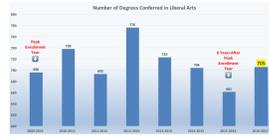




PECK HALL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: PAGE 2



CLA BY THE NUMBERS, FALL 2019: PAGE 4



A SAMPLING OF CLA EVENTS, FALL 2019: PAGE 5

FALL 2018 NEWS

Working with Students on the Autism Spectrum

Join us for the first in a new series of annual workshops for Faculty in CLA. **Jennifer Kates**, Department of English, will present tips for working with students on the autism spectrum. Dr. Kates has extensive experience working to improve outcomes for students and will share strategies faculty can use in the classroom. Our Spring 2019 Enrichment event will be focused on research.



FACULTY ENRICHMENT SERIES

Staff Changes in CLA Advising

Lucy Langworthy moved to a part-time position in CLA in which she is working on several recruiting initiative for the College. Simultaneously, we lost an advising position due to our enrollment declines since the advisors were originally hired, and the advisors were being asked to take on additional work beyond the scope of their original duties. As a result, we restructured leadership in our advising center to account for the added complexity and the higher caseloads of our leadership team and other advisors. **Dr. Brad Baumgardner** serves as the manager of the advising center and **Yuchun Schmidt** as the assistant manager. Brad and Yuchun make an excellent addition to the CLA leadership team. As I mentioned at our Fall Faculty & Staff meeting, the advisors, working with faculty, have made a tangible difference for our students, keeping them engaged in their coursework, helping them to anticipate and mitigate financial and academic problems, and providing full-time access to staff members who care about student success, broadly defined. As a result, our advisors received the highest rating on the student satisfaction survey in Spring 2018—4.7 out of 5.0.

CLA Website Updates

The **CLA website** has a new look and new options for faculty & staff interaction. Visit the **Faculty Information** section of our site to share feedback on your interactions with our staff, provide us with updates on your professional accomplishments, nominate new members for our Friends of Liberal Arts Board, view a copy of the CLA guidelines for instructional faculty, and learn more about CLA committees. Grants information and a copy of the current strategic plan can be found on the faculty information page as well.

College of Liberal Arts

Find Your Program

- 2500+ Students
- 300+ Faculty
- 20+ Majors
- 50+ Minors
- 7 Graduate Programs
- 8 Centers

Peck Hall Renovations Update

Over the summer, all of the stairwell and corridor floors in Peck Hall received intensive cleaning, which included removing decades of dirt and wax through a grinding process, filling cracks in the floor, and buffing the floors to produce a low-gloss shine. While much improved, years of neglect and staining means that the floors will never look like new. The floors will not be waxed again, which should mitigate future accumulation of gunk. All lighting in the halls and stairwells was replaced, some ceiling tiles were replaced, and the stairwells were painted. In the courtyard, new lighting and a new ceiling vastly improved the look of that area. Furniture will be installed before Fall Break. All of the work completed in the summer required cooperation from faculty and staff in the building, and I am grateful for the flexibility and patience of all who had to move (twice!) and work around the construction. Because we were able to allow the work during normal business hours, we saved enough money to do additional work, including, but not limited to, painting all of the hallways and updating the way-finding in the building. We are working with the contractor to determine how to best accomplish the remaining work within the time frame his TBR contract allows.



CLA Strategic Planning Process

This year the College will undertake a process of strategic planning. Our plan from the SWOT analysis from four year ago has served us well, but now we feel that we need to identify new goals to give us direction. The exponential population increase in Middle Tennessee, as well as a changing national picture for Liberal Arts, present new opportunities for us at MTSU. For our strategic planning process in 2018-19, the goal is to involve as many people in our college as possible, including representatives from faculty, staff, students, alumni, and parents in various combinations. We will begin the process with an organizing committee in the fall. We will then use the SOAR (strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and results) method with groups of stakeholders the week of October 22nd to formulate a list of priorities for the college. These sessions will be open to all faculty and staff in the college, so please sign up for a session when you receive an invitation via email. Our college will benefit greatly from a diverse set of voices in these sessions. In November, we plan to disseminate a survey to rank the goals defined from the sessions. There will be a compilation committee that will organize the results into a strategic plan, which will be disseminated in the spring for comment. The final copy of the strategic plan will be presented at the 2019-20 CLA fall faculty meeting.

A New Interdisciplinary Initiative

CLA and the College of Basic and Applied Sciences present the first Arts and Sciences Majors Showcase. Please encourage your students to attend and explore all of the options available to combine majors and minors in the arts and sciences to create a rich academic experience that will prepare them for life after graduation.

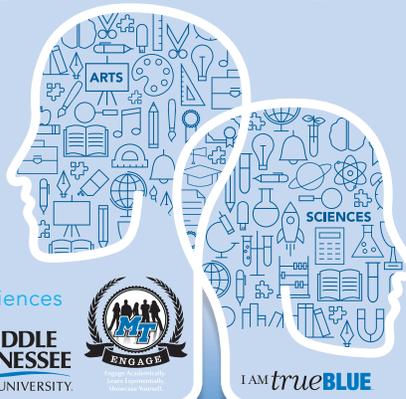
We will have tables for all majors in both colleges, sessions on internships, education abroad, and tips for double-majoring. Please join us in promoting the event and talk to your Department Chair if you are available to assist us with the event.

