

40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

DIVISION OF CONTINUING STUDIES AND PUBLIC SERVICE MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

In 1962, Dr. Robert Abernathy, who had graduated from Middle Tennessee State Teachers College in 1929 and for many years traveled the state recruiting students, was named director of Field Services. A few off-campus courses were offered at then Middle Tennessee State College. From that inauspicious beginning, the **Division of Continuing Studies and Public Service** began. By the seventies, the office was called Continuing Education, and the stated purpose was to extend the educational service of the University to individuals and groups other than students on campus.

Through the years the area has responded to the needs of the community and region, offering credit courses and degree programs in other locales and providing opportunities for learning through a huge variety of non-credit courses, including activities for children, self-help courses, crafts and technical training, and business-related training for everyone from the self-employed entrepreneur to the mid-level and upper management of large corporate entities. Just as course content and offerings have changed with the times so have delivery systems.

Join us in a quick look at the world, the nation, MTSU, and at our niche as we've offered **FOUR DECADES OF SERVICE**.

MTSU headcount: 3,739 in 1962; 8,646 in 1971

Name of the institution changed from Middle Tennessee State College to Middle Tennessee State University in 1965.

Quill E. Cope was president until 1968; Melvin G. Scarlett became president in 1969.

Office of Field Services established in 1962 with Dr. Robert Abernathy as director. The basic purpose was to give service through professional cooperation to teachers, supervisors, administrators, and others in the area served by the University. The undergraduate catalog description stated that certain courses were offered off campus and persons could enroll for various purposes:

- To continue college training toward a degree while employed
- To renew a teacher's certificate
- To secure a higher grade certificate
- To add a professional training to a liberal arts education
- To keep abreast with progress in the practices and procedures in the education world

Off-campus sites included Red Bank, Tullahoma, and Woodbury in 1968; by 1969 Jasper, Nashville, Winchester, Fayetteville, and Smyrna had been added.

1962 – 1972

The Soviet missile crisis threatens

Cuba • The Russians put the first woman into space • U.S.

President John F. Kennedy is assassinated and Vice President

Lyndon Johnson becomes president • Marines are sent to

Vietnam and air strikes begin •

China undergoes "Cultural Revolution" • Six-Day War

between Israel and Arabs is fought

• U.S. astronauts land on the moon • Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy are assassinated

• U.S. troops invade Cambodia • Communist China replaces Taiwan in United Nations

FIRST-CLASS STAMP, 1962: \$.04

MINIMUM WAGE, 1962: \$1.15

Sources: *MTSU Student Profiles Fall 2002*, *MTSU catalogs*; *The New York Public Library Desk Reference*; Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers; U.S. Department of Labor, Employment Standards Administration, Wage and Hour Division; The History Net.

MTSU headcount: 9,269 in 1972; 10,931 in 1981

Melvin G. Scarlett was president until 1978; Sam H. Ingram became president in 1979.



The early '70s brought a transitional period when the title of Dr. Robert Abernathy, director of Field Services, changed to director of University Relations. In 1972, Dr. Homer Pittard was named director of University Relations and Alumni Relations. The first mention of **Continuing Education** appeared in the catalog table of contents, and Dr. Jerry McGee was named dean of off-campus classes.

The catalog stated that the purpose of Continuing Education was to extend the educational service of the University to individuals and groups other than students on the campus. Residence credit was offered in courses at Motlow State College and other off-campus locations in the service area of the University. B.S. degree programs were offered in elementary education as well as graduate courses leading to the M.Ed. degree at Columbia State Community College and at Eagle University, Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Susan Bailey Robinson Bramblett joined as the first secretary 1974 to 1979. Courses were regularly scheduled at 12 to 14 middle Tennessee locations including Volunteer, Motlow, and Columbia state community colleges.

1972 - 1982

President Richard Nixon travels to China to renew relations • Great Britain takes over direct rule of Northern Ireland • Watergate scandal ends Nixon term in White House, and Gerald Ford becomes president • Vietnam War ends with Communist seizure of Saigon • U.S. and Soviet spacecraft link up in space • President Jimmy Carter pardons 10,000 Vietnam draft resisters • Ayatollah Khomeini gains control of Iran • War begins between Iran and Iraq • U.S. begins series of space shuttle flights • Sandra Day O'Connor becomes first woman on U.S. Supreme Court

FIRST-CLASS STAMP, 1972: \$.08

MINIMUM WAGE, 1972: \$1.60



Various non-degree courses were offered upon demand and some awarded Continuing Education Units. These non-credit courses were intended to serve business, industry, government, schools, professional organizations, and civic and service groups. Non-credit activities ranged from hobby and sport programs through

professional development activities. International and out of state trips for credit or non-credit were offered along with student teaching opportunities in Latin America.

