

**FLU VACCINATION
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**CLA ALUMNI TAKE
TOP HONORS AGAIN:
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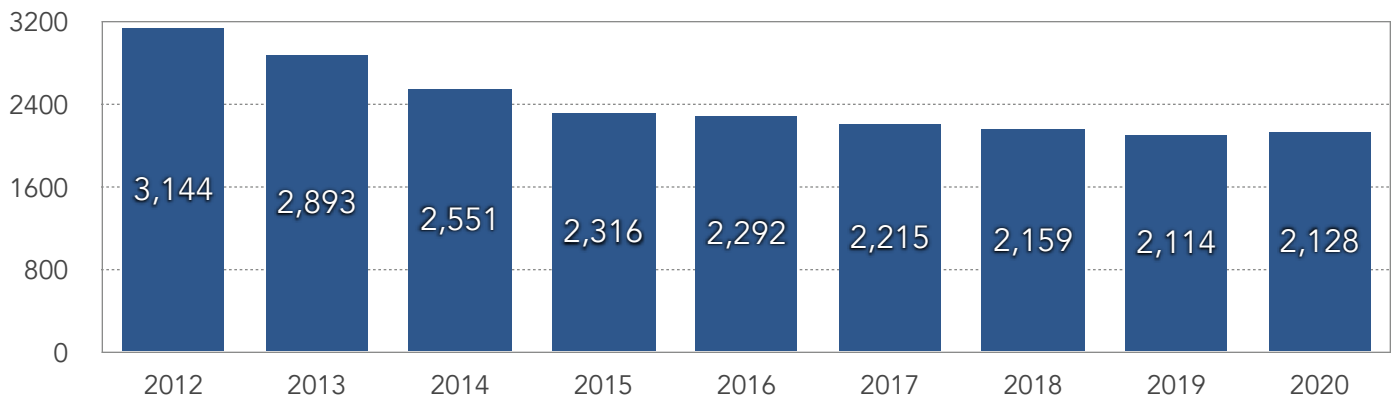
**FREE ACCESS TO
NASHVILLE OPERA &
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FALL 2020 CLA NEWS

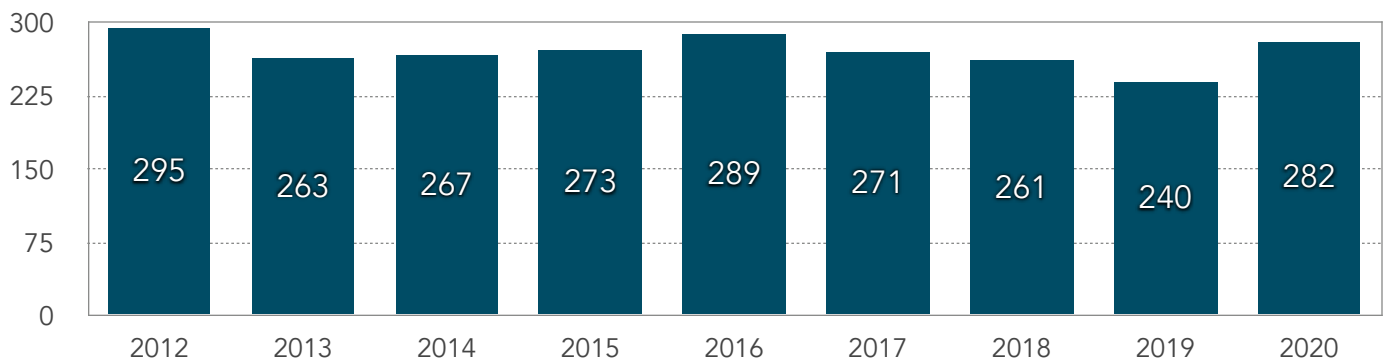
Student Success Update, Fall 2020

Thanks to strong undergraduate retention and graduate recruiting, our enrollment grew this year. This speaks to the resilience of our students during the pandemic and the amazing care shown by our faculty and staff. Thank you!

