

College of Behavioral and Health Sciences

Terry Whiteside

Dean

Scott Colclough

Interim Associate Dean

Deborah Newman

Criminal Justice Administration, Chair

Steve Estes

Health and Human Performance, Chair

Deborah Belcher

Human Sciences, Interim Chair

Greg Schmidt

Psychology, Chair

Rebecca Smith

Social Work, Chair

Karen Ward

School of Nursing, Interim Director

Bea Perdue

Development Director

Brelinda Johnson

Academic Advisor

Linda Hall

Executive Secretary

Publication of the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences Development Office

www.mtsu.edu/CBHS

“The margin for excellence will be greatly expanded by the support of our alumni, corporations, foundations, and friends who realize how high impact discoveries and learning can advance the health and well-being of our citizens and their communities, locally and globally.”

Dean Terry Whiteside

MTSU's Newest College . . . Focused on a Future of Better Outcomes

A Winning Game Plan for the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences

It's not hard to understand why Criminal Justice Administration, Human Sciences, Health and Human Performance, Nursing, and Social Work are the educational departments that now make up the new **College of Behavioral and Health Sciences (CBHS)**.



Brelinda Johnson advising Alejandra Serrano (Soph., Psych Major).

The study, research, training, and practice that happens in these disciplines eventually results in healthier people and healthier communities.

“The practitioners and professionals that we send out into the world have to be ready to face society's intractables,” says CBHS Dean Terry Whiteside. “We will always be looking for ways to keep our population healthier with greater access to active lifestyles; exploring ways to expand our criminal rehabilitation efforts and reduce recidivism; and dealing with evolving social constructs. And yet, nothing is more rewarding than seeing young adults with spinal injuries, unable to walk, utilize the technology of our underwater treadmill to rebuild their bodies in a way far beyond the usual applications in sports training for able and mobile athletes.”

Brelinda Johnson, college advisor, says the common theme that shines through when speaking with prospective CBHS students is the desire to help others. “These are the degree

areas that speak to that personal objective. Nursing students have to be prepared for a rigorous academic portfolio and state board exams if they are even among the thirty percent of applicants accepted into our program. The profession is waiting for them with open arms and continuous job openings that need to be filled.” The Tennessee Career Center worked with 33 nursing graduates in 2011–12. Thirty-two more MTSU board-certified nurses are now employed in clinics, hospitals, and nursing homes from Tennessee to Florida.

There is a strong focus on applied research in the college—whether it's the simulation labs in Nursing or nerve therapy in Health and Human Performance—to better prepare students and always with the hope of better outcomes. Psychology professor Alan Musicant reminds us that we can't lose sight of the need to support basic research, “It is important to understand that the knowledge we gain from this research provides a foundation for advanced learning.”

Dean Whiteside knows that the best vision for MTSU's newest college has to be a shared vision. “Our success will depend greatly on our ability to build strong reciprocal relationships with our alumni, the community, and corporate partners. These relationships will expand academic enrichment for our students and speak to retention. At the same time, we can share our intellectual capacity with the local and global community to address today's challenges as we all continue to focus on better outcomes for tomorrow.” **CBHS**



Terry Whiteside, dean, Behavioral and Health Sciences, with Marlene Mayen (Soph., nutrition major), in Whiteside's office.

Down and Distance with Dean Terry Whiteside

Terry Whiteside has served in a variety of roles at MTSU for 40 years, from a professor of psychology to chair of the department before being tapped by President McPhee as dean of the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences. He also serves as MTSU faculty representative to the NCAA. We wanted to know more about the dean's leadership game plan.

Q: Dean Whiteside, you have a reputation for being an inclusive leader who invites everyone to contribute to the process. How has that worked in the early stages of the college?

A: I've made it clear that our success is dependent on the contributions of all of us working together, not just my efforts as the dean. As a result, the mission statement and our initial goals have been developed in collaboration. Now that we have almost all of our leaders in place, we can begin to think about a strategic plan for the next five years.

