interaction with the media included not only the occasional op-ed or interview, but also a regular feature that appeared for four years in *Business Nashville* magazine.



Sonja Hedgepeth

Professor Emerita

World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Sonja Hedgepeth served in the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at MTSU from 1986–2023. She taught courses in German language, literature, and cultural history.

During her tenure at MTSU, Hedgepeth also taught in the Women’s and Gender Studies program and the Jewish and Holocaust Studies program, and for many years conducted a seminar on the Holocaust in the Honors College. She was a founding member of the MTSU Holocaust Studies Conference and often served as conference chair.

Hedgepeth had a distinguished research career with conference presentations in the U.S. and abroad, and her impactful research has been published in the form of many peer-reviewed articles and books. Her service to the University included numerous committee assignments, and she aided in bringing new ideas to fruition at MTSU, such as the creation of the Middle East Center.



Allen Hibbard

Professor Emeritus

English

Allen Hibbard grew up in a small apple-growing community in Washington State and now lives in Taos, New Mexico. He received his B.A. in International Studies from American University in Washington, D.C., and his Ph.D. in English from the University of Washington. He taught for four years (1985–89) at the

American University in Cairo and from 1992–94 was a Fulbright lecturer in American literature at Damascus University.

In 1990, he joined the English Department at MTSU. As graduate director in the department, he led efforts to create one of the first Ph.D. programs on campus. From 2006–23, he served as founding director of the MTSU Middle East Center. His research and teaching interests include American literature, modernism, postmodernism, literary theory, the novel, translation, and transnational movement, with a focus on interactions between the United States and the Arab world. For more than three decades, he has taught courses at all levels, from freshman composition to graduate seminars. Recently he added a class in creative nonfiction (a workshop) to his teaching repertoire.

Hibbard has written two books on Paul Bowles (*Paul Bowles: A Study of the Short Fiction*, 1993, and *Paul Bowles, Magic & Morocco*, 2004) and edited *Conversations with William S. Burroughs* (2000). A collection of his own stories has been published in Arabic (Damascus, 1994; Amman, 2021). His essays, stories, translations, and reviews have appeared in *American Literature*, *Centennial Review*, *Cimarron Review*, *Comparative Literature Studies*, *Grand Street*, *International Literary Quarterly*, *Interventions*, *Jadaliyya*, *Middle East Studies Bulletin*, *Passport*, and elsewhere. With his colleague Osama Esber, he has recently completed a translation of *A Banquet for Seaweed*, a novel by contemporary Syrian writer Haidar Haidar. He has also completed a draft of a biography of the quirky, wickedly talented contemporary Jewish-American writer Alfred Chester (1929–71).



Martha Hixon

Professor Emerita
English

A professor in the English Department, Martha Hixon taught undergraduate, graduate, and Honors courses in children's literature, children's films, and folk and fairy tales. A native of Louisiana and graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, she came to MTSU in 1999, joining the Honors faculty in 2000 and the graduate faculty in 2004. She won an Honors Faculty Award in 2003 and again in 2023, and an MTSU Teaching Award in 2012.

Highlights of her extensive service to the MTSU campus include co-directing a nationally respected children's literature conference hosted by MTSU from 1999–2009, spearheading the transfer of *Collage* to the Honors College in 2004, helping establish a departmental student children's literature group (ChLO), and serving on numerous committees for the Honors College, the English Department, and the University at large. On the national level, she served as a board member and then as president of the international Children's Literature Association. She also is active in the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts and the Mythopoeic Society.

Deeply committed to working with students, she directed over three dozen Honors theses, master's theses, and doctoral dissertations and served as reader for many others. She also supervised over two dozen individual graduate directed readings and a half-dozen undergraduate Honors Contracts. She developed several highly popular special topics classes for both undergraduates and graduate students in the English Department, plus an Honors 3500 seminar on folktales in literature and the arts; she designed and taught the Honors Transfer Fellows research class (UH 3900) several times since it began in 2013. Her contributions to the children's literature emphasis in the English Department helped make MTSU notable as one of the few English programs in the country to offer such a varied emphasis at either the graduate or undergraduate level.

Her own research focuses on contemporary versions of traditional fairytales and on children's fantasy texts. She co-edited the first collection of scholarly essays on the work of modern British children's fantasy author Diana Wynne Jones, *Diana Wynne Jones: An Exciting and Exacting Wisdom* (Peter Lang, 2002), and has had articles and reviews published in *Marvels and Tales: Journal of Fairy-Tale Studies*, *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*, *The Lion and the Unicorn*, and other venues. She presented regularly at national and international academic conferences.



Tony V. Johnston

*Professor Emeritus
Agriculture*

Tony V. Johnston was hired by the School of Agriculture in 1995. He served on the Faculty Senate as a member, as secretary, and as president; was MTSU's first Faculty Trustee; and served on 37 college and University committees over his 29-year MTSU career. Johnston taught 29 courses for multiple campus departments on general agriculture, food science, agribusiness, tourism, and fermentation science. He is probably best known for FERM 2500 – Wine Appreciation, which has been popular across campus for many years.

He founded the Fermentation Science B.S. program in 2017 and the Fermentation Science concentration within the Master of Science in Professional Science degree in 2019. He established formal agreements with academic institutions in three countries and conducted a joint seminar on the wines and distilled spirits produced in the U.S., Argentina, and Peru with two of these institutions in 2021.

Johnston is a member of the graduate and Honors College faculty and served as the faculty advisor for Delta Tau Alpha, the national agricultural honor society, and Alpha Gamma Rho, a social-professional fraternity. He is an active researcher, having been awarded \$3.2 million in internally and externally funded grants and published 31 peer-reviewed research articles, two textbooks, and a chapter of a book on education abroad at MTSU. He mentored 13 Honors students, four master's degree candidates, and three doctoral candidates over his academic career and currently serves on one Ed.D. and one Ph.D. committee.

Johnston was appointed by the governor of Tennessee to serve as the first university faculty member of the Tennessee Wine and Grape Board and is frequently asked to speak about wine, the wine industry, and grape production. As a strong advocate of study abroad, he took students abroad 30 times, teaching five different courses in Canada, Central and South America, and Europe.



Eric W. Klumpe

Professor Emeritus

Physics and Astronomy

Eric W. Klumpe is both an astronomer and an astronautical engineer. He received his bachelor's degree and master's degree in Astronautical Engineering from the California Institute of Technology and Stanford University, respectively. After a dozen years working at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory on the robotic exploration of the solar system, he went on to obtain master's degrees in both Physics and Astronomy and ultimately a Ph.D. in Astronomy from the University of Texas.

Klumpe joined the MTSU faculty in 1999 and was promoted to professor of Astronomy in 2009. He is a member of both the Honors College faculty and the Buchanan Fellowship faculty. Besides teaching introductory-level courses in astronomy and physics, he teaches theoretical physics, astrophysics, thermodynamics, modern physics, mathematical modeling, optics, observational astronomy, and the physics of music.

Along with astrodynamics, Klumpe's research focused on the exploration of the hidden interiors of stars by observing their "starquakes," or the pulsations on their surfaces. This technique is analogous to using earthquakes to study the interior of Earth. He has been a contributing author to 20 publications.

Within his first year at MTSU Klumpe initiated a public-outreach program in astronomy. It consists of a lecture-based presentation on an astronomy-related current event followed by a few hours of admiring the heavens through telescopes. This popular program continues to attract dozens of guests every month.

He designed the Uranidrome (a hands-on, naked-eye observatory) and the telescope observatory on the campus of MTSU in 2003, both funded by a generous \$1.5 million NASA earmark. The Uranidrome was recognized as an example of Engineering Excellence by the American Council of Engineering Companies in 2007.

Klumpe was named a Fellow in the Royal Astronomical Society for contributions made in the areas of research, education, and public outreach in astronomy.



Stephen D. Morris

Professor Emeritus

Political and Global Affairs

Stephen Morris joined MTSU in 2009 as chair of the Department of Political Science after 20 years directing the International Studies program at the University of South Alabama. He has published a number of books and articles, mainly on Mexican politics and political corruption; delivered nearly 100 conference papers at regional, national, and international academic organizations; given multiple talks on corruption in both Mexico and the U.S.; received a Fulbright award to teach and conduct research at the University of Guadalajara; conducted research and directed the Institute of the Study of Corruption and Transparency at Mexico's National University; advised Mexico's secretary of Public Affairs on anti-corruption policy; and led a handful of study abroad programs to various parts of Mexico, Honduras, and Cuba.

His most recent books include *The Corruption Debates: Left vs. Right—and Does It Matter—in the Americas* (Lynne Rienner, 2021) and *The Corruption Dilemma: Controlling the Power of the Powerful* (Lynne Rienner, 2022). He has also served as president, vice president, and in different positions on the executive committee for the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies.

In the classroom, he has taught courses in comparative politics, Latin American politics, political corruption, Mexican and U.S. foreign policies, global issues, research methods, and doing business in Mexico and Latin America, in both English and Spanish. In addition to serving as department chair from 2009–17, Morris also chaired the Chairs Council and participated in an array of other college and University committees, including chairing search committees for the departments of History and Sociology and Anthropology, serving on the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) Promotion and Tenure Committee, the CLA Advisory Committee, the search committee for the dean of the University College, and the FOCUS committee set up to redraft the University's academic policies for the transition from the Tennessee Board of Regents to an independent Board of Trustees.



Michael Principe

Professor Emeritus

Philosophy and Religious Studies

Michael Principe earned his A.B. degree from the University of Michigan and his Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University. After a year as a lecturer at Vanderbilt, he joined MTSU's Philosophy Department in 1987. Over those 37 years, he is humbled to have taught thousands of students while aspiring to bring rigor, authenticity, and a bit of fun to the classroom. As his department expanded, he is proud of having actively served on 10 faculty search committees, chairing six of them. In addition, in 1992, he and his colleagues founded the tremendously successful and ongoing lecture series *The Applied Philosophy Lyceum*.

Along with regularly serving on department, college, and University committees, Principe has served as the faculty advisor to several student organizations over the years. As the longtime adviser to MT Solidarity, he advised students on how to pursue their ambition of making space for revolutionary socialist politics on campus and in the community through a range of events, campaigns, and actions. He was also a founding member of the MTSU chapter of United Campus Workers/Communications Workers of America (Local 3865), holding elected office both on campus and statewide. As a retiree, Principe plans to remain an active member of the union.

Principe is a past president of the Tennessee Philosophical Association and has made many presentations locally, nationally, and sometimes as part of a Radical Philosophy Association delegation to Cuba. He has authored over 40 articles and reviews, which have appeared in such publications as *International Studies in Philosophy*, *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, *Teaching Philosophy*, *The Journal of Social Philosophy*, *The International Journal of Applied Philosophy*, *Radical Philosophy Review*, *Socialism and Democracy*, *Against the Current*, and *Marx and Philosophy Review of Books*.



Cliff Ricketts

Professor Emeritus

Agriculture

Cliff Ricketts served MTSU from 1976 to 2016—a 40-year career as a Blue Raider. Ricketts is a decorated instructor and researcher who received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Tennessee and his Ph.D. from Ohio State University in Agricultural Education, Career-Technical Education, and Teacher Education. He attended MTSU for three years and had to transfer to UT to earn a certificate to teach high school agriculture.

As a high school educator, he was a beloved teacher whose students excelled at the highest levels, as evidenced by his winning the National Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association Award. He excelled at developing students' leadership skills through the Future Farmers of America (FFA). His students won the state FFA Parliamentary Procedure Contest and the state FFA Creed Speaking Contest (four times) and were awarded runner-up in Public Speaking and National Extemporaneous Speaking.

After six years as a high school teacher, Ricketts began his storied career at MTSU. In addition to teaching a full load each semester and most summers, he was a trusted advisor to students and a dedicated servant to his agriculture teacher constituents in Tennessee, and he managed a research program in alternative agriculture energy. Ricketts made approximately 1,000 presentations on leadership development and alternative fuels and authored five textbooks.

Because of his classroom, laboratory, writing, and outreach education experiences, he received the MTSU Foundation's Outstanding Public Service Award and its Outstanding Teacher Award twice. He was a finalist for the Foundation's Outstanding Research Award, a 2009 recipient of the MTSU Career Achievement Award, and recipient of the 2013 President's Silver Column Award. Though retired, Ricketts is still involved in production agriculture with a beef cattle operation on his family farm east of Nashville.



