

# BULLETIN

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## MTSU Scholars Week

The 2019 MTSU [Scholars Week](#) celebration of research, scholarship, and creative project across campus took place March 18–22.

The University-wide Poster Exposition showcased over 180 undergraduate, graduate, and faculty research posters on Friday in the Student Union Ballroom. The exposition also featured creative performances by the Department of Theatre and Dance and the School of Music.

Among the students who opted in to be judged on poster design, content, and their spoken presentation, the winners for each college are:

### COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

#### Undergraduate 1st Place

“Thermal Desorption DART-MS Analysis of Ignitable Liquids with Chemometrics.”  
Isabella Barnett, Forensic Science; Mengliang Zhang, author/faculty sponsor,  
Chemistry; Frank Bailey, faculty, Biology

#### Undergraduate 2nd Place

“Fast Screening of Explosives by Direct Analysis in Real Time Mass Spectrometry,”  
Virginia Benefield, Forensic Science; Jared Frazier, Chemistry; Mengliang Zhang,  
author/faculty sponsor, Chemistry

#### Undergraduate 3rd Place

“Gene Discovery and Annotation of Gardnerella vaginalis, a Bacterium  
Associated with Bacterial Vaginosis and Pre-term Labor,” Marina Ibrahim, Biology;  
Rebecca Seipelt-Thiemann, author/faculty sponsor, Biology; Tim Miller, faculty,  
Computational Science

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## SCHOLARS WEEK WINNERS CONTINUED

### Graduate 1st Place

"Evaluating Physical Ergonomics in MTSU Classrooms," Brianna Smith, Engineering Technology; Mina Mohebbi, faculty sponsor, Engineering Technology

### Graduate 2nd Place

"A Prussian Blue Zinc Oxide Carbon Nanotube Composite for Rapid Hydrogen Peroxide Assaying," Raja Pandey, Chemistry; Yuhang Guo, visiting scholar, Biology; Ying Gao, faculty, Agriculture; Charles Chusuei, author/faculty sponsor, Chemistry

### Graduate 3rd Place

"Workload and Kinematics of Horses during Underwater Treadmill Exercise," Elysia Arnold, Horse Science; Holly Spooner, faculty, Horse Science; Naomi Minardi, industry collaborator, Equine PerformMAX; Rhonda Hoffman, faculty, Horse Science; Holly Spooner, faculty sponsor, Horse Science

## COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

### Undergraduate 1st Place

"Relationships between Skin Carotenoids, Body Mass Index, and Fruit/Vegetable Intake," Daniela Vega Little, Human Sciences; Elizabeth Smith, author/faculty sponsor, Human Sciences; Janet Colson, faculty, Human Sciences

### Undergraduate 2nd Place

"The Relationship between Feeling Unsafe at School and Depression among Tennessee High School Students," Tahirah Qadir, Allison Poteete, Macy Taylor, Melissa Davis, Felicia Pursley, Health and Human Performance; Garvita Thareja, Health and Human Performance; Andrew Owusu, faculty sponsor, Health and Human Performance

### Undergraduate 3rd Place

"Examining the Relationship between Bullying and Suicide in High Schools," Tatum England, Destine Gilliland, Abike Egbeniyi, Miaya Edwards, Health and Human Performance; Garvita Thareja, Health and Human Performance; Andrew Owusu, faculty sponsor, Health and Human Performance

### Graduate 1st Place

"Exploring the Complexity and Treatment Implications of the Bidirectional Relationship between Symptoms of Mental Illness and Chronic Disease Progression in a Rare Disease Population," Chanell Haley, Health and Human Performance; Sarah Patrick, Health and Human Performance; Angie Bowman, faculty sponsor, Health and Human Performance

### Graduate 2nd Place

"What Every Company Should Consider Before Entering Into an eSport Sponsorship Agreement: A Practitioner Perspective," Mohammed HutHut Alqahtani, Health and Human Performance; Brandy Palmer, Health and Human Performance; Steve Estes, faculty sponsor, Health and Human Performance

## JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

### Undergraduate 1st Place

"Restoration and Preservation of Irish Tower Houses: A Regional Study Conducted in County Tipperary, Ireland," Matthew Cureton, Management; Stacey Graham, faculty sponsor, History

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

### Undergraduate 1st Place

"Race, Bullets, and Videotape: Making Sense of Oscar Grant's Death," Lily West, English; Laura Dubek, faculty sponsor, English

### Undergraduate 2nd Place

"Chaos in Cincinnati: An Examination of a 2001 Race Riot in my Hometown," Maddison Falter, English; Laura Dubek, faculty sponsor, English

### Undergraduate 3rd Place

"Said in the Dark, Heard in the Daylight: Unearthing the Secrets of the 1921 Greenwood Massacre," Christopher Hyde, English; Laura Dubek, faculty sponsor, English

### Graduate 1st Place

"Language of Racial Reconciliation and Social Justice: Corpus-Based Analysis and Implications for Teaching," Jennifer Grow, Literacy Studies; Mohammed Albakry, author/faculty Sponsor, Literacy Studies