Undergraduate Enrollment



Graduate Enrollment



Interconnected Web Series



The College of Liberal Arts seeks speakers to address topics pertaining to the intersection of CLA disciplines, current events, or historic milestones for a new series entitled *Interconnected*. This Zoom-based video series explores how the liberal arts are connected to our everyday lives. The first episode is available on CLA's YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/1ym2nAwBsVs>.

Each *Interconnected* episode (5-7 minutes) examines a topic in a way that would appeal to a broad audience. As such, topics do not have to relate directly to your research; we want to showcase how our disciplines help us make sense of our world. Potential topics are limitless; a list to spark your creativity is included below. Faculty who are willing to participate, please send a brief summary of your topic to askcla@mtsu.edu.

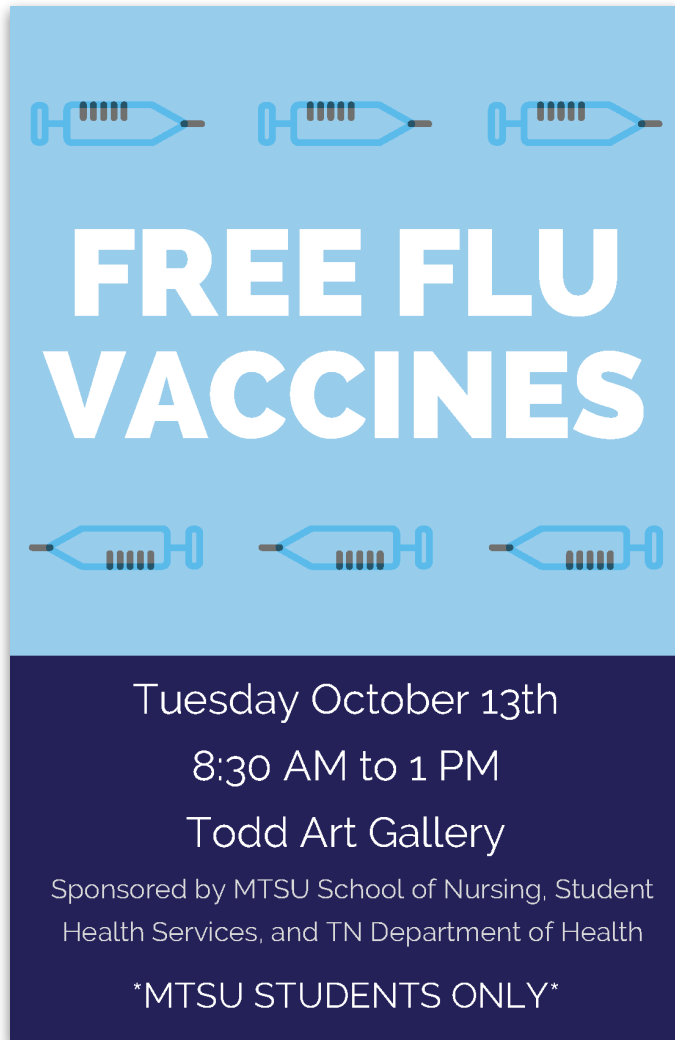


MTSU *Arts*
ART • DANCE • MUSIC • THEATRE

Patron Society

The MTSU Arts Patron Society enhances the opportunities for our students in the performing and fine arts programs. Join the Patron Society online at mtsu.edu/mtsuarts.

Flu Vaccine Information



The graphic features a light blue background with three syringe icons at the top and three at the bottom. In the center, the text "FREE FLU VACCINES" is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below this, on a dark blue background, the event details are listed in white text: "Tuesday October 13th", "8:30 AM to 1 PM", and "Todd Art Gallery". At the bottom of the dark blue section, it says "Sponsored by MTSU School of Nursing, Student Health Services, and TN Department of Health" and "*MTSU STUDENTS ONLY*".

MTSU Health Services and Campus Pharmacy will offer a flu vaccine clinic at the Health, Wellness, & Recreation Center Atrium on October 7 from 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM.

