

Commencement ceremonies set for this Saturday

Michael Tyler Spence Harris of Harold will be the student speaker for MSU's Winter Commencement on Saturday, Dec. 15.

During the ceremony that begins at 10:30 a.m. in the Academic-Athletic Center, MSU President Wayne D. Andrews will confer degrees on 559 graduate and undergraduate students.

Harris is a candidate for a Bachelor of Music degree in performance with an emphasis in jazz studies and studio music with guitar as his principal instrument.

He will continue his education by pursuing a master's degree in performance at MSU while working as a graduate assistant in the Department of Music.

The son of James and Loma Harris of Harold, he has maintained a 4.0 grade point average and has been a member of the Dean's List every semester since 2003.

For the commencement exercises, the grand marshal and mace bearer will be Dr. Brian Reeder, professor of biology and executive director of the Center for Environmental Education in the Institute for Regional Analysis and Public Policy.

Faculty marshals are Dr. Frances L. Helpinistine, professor of English, and Peggy Osborne, associate professor of marketing and faculty representative for athletics.

MSU's Black Gospel Ensemble, directed by Dr. Roosevelt Escalante, will perform during the commencement program.

During the afternoon, MSU's Nursing Program will host a pinning for 40 students who have completed degree requirements. The pinning will begin at 1 p.m. in the Reed Hall Auditorium.

Recertification

Dr. Wayne D. Andrews, president of MSU, has initiated a year long process of completing requirements for re-certification of its athletics program by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

The NCAA started its certification requirement for all Division I institutions in 1989 with the process taking hold in 1999. MSU is part of that second cycle in review. NCAA certification is similar to academic accreditation.

"We really look at this process as an opportunity for us to improve what we do for our student-athletes," said Brian Hutchinson, MSU director of athletics. "I hope this endeavor allows our community to be aware of the things we do within Eagle Athletics, not just in competition, and affirms the things we do very well. If we're not doing things as well as we'd like, this process will demonstrate a real opportunity to improve."

According to the NCAA, athletics certification has three main goals:

Open the affairs of athletics to the university community and public;

Set standards for the operation of Division I athletics programs; and

Put tough sanctions in place for institutions that fail to conduct a comprehensive self-study or to correct problems.

President Andrews appointed Dr. Dayna Seelig, executive assistant to the president, to chair MSU's certification effort.

Nearly 30 institutional personnel and community representatives will participate in the reporting process as members of the steering committee or working subcommittee.

Police lead mock incident exercise

MSU along with Rowan County and Morehead law and emergency officials met last week for a "mock" shooting exercise.

MSU Police Chief Joe Cline led discussions in what procedures would be taken, if an incident would occur on campus.

"I think we can't be too prepared," said Cline. "If we ever have, and I hope we never have a situation, it will take the entire community to respond."

President Wayne D. Andrews along with Dr. Karla Hughes, provost, led MSU's contingency in the conversation of the planning of actions and responses that the University would undertake.

"We have drills throughout the year. We try to be prepared the best we can for any situations that might come along," said Cline. "That's our job, the safety of the campus community."

Cline stated that the city and county are lucky to have qualified personnel and the resources in place just in case an incident would happen.

Established in response to review of its campus safety procedures, Morehead State is installing a new outdoor, audible alarm system. The warning device includes electronic tones and PA systems and is located atop Cartmell and Ginger halls. MSU also has published an Emergency Procedures Handbook, with the information displayed on a poster that will be installed in each classroom.

Additional information on MSU's emergency procedures can be found on the MSU Web page at www.moreheadstate.edu/emergency.

Interim position

MSU has announced Donna King has been appointed financial aid administrator. She will serve on an interim basis through June 30.

King succeeds Carol Becker, who retired in November. She will fulfill her new responsibilities in addition to her current duties and position as assistant director for outreach services in Enrollment Services.

A national search will be conducted to fill the position of director of enrollment services to fulfill some of Becker's former duties. The director of enrollment services is responsible for ensuring excellence in customer service for all visitors and callers; timely and accurate processing of admission applications and financial aid forms; and prompt communication with current and prospective students regarding both financial aid and admission information.

King is a three-time MSU graduate. She earned an associate's degree in business; and a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in sociology.

King and her husband, Willis King, reside in Owingsville.

People in the News

Matt Ballard, head football coach, has been named a finalist for the 2007 Liberty Mutual Coach of the Year Award, which honors the college football coaches who best exemplify responsibility and excellence on and off the field. Fans can cast a vote for Ballard to win for Division I-AA at www.coachoftheyear.com by Dec. 15. The winner will be announced on Saturday, Dec. 29 during an ABC/ESPN special.