Cindi Smith-Walters

Professor Emerita

Biology

Cindi Smith-Walters joined the Biology faculty in fall 1993 and had a significant, lasting impact on undergraduate and doctoral-level students. Her favorite class was Life Science for Elementary and Middle Grades Educators, which prepared future educators to teach life sciences with a focus on “how to think” not

“what to think” about nature and natural systems.

Smith-Walters received multiple awards for her teaching, including the College of Basic and Applied Sciences Teaching Excellence Award, the Tennessee and National Project Learning Tree Educator of the Year, Tennessee Academy of Science Distinguished University Teacher, Tennessee Science Teachers Association Outstanding College Teacher, the MTSU Foundation Outstanding Teaching Award, Tennessee Wildlife Federation Outstanding Conservation Educator, and the Tennessee Academy of Science College Teaching Award.

Smith-Walters served as director of the MTSU Center for Environmental Education. Under her leadership the CEE received over \$3.5 million in grants and contracts. These awards connected MTSU to local, state, and regional partners, serving the residents of Tennessee. Her efforts to benefit the environment involved taking individuals from awareness to action. Smith-Walters was a founding board member of the Tennessee Naturalist Program and is still an active volunteer today.

She earned the MTSU Foundation Award for Outstanding Public Service (twice), the CBAS Outstanding Grantsmanship Award, an MTSU Foundation Special Projects Award, CBAS Excellence in Public Service Award, a Silver Telly, the Tennessee Governor’s Award for Conservation and Stewardship, and the Outstanding Service and Lifetime Achievement Award from the Tennessee Environmental Education Association. Lastly, she served as president and was named a Fellow of the Tennessee Academy of Science.

Smith-Walters is the author or co-author of over 52 peer-reviewed research publications that include both book chapters and scholarly articles on science teaching and learning.



Barbara Turnage

Professor Emerita

Social Work

Barbara Turnage, a professor of Social Work, recently concluded her tenure in the Department of Social Work. Her distinguished career at MTSU included roles such as associate dean from 2017 to 2022, acting dean in 2020, and interim dean from 2022–23 for the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences. A proud alumna of the

University of Nebraska at Omaha, Turnage earned her Bachelor of Science in Social Work in 1982 and her Master of Social Work in 1987. She further advanced her academic journey at Tulane University's School of Social Work, where she completed her Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1998 and where she was honored with a four-year Regent's Fellowship.

Turnage's social work career informed her teaching, research, service, and mentoring. That experience included: (1) delivering social services to families with young children; (2) conducting parent training to new mothers, educating them on child development, and instructing both undergraduate and graduate social work students on child-related services; (3) guiding students in the creation and assessment of community programs, as well as the evaluation of their clinical and programmatic effectiveness; (4) assisting families dealing with physical and mental health challenges, and empowering clients to manage chronic health conditions; and (5) offering counseling to methadone patients and individuals facing self-harm or harm to others.

Through each of these experiences, Turnage has observed the profound impact that knowledge—or the lack thereof—can have on hopelessness. The insights she has gained from her practice skills and research form the foundation of her pedagogical approach. Committed to community engagement, she actively participates in initiatives that benefit the Murfreesboro area and amplify MTSU's community involvement. In addition, Turnage dedicates herself to mentoring and supporting a diverse group of students, staff, and peers from five universities. She is devoted to fostering the professional and scholarly growth of her mentees, viewing mentorship as a mutually beneficial learning opportunity.



Raholanda White

Professor Emerita
Marketing

Raholanda White received her Doctor of Philosophy in Business Education with a support area in Higher and Adult Education and an external focus in Management from the University of Missouri. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in the areas of business communication, technology, and women and

minorities in business.

White received the Outstanding Innovative Instructional Practices Paper Award at the National Delta Pi Epsilon Conference in 2010. In 2012, she studied identity, race, and culture in the Afro-Brazilian community in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. White was recognized in 2014 by the Non-Traditional Organization (adult learners) at MTSU. In addition, she had the privilege and honor of teaching business communication at Guangxi University in Nanning, China, during the summers of 2015, 2016, and 2019. White was also selected to be a member of the 2018–19 Global Perspectives Faculty Learning Community at MTSU.

Her research interests include teaching business communication, cross-cultural communication, and intercultural communication to Chinese and American students. White's most recent research article, "Communication with a Special Emphasis on Intercultural Communication," was published in the *Journal of Higher Education Theory and Practice* in 2019. White is honored to have been selected in 2020 to serve as co-chair of the board of directors for an African American farmers project.

White also serves on the board of directors for the June Anderson Foundation at MTSU as well as a board member for Organized Neighbors of Edgehill (O.N.E.) Barnes Scholarship and the Belmont Opportunity Scholarship.

She has been a voice for women and minorities in higher education by participating in conferences for women in higher education in Tennessee and interning for the Tennessee Higher Education Commission while participating in the Maxine Smith Fellows Program.

FACULTY

TENURED AND
PROMOTED



*T*hrough 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.



Mark N. Callender

Department of Aerospace

Promoted to Professor

Mark “Nate” Callender joined the Aerospace Department in 2005. He earned a Ph.D. in Engineering Science and an M.S. in Aviation Systems from the University of Tennessee Space Institute. He teaches courses within and coordinates the Aerospace Technology concentration; supervises the Aerospace Technology Laboratory;

mentors undergraduate and graduate researchers (Aerospace Technology seniors, URECA Scholars, Honors students, and master’s students); chairs departmental and University committees; is a member of the EXL, Honors, and graduate faculty; and is an associate chair of the Aerospace Department. His areas of specialization are in low Reynolds number aerodynamics, propeller/rotor noise reduction, fixed-wing flight testing, and fixed-wing glide performance.

Callender tries to inspire his students in the pursuit of wisdom by pursuing it himself. He wants his students to discover the truth of the proverb “Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding” (Proverbs 3:13). He hopes to exemplify calmness of temper and judgment inside and outside of the classroom.

Callender has incorporated glider design competitions, flight testing (simulated and actual), and wind tunnel usage (actual and virtual) into AERO 1020, 3440, and 4440. He has used several systems, including an autonomous robot, to record lectures that he provides to students upon request. Over 1,500 lectures have been recorded to date.

Callender was recognized for Outstanding EXL Collaborations, for being an influential faculty member, and as a professor who makes a difference. He has received the College of Basic and Applied Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award and the LEGACY student club’s Most Challenging Class Award. He was awarded MTSU’s Outstanding Teacher Award in 2015 and the University’s Outstanding Honors Faculty Award in 2018.



Misa Faezipour

*Department of Engineering Technology
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Misa Faezipour received her Ph.D. and M.S. from the University of Texas at Arlington in Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering. Her research interests lie in the broad area of system dynamics modeling, complex systems, sustainability, product and process

management optimization, and applications of systems engineering in various areas such as health care systems.

Faezipour's theoretical focus is health systems engineering: improving health care quality, efficiency, and logistics using systems engineering methods and optimization techniques. Her research has appeared in well-ranked journals such as *IEEE Systems, Electronics, Applied System Innovation, and Healthcare*, as well as prestigious IEEE, Springer Nature, and System Dynamics conference proceedings. She received the best presentation award at the 2023 International Conference on Systems Thinking and System Dynamics and the 2024 International Conference on Healthcare Informatics.

In addition, Faezipour has served as the program committee member/chair/reviewer of several technical conferences including INCOSE, System Dynamics Society Conference, and the International Annual Conference of the American Society for Engineering Management. Faezipour is the recipient of MTSU's College of Basic and Applied Sciences 2020–21 Faculty Service Award. She is a member of INCOSE, IEEE, IEEE Women in Engineering, INFORMS, IISE, ASEM, and System Dynamics Society professional organizations and societies.



Francesca Gruppi

Department of Chemistry

Promoted to Senior Instructor

Francesca Gruppi graduated from Università di Parma in Organic Chemistry and she obtained her Ph.D. in Material Science from the same university. She continued her training at New York University, focusing on the detection of metals in live cells. Additionally, she began teaching organic chemistry to undergraduate students utilizing traditional and nontraditional teaching approaches.

Upon moving to Nashville, she worked at Vanderbilt University as a postdoctoral fellow and, later, as a research assistant professor on the identification of adducts between DNA bases and carcinogens. She then started her teaching career at MTSU as laboratory coordinator. In this capacity her focus has been on increasing student engagement through more hands-on experiments.

Over the years, she has updated and implemented novel procedures and techniques, particularly for students enrolled in pre-health pathways. She has been involved in the training and supervision of graduate teaching assistants and has participated in designing new grants to enhance students' learning experiences.



Jon Huddleston

*School of Concrete and
Construction Management*

Promoted to Clinical Professor

Jon Huddleston is director of the Concrete Industry Management (CIM) program. He is also an alumnus, having earned both his B.S. in Concrete Industry Management and his M.B.A. from MTSU. Before joining MTSU as an assistant professor, he instructed students and conducted research as the CIM lab director from 2007–14.

Huddleston teaches CIM courses at the junior and senior level, including concrete construction methods, understanding concrete construction, management of concrete product facilities/ordering, senior concrete lab, decorative concrete, and production sales and service capstone.

He has been involved in many industry field studies and research grants for the Tennessee Department of Transportation. His current research includes pozzolanic materials and their effects on concrete properties and performance, and the use of microfiber treatment with fiber strand fibrillation in concrete.

Huddleston often works around the campus, as his decorative concrete and construction methods classes have been responsible for several on-campus concrete pours and decorative applications, including the Raider Walk. Huddleston has also promoted experiential learning with his students by leading study abroad trips to Sosua, Dominican Republic, to build concrete reef habitats for coral reef restoration, as well as to the Constructionarium at the United Kingdom's National Construction College in Bircham Newton, England, where students built a scaled replica of a cable-stayed concrete bridge.

Most recently, Huddleston led the efforts to successfully raise funds for the new \$40.1 million School of Concrete and Construction Management Building.



Rachel Leander

Department of Mathematical Sciences

Promoted to Professor

Rachel Leander received her Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematics from the University of Tennessee under the supervision of Suzanne Lenhart. She was a postdoctoral fellow at the Mathematical Biosciences Institute, where her work was directed by Avner Friedman (mathematics) and Larry Schlessinger (immunology).

Leander's research in modeling and optimal control has influenced the design of biological control problems and mathematical models in immunology and yielded new insights into the mechanisms underlying the pathogenesis of disease, the dynamics of epidemics, and the regulation of diverse biological growth processes. Her work is distributed through publications in high-impact journals with international audiences, including *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, *Epidemiology and Infection*, *PLoS Pathogens*, *PLoS Computational Biology*, *PLoS One*, *AIMS Mathematics*, *Optimal Control Applications and Methods*, and *Royal Society Open Science*, and through invited presentations at national meetings, including the SIAM Conference on Control and its Applications (Pittsburgh, 2017); the Joint Meeting of the American Mathematical Society (AMS) and Mathematical Association of America (MAA) (virtual, 2021); and the AIMS Conference on Dynamical Systems, Differential Equations and Applications (Wilmington, N.C., 2023).

A passionate educator, Leander has mentored eight graduate and 17 undergraduate students in research. Her mentorship of student research was supported in part through an NSF-funded Research Experiences for Undergraduates Site: Computational Modeling and Simulation in Applied Sciences.

Leander is also active in service. She regularly chairs committees at the department and college level, leads departmental curriculum development, and referees for professional journals. She served with distinction as Faculty Senate recording secretary (2016–17) and was a recipient of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences Faculty Service Award (2017). As evidence of her service to students, she was recognized three times as an instructor that makes a difference in the lives of students (May 2020, August 2020, and May 2023).



Vajira Manathunga

Department of Mathematical Sciences

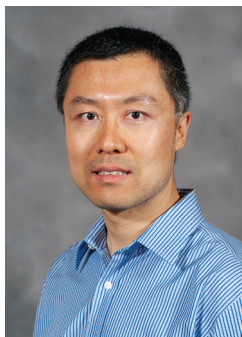
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Vajira Manathunga holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka; a Master of Science in Mathematics from Middle Tennessee State University; and a Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematics from the University of Tennessee. He is an Actuarial Science faculty member, having passed six actuarial exams, and

holds several professional certifications.

Manathunga’s research interests include natural language processing, premium risk, pricing catastrophic risk, and the application of AI and machine tools in actuarial science. He played a key role in elevating MTSU’s Actuarial Science program to the prestigious Center of Actuarial Excellence status, awarded by the Society of Actuaries. Additionally, he was instrumental in bringing to MTSU the Actuarial Research Conference, one of the main research conferences in actuarial science, which was held July 18–20, 2024.

