



Assistant Chief Jeff Gentry (left) and Sergeant Brad Smith (right) of the Murray State University Police Department assist a student during Great Beginnings. In its 21st year, Great Beginnings welcomes new students to the Murray State campus and community through a series of special programs and events.

Judge Jimmy Don Robinson donates 534-acre farm to Murray State University Foundation

Long-time District Judge, attorney and farmer, Jimmy Don Robinson, has donated his 534-acre farm and two homes in Ballard County, known as Eagle Rest Plantation, to the Murray State University Foundation, Inc. to benefit the Hutson School of Agriculture, students, faculty, staff, and regional and state agricultural initiatives. The farm is donated in honor and memory of Judge Robinson and his late wife, Dr. Charlene Robinson, a long-time and well-respected family physician in Ballard County.

“I am very pleased to make this gift to benefit Murray State University. I have enjoyed working with the Murray State officials during the past year as we addressed the details and future of Eagle Rest Plantation. This is a large, historic farm and it means a great deal to me and

my family,” said Judge Robinson.

“Eagle Rest Plantation is valued at \$2.6 million and is one of the largest gifts ever made to benefit the university and our agricultural programs,” said Dr. Bob Jackson, president of the Murray State University Foundation.

Murray State University President Bob Davies stated, “I sincerely appreciate the generosity and the foresight of Judge Robinson for his commitment to Murray State University, the Hutson School of Agriculture and the region. This gift will afford our students immense opportunities for scholarship and research, working together with our faculty and staff on research projects and other hands-on educational experiences which make Murray State a leading student-centered university.”



Summit welcomes record number of regional educators

More than 600 regional educators gathered at Murray State University in June for the annual College and Career Readiness Summit. The record-breaking number of attendees hailed from 41 school systems and districts in Kentucky, Tennessee and Illinois. Presenters included Kentucky Commissioner of Education Dr. Stephen L. Pruitt, New York Times best-selling author Dave Burgess, University faculty and staff and many other educators from across the region.

Training sessions addressed topics such as creating an empowering classroom culture, thinking outside of the box in terms of teaching techniques, inspiring creativity among students and implementing new technology for increased efficiency and improved learning.





MURRAY STATE
UNIVERSITY

Opportunity afforded

Murray State University unveils “Opportunity Afforded” as new marketing and brand identity

Murray State University recently unveiled a new marketing and brand identity, consisting of a centralized theme of “Opportunity Afforded” in messaging both within and beyond the campus community.

“Since 1922, Murray State University has consistently afforded opportunities to students who have been prepared well by our committed faculty and staff to make a difference in our region, the country and the world. This is our history and tradition. I am particularly pleased to be returning to a more traditional shield design which highlights the three stars representing our values of Hope, Endeavor and Achievement,” said Murray State President Bob Davies. “We truly believe that the new “Opportunity Afforded”



Murray State’s Hancock Biological Station receives \$3.8 million grant

Murray State University’s Hancock Biological Station has received a \$3.8 million grant from the National Science Foundation that will study toxic algae blooms using environmental sensors and cyberinfrastructure.

The four-year grant is titled “Sensing and Educating the Nexus to Sustain Ecosystems (SENSE): A Kentucky-West Virginia Partnership.” The grant will address the urgent need of both states to develop scientific resources to improve water quality along with science that can guide decision makers.

messaging will resonate with all members of the Murray State community and ring true to our promise and commitment of being the best student-centered university in America.”

Also as part of the new marketing and brand identity, the University has introduced a new shield that is a fresh look, but very much rooted in traditional aesthetic elements dating back to the University’s beginnings in the early 20th century. The University’s traditional colors of blue and gold will continue to serve as primary visual identifiers of Murray State.

Murray State University named “Great College to Work For” by Chronicle of Higher Education

Murray State University has been distinguished as a “2016 Great College to Work For” by The Chronicle of Higher Education after receiving top ratings from employees on collaborative governance and confidence in senior leadership. This marks the seventh year since 2009 in which Murray State has been recognized. This year’s list included 93 institutions nationwide.

Hutson School of Agriculture dean named senior fellow

Tony Brannon (pictured below at right), dean of the Hutson School of Agriculture at Murray State University, was recently elected as a senior fellow by the American Association for Agricultural Education. Brannon, who was nominated by a peer and recommended by former students and colleagues, has served as dean of the Hutson School of Agriculture since 2004 and has served on the faculty at Murray State since 1988.



Summer internship is opportunity afforded for Murray State student

Tanelle Smith, a Secondary English Major at Murray State, recently held a summer internship through Uncommon Schools in Rochester, New York, teaching fifth and sixth grade English in a summer school program that helps low-income students pass onto the next grade.

“When I think of ‘opportunity afforded’ it reminds me of the main reasons I chose Murray State. These were not only because of the strong elements of the Education program but also the availability of scholarships,” said Smith. “Murray State offers an affordable yet high-quality educational experience for its students. Each professor I’ve had has gone above and beyond to meet my educational needs.”

Alumna thankful to Murray State, enjoys successful career in Louisville

Alumna Elizabeth Frame is still reaping the benefits of Murray State University since graduating in 2008. Frame was a double major in finance and political science and is currently the vice president, loan review manager for Republic Bank in Louisville.



“I had so many valuable experiences while at Murray State, it is hard to pick just one. I think the faculty and staff provide an extraordinary educational experience. From my advisor, Dr. Eaton, to the housing department staff, the various professors I learned from and the college heads of multiple residential colleges, I honestly feel that the faculty and staff care about the students, and that makes all the difference in the college experience,” said Frame.