Dr. Mattie Decker, assistant professor of education, as a service through the Camden-Carroll Library, visited students studying for finals in the library this week with her certified therapy dog, Halle. Students were encouraged

Board OKs performance bonus plan

Morehead State University's Board of Regents voted Thursday to establish the institution's first-ever presidential performance bonus.

Board Chair James H. Booth said an annual bonus of up to 40 percent of President Wayne D. Andrews' base salary is designed to reward his superior performance and to keep MSU competitive with other institutions looking for new chief executives in the future.

"We want to send a clear signal that President Andrews is doing an exceptional job and that we intend to keep him in the position as long as he is an effective leader," Booth said. "We are proud to join the growing number of institutions that have instituted performance bonuses to retain outstanding presidents."

Dr. Andrews, who is completing his third year in office, said he is "gratified and humbled" by the board's decision. His base salary is \$238,000. He will be eligible for the bonus at the end of the current fiscal year. In other action at Thursday's quarterly meeting, the Regents:

Approved the "Planning for Greatness" business plan to guide the institution's efforts to increase enrollments and improve retention and graduation rates to meet statewide goals by 2020.

Amended MSU's surplus property disposition policy to allow distribution to non-profit, non-religious organizations, as well as public schools and local government agencies.

Established a code of ethics for all MSU employees.

Ratified funding requests to the Council on Postsecondary Education for \$51.6 million in state funds in 2008-09 and \$54.4 million in 2009-10 for operating; for \$5.6 million in state matching funds for private gifts through the "Bucks for Brains" program; and \$35.6 million for capital construction projects.

Accepted the 2006-2007 fiscal audit conducted by the CPE firm of Dean, Dorton and Ford.

GIS workshop

A workshop on how to make use of free Geographic Information Systems (GIS) resources is set for Dec. 19, from 9 a.m. until noon at Big Sandy Community and Technical College in Prestonsburg, Room 239.

The workshops will be conducted by Dr. Timothy Hare, assistant professor of anthropology, director of KCGERO, and instructor in the MSU's Geographical Information Systems Certificate Program within IRAPP. Additional information: 783-9436.

to pet Halle as a way to help relieve stress.

MSU's Teacher Recruitment Program and Future Teacher Corps joined high school students from across the state that gathered in Louisville for the Fifth Annual State Future Educators Association Conference. Hosted by the Kentucky Department of Education, the conference offered programming for middle and high school students interested in exploring careers in education. **Dr. Roger Cleveland**, assistant professor of education, and **Denise Vulhoph Watkins**, associate professor of theatre, were part of the conference.

Grants awarded

Several Morehead State University faculty members have been awarded research or creative production grants to further academic exploration.

Research grants are available to faculty members for special research within their disciplines. The competitively awarded grants are designed to assist the researcher in meeting the costs of the proposed project.

The awards, ranging from \$2,024 to \$5,000 were granted by the Research and Creative Productions Committee in MSU's Office of Research, Grants and Contracts.

Faculty members and their grant titles are:

Dr. Silvia Atim, assistant professor of organic chemistry, \$5,000 for "Synthesis and Luminescence Properties of Substituted Fluoranthene Derivatives."

Dr. Ann Andaloro, assistant professor of mass communication, and Dr. Gina Blunt, assistant professor exercise science, \$4,930 for "Get Fit Like an Eagle: A Series of 12 half-hour Health and Wellness Programs for MSU-TV."

Dr. Bernadette Barton, assistant professor of sociology, \$2,024 for "The Toxic Closet: Being Gay in the Bible Belt."

Dr. John T. Blackledge, assistant professor of psychology, \$4,958 for "Assessing the Impact of Cognitive Defusion and Cognitive Restructuring Techniques on Psychological Distress."

Dr. Cary Fera, assistant professor of psychology, \$3,375 for "Driving While Distracted: The Effects of Glances Away From the Road on Subsequent Perception of Changes in the Driving Environment."

Gary Mesa-Gaido, associate professor of art, \$5,000 for "People, Places and Spaces of France."

Dr. L. Curtis Hammond, associate professor of music, \$4,943 for "Recording of Two Sextets for Piano and Winds."

Dr. Adrian Mandzy, assistant professor of history, \$3,881 for "Battlefields of Ukraine."

Dr. Gilbert Remillard, assistant professor of psychology, \$3,000 for "Implicit Learning of Fifth-Order Sequential Structure."