Before joining MTSU, Manathunga was at Austin Peay State University, where he developed the Actuarial Science program; the Society of Actuaries has now recognized it as an advanced curriculum. Manathunga has secured one external and three internal research grants and is actively involved in academic mentorship, currently co-supervising one Ph.D. student and several graduate and undergraduate students.



Lei Miao

*Department of Engineering Technology
Promoted to Professor*

Lei Miao earned his Ph.D. from Boston University and his master's and bachelor's degrees from Northeastern University in China. From 2006 to 2009, he was with Nortel Networks in Billerica, Massachusetts, where he developed ultra-high-speed ethernet routing switches and several IEEE protocols, including IEEE 802.1ah

Provider Backbone Bridges.

Miao was a visiting assistant professor at the University of Cincinnati from 2009–11, then worked as a wireless networking and software engineer with NuVo Technologies/Legrand North America from 2011–14. In this role, he designed, optimized, and tested NuVo wireless whole-home audio systems. He was an assistant professor at the State University of New York at Farmingdale in 2014–15, then joined MTSU in 2015 as an assistant professor; he was promoted to associate professor in 2020.

Miao has had more than 20 years of research and development experience in system control and optimization, information systems, engineering education, and intelligent transportation systems. He has published one book, one book chapter, and 44 papers in referred conferences and journals, including *IEEE INFOCOM*, *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*, and *IEEE Transactions on Control of Network Systems*. His work has been supported by various external funding agencies, including the Federal Highway Administration, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Tennessee Board of Regents, Amazon Inc., and Nashville Department of Transportation.

Miao has had over 20 national or international oral presentations as a conference attendee, an invited speaker, or a keynote speaker. Two of his conference papers received the best paper/presentation award. He has organized or has been a technical program committee member for 20 international conferences. He has served as chapter chair, session chair, or track chair for 11 international conferences. Miao has been a reviewer for dozens of international journals and conferences. He was the guest editor of special issue “Advances in Smart City and Intelligent Transportation Systems” for MDPI’s journal *Sustainability*. He is also the program director of the 2024 National Summer Transportation Institute.



Mina Mohebbi

*Department of Engineering Technology
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Mina Mohebbi earned her Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Pennsylvania State University and began her role as an assistant professor in the Department of Engineering Technology in fall 2017. She holds a B.S. from Tehran Polytechnic and an M.S. from the University of Tehran, both in Civil and

Environmental Engineering. Her teaching at MTSU encompasses environmental science and technology, occupational health and safety, and fundamental engineering. She has developed and redesigned many undergraduate and graduate courses, both in-person and online, and mentors undergraduate research through URECA scholarships, independent study courses, and grants, leading to numerous student awards at Scholars Week and other conferences.

Her research focuses on sustainable materials, waste-to-energy practices, environmental impacts of coal and biomass combustion by-products, and microplastics in food waste streams. Her work is published in high-impact journals such as the *Journal of Cleaner Production*, *Fuel*, and *American Society for Testing and Materials' Advances in Civil Engineering Materials*, and she received the 2019 Outstanding Article Award from *Advances in Civil Engineering Materials*.

Collaborating with researchers from the University of Kentucky, University of Waterloo, and Dalhousie University, she addresses pressing environmental issues. She has secured internal grants through MT-IGO and CBAS Bridge Funding and was co-principal investigator on the \$447,000 GAANN Fellowship grant from 2019–22. She has submitted 13 proposals for internal and external grants, totaling over \$3 million, with colleagues from Chemistry, Biology, Agriculture, the School of Concrete and Construction Management, and the Master of Science in Professional Science program. She also supervised a campuswide survey study on classroom ergonomics, with over 800 students participating.

She actively promotes the retention and success of nontraditional graduate students in Engineering Technology and coordinates the Occupational Health and Safety program. Her committee work includes search committees, Scholars Week, CBAS Research and Retention committees, and the MTSU Library Committee. She is a frequent reviewer for various journals, conference papers, a National Science Foundation (NSF) proposal panel, and Environmental Research and Education Foundation (EREF) proposals, and she has been a member of the Geochemical Society, American Ceramic Society, and MentorNet community, supporting underserved STEM students.



Todd Moore

Department of Geosciences

Tenured

Todd Moore holds a Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, and Doctor of Philosophy from Texas State University–San Marcos. Since completing his degrees, he has served as assistant and associate professor and graduate coordinator at Towson University, and as associate professor, professor, and chair at Fort Hays State University. He is now beginning his tenure and service as professor and chair of the Department of Geosciences.

Moore has taught various Earth systems science, weather, and climate courses, along with advanced undergraduate and graduate courses on research methods and scientific writing. He is passionate about exploring and applying nontraditional teaching and assessment methods that are inclusive and encourage active learning and research.

Moore's research on the intersections of climate, weather, and society has led to collaborations with colleagues and students, advancing understanding of the spatial patterns of tornadoes in the United States and how and why these patterns vary over time. He has published numerous papers in top journals, including *npj Climate and Atmospheric Science*, *International Journal of Climatology*, *Climate Dynamics*, *Theoretical and Applied Climatology*, and the *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*. His research has also been featured in regional, national, and international media outlets.



Chaney Mosley

School of Agriculture

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Chaney Mosley holds an Associate of Health Science in Medical Laboratory Technology from George Washington University, a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness from MTSU, a Master of Education in Administration and Supervision from MTSU, an Educational Specialist in Educational Leadership from the University of West Georgia, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural and Extension Education from Virginia Tech. He most recently was named the director of the School of Agriculture.

Over the past six years at MTSU, he has served as principal investigator or co-PI on numerous federally funded grant projects securing a combined total of external funding of more than \$31 million. Since he assumed the role of agricultural education professor, the number of program graduates has increased by 233%. Mosley raised \$25,000 in less than two years to establish an endowment creating a permanently funded scholarship for undergraduate students pursuing agricultural education degrees. He has served on six University committees and represents MTSU on six external committees and boards, including a governor-appointed position on the Tennessee Farmers Suicide Prevention Task Force. He currently serves on the board of directors for the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), having just completed a year of service as president for the more than 27,000 members.

Mosley has more than 20 years of experience in educational leadership that encompasses administration, teaching, outreach, policy, and research. He completed the National Leadership Fellowship with ACTE and has helped formulate and implement local, state, and national education policy. He was featured on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* and in *USA Today* and, by invitation, twice participated in the Clinton Global Initiative America focused on opportunity for youth.

Mosley has authored/co-authored more than 35 empirical and practical articles about education and workforce development; presented more than 55 professional development workshops to educational leaders, researchers, and practitioners; and delivered the keynote address at five conferences. His research interests focus on suicide awareness and prevention in the agriculture industry, career and technical education, and workforce development.



Richard Nagorski

Department of Chemistry

Tenured

Richard Nagorski has a Doctor of Philosophy in Organic Chemistry from the University of Alberta and a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry with minors in Mathematics and Biology from Brandon University, both in Canada. His Ph.D. work focused on the mechanistic aspects of electrophilic halogenation in polar solvents and led to a better understanding of the mechanism of the reaction, its intermediates, isolation and identification of the intermediate, and the lifetime of that intermediate in solution.

His research interests during his independent career have focused on the mechanisms of organic reactions in water. These studies are of broad interest due to their elucidation of the reaction mechanisms of compounds that are biologically significant. Such studies can probe and shed light on the methods and mechanisms by which biological processes occur, thus providing insight into catalytic methods utilized by enzymatic systems. The work has been supported by a variety of agencies, such as the Petroleum Research Fund, Research Corporation, and the National Science Foundation. The work generated has been presented nationally and internationally at a variety of conferences. He and his collaborators have published 25 articles in journals such as *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, *Journal of Organic Chemistry*, *ChemistrySelect*, *Tetrahedron Letters*, *Organic Letters*, and others.

Prior to moving to MTSU in 2024 to serve the Department of Chemistry as its chair, Nagorski was at Illinois State University for 27 years, moving through the ranks to the title of professor, in addition to serving as the associate chair of graduate programs for nine years. During his years at Illinois State, 17 students received their master's degrees working in his lab and approximately 120 undergraduates performed research in his lab. This work led to 65 national and international presentations, and 70 regional and internal presentations.



Peter Neff

Department of Aerospace

Tenured and Promoted to Professor

Peter Neff began his career as a professor in the Department of Aerospace at Middle Tennessee State University in August 2017. He teaches courses in crew resource management, aviation safety, and professional aviation pathways—a seminar that prepares students to transition into working aviation professionals.

Additionally, Neff teaches the professional pilot V capstone course that provides students with the experiential opportunity to transition from flying single-engine aircraft to flying a twin-engine, turbojet, multi-crew aircraft.

Neff earned a B.S. in Engineering from Trinity College, a master's in Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration from Walden University.

Neff has completed successful careers in the military, industry, and government. He served as an Air Force pilot for nearly 30 years across the active, Reserve, and Guard components. After completion of his active-duty service, Neff began his 32-year career as a major airline pilot. He retired as an airline pilot in 2006 and began his career in government as an aviation safety inspector for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). He served as the deputy assistant manager of the FAA Air Transport Division and as the manager of the Long Beach, California, Aircraft Evaluation Group.

Neff has published several articles, including: “The Five Hazardous Attitudes, A Subset of Complacency,” *International Journal of Aviation, Aeronautics, and Aerospace* (2022); “Risk – A Multi-Layered Approach,” *International Journal of Aviation, Aeronautics, and Aerospace* (2020); and “Crew Resource Management for Large Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operations,” *International Journal of Aviation, Aeronautics, and Aerospace* (2019). He presented a paper titled “Identifying and Mitigating Human Factors Errors in Unmanned Aircraft Systems” with Garman, K. E. (2016, June) at the 16th AIAA Aviation Technology, Integration, and Operations Conference in Washington, D.C. His doctoral dissertation, “Unmanned Aircraft Systems: The Mitigation of Human Factors Errors Through Training,” was published by ProQuest in 2016.



David E. Nelson

Department of Biology

Promoted to Professor

David E. Nelson holds a B.S. in Applied Biochemistry and a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from the University of Liverpool in England. He performed his postdoctoral research at the Harvard Medical School Department of Systems Biology and at the University of Cambridge Department of Pathology before joining the faculty in

the Department of Biology in December 2013. He teaches undergraduate courses in anatomy and physiology and in cell and molecular biology as well as graduate courses in cell metabolism and human disease.

His research interests include cell signaling, immunology, inflammation, and the innate immune response to fungal pathogens. His work has been published in *Science*, *Nature Neuroscience*, *The Journal of Biological Chemistry*, *Journal of Cell Science*, and other journals.

Funded by the National Institutes of Health since 2018 and currently supported by an R15 Academic Research Enhancement Award grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), the Nelson lab is investigating how *Cryptococcus neoformans*, a fungal pathogen that mainly causes disease in immunocompromised individuals, escapes destruction by host macrophages. In particular, the Nelson lab is interested in how this facultative intracellular yeast alters the fungicidal activity, physiology, and fate of infected macrophages. His lab studies this using a range of techniques and technologies, including live cell microscopy, transcriptomics, and a range of biochemical methods. His research program has enabled him to mentor and train numerous undergraduate and graduate students over the past 11 years, many of whom have continued in biomedical research at Ph.D. and postdoctoral programs at R1 institutions, including Vanderbilt, Johns Hopkins, Duke, and North Carolina State, and the National Institutes of Health Intramural NIAID Research Opportunities program.



Joshua L. Phillips

*Department of Computer Science
Promoted to Professor*

Joshua L. Phillips has a B.S. in Computer Science from Middle Tennessee State University, an M.S. in Computer Science from Vanderbilt University, and a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from the University of California, Merced. He worked as a Nicholas C. Metropolis Postdoctoral Fellow at Los

Alamos National Laboratory before joining the Department of Computer Science at MTSU in 2014 as an assistant professor.

Phillips' research interests are in AI, machine learning, and computational biology/biophysics. Examples include neurobiologically inspired models of working memory for robust AI; unsupervised machine learning applied to computational electrostatics for protein engineering and HIV vaccine development; AI-inspired methods for accelerating in silico protein folding; and deep learning models for high-throughput DNA sequencing analysis. He is the author of over 40 peer-reviewed publications and has collaboratively helped secure over \$3.5 million in funding from the National Science Foundation for student scholarships, undergraduate research, and applied machine learning research.

He has graduated three Ph.D. students in the Computational and Data Science doctoral program; contributed to the development of MTSU's B.S. in Data Science; and served as the organizer of HackMT, the Computer Science Department's annual hack-a-thon, for the last five years. Phillips is currently supporting the development of quantum computing initiatives/programs in collaboration with the Department of Physics and Astronomy.