The 1975-76 catalog brought the first mention of **public service** with the listing of Dr. Earl Keese as director of public service and also an assistant professor of mathematics. In 1976, the direction of **summer school** was added to the dean's responsibilities. In 1978, Dr. Earl Keese was named dean of Continuing Education and Public Service and director of Summer Sessions; Dr. Betty Harper was named director of Continuing Education and Public Service. In 1979, **night school** was mentioned for the first time in the index.





1982 – 1992

- Equal Rights Amendment fails ratification • U.S. invades the island of Grenada • Geraldine Ferraro runs for Vice President
- Mikhail Gorbachev becomes Soviet leader • First official observance of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- The Iran-contra affair is revealed • Panamanian General Noriega indicted in U.S. court • The Berlin Wall falls • Iraq invades Kuwait, leading to Operation Desert Storm • Former Soviet republics form a commonwealth of independent states

FIRST-CLASS STAMP, 1982: \$.20

MINIMUM WAGE, 1982: \$3.35

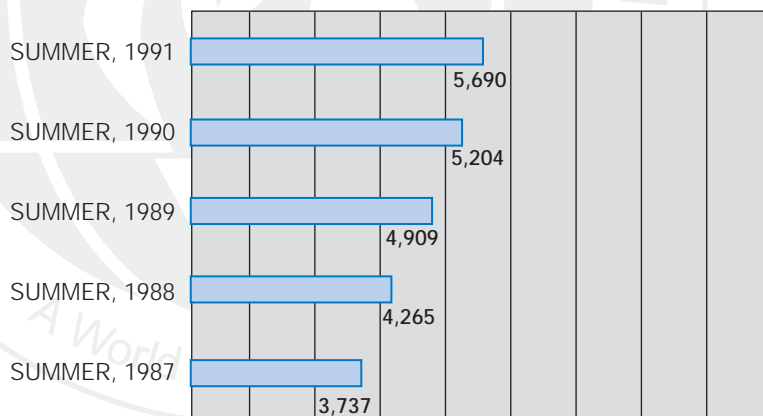
MTSU headcount: 10,933 in 1982; 15,673 in 1991

Sam H. Ingram was president until 1989; Wallace Prescott served as interim president in 1990, and James E. Walker became president in 1991.

With the decade opening in 1982, Continuing Education continued to offer an ever-growing list of educational services to regular students, returning adult students, professionals, and groups and organizations of many varieties. In 1981-82, Dr. Jessie Warren joined Keese and Harper as program coordinator of **Continuing Education and Public Services**. By the time of the 1983 catalog, Warren was also an associate dean and Ms. Mary Scales and Mr. Robert Roose had joined the staff as directors, the latter to open the **Office of Technical Assistance**. In December 1984, Dr. Rosemary Owens became a director, and Dr. Cynthia Drennan filled a similar position. In 1990, the Office of Continuing Education became the **Division of Continuing Studies and Public Service**. Program developers Karen Howell and Cathy Toombs were added to the staff. The **Office of Technical Assistance** was changed to **The Training and Professional Development Center** in 1992 and the **Career Education Services Center** began in 1993.



Summer School Headcounts



1992 - 2002

The World Wide Web is launched

- The World Trade Center is bombed
- Nelson Mandela elected president of South Africa
- Oklahoma City Federal Building is bombed
- Mad cow disease strikes Great Britain
- Scientists clone sheep
- The euro becomes new European currency

George W. Bush becomes U.S. president after controversial election

City and Washington, D.C.

- Terrorists attack New York
- U.S. invades Afghanistan

FIRST-CLASS STAMP, 1992: \$.29

MINIMUM WAGE, 1992: \$4.25

With the 1990s, Continuing Studies moved even more emphatically toward academic outreach, creating the **Special Academic Programs Office** and hiring James Thomas in 1992. In 1994, a compressed video classroom was installed in Kirksey Old Main (now called videoconferencing). That same year, the request for a permanent **Evening School Office** was granted and the office opened with extended hours Monday through Thursday as well as on Saturday. In addition to providing customer-friendly operating hours, the division used a **variety of delivery systems** plus traditional face-to-face instruction:



- Two compressed video courses offered in Spring 1995.
- Telecourses began in Summer 1995 with HPERS 310 and 11 students.
- In Summer 1996, correspondence courses began with two courses and 45 students.
- In Fall 1997, online courses began with seven classes and 53 students.
- Videoconferencing classrooms established at Shelbyville Technology Training Center and Centennial High School in Franklin.
- Channel 9 is awarded to division for telecourses.
- In 2000, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree is offered online.
- In 2001, the Regents Online Degree Program is initiated, offering Bachelor of Science degrees in Liberal Studies and Professional Studies.



Reflecting the broader scope, the Special Academic Programs Office changed to **Academic Outreach and Distance Learning** in 1999. The **Lifelong Learning Department** was created in 2000.