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

### Undergraduate 1st Place

"Learning from the Student's Perspective," Sarah Dixon-Morgan, Political Science; Ryan Korstange, faculty sponsor, University Studies

### Undergraduate 2nd Place

"Trayvon Martin: A Contemporary Narrative of American Race Relations," Laurel O'Neill, English; Laura Dubek, faculty sponsor, English

### Undergraduate 3rd Place

"The Past is Prologue: What 1957 Little Rock Teaches Us about Our Schools Today," Skylar Smith, English; Laura Dubek, faculty sponsor, English

### Graduate 1st Place

"Preserving Hidden Histories and the Frierson Chapel Historic District," Sarah Williams, History; Quinlan Odom, History; Jessica Smyth, History; Carroll Van West, faculty sponsor, History

### Graduate 2nd Place

"Commemorative Landscapes of Bangladesh: A History of National Identity and Transformation," Md Rahaman, History; Martha Norkunas, faculty sponsor, History

### Graduate 3rd Place

"The Forgotten Resource: Analyzing the Architecture of Historic Roller Rinks," Olivia Lane Tillner, History; Carroll Van West, faculty sponsor, History

## COLLEGE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

### Undergraduate 1st Place

"The Effects that Memory Has on Chamulas," Kelly Parker, Media and Communication; Rebekka King, faculty sponsor, Religious Studies

### Graduate 1st Place

"Zen and the Art of VR Gardening," Alexander Carter, Recording Industry; John Merchant, faculty sponsor, Recording Industry

### Graduate 2nd Place

"The Influence of Regionalism in Popular Recording: Spotlight on Memphis and Nashville," Ross Rice, Recording Industry; William Crabtree, faculty sponsor, Recording Industry

### Graduate 3rd Place

"Subversiveness Masculinity in Children's Animation: *Hey Arnold*, *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, and *The Loud House*," Kristen Sales, Media and Communication; Jane Marcellus, faculty sponsor, Journalism

First-place winners from the poster exposition will be on display in the James E. Walker Library's atrium through April 10.

For a breakdown of posters by college and department, please visit the Scholars Week website: [mtsu.edu/scholarsweek](https://mtsu.edu/scholarsweek).

Titles of the posters presented at the university-wide poster exposition can be viewed here: [mtsu.edu/scholarsweek/docs/SW19\\_Titles\\_and\\_Authors\\_FINAL\\_3-12-19.pdf](https://mtsu.edu/scholarsweek/docs/SW19_Titles_and_Authors_FINAL_3-12-19.pdf)

## UPCOMING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Being aware of—and prepared for—funding opportunities can be challenging. To help faculty stay informed, MTSU's Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) maintains a subscription to the comprehensive funding opportunity search engine, GrantForward. If you have not yet set up a researcher profile for opportunity notifications, please do so at [grantforward.com](http://grantforward.com).

Here are several future opportunities that we encourage faculty to consider.

### Arts Build Communities

Deadline: April 8

[tnartscommission.org/grants/arts-build-communities-grant-2/view-abc-grant-guidelines/](http://tnartscommission.org/grants/arts-build-communities-grant-2/view-abc-grant-guidelines/)

Offered by the Tennessee Arts Commission, the Arts Build Communities (ABC) grants have a submission deadline of July 1 this year. These are very modest grants of \$500--\$2,500 with a dollar-for-dollar required match. The program is designed to provide support for arts projects that broaden access to arts experiences, address community quality of life issues through the arts, or enhance the sustainability of asset-based cultural enterprises. Since MTSU is only allowed to submit one application each year, we will hold an internal competition to determine the project that best aligns with this program.

Those interested in this competition should notify Samantha Cantrell at **615-494-8751** or [samantha.cantrell@mtsu.edu](mailto:samantha.cantrell@mtsu.edu) no later than 4:30 pm on **Monday, April 8**.

### National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Stipends

Deadline: June 10

[neh.gov/grants/research/summer-stipends](http://neh.gov/grants/research/summer-stipends)

Each year the National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) offers modest summer stipends (\$6,000 for two months) to faculty undertaking **advanced research in the humanities**. Full-time faculty members who apply must first be nominated by their institutions, and each institution is only allowed to nominate two applicants.

MTSU has a formal process for selecting nominees for this opportunity:

1. Faculty who wish to be considered for one of these nominations must notify Samantha Cantrell no later than 4:30 p.m. on **Monday, June 10** at [research@mtsu.edu](mailto:research@mtsu.edu) or **615-494-8751**. **If you have any questions about your eligibility or the appropriateness of your project for this funding opportunity, please call 615-494-8751 to discuss.**
2. If more than two faculty members express interest, an internal competition will be held to select the nominees who will go forward. For the internal competition (**if required**), those who have expressed interest by the June 10 deadline will be asked to submit a brief proposal.
3. A committee will select MTSU's two nominees by mid-July. The nominees will then have ample time to prepare their full applications to submit to NEH by **Sept. 25, 2019** to compete nationally for stipends that NEH will award for summer 2020.