MTSU employees on the State of Tennessee Employee Health Insurance program who have CareMark as their prescription benefit plan may use their CareMark State of Tennessee Partners for Health prescription card for a **\$0** copay for the flu vaccine.

Those who wish to use this benefit to cover their flu vaccines will need to bring their card to the flu vaccine clinic.

****Due to current COVID-19 guidelines MASKS will be required along with social distancing at all times and in all areas of the flu clinics! Everyone seeking a flu vaccine must be healthy and fever free within the past 48 hours. Temperatures will also be taken of everyone who attends the flu clinics.****

OHA Receives Federal NEH-CARES Grant

The National Endowment for the Humanities recently awarded \$40.3 million in grants as part of the CARES Act funding. The Oral History Association (OHA) received \$43,000 to support two part-time positions at the Oral History Association and the transition of the association's 2020 conference to an online platform.



Amazing Alumni

For the second year in a row, three of the five top alumni awards were CLA alumni. To learn more about all of this year's winners, read [this MTSU News story](#). Excerpts about the three CLA Alumni are included below:



Distinguished Alumni Award **Pat Duke (Class of 1981), School of Music**

"Born into a musical family, Duke began a recording career at age 13. While at MTSU, he worked at Opryland theme park, singing in shows. On campus, he performed in theatrical productions, was the student leader of The Blues Crusade, MTSU's Big Band and formed a legendary musical group, Contraband. His degree was in music theory and composition. After graduating, he found work for Audio Media on Nashville's Music Row, writing, producing and playing on thousands of recording sessions.

A Nashville native now living in Murfreesboro, Duke thrived in Music City as a successful studio singer, musician, producer and Emmy Award-winning composer. He has performed on stage and in studio with superstars Celine Dion, Michael Bolton, Gladys Knight and Josh Groban.

He moved to Chicago to continue his music career and sing on national commercials — more than 10,000 and counting. He has voiced seven Super Bowl spots, one earning the prestigious Promax BDA Award for best voice-over among various awards. He has been a narrator for "Swamp People" for 12 years, four National Geographic programs, ESPN's "NASCAR Memories" and more. He has been the voice of Kellogg's Krave cereal, Miller Lite and Coors, KFC, NAPA Auto Parts, Kool-Aid Man and many others, plus his voice has been a part of video games and animation and film."

Young Alumni Achievement Award **LaShan Dixon (Classes of 2007, '10, '11 and '14),** **Colleges of Behavioral and Health Sciences and Liberal Arts**

"Dixon uses her many skills developed at MTSU in her personal, professional and pageant world. She is assistant public health director for the Rutherford County Health Department. In 2017, she received proclamations from Murfreesboro City and Rutherford County mayors who proclaimed Dec. 4 as "LaShan Mathews Dixon Day" for her professional and personal commitment to improving the quality of life for community residents. She is founder of Walking With a Purpose and co-founder of H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Excel Every Day) with her husband, Lamar Dixon, and daughter, Londyn Dixon.



Dixon is very active in a number of community organizations, including graduate adviser for the Eta Psi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. at MTSU, board examiner for the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence, Resolutions Committee chair of Tennessee Public Health Association, board member of the Prevention Coalition for Success Committee and Heart of Tennessee American Red Cross and member of the Community Wellness Council of Rutherford County.

A former MTSU adjunct professor, Dixon has been a Rutherford County community leader for the past 10 years, hosting multiple events while contributing toward several grants for women and underserved populations.”

True Blue Citation of Excellence: Achievement in Education (Non-MTSU Faculty)

Jo Ann Hood (Class of 1972), College of Liberal Arts

“Hood retired in 2011 after directing Overton’s band for parts of four decades, and serving as band director at Giles County High, Wright and Bellevue Junior High and Bellevue High School before that. Overton’s football stadium field was named “Jo Ann Hood Field” after her retirement. She guided the band to two Fiesta Bowl Parade events, the Tournament of Roses and Macy’s Thanksgiving Day parades, plus representing the USS Tennessee and state of Tennessee at three commemorations of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, with performances at the Arizona Memorial, the USS Missouri and Waikiki Holiday Parade.



