theDividend

Summer 2017

The Middle Tennessee State University Department of Accounting Newsletter

Chair's Letter



It has been quite a while since we prepared *The Dividend*—Spring 2012 to be exact! A lot has changed here in the MTSU Department of Accounting, including the chair position. Smitty (former chair

G. Robert Smith Jr.) retired to the Smoky Mountains and is quite happy. I just completed my first full year as chair of the department. What a year we had with students, faculty, alumni, community college professors, and the business community!

See Chair's Letter on page 2 >

Study Abroad 2017



Eiffel Tower: Russel Legreid (l-r), Will Crane, Hillary Keel, Courtney Watson, Asia Bailey, Ashley Williams, Amber Wiser, Tammy Bahmanziari, Jo Nenahlo McVey, Michelle Haney, and Mickey Wells.

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In This Issue

Department Highlights	. 2	Alumni Awards
2017 Scholarship Recipients	4	Upcoming Events
Student Spotlight	. 6	How you can help in MTSUs Department
Faculty Awards	7	
Accounting Advisory Board	9	



JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS Department of Accounting Chair's Letter *continued from page 1* Highlights:

Students

- The Master in Accountancy (M.Acc.) program was rated 39th by Online Accounting Degree Programs. Our program is a jewel, expertly directed by John Wermert. We now require the Becker CPA Review course in the program, and not only did it increase our pass rates, but it also created a needed focus. We will be looking at additional tracks in the future, which may result in supplementary credentials.
- ➤ Beta Alpha Psi (BAP), led by master mentor Paula Thomas, maintained its Superior Chapter status and had a full agenda of professional and community service activities. MTSU qualified two competition teams for the spring regional meeting, with the team of Brandon Taylor, Sarah Ford, and Russel Legreid receiving third place in their division. Mary Anne Hagan was selected as one of 72 students worldwide to compete for BAP's Project Run with It in August. Taylor and Bailey Bogle led BAP in the fall and spring semesters last year, respectively. Legreid will take over this fall as president.
- The Institute of Internal Auditors student group, advised by Audrey Scarlata, had great speakers and sent students to the annual national conference in Orlando in September. Anna Chanthalasy served as president.
- Both the National Association of Black Accountants and the Institute of Management Accountants student groups took breaks this year. We hope to get those running full force next year.
- We noticed a void in our student activity for newcomers and started Accounting Connections (AC). This club met monthly and had panels to introduce the accounting profession, offer advice from upperclassmen, learn about internships and leadership conferences, and discover new credentials and opportunities in professional student organizations. AC was a big hit with 32 members. Sarah Bowen served as president.
- Last but not least, we were able to secure \$49,500 in scholarships for deserving MTSU Accounting students and award them at our first annual Accounting Awards Banquet in April.

Faculty

The faculty at MTSU are second to none in their commitment and dedication to student success. All of our faculty are deserving of awards but a few received special recognitions:

- The Accounting Advisory Board awarded a three-year professorship to Rebecca Foote for her outstanding leadership and mentoring.
- Accounting Advisory Board Partnerships were awarded to Sandy Benson and Stan Clark for their exceptional work in teaching, research, and service.
- Sandy Benson earned the E.W. "Wink" Midgett Award of Faculty Excellence for the MTSU Jones College of Business for the highest quality in all areas of teaching, research, and service.
- Paula Thomas received the Tennessee Society of CPAs (TSCPA) Distinguished Achievement in Accounting Education Award for her excellence in classroom teaching and active involvement in the accounting profession.

Alumni

- We held our first Alumni Appreciation Reception Sept. 29, 2016, at MTSU's Miller Education Center on Bell Street in Murfreesboro. It was wonderful to see so many of our fantastic accounting alumni!
- At the reception, we recognized Bill Mooningham posthumously with an Outstanding Alumnus Lifetime Achievement Award for his unequalled service, dedication, and generosity to the MTSU Department of Accounting.
- Congratulations to John West, who was selected for the inaugural Bill Mooningham Distinguished Alumni Award at the reception! He is such a fantastic mentor to our students and benefits our department with his wisdom on the Accounting Advisory Board and his time commitment to our programs.
- We will be holding this year's reception at MTSU's Miller Education Center on Thursday, Sept. 28, and are accepting nominations for the 2017 Bill Mooningham Distinguished Alumni Award.