Andrea Rego

School of Agriculture

Promoted to Senior Instructor

Teaching and coaching have been a lifelong passion for Andrea Rego. Rego holds a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science from Berry College and a Master of Science in Horse Science, focusing in Equine Education, from Middle Tennessee State University. In addition to teaching numerous courses in horse science and animal science for the School of Agriculture, Rego has led the MTSU Stock Horse Team to national and reserve national champion team status seven times during her career. Rego has also assisted in coaching the MTSU equestrian team to becoming two-time Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association National Western Team Champion in 2023 and 2024. Rego has also coached numerous students to individual national success during her time at MTSU.

In 2021, Rego was awarded MTSU's Student Organization Advisor of the Year. She enjoys encouraging and mentoring students of all backgrounds to greater success while helping them develop their passion and skill set for their future career. Rego is recognized in the equine industry nationally by the Certified Horsemanship Association as a master instructor and actively competes professionally on a local and national level.

While recognition of successes is always rewarding, Rego's most treasured role at MTSU is coordinating the Center of Equine Recovery for Veterans (CERV), an equine-assisted therapy program that has helped over 150 veterans by providing mental health services with the Veteran Recovery Center in Murfreesboro.

Rego has been committed to community service in the equine industry on a local and national scale, serving as the educational liaison of the Tennessee Stock Horse Association since 2018, the national secretary for the National Intercollegiate Ranch and Stock Horse Association since 2020, and the treasurer of the American Stock Horse Association since 2021. Rego has led students and members of the community as a teacher, coach, and advisor and looks forward to the continued impact she can make in the years to come.



Carlos Smith

Department of Aerospace

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Carlos Smith holds a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Industrial Technology with an emphasis in Industry Electronics from Tennessee State University and a Master of Science in Aviation Administration with a concentration in Aviation Education from Middle Tennessee State University. His research and presentations focus on improving aerospace education; increasing the presence of underrepresented students in aviation; and addressing aviation industry trends, such as industry standards and the maintenance technician shortage.

Smith has published articles in journals such as the *Aviation Technician Education Council Journal* and the *International Symposium on Aviation Psychology* journal. He has presented at conferences including the University Aviation Association (UAA), National Training Aircraft Symposium (NTAS), Aviation Technician Education Council (ATEC), and International Symposium on Aviation Psychology (ISAP).

Smith has been in aviation for over 20 years as a licensed aircraft technician and has taught three tiers of aviation education training. With a passion for working with students, he is also the advisor for two student organizations: the MTSU Aviation Maintenance Club and the MTSU SkillsUSA Chapter. His participation also extends to the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and Bedford County Youth Leadership programs' summer camps. He has been a longtime participant with the Aerospace Maintenance Council, ATEC, and SkillsUSA. His work has granted him recognition nationally including media attention with FOX 17 Nashville, NewsChannel 5 Nashville, and with MTSU News media coverage. He has raised over \$220,000 in funds toward enhancement grants for the Aviation Maintenance program at MTSU.



Jorge Vargas

*Department of Engineering Technology
Tenured*

Jorge Vargas earned his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Florida International University and has more than 18 years of experience in academia and multimillion-dollar funded projects in radio frequency (RF)/microwave engineering, nanotechnology, superconductivity, radar sensors for connected and autonomous vehicles, and

machine learning supported by both federal and private entities. Prior to joining MTSU in January 2021, he was an associate professor in Electrical Engineering at Florida Polytechnic University, where he had the opportunity to design and develop the Electrical and Computer Engineering curriculum in 2013.

Vargas has multiple publications in reputable journals from IEEE, Elsevier, and MDPI, including a top 10 cited publication in *Sensors* (2021). His industry background at IBM Microelectronics involved product and process development of radio frequency devices.

Vargas has been serving as the academic coordinator for the Electromechanical program in Engineering Technology since August 2022. His current research focuses on autonomous vehicle sensors in multipath environments, as well as machine learning techniques applied to health care, transportation applications, and data analytics. Vargas is an IEEE senior member and a reviewer for IEEE Transactions and the MDPI. He recently received a National Science Foundation grant to certify future robotics engineers.



Donald Walker

Department of Biology

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Donald Walker earned his Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from Rutgers University and his B.S. in Environmental and Forest Biology from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. He held assistant professor positions at two other institutions prior to joining the Biology faculty.

Walker has developed a research program focused on understanding host-microbiome-pathogen interactions in several wildlife systems. He has published 43 manuscripts in high-ranking journals. He is a recipient and principal investigator on a \$2.61 million collaborative grant from the National Science Foundation to study host-microbiome interactions in the guts of reptiles and amphibians and an NSF CAREER grant recipient (\$1 million) of a project titled, "Fungal pathogen induced dysbiosis alters microbiome assembly along host resource gradients: implications for biodiversity conservation."

Walker's research is featured in journals like *ISME Nature*, *Nature's Scientific Reports*, and *FEMS Microbiology Ecology*. He has graduated five Master of Science and three Ph.D. students from his research program.



Angela Bowman

*Department of Health and Human Performance
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Angela S. Bowman earned her Ph.D. in Human Performance (Health) and Master of Arts in Psychology (Quantitative Psychology) from Middle Tennessee State University, and has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Eastern Illinois University. Her research interests include creating and validating survey tools to assess

disease-specific, health-related quality of life and well-being, as well as the measurement and modeling of social inequalities and inequities that contribute to health disparities. Her work combines the rigors of biostatistics and psychometrics to understand the ways in which personal, social, political, economic, and cultural circumstances influence health care utilization and the onset or progression of disease.

She works collaboratively with The Mast Cell Disease Society (TMS) to research and advocate for the needs of patients and their caregivers, resulting in numerous publications and presentations. Her work has been published in high-ranking medical journals such as *The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* and *Annals of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology*. Her research has garnered national and international attention, including invited talks at the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institute of Allergy and Immunology, and the European Competence Network on Mastocytosis in Vienna. Through her collaborative work with TMS, her research has been used to educate providers on the needs of patients with mast cell disease, provide a rapid response assessment of how the COVID-19 pandemic was impacting the mast cell disease patient community, and successfully advocate for fast-track drug approvals to address unmet needs.

In addition to researching in the rare disease space, Bowman has worked alongside the Center for Health and Human Services on multiple community and campus-based projects, including the delivery of Mental Health First Aid training at MTSU, and has collaborated on over \$1.1 million in funded public health research through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the Tennessee Department of Health. She frequently involves and mentors students in research projects, resulting in numerous award-winning student-led research presentations. In recognition of her dedication to mentoring and advocacy, she was awarded the inaugural Disability Access Champion by the MTSU Disability and Access Center.



David Clark

*Department of Health and Human Performance
Promoted to Senior Instructor*

Dave Clark holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Human Performance from Middle Tennessee State University, in addition to bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Physical Therapy from the University of Evansville. Prior to pursuing his Ph.D., Clark practiced for almost 20 years as a licensed physical therapist. Most of his practice time was spent in Murfreesboro and middle Tennessee, including seven years as a clinic director and four years as a traveling therapist with Star Physical Therapy.

Clark’s dissertation focused on imbalances in hip muscle activity and muscle strength, particularly as they relate to lower extremity pain syndromes in women. In collaboration with fellow doctoral students and faculty, his research has been published in the *International Journal of Motor Control and Learning*. In addition to research, he has worked as an instructor in Health and Human Performance (Exercise Science) since 2010.

His primary joy is serving as an instructor and mentor to students as they move toward the completion of their college careers and into the next stage of their adult lives. Since fall 2019, Clark has served as the internship coordinator for Exercise Science, assisting students with placement with local businesses, including fitness facilities, athletic training opportunities, and allied health clinics.

He has also recently found a new passion and creative outlet in photography. When not in the classroom or meeting with students to discuss their futures, he can often be found with a camera in his hand. In addition to his professional pursuits, he is an avid backpacker and hiker.



Peter W. Grandjean

*Department of Health and Human Performance
Tenured*

Peter W. Grandjean joins Middle Tennessee State University as the dean of the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences with more than 30 years of experience in higher education. He is an internationally recognized professor and researcher whose work is aimed at determining the immediate and short-term metabolic and cardiovascular responses to a variety of exercise interventions, including the combined and unique influence of exercise and pharmacological agents, functional foods, and modest weight loss on cardiovascular and metabolic health.

Grandjean has authored or co-authored over 200 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and conference proceedings, and has delivered as many invited presentations, symposia, and tutorials. He has a strong and consistent record of external grant and contract funding. Grandjean is a Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine, and is an active member of the American Physiological Society and the National Strength and Conditioning Association. He was a dedicated board member and was elected president in both the Southeast and the Texas chapters of the American College of Sports Medicine.

As director of the Division of Health Professions and associate dean of Research and Graduate Studies at Baylor University, Grandjean strengthened the research portfolio and led faculty efforts to develop innovative graduate programs in several health professions. He also worked closely with military health care administration as part of the Army-Baylor graduate programs.

Grandjean most recently served as dean in the School of Applied Sciences at the University of Mississippi. Over the last five years, he oversaw one of the largest, fastest-growing, and innovative schools on the Ole Miss campus. The School of Applied Sciences, which seeks to improve the health and well-being of people and communities across Mississippi and the region, enjoyed a 25% growth in enrollment, added eight new graduate degree programs and 14 new undergraduate minors, initiated an interdisciplinary living and learning community, and bolstered its research imprint from \$8 million in 2019 to more than \$11 million in external funding in fiscal year 2023.



Samantha Johnson

*Department of Health and Human Performance
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Samantha Johnson earned a Ph.D. in Human Performance from Middle Tennessee State University, an M.S. in Exercise Science from the University of North Alabama, and a B.S. in Exercise Science from Northern Kentucky University. Johnson has an interest in pedagogical research, where she studies best practices in teaching and learning within higher education. Aligning with that focus, she worked with a multi-institutional team to develop an open-access journal for pedagogical research in kinesiology, titled *Educational Practices in Kinesiology*, and currently serves as executive editor for the journal.

In recognition of her dedication to providing quality education experiences for her students, she was awarded the Outstanding Teaching Award in 2023 by the MTSU Foundation. She also conducts research that focuses on promoting longevity in older adults, aiming to improve our understanding of the changes in function over time and identifying interventions to facilitate improvement or mitigate losses. As part of this research interest, she is also a member of the Positive Aging Consortium on campus.

In addition to her own research goals, Johnson enjoys helping students pursue their research interests, as her mentors have done for her. She also serves as a senior associate editor for the *International Journal of Exercise Science (IJES)*, which is a journal that aims to engage students in the research process. All submissions to this journal are required to have at least one student author on the manuscript. Her involvement with *IJES* allows her to mentor undergraduate and graduate students through the peer-review process, as all publications with a student first author require one student peer reviewer.

Finally, Johnson is committed to engaging with the community and currently serves as the president of the board of directors for Endure Athletics, a local nonprofit that works to enrich the lives of homeless children and youth living in Rutherford County. In addition to her duties as board president, she assists with grant writing to obtain funding for the fee-free afterschool program and summer camp, which is critical to the organization's ability to serve the community.



Deborah Lee

School of Nursing

Promoted to Professor of Practice

Deborah Lee is the National Health Care Corporation (NHC) Chair of Excellence in Nursing and founder and director of the MTSU Positive Aging Consortium. Her research focuses on the long-term care workforce. She received funding for a statewide survey of Certified Nursing Assistants working in long-term care and currently participates in a federally funded grant with Vanderbilt University and other academic centers, NHC, and community organizations to address recruitment and retention of the geriatric workforce. She has presented to national, state, and local audiences on topics impacting older adults, including ageism, aging and the workforce, and isolation and loneliness. Her advocacy for older adults was highlighted in the Nashville Public Television series *Aging Matters*.

A registered nurse, Lee has an expansive career of more than 40 years in a variety of health care settings. Her roles have included hospital and home care nurse, researcher, university professor, public health professional, and health care administrator in the U.S. and Canada. Since 2011, she has practiced as a health and wellness coach and was one of the first to receive certification as a National Board Certified Health and Wellness Coach (NBC-HWC).

Lee's area of expertise is communication skills based in motivational interviewing, and she teaches a communication skills clinical rotation in the undergraduate Nursing program. In 2018, she developed a program for Nursing students to receive health and wellness coaching to build stress resilience through self-care. This innovative program continues and is well received by students. In partnership with a Nursing faculty member, she received MT-IGO funding to quantitatively assess the effect of health and wellness coaching on students' well-being, resilience, and self-compassion.