Q: What do you see as the biggest challenge and opportunity for MTSU's newest college?

A: First it's a change and for some it's a big change, while for other departments the change is small and subtle. That takes adjustment, but we can't sit still. I've tried to think of it as I think of our athletic move to Conference USA. If we leverage that new public exposure, there should also

be opportunities to expand our influence and opportunities for more public participation and support.

We have a tremendous alumni base, and they can be engaged to influence the success of our students and we can support their continued professional development. There are issues in our local community that we can bring our intellectual capacity to bear upon, along with the cooperation of civic, community, and corporate leaders to produce better outcomes.

Q: What specific outcomes do you most want to influence?

A: Every academic discipline in the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences speaks to a service sector in the community. In academia, success is measured by comparing actionable priorities with quantifiable results. We want to improve our retention rates, and we know that engaged students who have evidence that their success is important to faculty, staff, and alums are more likely to complete their degrees. Students who complete their degrees and are successfully employed are more likely to support the college; corporations and foundations that see high levels of alumni and employee support are more likely to contribute their support. So, even as we're trying to influence study and research outcomes in our disciplines, we also have to contribute to supporting the priorities of the University. **CBHS**

How true is Your BLUE?

It could last forever... Many of us have read about the social worker who left a million dollars to a university to the absolute surprise of everyone. Development professionals know that contributions from individuals are very dependent on how well they are acquainted with an institution, their level of commitment, and their ability to give. Ability isn't always the factor you can be sure of despite all the analytics and predictive modeling available to fundraisers.

"There's general thinking that the professional groups that make up the Behavioral and Health Sciences alumni are dominated by caregivers with modest incomes versus seven-figure Wall Street salaries," says Bea Perdue, the college's development director. "But the individuals who care and feel a strong connection find a way to build a legacy that will serve MTSU forever. In my mind, each alumnus can make a difference to the success of our efforts and build a personal philanthropic legacy."

Congratulations to Lisa Sheehan-Smith, associate professor, Human Sciences, (far right) the bronze medal winner at the Adult Nationals Ice Skating Competition in Scottsdale, Arizona.



Photo courtesy of Cynthia Slawter Photography, 2013

A true BLUE Foundation to Build a Dream On

People may be wondering why Kris Thomas ('08) didn't major in Music at MTSU, but for him music was just always there and psychology was intriguing. Now he found himself using a lot of what he learned to steady his nerves and bolster his confidence as he stands in front of music superstars and competes on the *Voice* each week. "I found myself drawing on information from my studies in psychology to stay calm and focused, trying not to get too high when I got a lot of praise and not too low when the judges weren't as impressed as I hoped they'd be."



Photo courtesy of Ethan James Photography

Christopher McGee has a good reason to build a legacy. Well beyond a fifth-year senior, it's taken him thirteen years to complete the requirements for a degree in nursing. "I couldn't have done it without my parents being there for me emotionally and financially. Along this journey, I learned that so many people just aren't so fortunate. I want to be that same blessing to someone, and I want to be able to do it for years to come."

It will take \$25,000 for Christopher to endow the Larry and Lyndia McGee Nursing Scholarship, and he's starting by asking his friends and family to make contributions in lieu of graduation gifts. He feels certain that he'll have \$5-6K after graduation and reach the endowment mark within the five-year deadline.

Assistant professor of nursing Mariesa Severson has no doubt he'll make it happen. She's seen a young man grow up and gain a strong understanding of the world

around him with compassion for those less fortunate while never losing his sense of humor and joy of living.

"Christopher is going to make a difference," says Bea. "When you hear his desire to show leadership with the establishment of a philanthropic legacy, you know he's going to inspire other alums and many others to support MTSU." **CBHS**



Leading, Learning, Sharing, Serving . . . It's true BLUE

- Social Work Forum members at Thistle Farms to visit with members of the Magdalene Residential Program. (photo below)



- Human Sciences students working with the Murfreesboro City Schools Nutrition Program focused on helping students and their families make better food choices for healthier outcomes.
- Professors Catherine Crooks and Stuart Bernstein (Psychology) were named Community Volunteers of

the Year for their innovative work on health and literacy with Read to Succeed.