Additional Events

- The Community College Connection, expertly guided by Rebecca Foote, took place March 31. We reviewed our Intermediate Readiness Initiative and coordinated curriculums with community college professors from five different Tennessee schools to smooth the transition for transfer students.
- With the help of the TSCPA, we hosted 234 students from 11 high schools in the Middle Tennessee region on Discover Accounting Day for a fun day learning about opportunities in accounting.

Chair's Letter continued from page 2

- We had four Continuing Professional Education (CPE) seminars—State Tax Seminar, CPE Day, Tim Koski's Tax Seminar, and the 26th annual Alumni Appreciation Day. We will be presenting these seminars again in 2017–18. Be sure to mark your calendars! Check the schedule at mtsu.edu/ accounting/seminars.php.
- Finally, MTSU has a study abroad program in Accounting. Tammy Bahmanziari and I took 18 students on a 10-day cultural experience to London and Paris in May. We participated in educational sessions at Ernst & Young London, the Mini Cooper plant, Oxford University, the International Accounting Standards Board, Deloitte London, and Deloitte Paris. We also hosted guest speaker Billeejo Helm, HCA London director of workforce planning, at our welcome dinner. It was a fantastic experience for all!

For those of you who don't know me, I will tell you a little bit about myself. I came to Nashville in 1983 to work for what is now Puryear, Hamilton, Hausman, and Wood after graduating from Murray State University. While working there, I obtained my M.B.A. from MTSU and started teaching under Accounting Chair Bill Grasty. He encouraged me to obtain my doctorate, which I gladly earned at the University of Kentucky. I have been on the full-time faculty since Spring 1994 and have taught Principles I and II, Survey, Intermediate I and II, Cost, Managerial, Advanced Cost, Graduate Cost, International Accounting, International Financial Reporting Standards, and most recently the study abroad course to London and Paris. That is quite a lot of topics but it gave me a great perspective of the many facets of an accounting education. I believe in continuous learning and improvement and am looking forward to leading this great group in 2017–18! Please let me know if I can help you in any way!

 Jeannie Johnson Harrington, Ph.D., CMA, CPA, IFRS-Certified
HCA Professor of Accounting
Chair, Department of Accounting



2017 Scholarship Recipients

Scholarship	Recipient	Amount
AAAD Outstanding Senior	Patrick McCarter	\$ 2,500
AAAD Outstanding Junior	Kirstyn Lee	2,500
AAAD Service Award	Sarah Ford	2,000
AAAD Merit Scholarship	Jonathan St. Vincent	1,000
	Maiko Morgan	1,000
	Kristen Uselton	1,000
AAAD M.Acc. Scholarship	Pamela Bailey	1,500
	Margaret Coleman	1,500
	Russel Legreid	1,500
	Sophie McMurtray	1,500
	Paxton Mitchell	1,500
	Ashley Shank	1,500
"Wink" Midgett Scholarship	Dylan Sandoval	2,500
W. Wallace Robertson Scholarship	Dennielle Pineda	2,500
	Shelby Follis	2,500
Crowe Horwath Scholarship	Kristen Uselton	1,000
Bill and Linda Mooningham Scholarship	Phuong Emily Nguyen	2,000
Larry P. Morton Scholarship	Morgan Hayes	1,000
IIA Scholarship	Kevin Bull	750
	Sophie McMurtray	250
Yohan Abraham Scholarship	Blake Hise	5,000
Accounting Excellence Emerging	De'Ontra Saulsberry	500
Professional Scholarship	Jordan Yasso	500
	Brandon Frey	500
	Kristen Uselton	500
	Morgan Hayes	500
	Dennielle Pineda	500
PCAOB Scholarship	Dennielle Pineda	10,000