Lee holds a Ph.D. in Nursing from the University of North Carolina, a Master of Nursing degree from Emory University, and associate and bachelor's degrees in Nursing from Western Kentucky University.



Kahler W. Stone

*Department of Health and Human Performance
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Kahler W. Stone holds a Doctor of Public Health in Epidemiology and Environmental Health Science, a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science from Texas A&M University. His research interests include epidemiologic surveillance (health care-associated infections in Tennessee, community health assessments, public health workforce), environmental justice (spatial analyses for social and environmental determinants of health in disaster settings), and measuring opioid use stigma. Stone’s work, published in leading public health journals, has secured over \$1.5 million in funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Tennessee Department of Health.

Stone has presented his collaborative research at various conferences, proudly including students in his endeavors. Notable projects include a collaboration with the Tennessee Department of Health and CDC, focusing on data quality within the nation’s health care-associated infections surveillance system in Tennessee hospitals. His work in public health workforce development during and after COVID-19 has been adapted and cited in practitioner toolkits, and he has conducted epidemiology trainings in various local and state health departments. As part of the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program, Stone has led efforts to measure and quantify stigma toward opioid use to inform funded prevention, treatment, and recovery strategies in rural Tennessee.

In addition to his research, Stone worked as a field epidemiologist in Lusaka, Zambia, focusing on HIV vaccine and prevention trials and as a senior epidemiologist in Texas. He was an Institute for Sustainable Communities Fellow at Texas A&M and a National Leadership Academy for the Public’s Health Fellow. He served as a board member of the Tennessee Public Health Association during the COVID-19 pandemic and currently serves on the Rutherford County Wellness Council, collaborating on initiatives to reduce opioid overdoses in Rutherford County.



Elizabeth A. Whalen

*Department of Health and Human Performance
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Elizabeth A. Whalen is an associate professor and program coordinator for Tourism and Hospitality Management. She earned her Ph.D. in Hospitality Administration from the University of Houston Conrad N. Hilton College, with a focus on consumer behavior marketing, strategic management, and lodging operations.

With over a decade of experience in higher education, Whalen has held key management roles in the restaurant and hotel industries. Notably, she served as the executive director of the American Hotel and Lodging Association Information Research Center and as the program director for the Hilton College Executive Master of Hospitality Management, both at the University of Houston. During her tenure at the University of Houston, she was awarded the Donald Greenway Teaching Excellence Award and the university-wide Teaching Excellence Award.

Whalen is dedicated to building and enhancing the Tourism and Hospitality Management program. She was pivotal in creating the degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management, designing the curriculum for the new major, and executing the program's strategic plan. Under her leadership, the program attained and maintains accreditation from ACPHA.

Whalen is also instrumental in building industry relationships and enhancing the program's reputation. She is actively involved in marketing and recruiting new students to the program, ensuring its growth. She developed a major field assessment and designed a student exit survey for graduating Tourism and Hospitality Management students. Her contributions have been recognized with a nomination for Industry Educator of the Year 2023 in the Tennessee Hospitality and Tourism Association's Stars of the Industry: Purple Iris Awards.

Whalen's research interests include decision-making, risk perceptions, and online communities, reflecting her commitment to advancing knowledge in the field of tourism and hospitality management. In addition to publishing in top hospitality journals, she actively contributes to the academic community. Whalen serves on the editorial boards of three journals and reviews for over 15 different journals and conferences.



Elizabeth Wright

*Department of Criminal Justice Administration
Promoted to Professor*

Beth Wright holds a Master of Arts and Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University, and Bachelor of Arts degrees in Psychology and Social Welfare from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Her research interests include crime victimization and victim advocacy (impact and recovery from crime and

the services available); justice-involved women and best practices for rehabilitation and treatment by the justice system; and stress, trauma, and resiliency building for crime victims, offenders, and criminal justice system personnel.

Wright has been published in *Women & Criminal Justice*, *Applied Psychology in Criminal Justice*, *Contemporary Justice Review*, *ACJS Assessment Forum*, and *Crime Prevention and Community Safety*, as well as 10 book chapters exploring victimological and victims' rights issues, important figures in criminal justice, best practices in criminal justice, and exploring Republican and Democratic parties' perspectives on criminal justice policies surrounding crime victimization and programs supporting mental health. Wright's dissertation research was presented to the Texas Legislature to help shape the criminal justice response to crime victims across the state.

Wright recently finished the third edition of her co-authored *Crime Victimization* textbook (December 2024) and is very excited about her upcoming textbook titled *Resiliency and the Justice Professional* (2025), co-authored with Bethany Wrye of MTSU's Department of Health and Human Performance.

Wright works closely with community service organizations and is currently the board chair for the Doors of Hope program of Rutherford County, an organization that works with justice-involved women struggling with substance abuse and mental health disorders. She has also worked with regional domestic violence and sexual assault victim advocacy agencies providing training on the neurobiology of trauma and trauma-informed care. Wright is a certified academic program reviewer for the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences and has served on numerous professional organization committees and University committees.



Monica Davis

*Department of Accounting
Promoted to Master Instructor*

Monica Davis is in her 20th year of teaching accounting in the Jones College of Business. Her career began with a large public accounting firm creating tax software and has included pro bono accounting work for nonprofits.

Originally from Huntsville, Alabama, Davis has lived in the Murfreesboro area for more than 30 years. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in Accounting from Auburn University and holds a CPA license in Tennessee.



Amy Harris

*Department of Information Systems
and Analytics*

Promoted to Professor

Amy Harris serves as associate dean for the College of Graduate Studies. Prior to assuming that role in 2023, she was the graduate program director and an associate professor in the Department of Information Systems and Analytics. Her primary research interest is workforce development, with a particular emphasis on IT talent development and gender representation in tech.

Harris is active in the Nashville community. She serves as the immediate past president of Women in Technology Tennessee and on the board of the Greater Nashville Technology Council. She is also a member of The Table, a nonprofit launched to create opportunities to grow prosperity for minorities in Nashville. She was recognized in 2019 as the Nashville Technology Council's Champion of the Year and again in 2021 as its Diversity and Inclusion Advocate of the Year. She is also a recipient of the MTSU Jones College of Business E.W. "Wink" Midgett Distinguished Service Award and was named to the *Nashville Post's* 2022 and 2024 In Charge list for the tech industry.

Harris received her Ph.D. in Management Information Systems from the Fogelman College of Business and Economics at the University of Memphis. She earned her Master of Science in Information Systems from MTSU and her Bachelor of Arts in Music and Communications from Mississippi University for Women.



Andrea Seaton Kelton

Department of Accounting

Promoted to Professor

Andrea Seaton Kelton holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Accounting from the University of Tennessee, as well as a Master of Science in Accounting and Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from James Madison University.

Kelton's research investigates how characteristics of accounting information systems impact the usefulness of accounting information and, ultimately, decisions made by market participants. Her research has appeared in top-ranked journals such as *Accounting, Organizations and Society*, *the International Journal of Accounting Information Systems*, *the Journal of Information Systems*, and *Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory*. Her research has garnered national and international attention, including citations by standard setters, numerous presentations, and multiple best paper awards. She is ranked as the No. 5 researcher in the world for experimental accounting information systems research in the Brigham Young University 2022 Accounting Research Rankings.

Kelton is an editor for *Issues in Accounting Education* and serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Information Systems*, *Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory*, and *Current Issues in Auditing*. She currently holds the MTSU Accounting Advisory Board Outstanding Professorship and was the recipient of the 2023 MTSU Jones College of Business Bill and Kathy Jones Outstanding Faculty Award and the 2022 Accounting Advisory Board Outstanding Faculty Award.

She is vice president and president-elect of the Accounting Information Systems Section of the American Accounting Association and serves on the board of directors of Murfreesboro Soccer Club. Prior to entering academia, she worked as an auditor for KPMG.



Philip Anthony Seagraves

*Department of Economics and Finance
Promoted to Professor*

Philip Anthony Seagraves holds a Ph.D. and M.S. in Real Estate from Georgia State University, an M.B.A. in Business Administration from Emory University, and a B.B.A. in Marketing from the University of Georgia. He joined MTSU in 2014 and has been a pivotal figure in developing the University's Real Estate program.

His research interests include innovative housing, real estate securities, brokerage, and the role of AI in the real estate industry. Seagraves has published extensively in renowned journals such as *Real Estate Economics*, the *Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics*, the *Journal of Property Investment & Finance*, and the *Journal of Real Estate Research*. His work has been recognized with several awards, including the State Farm Outstanding Professor Award at MTSU and the Presidential Award from the American Real Estate Society.

In addition to his academic achievements, Seagraves is an active real estate advisor, investor, developer, and broker. He holds a real estate brokerage license in Tennessee and has previously held licenses in Georgia and Wisconsin. He is the managing editor of the *Journal of Real Estate Practice and Education*, is on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Property Investment & Finance* and the *Journal of Real Estate Portfolio Management*, and has served as the president and director of the American Real Estate Society. As a member of the prestigious Counselors of Real Estate®, Seagraves provides advisory services on a myriad of real estate matters.

Seagraves is dedicated to bringing real-world experience into the classroom, teaching courses such as principles of real estate, real estate finance, real estate investments, and real estate brokerage management. He also launched Raider Realty, a unique brokerage where MTSU students can gain hands-on experience in the real estate industry before graduation. His commitment to student success and his innovative approach to real estate education continue to make a significant impact at MTSU.



Steven Sprick Schuster

Department of Economics and Finance

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Steven Sprick Schuster holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Economics from Boston University and two Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of Missouri (Economics and Art History). His research interests include economic history, political economy, and criminal justice. His historical research studies the role of U.S. government institutions (especially the Post Office) in the late 19th and early 20th century. His political economy research focuses on how voters respond to campaign messaging, information networks, and election structures. His criminal justice research aims to better understand how prison education affects post-release outcomes, including recidivism and employment.

Sprick Schuster's research has been published in the *Journal of Economic History*, *Journal of Politics*, *Social Science History*, *Southern Economic Journal*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, and the *American Journal of Criminal Justice*. His paper "An Empirical History of the United States Postal Savings System" received the Founder's Prize from *Social Science History*, which honors the best paper published in the journal in the previous year.

He has also published policy briefs for the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. One of these briefs, "Are Education Programs in Prison Worth It? A meta-analysis of the highest-quality academic research," was cited by the state of Michigan in the executive budget in support of funding for the Thumb Educational Center, which would be America's first prison dedicated entirely to education programs.

In addition to his academic writings, Sprick Schuster has written editorials that have appeared in *The Fiscal Times*, *The Nashville Business Journal*, *Center Square*, and *The Conversation* on a variety of topics, including election reform, the Post Office, and prison education.



Holly Hebert

*Womack Department of Educational Leadership
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Holly Hebert holds a Doctor of Education in Assessment, Learning, and Student Success with Higher Education concentration from Middle Tennessee State University; a Master of Science in Education with Online Teaching and Learning concentration from California State University, East Bay; a Master of Library and Information

Science from Wayne State University; and a Bachelor of Science in Sociology from Abilene Christian University.

Her research interests include online learning, information literacy among graduate students, library science education, and collection development, especially in public libraries. Her research has appeared in well regarded journals such as the *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*, *Public Library Quarterly*, and the *Journal of Graduate Librarianship*. She is the author of two chapters in *Homeschooling and Libraries: New Solutions and Opportunities* (McFarland, 2020). She has been a regular social sciences book reviewer for *Library Journal* for the last 15 years.

Hebert is a regular presenter at the Tennessee Library Association Annual Conference and has also presented at national conferences such as the Association for Library and Information Science Education Annual Conference and the Association of Rural and Small Libraries Annual Conference. Hebert has been an MTSU Faculty Fellow (2018–19), has received the MTSU Walker Library Information Literacy Curriculum Integration Grant (2018), and was awarded the Wayne State University School of Information Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award (2024).

Hebert has over 17 years' experience working in various library settings, public and academic, which included three years as a collection development librarian for a library vendor. She has served on the executive board of the Tennessee Library Association for six years and is currently serving as the vice president/president elect. Hebert has been a faculty member in the Master of Library Science program at MTSU since 2017 and has served as the program coordinator since August 2023.



Angela Hooser

*Department of Elementary
and Special Education*

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Angela Hooser joined the Department of Elementary and Special Education in 2018, after earning her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Florida. Her teaching responsibilities span undergraduate and graduate courses, including introductory education, assessment, classroom management, qualitative research, and action research methods. Student evaluations and peer observations consistently indicate that Hooser is an effective and engaging instructor. She has shown initiative in developing new courses, revising existing curricula, and incorporating innovative teaching approaches such as open educational resources.