In a distinguished music education career, among her honors was induction into the MTSU Band of Blue Club Hall of Fame in 1986, selection as an Outstanding Young Woman in America in 1987, serving on the jury for the John Philip Sousa Foundation Sudler Shield Award and serving on various executive and advisory boards.

Since retiring, Hood has been an adjunct faculty member at both MTSU and Tennessee State University, supervising music student teachers, and works with the Metro Nashville Public Schools Side By Side mentoring program. She serves extensively as an adjudicator and clinician of marching and concert bands.”

—Alumni biographies from original article by Randy Weiler (Randy.Weiler@mtsu.edu).

“One Vote Won”

2020 marked the centennial of the 19th amendment’s ratification. Tennessee played an important role in extending the right to vote to women, but free and open access to the polls was still denied to many Americans even after ratification. Several local artists collaborated on an original production for Nashville Opera called “One Vote Won” that illuminates voter suppression one hundred years ago and today.



MTSU’s Center for Historic Preservation worked with Nashville Opera to create a **study guide** for educators and was able to secure access to this 31-minute program for all MTSU students, free of charge.

Your “One Vote Won” educator access is available between now and November 2, the Monday before Election Day. **Here** is the link to the performance, the password is LEARN1VW. You are welcome to share all of this with your students, and we hope you enjoy the performance!

Civic Engagement



You still have time to submit your 2020 Census questionnaire! As of September 29, 2020, a federal court has extended the deadline to October 5. For more information, visit www.my2020census.gov.

Monday, October 5 is the last day in Tennessee to complete or update your voter registration before the November 2020 General Election. Early voting will be available October 14-29, and Election Day is Tuesday, November 3.

If you have questions about your voter registration status, polling location, or ballot, download the Go Vote TN app or visit www.govotetn.com.



CLA Events & Announcements

- **Connie Huddleston** has retired after 36 years of service to MTSU and CLA! Best wishes to Connie and her family in this new season of life. Thank you to all who joined us for her reception, our first socially-distanced event. Special thanks to the **Band of Blue** for helping us to celebrate Connie.
- **Romeo and Juliet:** The Department of Theatre and Dance will stream their performances of "Romeo and Juliet" live from the Tucker Theatre stage from October 1-4. The production will be available on MTSU's Livestream Channel, Facebook Live, and True Blue TV. For more information about this show and the rest of their season, visit mtsu.edu/theatreanddance.
- **Saturdays at Todd:** This faculty-led initiative is designed to expand the Department of Art and Design's community engagement in and around Murfreesboro. The free events are virtual for the Fall 2020 semester, and more information is available at <https://mtsu.edu/art/saturdays.php>.
- **School of Music Live Stream:** Do you miss hearing the great School of Music concerts live in Hinton Hall? Tune in to their live stream concerts all season long on their [YouTube channel](#).
- **Strickland Lecture:** Dr. Evelyn Hammonds (Harvard University) will be this semester's virtual Strickland Visiting Scholar. Join Dr. Hammonds and the Department of History for a Zoom Webinar on October 22 at 6 PM. [Click here](#) for more information about how to participate.
- **CLA Faculty Enrichment Series:** We are still finalizing details for this event, but we are excited to continue the Faculty Enrichment Series with a focus on faculty well-being. More details to follow.
- For more information about upcoming events, visit the [CLA Events Calendar](#) . If you have questions about featuring your event online, please contact cla@mtsu.edu.

Did You Know?

In September, the CLA Advising Center moved from Jones Hall to Peck Hall. They are located in the space formerly occupied by the Department of Social Work (PH 120-134).

Advisors have been actively reaching out to our students to check in on them this semester. The care and professionalism shown by the college and faculty advisors has been phenomenal, as always.