Total awarded before TSCPA Scholarships are considered!\$ 49,500

Accounting Awards Banquet – April 2017



Scholarship Winners: Front (l-r): Maiko Morgan, Dennielle Pineda, Sophie McMurtray, Phuong Emily Nguyen, Jeannie Harrington, Shelby Follis, Pamela Bailey, Jordan Yasso, and Russel Legried. Back: Kylie House, Paxton Mitchell, Ashley Shank, Sarah Ford, Jonathan St. Vincent, Patrick McCarter, Kevin Bull, and Blake Hise.



Bill and Linda Mooningham Scholarship: *Phuong Emily Nguyen (l-r), Linda Mooningham, and Sirci Mooningham Stinson.*



Yohan Abraham Scholarship: *Cathy McNulty(l-r), Yohan Abraham Foundation trustee, and Blake Hise.*



IIA Scholarships: Demetra Pulley(l-r), Meharry Medical Center internal audit assistant director; Sophie McMurtray; and Kevin Bull.



Emerging Professional Winners: Matt Smith (l-r), BKD partner; Dennielle Pineda; Jordan Yasso; and Krystal Bronson, BKD HR manager.

Student Spotlight: Sarah Ford



Sarah Paige Ford graduated from Siegel High School in Murfreesboro in 2006 and attended MTSU, receiving a degree in Instrumental Music Education. Right after graduation, she moved to Texas and taught private percussion lessons at middle schools. She met her husband in Texas, then brought him back to

the middle Tennessee area where they were both band directors for middle schools.

After a while, Ford was ready for something different. She input "music education" into a job search site and did not see many options. She then entered "accounting" and saw thousands of job opportunities. Ford had taken Principles of Accounting I and II with her music education degree because her parents had suggested exploring this career. At the time she resisted, but decided this was a good time to take advantage of the more lucrative opportunities.

Ford re-enrolled at MTSU in Spring 2015, taking Intermediate Accounting I and other Accounting courses. She got heavily involved in Beta Alpha Psi and landed an internship with Ernst & Young in Spring 2016. After completing undergraduate Accounting courses in Summer 2016, she enrolled in MTSU's Master of Accounting (M.Acc.) program and has passed several parts of the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam. She will complete her M.Acc. this summer and start working full-time at EY this fall.

All of the MTSU Accounting faculty have been impactful, Ford said, especially Paula Thomas for her help with Beta Alpha Psi, Rebecca Foote for her guidance, and Stan Clark for his excellent teaching and mentorship. She indicated that Accounting faculty go above and beyond for students who show their commitment to work hard. Faculty encouraged her to get involved with student groups, take the CPA exam, and learn about different job opportunities.

Ford jumped in wholeheartedly with Beta Alpha Psi. She was on two successful competition teams, served as treasurer and vice president for reporting, and worked on Project Run with It. She received the Alumni Day Service Award this spring for her dedication.

She learned a lot from her middle school teaching days that applied to her accounting education and upcoming accounting career. Ford says to learn fundamentals, practice a lot, have patience, and know that everyone has different learning styles. She credits her teaching career for her dramatic improvement in working with others.

Ford and husband Austin live in Nashville with their two cats. Her hobbies are baking and hiking. She participated in the study abroad program in May and is looking forward to the vast opportunities the accounting field has to offer!

We need your students!

Send your high school-aged students to our third annual Discover Accounting Day at the MTSU Student Union

Friday, Oct. 20, 2017 • 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

For more details, contact Tonya Davenport at 615-898-5306 or email Tonya.Davenport@mtsu.edu.