Hooser maintains a research agenda focused on teacher education, clinical practice, and research methods. Her recent scholarly contributions include peer-reviewed articles in respected journals such as *Impacting Education*, *Journal of Teacher Education*, and *Teacher Education Quarterly*. She has also authored book chapters on practitioner inquiry and clinical teacher preparation. Hooser regularly presents her research at national conferences, including the American Educational Research Association (AERA) and University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA). Her scholarly work is supported by both internal and external funding, notably a grant from the Tennessee Board of Regents to support the development and study of an open educational resource.

Hooser's service contributions are extensive, spanning University committees, professional organizations, and community partnerships. She serves on the True Blue Core Committee and holds leadership roles in organizations like the Association of Teacher Educators and the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate. Hooser's commitment to community engagement is evident through her partnerships with local schools, demonstrating her dedication to bridging academic theory with educational practice.

Hooser's record demonstrates excellence in teaching, research, and service, aligning closely with MTSU's mission. Her contributions to teacher education scholarship and practice are making a valuable impact on the field of education and the preparation of future educators.



Kevin S. Krahenbuhl

*Womack Department of Educational Leadership
Promoted to Professor*

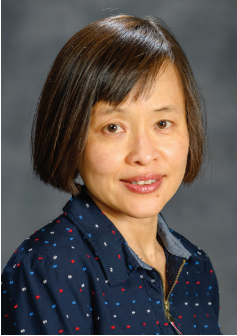
Kevin Krahenbuhl holds a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University and both a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, with an emphasis on Borders, Migration, and Culture, and a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education and History from Arizona State University.

Krahenbuhl has 10 years of experience teaching history in high school in Arizona, taught history for several years in community college, and served as a baseball and golf coach, including being part of multiple state championships. He has since worked in higher education as a professor in South Dakota and now at MTSU.

Krahenbuhl's main lines of research have focused on applied cognition, the role of truth in educational contexts, learning in history, and learning with technology. He is the author of dozens of peer-reviewed publications, including several in widely read and top tier journals such as *Educational Leadership* and the *Kappan*. He has presented hundreds of times on academic research and application of principles for learning in peer-reviewed academic settings as well as in professional development and public training sessions.

Krahenbuhl has been active in grant work as well. He served as a delegate of MTSU to the American University of Kurdistan, visiting Iraq, on a federally funded grant in 2022, and is a co-principal investigator on a National Science Foundation-funded, multimillion-dollar grant titled, "LEADS: Leaders in Education Advancing Data Science."

Krahenbuhl has also been active in the public arena. He has published over a dozen articles in popular, widely read outlets including *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and *Medieval Warfare* magazine. He has been interviewed many times by media on topics associated with learning, cognition, history, and the concept of truth. He was recipient of the Zeitgeist Award for a published paper on diversity in teacher education and has served as a keynote speaker in multiple states around the country.



Seok Jeng Jane Lim

*Department of Elementary
and Special Education
Promoted to Professor*

Seok Jeng Jane Lim earned her Ph.D. in Elementary/Early Childhood Education from the University at Buffalo, The State University of New York. She also holds a master's degree in Educational Leadership in Early Childhood Education from Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia, and a Bachelor of Social Science in Children and Family Studies from Edith Cowan University in Perth, Australia.

Lim is a Singaporean and has more than 20 years' experience working and teaching preschoolers and adults in early childhood education. She has presented at national, state, and international conferences. Her areas of research interest are the issue of bullying among the underrepresented population/refugee children, study abroad, and social-emotional development. She was on the executive board of the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) and is currently a board member of the Tennessee ACEI.

Lim served as a co-editor of the book *Intercultural Engagement Through Short-Term Faculty-Led Study Abroad: A Practitioner's Guide with Multidisciplinary Perspectives from a Public University* in 2023. She collaborated across the University on multiple grants. She also collaborated with colleagues from her department to create a model to provide a post-baccalaureate licensure pathway for high-quality teachers through the MT ALT program that enables them to meet Tennessee licensure requirements. She worked closely with local schools, providing workshops and guest lectures and creating children's CDs. Her major highlight is mentoring and working with students in her class to become global world citizens by reaching out locally and impacting globally.



Katherine Mangione

*Department of Elementary
and Special Education*

Promoted to Professor

Kat Mangione has loved attending school since she began first grade. She was first in her family to complete college and holds a B.A. in Elementary Education from Hendrix College, a master's degree in Gifted and Talented Education from the University of Central Arkansas, and a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

Mangione's research interests include alternative conceptions in Earth and space science, interdisciplinary literacy strategies, and teaching strategies for English language learners in science. She has published in National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) journals *Science and Children*, *Science Scope*, and *The Science Teacher*; the National Council on Teaching Mathematics journal *Teaching Children Mathematics*; as well as the *Journal of Science Education*. She has been a longtime member of the Association for Science Teacher Education (ASTE) and NSTA as well as a lifetime member of both the School Science and Mathematics Association (SSMA) and the Tennessee Environmental Education Association (TEEA).

Mangione recently received TEEA's Outstanding Educator of the Year Award. She served on the editorial review board for the *Journal of Science Teacher Education*, on the NSTA review board for Outstanding Science Trade Books, and as a board member for TEEA.

Closer to home she has supported Project Transformation Tennessee (a college-age leadership and school-age summer program focusing on literacy and social-emotional well-being) as a board member, mentor, and site coordinator. She has been a Lions Club member for over a decade, serving Woodbury's club as secretary and president. She is a charter member and faculty advisor for the MTSU Lion's Club.

Mangione has over 30 years of experience in public education. She spent over a decade teaching in rural and suburban Arkansas as well as inner-city St. Louis. She has 23 years of teaching experience in graduate and undergraduate courses. She has been a member of the Middle Tennessee State University faculty since 2011. She has served as the program coordinator for Elementary Education (K–5) at MTSU since 2017. She is also a member of the MT ALT design and implementation team that is exploring creative, alternative solutions to preparing teachers in an effective manner.



Eric L. Oslund

*Department of Elementary
and Special Education
Promoted to Professor*

Eric Oslund currently serves as the chair of the Department of Elementary and Special Education and is a core faculty in the Ph.D. in Literacy Studies program. He earned his Ph.D. from Texas A&M in Educational Psychology with a certificate in Advanced Research Methodology and completed a two-year fellowship at the University of Texas in Austin focusing on applied statistics and methodology.

Oslund's research centers on employing advanced applied statistics to explore various facets of education, including early reading measures, adolescent comprehension theories, and nationwide data-based decision-making. Since joining MTSU in 2014, he has made significant contributions to the field, authoring over 20 publications in top-tier journals and delivering more than 100 presentations.

His work has garnered international recognition, including the Outstanding Researcher Award from the Council for Learning Disabilities. The U.S. Department of Education rated his research in the top 1% nationally, and he currently ranks among the top 5% of researchers worldwide in his discipline. Oslund's publications have been cited over 1,200 times and downloaded more than 350,000 times from over 100 countries, demonstrating the global impact of his research. In addition to his scholarly achievements, Oslund has been instrumental in securing nearly \$3 million in grants through collaborative efforts at MTSU.

Oslund currently has the pleasure of serving in the role of chair of chairs and actively contributes to the academic community by serving on various committees across the University. He collaborates with local and international stakeholders to advance the field of education including serving as editor-in-chief of *Research in the Schools* and a board member for the Mid-South Educational Research Association. Throughout his tenure at MTSU, he has successfully guided over 25 Ph.D. students, either as a chair or committee member, nurturing the next generation of researchers and educators.



Poushali Bhadury

Department of English

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Poushali Bhadury holds a Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in English from the University of Florida as well as a Bachelor and Master of Arts in English from Jadavpur University in India. Her research interests include international and comparative children's and adolescent literature, as well as queer youth literature, comics and graphic narratives, South Asian book history, postcolonial literature, and digital humanities.

Bhadury's research is multidisciplinary and multilingual, spanning English and Bengali-language literary and cultural texts. Theories of the circulation of (material/digital) children's texts in transnational Anglophone and comparative literary contexts inform her published scholarship as well as broader research goals. Her peer-reviewed publications include articles in *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*, and *South Asian Review* among others, as well as chapters in several edited collections. Her current book project, *The Home and the World in Postcolonial Print Culture: Dev Sahitya Kutir and Bengali Children's Publishing (1940–1975)*, examines the ideological imperatives of popular genre fiction such as mass-market pulp thrillers and translations of world classics in mid-20th-century Kolkata.

Bhadury's scholarly work has been supported by research grants and fellowships from the Mellon Foundation, Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), Children's Literature Association (ChLA), the International Research Society for Children's Literature (IRSCSL), and Columbia University's South Asia Institute, among others. She has also been awarded research grants from the University of Florida and Middle Tennessee State University.

Bhadury's focus on issues of diversity, equity, inclusion, and community building is threaded through her research and teaching, as well as her service commitments to the broader field of children's and adolescent literature. In 2017, as part of a collaborative measure to promote greater diversity in children's literature scholarship, Bhadury co-founded *Research on Diversity in Youth Literature (RDYL)*, a peer-reviewed open-access children's literature journal, and presently serves on its editorial board. Recently, she has enjoyed curating the Very Asian Foundation's Asian American youth literature list (aka The May Book Project), as well as serving on the Metadata Advising Committee for a multi-institution federal Institute of Museum and Library Services grant focused on restructuring the Diverse BookFinder website.



Christabel Devadoss

*Department of Political and Global Affairs
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Christabel Devadoss holds a Ph.D. in Geography from West Virginia University, and a master's in Geography and Bachelor of Science in Visual Journalism from Kent State University. Her research and teaching interests span political and cultural geography, digital storytelling, visual media/methods, media literacy, race, rurality, postcolonialism, and representation.

Her research has been published in top-tier journals such as *Political Geography*; *Journal of Rural Studies*; *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*; *Human Geography*; *Journal of Cultural Geography*; *Gender, Place and Culture*; *GeoHumanities*; and *Area*, as well as several book chapters in edited volumes and encyclopedias. In addition to these eight peer-reviewed articles and six book chapters, Devadoss has several forthcoming publications. She was recently awarded a development grant by the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). She has presented 23 papers at both international and national conferences and organized or chaired 11 conference sessions.

Devadoss also serves on the editorial board of the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers (AAG)*, the flagship journal in geography, and as the awards director of the Cultural Geography Specialty Group of the AAG. Before joining MTSU, she was an instructor for Kent State University's School of Journalism and Mass Communication and a professional photographer for 15 years.



Andrew Fialka

Department of History

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Andrew Fialka holds a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia, an M.A. from West Virginia University, and a B.A. from the University of Missouri. He teaches courses on American history, the Civil War and Reconstruction, guerrilla war, geographic information systems (GIS) for humanists, and historical research

methods. His research uses spatial analyses in GIS to study guerrilla violence during the American Civil War. In 2012, he worked as a National Park Service park ranger at the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

Fialka's spatial analyses are published in book chapters from LSU Press (Louisiana State University) and UK Press (University of Kentucky) and in journal articles from the *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* and the *Ohio Valley History Journal*.

On March 1, 2025, UGA Press (University of Georgia) will publish *Hope Never to See It*, a graphic history of guerrilla violence in Civil War Missouri written by Fialka and illustrated by Anderson Carman of Savannah College of Art and Design. *Hope Never to See It* weds academic and public history, disseminating the current scholarship on guerrilla war to a wider audience by using the exploding popularity of graphic books and a new endnote system, designed by Fialka.

Fialka's current research project involves partnering with multiple universities to build a database of the Civil War's violent events. When the federal government created the *Official Records* of the war starting in the 1880s, they agreed to leave out instances of racial violence and punitive occupation practices. Fialka's project corrects these oversights to give a truer picture of occupation in light of America's experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Jeff Gibson

*Department of Theatre and Dance
Promoted to Professor*

Jeff Gibson earned an M.F.A. in Theatre Management from the University of Alabama and a B.S. in Speech and Theatre from Middle Tennessee State University. Gibson has served on the faculty of MTSU since 2002. He is the former chair of the Department of Speech and Theatre and the Department of Theatre and Dance.

Before joining MTSU, he served as assistant to the president of Watkins College of Art & Design and as a management assistant with the Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

Gibson's early research concentrated on management of arts organizations and on arts producers within higher education. More recent efforts have been aligned with his experience in academic leadership and efforts to facilitate student success and the development of arts students as they transition to professional life. In his current role as associate dean in the College of Liberal Arts, Gibson works with faculty and chairs from across the college on issues related to assessment, accreditation, advising, and curriculum development.