Dr. Yuqiu You, assistant professor of industrial and engineering technology, \$2,813 for "Investigating the Stability and Efficiency of ADO Modules in a Web-Based Manufacturing Control Interface."

Research grants are available to faculty members desiring to conduct basic or applied research that has potential for contributing to the field of knowledge within their discipline. Creative Production grants are available to assist artists in completing a special creative production. Both are competitively awarded grants and designed to assist the researcher/artist in meeting the cost of the proposed project.

Research or creative production fellowships are available to faculty members to allow them time in the summer to focus their full attention on scholarly or creative projects.

Job vacancies

EXTERNAL

Assistant Professors of Education (Tenure Track, Two Positions), Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Review of candidate materials will begin Dec. 14 and will continue until positions are filled.

Instructional Technology Consultant (Fixed-Term), Department of Information Systems and the College of Business. The review of materials will begin immediately and will continue until position is filled. To ensure consideration apply by Dec. 15.

Painter I, Office of Facilities Management. To ensure consideration, apply by Dec. 19.

Enrollment Data Specialist, Office of Enrollment Services. To ensure consideration, apply by Dec. 19.

Building Services Technician, Office of Facilities Management. Review of applications began Oct. 19; however, applications will continue to be accepted through Dec. 31 to fill positions if they become available.

Credentials Processing and Communications Coordinator, Office of Enrollment Services. To ensure consideration, apply by Dec. 20.

Credentials Specialist, Office of Enrollment Services. To ensure consideration, apply by Jan. 2.

Administrative Secretary, Center for Regional Engagement. To ensure consideration, apply by Jan. 2.

Assistant Professor of Accounting, Department of Accounting. Review of applications will begin Jan. 4; however applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Assistant or Associate Professors of Science Education and Physical Science or Earth/Space Science (Tenure Track, Two Positions), Department of Physical Sciences beginning Aug. 7. Review of applications will begin on Jan. 30 and will continue until positions are filled.

Internal applicants should obtain a copy of the job opportunity posting from the Office of Human Resources indicating the application materials required for each position. Official transcripts are required for administrative positions.

A keyboarding exercise is required for secretarial, clerk/typist and dispatcher positions and must be completed prior to the position closing date. To register for this keyboarding exercise, contact the OHR at 783-2097.

Morehead State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action educator and employer with a strong commitment to community engagement.

Update break

This is the last Update that will be produced for the fall semester.

The next issue will be printed on Thursday, Jan. 17. The deadline for that issue will be noon on Tuesday, Jan. 15. Additional information is available by calling 783-2030.

Happenings

Thursday, Dec. 13

Fall semester final examinations, through Dec. 14; spring 2008 term begins Jan. 14

Folk art exhibit: "Hotbed, Folk Art from Elliott County," Kentucky Folk Art Center; exhibit runs through Dec. 30.

Center for Regional Engagement (CRE), public forum, room 275, MSU at Ashland, 3:30 p.m.; also, Morehead Conference Center, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 15

Winter Commencement, Academic-Athletic Center, 10:30 a.m.

Nursing pinning ceremony, Reed Hall Auditorium, 1 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 17

Basketball: Lady Eagles vs. University of Tennessee-Martin, Academic-Athletic Center, noon (Kids Day).

Basketball: Eagles vs. University of Tennessee-Martin, AAC, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 19

Basketball: Lady Eagles vs. Eastern Illinois University, AAC, 5:15 p.m..

Basketball: Eagles vs. Eastern Illinois University, AAC, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 24

Holiday break, no office hours or regular mail delivery, through Jan. 1. Offices reopen on regular schedule on Wednesday, Jan. 2.

KAS honors

MSU was well-represented during the 93rd Kentucky Academy of Science (KAS) Annual Meeting. Students and faculty from MSU gave 56 of the 225 presentations and displayed 19 of the 146 posters at the meeting, held Nov. 8-10 in Louisville.

MSU students won first, second and third place in the graduate research competition for physics and astronomy, and second and third place for undergraduate research in that discipline.

In the psychology division, they placed first through fourth place in the graduate research competition for psychology, and first through third place in undergraduate research.

A mathematics student tied for first place in undergraduate research, and a geography student was first in poster presentation. In the geology division, two undergraduate students won first place honors for research.

Additional information on KAS is available by accessing www.kyscience.org.

UPDATE is published weekly during each academic term by the Division of University Relations for the benefit of MSU's faculty and staff members. Material for inclusion in each week's issue must be received by noon Tuesday in AY 11; e-mail to s.smith; or call 783-2030.

Shirley A. Smith, Editor



Media Relations
11 Allie Young Hall
Morehead, KY 40351-1689