Faculty Awards

Rebecca A. Foote Accounting Advisory Board Professor

Rebecca A. Foote, M.S., CPA, serves as the Accounting instructional coordinator for the department. She received her Bachelor of Science in Home Economics Education from the Ohio State University in 1982 and her Master of Science in Accounting/Information Systems from Middle Tennessee State University in 2005. She joined the MTSU Department of Accounting faculty in Spring 2006. Foote earned her CPA license in 2004 while employed with Dempsey, Vantrease, and Follis PLLC in Murfreesboro. Her license remains active in the state of Tennessee, and she holds membership in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Tennessee Society of CPAs, and the Tennessee Society of Accounting Educators.

Foote teaches Principles of Accounting II for Accounting majors. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, she coordinates the Principles of Accounting I and II curriculum and the Intermediate Readiness Initiative.

She has been the recipient of several teaching awards since joining the faculty at MTSU, including the MTSU Outstanding Teacher Award. Foote is also the recipient of the Jones College E.W. "Wink" Midgett Distinguished Teaching Award and four-time recipient of the Jones College Gamma Iota Sigma Outstanding Professor Award.

Sandra S. Benson, J.D. Accounting Advisory Board Partner

Sandra S. Benson, associate professor in the Department of Accounting, earned her B.A. (summa cum laude) with a double major in Economics and Business Administration from Vanderbilt University. She earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Georgia and received the McDougald Award as valedictorian of her law school class. Benson teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in business, commercial, and health law. She draws on her 12 years of experience in

continued on page 8 ►



Accounting Advisory Board Awards: Sandy Benson (l-r), Stan Clark, Rebecca Foote, and Accounting Advisory Board member Greg Lemon.

continued from page 7

practicing law and her love for teaching when designing classroom activities and her own research. Benson's research focuses on emerging issues related to fraud, accountant liability, health care, and effective pedagogy in business law. Her research and expertise have been recognized by the Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress, the New York Society of Certified Public Accountants, and CNBC. She was recently awarded the 2017 Jones College of Business E.W. "Wink" Midgett Award of Faculty Excellence, voted on by her peers.

Benson was one of four finalists selected to compete in the 2013 Charles M. Hewitt Master Teacher Competition sponsored by the Academy of Legal Studies in Business. In 2013, she received an Outstanding Teacher Award from the MTSU Foundation. She also was the recipient of the Bridgestone/ Firestone Distinguished Assistant Professorship award for 2012-13. Her classroom activities have become the subject of two pedagogical articles in the international Journal of Legal Studies Education. Benson's teaching philosophy is grounded in key principles that include incorporating projects that challenge students to learn material in memorable ways, take intellectual risks, and overcome obstacles to student success. To implement her teaching philosophy, she is continuously developing and implementing innovative student-centered learning activities. Benson has developed online hybrid courses; an EXL course in which students engage in courtroom simulations; graduate courses in legal aspects of health care and in corporate governance and fraud, which include activities to develop skills in professional presentations; and a unique QuizBowl Quest, with a goal of improving mastery of the material on the regulatory section of the CPA exam.

Stan Clark, Ph.D. Accounting Advisory Board Partner

Stan Clark, associate professor of Accounting, received his Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky and his master's and bachelor's in Accounting from the University of Southern Mississippi. He has been a member of the MTSU faculty since 2011. Prior to that, he was on the Accounting faculty at the University of Southern Mississippi for 26 years.

Clark's primary teaching area is financial accounting. He was awarded the University of Southern Mississippi Excellence in Teaching Award in 2000 and was recognized by the Mississippi Society of CPAs in 1998 as CPE Discussion Leader of the Year and in 2010 as the Outstanding Accounting Educator in Mississippi. He was nominated for the MTSU Outstanding Teaching Award in 2016.

Clark has published over 90 peer-reviewed journal articles in both academic and professional journals. He has two papers that received Distinguished Research Awards at Conferences of the Academy of Accounting and Financial Studies. Another paper received a Certificate of Merit from the Institute of Management Accountants.