Arts and Sciences Majors Showcase

THE WINNING COMBINATION

**Tuesday,
September 25
4:00–7:00 p.m.
Science Building Atrium**

Sponsored by the
Colleges of Liberal Arts and Basic and Applied Sciences



**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY**

ENGAGE

0818-6357 / Middle Tennessee State University does not discriminate against students, employees, or applicants for admission or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, age, status as a protected veteran, genetic information, or any other legally protected class with respect to all employment programs and activities sponsored by MTSU. The Assistant to the President for Institutional Equity and Compliance has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies and can be reached at Cope Administration Building 116, 1001 East Main Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37132, Murdoc@mtsu.edu, or 615-898-2185. The MTSU policy on non-discrimination can be found at www.mtsu.edu/aeic



I AM trueBLUE

Explore how to combine majors and minors in the arts and sciences to give you a competitive edge in today's job market.

CLA by the Numbers, Fall 2019¹

- **323** full-time faculty (220 tenured or tenure-track, **up 9% from prior year**)
- **51** full-time & **7** part-time staff (across all units)
- **2,421** students (2,160 undergraduate, 261 graduate) & additional 43 undergraduates in other colleges w/CLA 2nd major, **down 4% overall but new freshmen & transfer enrollment up**
- **11** Academic Departments
- **8** Centers or Institutes
- **20** undergraduate majors & over **50** minors
- **2** Ph.D. programs and **6** Master's programs
- **77,212** Student Credit Hours (SCH) taught in Fall 2018 (**50,065** in general education), **up 2%**
- ~**30%** of all SCH and **55%** of general education SCH at MTSU
- **\$4.6m** active grant funding, **up \$0.2m**
- **\$411,000** development funds raised in FY 17-18, **up 9%**
- **Dozens** of co-curricular programming opportunities, including Band of Blue, Debate, Mock Trial, and many more
- **Hundreds** of concerts, shows, and art exhibits annually
- **5%** of CLA students studied abroad in 2017-2018 (<2 % of MTSU students studied abroad), **CLA participation is down 2%**
- **38%** of students who studied abroad in 2017-2018 were CLA majors
- **12%** of all students at MTSU are Liberal Arts majors, yet **46%** of national and international fellowship recipients are Liberal Arts majors and **84%** of undergraduate Fulbright awards go to Liberal Arts majors

¹ Enrollment and SCH data are preliminary (not based on official census data).

A Sampling of CLA Fall Events

Monday, September 17: **Constitution Day**

- CLA Reading of the United States Constitution, Todd Entrance (south), 9:00 am

Wednesday, September 26: Center for Chinese Music and Culture *presents* **Tharlo**

- Tokyo Filmex Grand Prize Winner, 2017 Golden Rooster Awards “Best Low Budget Feature” <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4923042/>
- Q&A with Director and Screenwriter, Pema Tsenden following film
- Student Union Theater: Room 208, 6:00 pm

Monday, October 1: Center for Chinese Music and Culture *presents* “**China Impressions**”

- Swedish Guitarist **Johannes Möller** <https://johannesmoller.com>
- Hinton Hall, Wright Music Building, 8:00 pm

Monday, October 8: **Stones River Chamber Players** *presents* “**Trios and Seasons**”

- <http://www.mtsu.edu/music/stonesrivercalendar.php>
- Hinton Hall, Wright Music Building, 7:30 pm

Wednesday, October 24 – Saturday, October 27: **MTSU Center for Historic Preservation** *hosts*

- Fifth Annual Slave Dwelling Project Conference: **Slavery, Resistance & Community**
- <http://slavedwellingproject.org/sdp-conference-2018-overview/>

Friday, October 26: Center for Chinese Music and Culture *presents* **Free Reed Showdown**

- Harmonica player **Howard Levy**, Chinese Sheng virtuoso **Hu Jianbing**
- Hinton Hall, Wright Music Building, 7:30 pm

Sunday, October 28: **MTSU Keyboard Artist Series** *presents* **Kirill Gliadkovsky**

- Hinton Hall, Wright Music Building, 3:00 pm <http://www.mtsu.edu/music/keyboardseries.php>

Thursday, November 8, Global Studies and Human Geography *presents* **Rick Steves**

- Tennessee Room, JUB, 7:30 pm

Friday, November 9, The Department of Theatre and Dance *presents* **9 to 5: The Musical**

- Tucker Theatre, 7:30 pm
- **MTSU Arts Patron Reception** immediately preceding performance
 - Studio Theatre, 6:30 pm

Friday, November 9: The Center for Chinese Music and Culture *presents* **Hot Pickers from the East**

- Music for Chinese pluck string instruments
- Hinton Hall, Wright Music Building, 7:30 pm

Thursday, November 15, The **Strickland Lecture Series** *presents* **Dr. Eugene Rogan**

- Tennessee Room, JUB, 6:30 pm

Sunday, November 18: **Stones River Chamber Players** *presents* “**Conversations and Soliloquies**”

- St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, East Main Street, Murfreesboro, 4:30 pm

Sunday, December 2: **Joys of the Season**

- Tucker Theatre, BDA, 3:00 pm

For questions about CLA events, contact [Connie Huddleston](#)

Coming to Your Email Inbox...

- An opportunity to participate in our pilot mentoring program (Speed Mentoring)
- Invitations to participate in the CLA strategic planning process
- Information about CLA student scholarship deadlines & applications

Share Your Expertise

Cathy Sgambati, Public Relations Specialist in Marketing and Communications, would like information about your expertise in order to connect you with media requests. If you would like to be available for interviews, please contact Cathy at cathy.Sgambati@mtsu.edu or (615) 898-5348 to make sure she has updated information for you.

Thank you...

for all you do to educate our students, facilitate the success of all students at MTSU, improve our community, and generate knowledge and creative work. You are the reason the College of Liberal Arts is successful at a time when many of our colleagues around the U.S. are struggling to maintain even a semblance of a core academic mission, particularly at regional public institutions. Your work matters for the students and for their families as well as for the future of our University. We are in the business of changing lives one student at a time. It is a privilege to be in that business with you.