- Professor Paul Williamson and students headed to Guatemala this summer to open a health clinic and provide basic health care to villages. (photo below)



- Alum Tonya Hobbs ('04) is the Director and Co-Founder of the new Kymari House in Murfreesboro, providing therapeutic visits between non-custodial parents and their children in a safe and neutral environment.

2013 Senior Honor Students (Scholastic Average 3.75-4.0)

Criminal Justice Administration

James N. Clemmons
Heather E. Haggard
Caleb N. Jernigan
Breanna R. Molitor
Ridge H. Nunley
Michael A. Ripley
Kenneth T. Romans
JoAnna R. Wilson

Health and Human Performance

Marissa E. Ambruster
Sabrina D. Anderson
Laura J. Arner
Sarah J. Barnes
Samantha K. Barrett
Laura K. Clinton
Kelly M. Covington
Lucy C. Estes
Katelyn L. Haynes
Ashley M. Henley
Jessica Hobbs
Karlyn M. Ladd
Dakota L. Logan
Kasie D. Meeks
Kelsey J. Moody
Laura A. Peglow
Linda M. Reed
Billie C. Richardson

Elizabeth M. Smith
Rachel S. Tidwell
Jamie M. Watters

Human Sciences

Emily M. Allman
Rania T. Amer
Tiara K. Battle
Bethaney S. Bowen
Mackenzie K. Campbell
Donna J. Davis
Alycia K. Gillaspie
Tiffany A. Graziano
Kerstyn E. Motter
Jenna R. Osteen
Megan G. Purdom
Alexa N. Scully
Katherine R. Skrzypek
Anastasia Smyrnova
Sarah H. Visocky

Nursing

Mallory J. Bailey
Kala M. Boles
Jennifer M. Camp
Rachel C. Cardel
Joshua C. Carlisle
Christina M. Chavez
Heather A. Cook
Sarah E. Doyka
Will J. Elmore
Jennifer K. Fort

Erica S. Fullbright
Kerri Georgakopoulos
Jessica Gilbert
Jessica R. Goetz
Rhonda E. Gragg
Samantha J. Hebel
Jonathan M. Holland
Austin C. Holmes
Krystle R. Horton
Aubree J. Hoyt
Adriana N. Humphries
Hannah F. Juergens
Lisa M. Lewis
Elizabeth C. Linton
Abby G. Mullican
Christopher A. Ott III
Katie L. Pancake
Abigail M. Paraiso
Emma R. Poland
Joseph P. Reynolds
Sarah J. Robinson
Dana E. Rogers
Catherine J. Rolof
Michael D. Ross
Jessica L. Smithson
Lauren E. Stamps
Bibiana C. Ulumenfo
Kimberly D. Whittemore
Heather L. Williams
Keri C. Willoughby

Matthew K. Worley
Grace H. Zimmerman

Psychology

Rachelle R. Adams
Madeline B. Akin
Andrea D. Boyer
Jonathan E. Driver
Kylie D. Forte
Deana S. Garrett
Ashante L. Givens
Brandon T. Hazlett
John T. Hill
Kathryn E. Holden
Kaytlin B. Morris
Chelsea S. Morrison
Nisha K. Patel
Kassie M. Perry
Chastity N. Reynolds
Dyana Smith
Kyle C. Thorne
Kristin M. Trim
Britney C. Williams

Social Work

Shandie J. Crow
Maggie L. Flanagan
Marissa D. Klucka
Kerry M. Long
Meredith K. Marcum
Janiece A. Milner
Carrie A. O'Brien

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Tell us about a true BLUE alumnus, student, or faculty. Contact Bea.Perdue@mtsu.edu.