

Leadership Studies Program nets award for excellence

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MTSU's Leadership Studies Program has been named as the 2009 Outstanding Leadership Program by the Association of Leadership Educators Inc.

Representatives of the organization, known as ALE, will present the award to Dr. Deana Meadows Raffo on July 15 at the annual conference in Providence, R.I., where the MTSU program, a 17-credit, interdisciplinary minor offered to students, will be formally recognized for excellence.

The award recognizes outstanding leadership programs developed or implemented by ALE members. Past recipients of the honor have included leadership majors, leadership minors, certificate programs, leadership workshops or programs, youth-development programs and adult-leadership development programs.

Raffo, an assistant professor of speech and theatre, said the MTSU Leadership Studies Program "is completing its fifth year, so I feel that the award is an indication that we have a firm foundation in place and are ready for the second phase of devel-

opment with additional course offerings beyond the core courses."

To qualify for the ALE honor, award nominees must be ALE members in good standing, cannot have received the award previously and must have data to substantiate a program's impact on individuals, organizations, institutions or communities.

"I initiated the program (and) was the principal architect in program design ... and advise all of the students," Raffo said of the now-award-winning MTSU program. "However, since it is an interdisciplinary minor, I have not been alone in the (program's) development."

MTSU faculty who have assisted Raffo in building the program by serving on its development committee include Drs. Ron Kates, English; David Foote, management; Janet McCormick, speech and theatre; Cliff Ricketts, agribusiness and agriscience; and Terry Whiteside, psychology; and Professor Greg Simerly, speech and theatre.

As of May, the campus-based program has graduated 50 students, Raffo noted. For more information on the program, visit www.mtsu.edu/leadershipstudies. For more about ALE, visit www.leadershipeducators.org.



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9 home games on '09 Blue Raider soccer schedule

MT Athletic Communications
www.goblueraiders.com

Middle Tennessee will kick off its 14th soccer season this fall with nine home games, including a visit from Big 12 foe Oklahoma and six Sun Belt Conference matches.

The Blue Raiders enter the campaign with a 76-31-8 (.696) all-time winning percentage at home, including a 50-10-4 (.813) mark in seven seasons under Head Coach Aston Rhoden.

"One of our goals for this year is to get back to the top of the league," Rhoden said. "The 2009 schedule will be quite challenging for us, but it is one I feel will help prepare our young team for a competitive SBC schedule."

The season will begin on the road when Middle Tennessee travels to Cookeville for a meeting with Tennessee Tech Friday, Aug. 21, in a series the Blue Raiders own 10-2.

The Dean A. Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium opener is two days later on Sunday, Aug. 23, when Middle Tennessee plays host to Alabama A&M while looking for its fifth win in the five-game series. The Blue Raiders have outscored the Bulldogs 15-2 in the four previous contests.

The following weekend will feature a pair of first-time opponents when MT heads to the Buckeye State to face Wright State (Aug. 28) and Dayton (Aug. 30).

Oklahoma will pay its first visit to Murfreesboro Friday, Sept. 4. The two teams battled to a scoreless tie in their only meeting two years ago. The weekend will conclude with a home tilt against Belmont on Sunday, Sept. 6.

The nonconference portion of the schedule ends with the next two games, both on the road, when the Blue Raiders travel to Evansville (Sept. 13) and Austin Peay (Sept. 18).

The Sun Belt calendar will feature alternate home and away weekends. It begins with a pair of home matches to conclude the month against Florida International University (Sept. 25) and Florida Atlantic (Sept. 27).

Other home league contests include Arkansas State (Oct. 9), the University of Arkansas-Little Rock (Oct. 11), North Texas (Oct. 23) and Denver (Oct. 25).

Middle Tennessee will travel for Sun Belt matches at Troy (Oct. 2), South Alabama (Oct. 4), the University of Louisiana-Monroe (Oct. 16), the University of Louisiana-Lafayette (Oct. 18) and Western Kentucky (Oct. 30).



2009 MT SOCCER SCHEDULE

Home games are in bold and Sun Belt Conference games are starred.

Aug. 16 Jacksonville State (exhibition), 5 p.m.
Aug. 21 @ Tennessee Tech, 4 p.m.
Aug. 23 Alabama A&M, 1 p.m.
Aug. 28 @ Wright State, 6 p.m.
Aug. 30 @ Dayton, noon
Sept. 4 Oklahoma, 7 p.m.
Sept. 6 Belmont, 1 p.m.
Sept. 13 @ Evansville, 1 p.m.
Sept. 18 @ Austin Peay, 7 p.m.
Sept. 25 Florida International*, 7 p.m.
Sept. 27 Florida Atlantic*, noon
Oct. 2 @ Troy*, 3 p.m.
Oct. 4 @ South Alabama*, 1 p.m.
Oct. 9 Arkansas State*, 7 p.m.
Oct. 11 University of Arkansas-Little Rock, 1 p.m.
Oct. 16 @ University of Louisiana-Monroe*, 4 p.m.
Oct. 18 @ University of Louisiana-Lafayette*, 1 p.m.
Oct. 23 North Texas*, 7 p.m.
Oct. 25 Denver*, 1 p.m.
Oct. 30 @ Western Kentucky*, 6 p.m.
Nov. 4-7 Sun Belt Tournament (Boca Raton, Fla.)
Nov. 13-15 NCAA Tournament First and Second Rounds
Dec. 4-6 NCAA College Cup (College Station, Texas)

All times Central and subject to change.

All home games set at the Dean A. Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium.
For ticket information, visit www.goblueraiders.com.

Florida Atlantic will play host to the Sun Belt Tournament Nov. 4-7 in Boca Raton, Fla.

The NCAA Tournament opens Nov. 13 with the first four rounds played on campus sites. The College Cup is slated Dec. 4-6 in College Station, Texas, on the Texas A&M campus.

Eight starters and 17 letter-winners will return for Rhoden's eighth season at the helm. The Blue Raiders posted their sixth straight winning campaign under Rhoden in 2008.