He is an active participant in service to the University and has served on several department and Jones College committees. Clark is currently chair of the department's Curriculum and Assessment Committee. He also chairs a College Faculty Development Committee subcommittee charged to develop a measure of research quality for the college. Clark is a regular presenter at the department's Continuing Professional Education seminars that raise money for student scholarships and faculty development.

> **Paula B. Thomas, Ph.D.** TSCPA's Distinguished Achievement in Accounting Education Award



Paula B. Thomas is currently the Deloitte Foundation Professor of Accounting at Middle Tennessee State University, where she has been a faculty member since 1989. She also served as the department chair and Advisory Board Distinguished Professor during 2002–07. Thomas is an MTSU graduate, receiving both her Bachelor of Business Administration and her Master of Science degrees in Accounting

from MTSU. In addition, she earned her Doctor of Business Administration in Accounting from Mississippi State University. Thomas is a Certified Public Accountant and is a member of the American Institute of Public Accountants, the American Accounting Association, and the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants. She has had a number of articles published on a variety of accounting issues in academic and professional journals, including Accounting Horizons, Journal of Accountancy, Advances in Accounting, Critical Perspectives on Accounting, Directors Monthly, Tennessee Society of CPAs Journal, Advances in Public Interest Accounting, and Journal of Corporate Accounting and Finance. Thomas also has presented accounting and professional issues and updates and academic papers to professional and educator groups throughout the United States. She served three-year terms on both the Board of Directors and the Board of Examiners for the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA). Thomas currently serves on Tennessee Society of CPAs (TSCPA) Council. She has received a number of professional awards, including the AICPA Sustained Contribution Award (2015), MTSU Career Achievement Award (2014), TSCPA Lifetime Achievement in Accounting Education Award (2006), and the AICPA Distinguished Achievement in Accounting Education Award (2004).

Accounting Advisory Board

We are so grateful for the time, wisdom, and treasures of the Accounting Advisory Board. Their advice is invaluable as we strive for program improvements. The board meets quarterly and hosts Alumni Appreciation receptions. Please thank our members for their service!



Accounting Advisory Board: Front (l-r): Ken Youngstead, Kim Holleman, Jeannie Harrington, Matt Smith, and Debbie Willett. Back: Lisa Nix, Joey Peay, Amy Jamison, Olga Reeves, Greg Lemon, Jami Pope, and Andy Lile. Not pictured: Jeff Ballard, Jonathan Cooke, Kyle Ingrum, Jimmy Jobe, Brian Kidd, Jeremy Nichols, David Shaffer, Suzzie Singleton, Joe Steakley, John West, and Jeremy Wright.

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Board Member	Title	Company
Jeff Ballard	CFO	Delta Dental of Ten
Jonathan Cooke	Partner	LBMC
Kim Holleman	Partner	Ernst & Young
Kyle Ingram	Director/controller	Nissan North Americ
Amy Jamison	Senior manager	LBMC
Jimmy Jobe	Partner	Jobe, Hastings, and A
Brian Kidd	Manager	National Healthcare
Greg Lemon	Owner	Gregory A. Lemon C
Andy Lile	Member	Winnett Associates
Jeremy Nichols	Partner	Crowe Horwath
Lisa Nix	Partner	LBMC
Joey Peay	CEO	Murfreesboro Medic
Jami Pope	Partner	Puryear, Hamilton, I
Olga Reeves	National group controller	HCA
David Shaffer	Director	PricewaterhouseCoo
Suzzie Singleton	Legislative investigative auditor	Comptroller of the 7
Matt Smith	Partner	BKD
Joe Steakley	Senior VP	HCA
John West	Partner	Deloitte & Touche
Debbie Willett	Partner	Frazier and Deeter
Jeremy Wright	CFO	Ozburn Hessey Logi
Ken Youngstead	Member	KraftCPAs

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Alumni Awards

Bill Mooningham

Outstanding Alumnus Lifetime Achievement Award (Posthumous)