He serves as elected past president of the Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC), the nation's largest theatre organization serving organizations and individuals in academic, community, and professional realms. Gibson was inducted into the SETC Hall of Fame in 2024. Additionally, he is a visiting evaluator for the National Association of Schools of Theatre; a former chair of Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region 4; and past chair of the theatre division of the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts.



Natalie Hoskins

*Department of Communication Studies
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Natalie Hoskins holds a Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in Communication Studies from the University of Kansas and a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from the University of Missouri–Kansas City. Though her work has been published in high-impact, international, academic journals, such as the *Journal of Applied Communication Research* and the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, she finds the applications of research to be the most rewarding. For example, in the context of domestic violence (DV) intervention, Hoskins’ research examining supportive communication and gender socialization among DV perpetrators has enabled her to design and deliver facilitator trainings to batterer intervention program (BIP) practitioners around the world. Her work has been described as “ground-breaking” by members of the BIP community.

In addition to research, Hoskins is fully invested in the development and delivery of high-quality educational experiences. She enjoys working closely with students and beyond the classroom, to refine class projects, complete dissertations and theses, and pursue independent research, helping students discover their own passions and develop competencies they can leverage to achieve personal and professional goals. With an eye toward innovation and improvement, Hoskins also consistently supports her departmental goals of growth by designing curriculum, developing new courses, and reimaging existing courses for online delivery.

Hoskins’ commitment to the MTSU community may be most clearly observed in her service roles and membership in numerous committees in the Department of Communication Studies, the Women’s and Gender Studies (WGST) program, the College of Liberal Arts, and the larger University. Her service to the WGST program was recognized by the 2022–23 Ayne Cantrell Service Award. Hoskins takes great pleasure acting in service to her community, especially when in collaboration with the talented and passionate people with whom she serves.



Joseph E. Morgan

School of Music

Promoted to Professor

Joseph E. Morgan earned a Doctor of Philosophy from Brandeis University, a Master of Music from the University of Maryland at College Park, and a Bachelor of Arts in Music and a certificate in Medieval History from the University of Pittsburgh. His primary research interest is in the dramatic music, theory, and aesthetics of German speaking countries in the early 19th century. His secondary research interests cross the traditional boundaries between “classical” and “popular” music, with special emphasis on music in its political, social, and economic contexts.

As well as numerous dictionary and encyclopedia entries, music criticism, and miscellany, he has published three books, two authored and one edited. His first, *Oberon and Cosmopolitanism in the Early German Romantic* (2014), re-evaluated Carl Maria von Weber’s last opera as an expression of German-centered cosmopolitanism. His second book, *Experiencing Weber* (2017), expanded the cosmopolitan thesis to the rest of Weber’s works, their reception, and their place in German Romanticism. He has also published numerous articles on other important figures in the German Romantic movement including E.T.A. Hoffman, Giacomo Meyerbeer, and Robert Schumann. Most recently, his chapter “The Cross and the Wanderer” (2023) investigates the role Pietism played in the emergence of several dramatic tropes in Romantic art. His third book, *Tyranny and Music* (2018), is a collection of essays that were a result of a conference on the topic held here at MTSU.

In the School of Music, he created a popular study abroad trip to Vienna and proposed and created a literature-based Bachelor of Arts in Music program (which he saw through accreditation). He served as the director of graduate studies in the School of Music from 2020–23, during which he managed to nearly double graduate enrollment in the School of Music. He currently serves as the head of the Musicology area.



Arunesh Nadgir

School of Music

Promoted to Professor

Arunesh Nadgir holds a Bachelor of Music from the New England Conservatory of Music, a Master of Music from The Juilliard School, and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the Eastman School of Music, where he studied under Wha Kyung Byun, Robert McDonald, and Natalya Antonova, respectively.

Nadgir has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in the United States, South America, Europe, and Asia. He has performed in venues such as Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Kodak Hall at the Eastman Theatre, and Jordan Hall, and has participated in several international music festivals, including the Millennium International Piano Festival, the Moulin d'Andé Festival, and the Kneisel Hall Summer Music Festival. He has performed on Nashville Public Radio and WNYC in live radio broadcasts.

An accomplished teacher, Nadgir is the coordinator of keyboard studies, maintains a private piano studio, and is on the faculty of the Dow Street Community Music School, a nonprofit committed to providing high quality and affordable music education for music students in the Murfreesboro area. In summer 2024, he joined the faculty of the Kinhaven Music School in Weston, Vermont. He has previously held teaching positions at New England Conservatory's Preparatory and Continuing Education Departments, the Eastman School of Music, the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, and the Point CounterPoint Music Camp.

Nadgir's students have been accepted to music festivals and college music programs across the country and have won top prizes at pre-college and college-level music competitions including the University of Rochester Concerto Competition, the MTNA Tennessee Young Artist Piano Competition, and the Tennessee Music Teachers Association Solo Piano Competition. A sought-after clinician, Nadgir frequently presents masterclasses, performances, and lectures for university and pre-college programs, music organizations, and private piano studios. He is currently serving as president of the Tennessee Music Teachers Association.



Ugur Orak

*Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Ugur Orak received his Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Sociology from Louisiana State University and his Bachelor of Science degree in Systems Engineering from the Turkish Military Academy. He joined the tenure-track faculty in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at MTSU

in August 2020 following a two-year employment as an assistant professor at Utica University in New York.

Orak's areas of expertise include criminology, mental health, military sociology, and quantitative data analysis. He is particularly interested in how life experiences during various developmental stages influence future involvement in criminal activities. In his recent studies, he examined both the negative and protective effects of military service on short- and long-term patterns of mental health, crime, and criminal justice involvement. Orak has published numerous peer-reviewed articles in prestigious academic journals, such as *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, *Crime & Delinquency*, *Journal of Affective Disorders*, and *Armed Forces & Society*, and has presented, presided, and served as a program officer at national and regional academic conferences.

Since August 2021, Orak has been serving as the coordinator of the Criminology minor and concentration programs within the Sociology and Anthropology Department. He has been a member of various departmental committees and currently serves on the Grade Appeal and MTSU Strategic Planning committees at the University level.

Orak is an active member of professional organizations, including the American Society of Criminology, Southern Sociological Society, and Veterans Studies Association. Over the past six years, he has held various positions at public service, nonprofit, and think tank organizations as a research fellow, board member, consultant, and community engagement coordinator. His work has been featured in several media outlets, such as *USA Today* and the *Daily Memphian*, as well as on the websites of official and non-governmental organizations, such as the U.S. Department of Justice and Council on Criminal Justice.



Kate Pantelides

Department of English

Promoted to Professor

Kate Pantelides joined Middle Tennessee State University in 2015. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of South Florida, an M.A. from the University of Louisville, and a B.A. from Bowdoin College. Her academic appointments include assistant professor of English at Eastern Michigan University and Writing Center director at Berkeley Preparatory School. She developed the University of South Florida Writing Center, growing it to a thriving, university-wide research support center; she was recognized for this work with the Southeast Writing Center Association Achievement Award. Soon after, she co-authored the award-winning article, “‘So what are we working on?’ Pronouns as a Way of Re-Examining Composing,” cementing her commitment to innovative pedagogy and rhetorical understandings of power.

Pantelides has published dozens of articles across writing studies, technical writing, and communication. Her dedication to open-access research and publishing is exemplified in *Try This: Research Methods for Writers*, a text that has earned her and her co-authors numerous speaking invitations and acclaim nationwide. She is a leader in critical conversations about methods of student self-placement (SSP), most recently editing a special issue of the prestigious *Journal of Writing Assessment*, which challenges the outsized role that standardized tests have played in curricular paths. Like most of Pantelides’ work, SSP centers students and helps build better, more complete stories about the numbers that constitute student data.

Teaching is at the heart of Pantelides’ commitments, for which she has been recognized with an Outstanding Teaching Award. To support her pedagogical efforts, with her colleagues she has developed numerous open educational resources (OER) and earned tens of thousands of dollars in grant monies. Pantelides has been very active in national service, including leadership in the flagship Conference on College Composition and Communication. Her work has been characterized by collaboration, and she is endlessly grateful to her generous co-authors, family, and friends, who continue to teach her every day.



Andrew Polk

Department of History

Promoted to Professor

Andrew R. Polk holds a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Florida State University, a Master of Arts in Religion from Yale University, and a Master of Arts in Religion and Bachelor of Arts in History from Lipscomb University. His research focuses on the intersection of religion, politics, and race in American history and the

scholarship of learning and teaching.

Polk has published over a dozen articles and essays in academic journals from multiple fields, including *Church History* and *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, among many others. He has also published dozens of essays, book chapters, reviews, and encyclopedia entries. His first book, *Faith in Freedom: Propaganda, Presidential Politics, and the Making of an American Religion*, was published in December 2021 with Cornell University Press. The book examines the religious propaganda campaigns of presidents Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and Dwight Eisenhower as the federal government promoted a specific version of patriotic religion during World War II and the early Cold War. He is currently hard at work on his second book, a biography of the civil rights activist, author, and rogue preacher Will D. Campbell. Polk is also a regular contributor to the television program *Faith and Politics*.

A former high school teacher, Polk also directs the history and social studies education initiatives for the Department of History and College of Liberal Arts and works alongside the College of Education on several state initiatives and Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) licensing standards. He teaches a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses on religious history, history pedagogy, and 20th-century America using the History Labs model, which emphasizes primary source analysis, group projects, and investigations over traditional lectures. He has won both the Faculty Teaching Award from the College of Liberal Arts and the MTSU Outstanding Teaching Award.



Sheri Flournoy Selph

Department of Art and Design

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Sheri Flournoy Selph holds a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Tennessee and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Louisiana Tech University. Her background includes over 20 years of experience in the professional creative industry with expertise in graphic design, interaction design, and creative direction for marketing and advertising for travel and entertainment, banking, and nonprofit industries.

Before joining the faculty at MTSU, Selph held the position of associate creative director with Axiom, where her graphic design work included award-winning print and interactive design for Wyndham Hotel Group, MGM Resorts International, Caesar's Entertainment, Wells Fargo, BBVA Compass Bank, Ferrari, Hyundai Motor Company, and the Kroger Company.

More recently, her practice-based graphic design research has pivoted to focus on creative strategy and graphic design solutions that benefit marginalized groups. Selph has led creative initiatives on grants funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services in collaboration with Allard Consulting of Huntsville, Alabama. She has supported fundraising efforts for the Down Syndrome Diagnosis Network, the Nashville Recovery Court Support Foundation, and the Shelby County Veterans' Court Foundation through her creative design for marketing expertise.

Selph was awarded MTSU's ITD Innovation Grant for Instructional Technology in 2017, and she actively presents her technology-forward graphic design and interaction design pedagogy at conferences such as the University & College Designers Association (UCDA) Design Education Summit and the Southeastern College Art Conference (SECAC) Educators Conference.



Aaron Treadwell

Department of History

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Aaron Treadwell holds a Doctor of Philosophy in History from Howard University, a Master of Applied Social Sciences from Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University, a Master of Divinity from Emory University, and a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and Religion from Florida State University. His research

interests include racial caste violence in the United States, the black tradition of arms, and the theological shift of black spirituality in the 19th century.

His research has appeared in well-ranked journals such as the *Oxford Journal*, the *Southern Journal*, and the *Journal of African American Studies*. Treadwell is also the author of two upcoming manuscripts, *Tongues of Fire: A Collection of the Black Religious Resistance Against Lynching* (Louisiana State University Press, 2024), and *Black Christian Evolution: The Gospel of the Northern Negro in the Southern Mission* (Louisiana State University Press, 2024). He has book chapters that can be found in *Understanding and Teaching Contemporary U.S. History since Reagan* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2023), *Discourses of Crisis and the Study of Religion* (Equinox Publishing, 2024), and *Breonna Taylor and Me: Black Women, Racial Justice and Reclaiming Hope* (Peter Lang Publishing, 2024).

Treadwell is a columnist for *The Christian Recorder* and is on the editorial board for the *Methodist History Journal* (Penn State Press). In addition to his research, Treadwell has over 16 years of experience in the field of religion, including a newly appointed post as archivist and CEO of the AME Digital Archives, which recently received a \$30,000 grant from the Louisville Institute. He is also the senior pastor of New Webb Grove AME Church and Key Memorial United Methodist Church in Murfreesboro. Finally, Treadwell holds social positions in his community, including president of the Murfreesboro Alpha Phi Alpha chapter and dean of Ministers for Tennessee.



