



OWLS Outlook

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Middle Tennessee State University

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Nontraditional Student Week Activities at MTSU

The first week of November is designated as National Nontraditional Student Week each year—this year, it's November 2–6. This is the week colleges and universities all over the United States produce special programs and activities designed to make people aware of the adult learners on their campuses. MTSU will celebrate with a variety of activities during the week.

Essay Contest for Nontraditional Student Week! Last year was a record year for our essay contest. We had the essays of three students published during the week—one in *Sidelines*, another in the *Record*, and the third in the *Daily News Journal*. So if you want to explain to others what it is like to be a nontraditional student at MTSU, you may win the essay contest and become a published author. The **deadline** to submit essays for the contest is **October 16**. For details about the rules, click “Events” in the sidebar on the Adult Student Services Web page and click “Essay Contest.”

Wednesday, November 4, will be Nontraditional Student Day at the KUC, in front of the Grill between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for nontraditional students to find out more about the OWLS student organization, to join OWLS, and to receive an OWLS pin. **Plan to come by the OWLS table on November 4 to pick up your special nontraditional student gift and to help celebrate nontraditional students!**

Our annual Nontraditional Week will culminate with a potluck dinner on **Thursday, November 5, in KUC 322**. Our traditional holiday dinner for non-traditional students and their families always features good food and lots of good conversation. Since it is a potluck meal, all participants should bring salads, vegetable dishes, and desserts to accompany the turkey and dressing provided by the OWLS.

The initiation for new Pinnacle Honor Society members takes place following the dinner. We also honor December graduates and present the Pinnacle Award of Achievement at this event.

This year, we are pleased to be able to extend an invitation to one of our own alumni, **Dallas Nichols** (pictured at right), **who served as an OWLS president**. Nichols secured the 12 OWLS scholarships for our members during her tenure. She will be an inspirational speaker who will share her successes (as well as those trials along the way) with us.

—Dr. Carol Ann Baily, director

Dallas Nichols



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Upcoming Events

OCTOBER 16

Deadline for

- Nontraditional Student Week Essay Contest
- Applications for membership in the
- Pinnacle Award of Achievement for December graduates

NOVEMBER 4

Nontraditional Student Day, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Come by the table in front of the Grill for your special gift and to find out more about our Older Wiser Learners (OWLs) student organization.

NOVEMBER 6

Annual Nontraditional Student Week Potluck Dinner in KUC 320, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Enjoy turkey and all the fixin's with your family and other nontraditional students and their families. **Dallas Nichols, former OWLs president**, will speak. We will initiate the new members of the Pinnacle Honor Society and present awards to December graduates. Bring your favorite dish to serve 8–10 and your favorite family beverage to go along with the turkey and dressing provided by OWLs. Call 898-5989 by Nov. 4 with the number in your family who will attend so we will have enough meat for everyone.

FEBRUARY 18-19

Regional Adult Learning Conference on campus

MARCH 12-13

ANTSHE (Association of Nontraditional Students in Higher Education) conference in Charlotte, North Carolina

APRIL 29

Annual OWLs/Pinnacle/Ridin' Raiders Picnic, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

With end-of-the year awards and Pinnacle Initiation for spring semester

OCSS ONLINE SERVICES

Online Handbook. Provides information to students about various services available on campus.

Off-Campus Living Guide. Provides information about selecting a place to live off campus and tips on how to make sure a student can afford to live off campus and all the detailed expenses to be considered (such as insurance). It includes ideas on how to remain connected to MTSU even though you live off campus.

www.mtsuoffcampus.com. Our search engine for apartments. Even if you aren't looking for an apartment, you can use the **message boards to find carpools, roommates, or even furniture.**

Online Reach for the Pinnacle Study Skills Workshops. You may select online workshops to brush up on study skills: Taking Notes, Using Whole Brain Thinking, and Five Steps to a College Paper.

Ridin' Raiders. A new organization on campus—just for commuter students. If you commute and want to help improve conditions for commuters, please join our group.



OWLs: Older Wiser Learners. The organization for nontraditional students. If you juggle family, work, and volunteer responsibilities in addition to your college work, you may want to join this lively group of students in similar situations.

SCHOLARSHIPS THROUGH OWLS

Any OWLs member who has a 3.0 GPA may apply for one of ten OWLs Academic Service Scholarships each year. These pay \$1,500 per semester and require five hours per week of work on campus. They are renewable for up to six semesters if you maintain a 2.5 semester GPA and a 3.0 cumulative GPA.

There are also two OWLs Challenge Enrichment Scholarships, offered for one year only. They are available for members with 2.5 to 2.9 GPAs who might need an incentive to boost their averages from previous work (often from years ago).

If you qualify for any of these scholarships, you will want to join OWLs so that you can apply for them. Scholarship applications will be taken in January for the 2010–2011 year. The scholarship deadline is March 15.