## HERE TO HELP!

For assistance with finding and preparing for funding opportunities, please contact your ORSP pre-award specialist:

### Samantha Cantrell

[samantha.cantrell@mtsu.edu](mailto:samantha.cantrell@mtsu.edu)

615-494-8751

*Behavioral and Health Sciences, Liberal Arts, Media and Entertainment, Jones College of Business, Walker Library, University College, non-academic units*

### Jolene Gordon

[jolene.gordon@mtsu.edu](mailto:jolene.gordon@mtsu.edu)

615-898-5894

*Basic and Applied Sciences, College of Education*



## FACULTY NEWS

### SERS Grant Finalists

Student Engagement, Retention, and Success (SERS) grants are offered through the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) and available for new or existing campus services or programs that serve underrepresented or other targeted student populations, including but not limited to underrepresented minorities, economically disadvantaged students, adults, veterans, and individuals with disabilities. MTSU traditionally competes well in this limited-submission opportunity.

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) facilitated an internal review process by academic leadership of 13 preliminary proposals to select five finalists to submit full proposals to TBR.

### Congratulations and good luck to the finalists:

**Karen Austin, Brad Baumgardner, Dawn McCormack, Mary Hoffschwelle, and Carol Swayze**, "Increasing Retention of Liberal Arts Sophomores with Multiple Risk Factors by Increasing Career Readiness"

**Nate Callender**, "Increasing Student Engagement through Lecture Video Access"

**Marva Lucas and Christina Cobb**, "Strategies to Enhance African-American Male Prescribed Math Course Success Rates"

**Lei Miao**, "Engaging First-Year STEM Minority and Underrepresented Students to Fight 'Sophomore Slump' through a Summer Research and Enrichment Program"

**Julie Myatt, Kate Pantelides, Erica Cirillo-McCarthy, and Ryan Korstange**, "Writing Across the Curriculum as a Pathway to Success for MTSU's Transfer Students"

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

### SBIR Grant Workshop

April 17, 4 p.m.

The federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant program supports R&D by small U.S. businesses. To qualify for SBIR funding businesses must partner with university researchers. SBIR funding is granted in a tiered scheme to match the development of innovations toward commercialization. Most federal grant-making agencies participate in the SBIR program.

ORSP is pleased to host experts from LaunchTN to present a workshop at MTSU on the basics of SBIR funding and how to know if it's a right fit for you.

The workshop will be available to MTSU faculty as a Skype for Business meeting to allow you to participate from your desk top. The presentation will be conducted live in the ORSP conference room, 012 ING with seating available for up to twelve guests.

[Register now!](#)

## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CENTER

### Upcoming Events and Opportunities

#### URECA Luncheon:

**April 8, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., MT Center, Ingram Building**

In conjunction with National Undergraduate Research Week and the Alumni Spring Showcase, the Undergraduate Research Center invites current and previous URECA scholars and mentors to join us for lunch as we celebrate the successes of undergraduate research. Robert "Hoot" Gibson, a former American naval officer and aviator, aeronautical engineer, and retired NASA astronaut, will be the guest speaker.

#### Undergraduate Research Programs Conference 2019

The Ohio State University is host for the June 27–29 conference, Building and Enhancing Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry Programs, in Columbus, Ohio.

**For more information, visit**

[cur.org/what/events/conferences/urpc/2019/](http://cur.org/what/events/conferences/urpc/2019/)

## FROM THE DESK . . .

### Moses Prabu, Ph.D., Compliance Officer



Among the recent changes in the federal Common Rule for human research subjects protection, three will affect many MTSU projects:

1. Studies that are determined by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) to pose "minimal risk" to subjects may be allowed to forego annual IRB review.
2. Informed consent documents must clarify the risks and benefits of participation as simply and directly as possible.
3. Beginning January 2020, projects involving more than one organization must delegate a single organization's IRB for oversight.

The Association of American Medical Colleges provides more on the topic here: [news.aamc.org/research/article/5-things-you-need-know-about-revised-common-rule](http://news.aamc.org/research/article/5-things-you-need-know-about-revised-common-rule). Please contact the MTSU Office of Compliance with any questions about the Common Rule.

## STUDENT RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

**Isabella Barnett**, a URECA Gold Scholar for the Summer 2019 semester, published her research in the *Journal of Forensic Science*, one of the most prestigious journals in the forensic sciences area. The article, titled "Detection and Classification of Ignitable Liquid Residues in the Presence of Matrix Interferences by Using Direct Analysis in Real Time Mass Spectrometry," was co-authored by Frank Bailey, Ph.D., Department of Biology, and Mengliang Zhang, Ph.D., Department of Chemistry.

Isabella also placed second in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences Scholars Day poster presentation competition and placed first in the university-wide Scholars Week poster exposition (faculty mentors: Zhang and Bailey)!

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