David Trowbridge

*Department of Political and Global Affairs
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

David Trowbridge holds both a Doctor of Philosophy and a Master of Arts in Political Science from the University at Albany–State University of New York, and a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut. With subfield concentrations in Public Law and American

Politics, Trowbridge's research interests have focused on the behavior of cause lawyers and legal organizations working within social movements.

His published works include observations of agenda setting and tactics of organizations like the National Center for Lesbian Rights and Lambda Legal, both legal nonprofits working within the LGBTQ movement. These articles were published in journals such as *Law & Society Review* and *Law & Social Inquiry*. Together they demonstrate the wide range and triangulation of tactics legal organizations use that move in and out of the courtroom. Trowbridge has also conducted research and published findings with MTSU colleague Jennifer Woodward on pedagogical training opportunities for graduate students and faculty in higher education.

Trowbridge greatly enjoys his time in the classroom. In addition to teaching regular offerings of constitutional law I and II as well as law and the legal system, he can be found teaching sections of let's amend the constitution, law and policy, and introduction to american politics.

**Jae Turner***Department of History**Promoted to Master 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 True Blue Core courses in U.S. history, 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.



Christopher Weedman

Department of English

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Christopher Weedman holds a Doctor of Philosophy in English with a concentration in Film Studies from Southern Illinois University, in addition to a Master of Arts in English and a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from Eastern Illinois University. His research specialization is post-1945 British, American, and European film history, theory, and criticism. Weedman's other research and teaching interests include film aesthetics, film censorship, film genres, and film representations of class, gender, and sexual identity.

In addition to teaching undergraduate and graduate Film Studies courses, Weedman serves as both the director of True Blue Core English and the faculty advisor of the interdisciplinary Film Studies minor. He also holds affiliate faculty status in both the University Honors College and the Women's and Gender Studies program. Before arriving at MTSU in 2017, Weedman taught at a variety of institutions, including Southern Illinois University, the Georgia Institute of Technology, and Kutztown University of Pennsylvania.

Weedman is co-editor of the scholarly collections *Adult Themes: British Cinema and the X Certificate in the Long 1960s* (Bloomsbury, 2023) and *Liminal Noir in Classical World Cinema* (Edinburgh University Press, 2023). His scholarship has also appeared in such well-respected journals as *Journal of Cinema and Media Studies* (the flagship journal of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies), *Film International*, *Jewish Film and New Media*, *Quarterly Review of Film and Video*, and *Senses of Cinema*, as well as the edited collections *Fifty Hollywood Film Directors* (Routledge, 2015) and *David Fincher's Zodiac: Cinema of Investigation and (Mis)Interpretation* (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2022).

Weedman is currently writing a critical biography of Golden Globe-nominated British actress Anne Heywood. Excerpts from his personal interviews with Heywood appeared in the popular magazine *Cinema Retro* in January 2017. He is also co-editing a scholarly collection on the films of Oscar-winning American director Michael Cimino.



Andrew R. Wyatt

*Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Promoted to Professor*

Andrew R. Wyatt received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Chicago and his B.A. in Literature from Antioch College, and he joined the MTSU faculty in 2012. His work focuses on the Maya area of southern Mexico and Central America and the Brazilian Amazon. He has conducted archaeological research in Mexico,

Guatemala, Belize, Belgium, and the Midwestern and Southern United States. He is currently doing research in Gurupá and the Caxiuanã Forest in Brazil and the Maya site of Motul de San Jose in Guatemala. In addition, he is directing research at the Bass Street Community, a historic post-Civil War African American neighborhood at the site of Fort Negley in Nashville.

His research interests include agricultural production, land use, and ancient environments in rural and hinterland societies with a focus on household production and political economy. He has published in highly ranked journals such as the *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*, the *Journal of Ethnobiology*, and *Economic Botany* as well as numerous book chapters, encyclopedia entries, and reports. For his research he has received grants from the National Science Foundation, the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, the Tennessee Historical Commission, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

As an environmental archaeologist, Wyatt reconstructs subsistence and land use practices, regional historical ecology, and climate change through archaeological excavation, paleoenvironmental reconstruction, and the analysis of ancient plant remains. Crucial questions that arise through his research are how are landscapes constructed over time, how are human choices affected by their environment, and how do these choices change over time? This research is particularly vital today as the negative effects of human activities in the form of global climate change are becoming more apparent.



Paul Chilsen

Department of Media Arts
Tenured

For nearly four decades, Paul Chilsen has worked in film and TV all over the world, in most aspects of the industry. His first big step was in Los Angeles, where he did production management for the primetime show *Star Search* and some work for Disney as an assistant director. He left L.A. to study Cinema Theory and

Aesthetics at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, eventually moving to Columbia College Chicago, where he was a Follet Fellow and completed his M.F.A. in Film Production. His thesis film, *Gross Ratings*, received international acclaim, including a Student Academy Award nomination.

Many projects have transpired since. His debut feature *Stricken* was distributed worldwide. Chilsen also co-wrote an internationally acclaimed children's movie, *The Last Great Ride*, starring Oscar laureates Ernest Borgnine and Eileen Brennan.

Documentaries have been a focus, including a short film on the world's smallest T-Rex that got picked up by BBC online. Chilsen also worked on an award-winning documentary about Tennessee State University's Tigerbelles that aired on CBS Sports and the award-winning short *The Dead and The Living*, which explores archeology's evolving community relationships in the Brazilian Amazon.

Chilsen pushes the boundaries of fictional narrative filmmaking, with an interest in leveraging classic Hollywood modes of filmmaking to prioritize historically marginalized voices. He worked with Indigenous filmmakers in the Brazilian rainforest to create the film *Nhakpoti*, an international award-winning short that garnered a screening at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

Chilsen has taught at Columbia College Chicago, Northwestern University, Carthage College, and MTSU. An adaptable, interdisciplinary academic, his research focuses on the critical definition and practice of effective cinematic expression. He remains committed to student creative self-discovery and service, exploring new and diverse ways of responsibly creating effective media in a global, connected culture.



Trevor de Clercq

Department of Recording Industry

Promoted to Professor

Trevor de Clercq holds a Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Arts in Music Theory from the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester, in addition to a Master of Music in Music Technology from New York University, an Associate of Electronics Engineering Technology from the Cleveland Institute of Electronics, and a Bachelor of Arts in Music Theory and Composition from Cornell University. His primary area of research is the theory and analysis of popular music.

de Clercq's academic work combines traditional analytical approaches with statistical methods. His research has appeared in over 40 publications, including peer-reviewed journals such as *Music Theory Online*, the *Journal of Music Theory*, *Music Theory Spectrum*, *Popular Music*, *Empirical Musicology Review*, *Musicae Scientiae*, the *Journal of New Music Research*, *Music Theory and Analysis*, and the *Journal of Music Theory Pedagogy*, as well as various edited collections through publishers such as Oxford University Press and Cambridge University Press. He has delivered more than 50 presentations of his work at conferences, lectures, and workshops on music theory, music cognition, and music pedagogy.

He has served on the editorial boards for *Music Theory Spectrum*, *Musicae Scientiae*, the *Journal of Music Theory Pedagogy*, and *Empirical Musicology Review*, and he currently serves as co-editor of *Theory and Practice*. His *Nashville Number System Fake Book* was published by Hal Leonard in 2015, and his textbook titled *The Practice of Popular Music* is forthcoming from Routledge in 2024.

In addition to his academic background, de Clercq worked in the recording industry around New York City for many years. He gained experience at Sony Music Studios, Greene Street Recording, and Jarvis Studios before working as senior technician at Right Track Recording, where he supported albums by artists such as Mariah Carey, Britney Spears, Pat Metheny, Nas, Fabolous, Rod Stewart, Stephen Sondheim, and James Taylor.



Shannon Randol

Department of Media Arts

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

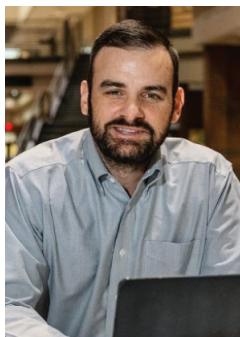
Shannon Randol holds a Master of Fine Arts in Visual Art with an emphasis in Photography from Washington University in St. Louis and a Bachelor of Science in Mass Communication with a concentration in Photography from Middle Tennessee State University. His photographic interest is with public spaces—design

and usage, mourning sites, and impacts of consumption on the landscape.

Randol's photographs have been included in national and international exhibitions. Recently, he was selected to participate in the Chico Reviews and the Workshops de Allende, both of which accept international applications.

In addition to his creative work, Randol has served as curator for the Baldwin Photographic Gallery since January 2020, bringing photographic artists to the MTSU campus to exhibit their work, present public lectures, and give student workshops. He also serves on the Faculty Senate for the Department of Media Arts and sits on the Faculty Senate Steering Committee.

Previously, he was the program coordinator for the Photography program and also the faculty advisor for the MTSU Photo Society. From 2008–15 Randol was the portfolio coordinator for the annual conference of the Society for Photographic Education.



Matthew Taylor

*School of Journalism and Strategic Media
Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor*

Matthew Taylor is head of the Public Relations concentration in the School of Journalism and Strategic Media and serves as co-director of the Social Media Insights Lab. His teaching and research are informed by more than a decade of professional communication experience. He received his doctorate at University of

North Carolina–Chapel Hill, where he was a Roy H. Park Ph.D. Fellow. He is a member of Kappa Tau Alpha National Honor Society and advises MTSU’s KTA campus chapter.

Taylor completed a PhDigital Bootcamp fellowship and has research published in *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, *Journal of Nonprofit and Public Sector Marketing*, *Journal of Radio and Audio Media*, *Journal of Public Relations Education*, and *The Emerald Handbook of Computer-Mediated Communication and Social Media*. He has been a faculty expert for news stories with *Nieman Reports*, *Times Higher Education*, NewsChannel 5, WKRN, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and WGNS Radio.

Taylor has received the Ed Kimbrell Award for Teaching Excellence and the Phi Kappa Phi Award (three times). He was a Faculty Fellow in the MTSU Academy of Teaching Excellence.

He worked as a director of strategic communications at two different preK–12 independent schools where he oversaw content strategy for institutional communications, developed crisis communications strategy, coordinated advertising campaigns, and created leadership communications. He guided a rebranding campaign with a marketing video that received an Educational Advertising Award. Taylor also managed alumni and development communications at Duke University School of Law.

Taylor started his career as a journalist and earned awards from the Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association. He also worked as a senior writer for advocacy communications at the American Cancer Society and as an assistant to the senior producer at *America’s Most Wanted*.

A Maryland native, Taylor was among the first bloggers credentialed to work in the press box at Oriole Park at Camden Yards. He also wrote for the Orioles’ regional sports network. He has been a college basketball public address announcer and a minor league baseball promotions announcer. He played basketball at Rutgers University and garnered Big East Academic All-American honors.



Tim Nelson

Department of University Studies

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

Tim Nelson earned his Ph.D. in Literacy Studies at Middle Tennessee State University. He received a Master of Arts degree from the Pentecostal Theological Seminary and completed his undergraduate work (B.A.) at Earlham College.

After a decade teaching in private and public schools, Nelson joined the MTSU faculty in 2016. He was appointed to a tenure-track position in 2018. Nelson's primary responsibilities include teaching prescribed reading support courses and coordinating the reading area of the University Studies department. He also teaches undergraduate and graduate professional studies courses and has served as a faculty member for MTSU's Scholars Academy program. He was the recent recipient of the Outstanding University College Faculty Award.

Nelson's research agenda includes developing pedagogies for academic vocabulary and academic language instruction. He is also interested in disciplinary literacies, assessment, and initiatives that promote student success. He has published articles in regional and national journals and has given conference presentations at all levels, local to international. He has served on the editorial review board of the *Journal of Adult and Adolescent Literacy*.

Nelson was the principal investigator on a funded grant from MTSU's Public Service Committee that involved designing and hosting an academic outreach for high school students in the Murfreesboro community. In this endeavor, he recruited former READ 1000 students to serve as volunteers alongside faculty and community members. He has been part of other grant-funded initiatives aimed at promoting student success, including a Tennessee Board of Regents funded Student Engagement, Retention, and Success grant.

Nelson has served on multiple committees at the department, college, and University levels. He is currently a representative on the Steering Committee of the Faculty Senate.

He lives by and promotes this personal axiom: "As we read, research, have dialog, and reflect, we become. In our becoming, we help the world become."