Calling all Nontraditional Students!

If you are an adult student who can answer yes to any one of the following statements . . .

I did not attend college directly after high school.

I made the decision to return to college after 5, 10, 20, or more years.

I am working and going to school at the same time.

I am a single parent.

I am married with (or without) children.

I am juggling adult responsibilities and caring for parents or relatives.

. . . then you are a nontraditional student!

We have a great place just for students like you right here on MTSU's campus—our office is conveniently located in KUC 320. Please feel free to come by and visit the Off-Campus Student Services office and speak with one of our friendly OWLS members; our secretary, Virginia; or our wonderful director, Dr. Baily, about our program.

Our office offers many helpful services to make your educational experience more enjoyable and productive. We have a comfortable area for lounging,

lockers, and a kitchen (with a microwave) where you can drink coffee and eat lunch. We also have a copier/fax machine, courtesy phone, and computers available with Internet access and a printer.

Please come out and join OWLS for Nontraditional Student Week Nov. 2–6! This is the time of year when we celebrate YOU and your presence at MTSU. During this week, we will host a variety of **free** social gatherings including the potluck dinner (Nov. 5), when we will also formally introduce our new OWLS president Margarita Jones (USMC veteran) and induct new members into the Pinnacle Honor Society. If you are interested in enhancing your leadership skills by becoming an officer for OWLS, contact me at mdd3f@mtsu.edu before Nov 1.

For more information, visit our Web page at www.mtsu.edu/~owls/. We look forward to seeing you!

*Monique Denney,
OWLS President*



Join the Pinnacle Honor Society

If you are a junior or senior with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, or if you are a graduate student with a GPA of 3.4 or higher, you deserve to be recognized by the Pinnacle Honor Society.

Membership in a national honor society such as Pinnacle looks good on your resume. It also provides a support system while you continue to achieve academic success. Perhaps you would enjoy encouraging others by taking on a leadership role in Pinnacle once you are a member.

If you meet the criteria above, you can apply online and then send in the check for \$40 for the initial national fee and the first year of MTSU membership to MTSU Box 646.

The deadline is October 16. **You may apply online. Just go to www.mtsu.edu/~owls/pinn.htm.**

Call us at 898-5989 if you have questions.

Tiffany Schmidt, Pinnacle President



OWLs Awards



Students can enjoy the picnic with their families.



Madonna Myers and her family at the picnic.



Tiffany Schmidt (left) is initiated into the Pinnacle Honor Society.

Alana Brown (left)—2009 Juggling OWLs Award.



At the end of each spring semester, during the annual picnic, the OWLs present awards to those who are notable for their support and those who are examples for all OWLs members. The 2009 OWLs Award winners are listed below.

Best OWL Professor:

Dr. Nancy Boone Allsbrook,
Music

Others nominated for this award were

David Carey, Elementary and Special Education

Meredith Anne Higgs,
Academic Enrichment
(two nominations)

Janice M. Leone, History

Karee Marie Orellana,
Elementary and Special Education

Sandra Poirier,
Human Sciences

Dennis D. Powell,
Criminal Justice Administration

James O. Rust, Psychology

Donald Snead, Educational Leadership

Pamela Powell Taylor, Nursing

Emily Zietz, Economics and Finance

Best OWL Husband:

Robert Trail, husband of Cindy Trail

Best OWL Daughter:

Alexis Cummins, daughter of Lani Cummins

Best OWL Mom:

Maureen Cameron, mother of Alana Brown

Best OWL Family:

the Schmidts and Bonnie Lonergan (Tiffany's mother)

Best OWL Friend:

Stacy Moye, nominated by Monique Denney for his encouragement of his friends and his caring for those around him. She said that he puts himself last and that he deserved this award so he could be first for a change and be recognized for his support.

Best Juggling OWL:

Alana Brown, nominated by her husband Ray Brown for her combination of being a wife, mother, full-time employee with two jobs, and student. She juggles all of those responsibilities and remodeling their house, too, over the past five years!

Best OWL Volunteer:

Sarah Martin, who helped out around the Off-Campus Student Services Office and agreed to take on the role of president of the new commuter student organization, Ridin' Raiders.

Best OWLs Supporter:

Deborah Williams, who was nominated by two different students as the best administrative assistant. Debora supports students through her work in the Health and Human Performance Department. The students said they probably wouldn't be graduating if it hadn't been for her.

Pinnacle Honor Society initiated the following nontraditional students: Sean Barr, Marilyn Broderick, Jenna De Marco, Alicia Marin, Alicia Martin, Theresa Myers, Melissa O'Flinn, Heather Polk, Tiffany Schmidt, Zena Tenenbaum, and Amanda Vanatta.

The OWLs end-of-the-year awards presented at the picnic.