We were lucky to have Bill Mooningham serve on our faculty for nine years as an adjunct Auditing and Fraud instructor. Students loved his wisdom and stories about real-life business scenarios. You could always count on Mooningham, a retired Ernest & Young partner, to brighten your day with his smile and humor. He was so down-to-earth. He motivated all to become better people as well as students

and faculty members. You could also count on him to participate in teaching CPE sessions. Mooningham loved learning and being around people. He also loved MTSU and served for many years in various capacities, including MTSU Foundation president and Accounting Advisory Board member. He and wife Linda set up a scholarship fund which awards a deserving student each semester. He was a true gentleman; we miss him greatly. John West 2016 Bill Mooningham Distinguished Alumni Award



John West is a partner with Deloitte & Touche LLP and is based in Nashville. He began his career in 2000 following his graduation from MTSU. During his career, West has served domestic and multinational companies that span across industries. This experience includes industry-related issues, SEC matters, and

internal controls, as well as strategic transactions that include acquisitions and divestitures.

At Deloitte, West is the lead recruiting partner for the Deloitte Tennessee Practice, which covers nine active campuses. He also leads Deloitte's recruiting efforts at MTSU.

He is married with three children and currently serves as a board member and 2nd vice chair of the MTSU Accounting Advisory Board, as well as board member and treasurer of Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee. West is also a member of the AICPA and TSCPA and was recognized as one of the *Nashville Business Journal*'s Top 40 under 40 in 2014.



PLEASE NOMINATE SOMEONE

for the

Please email your nominations to Tonya.Davenport@mtsu.edu by Sept. 21

MEET THE FIRMS RECRUITING EVENT

Thursday, Sept. 7 5–7 p.m. James Union Building 516 Alma Mater Drive MTSU Campus



Beta Alpha PSI's Annual Beat the Firms Golf Tournament

> Friday, Sept. 15 8:00 a.m. Old Fort Golf Course Murfreesboro

CPE AT MTSU

- Thurs., Sept. 7 State Tax Seminar Miller Education Center Bell Street
- Thurs., Dec. 7 CPE Day Miller Education Center Bell Street
- Thurs., Dec. 14 Tim Koski Tax Seminar Location TBD
- Thurs., Accounting April 26, 2018 Appreciation Day Business and Aerospace Bldg. 1642 MTSU Blvd.

For more information about events, please contact:

Tonya Davenport Tonya.Davenport@mtsu.edu 615-898-5306 MTSU Box 50, Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Study Abroad 2017



Buckingham Palace:

Front (l-r): Stephanie Hunt, Jo Nenahlo McVey, Abby Bumbalough, Haley Gray, Amber Wiser, and Courtney Watson. Back: Austin Heavrin, Tasha Moore, Tammy Bahmanziari, Will Crane, Jeannie Harrington, Sarah Ford, Hillary Keel, Trea McMillian, Asia Bailey, Russel Legreid, Ashley Williams, Laura Stott, and Mickey Wells.

How can you help MTSU's Department of Accounting continue to improve and prosper?

- Establish a signature professorship
- Engage in an academic partnership
- Provide scholarship money
- Attend a CPE session
- Attend an Alumni Appreciation Reception
- Speak to one of our student groups or classes
- Hire our students for internships and full-time positions
- Donate time or money

Your contributions go far in the Accounting Department Thank you for being a part of so many of these activities!

To give, go to mtsu.edu/give

Indicate funds in the Other Giving Preferences box:

- 92755—Excellence Fund
- 92014—Foundation Development Fund
- 92611—Bill Grasty Scholarship Fund
- 94634—Bill and Linda Mooningham Scholarship Fund
 - For other funds, please contact us at 615-898-2558.

Where does your money go?

2016–17 Foundation Expenditures

Accounting Connections	\$1,026.21
Advisory Board	243.53
Alumni Receptions	882.81
Common Exams	969.84
CPE Seminars	37.64
Discover Accounting	401.91
Faculty Gatherings	379.36
Flowers	310.00
Graduate Student Functions	148.26
Graduation Mugs	388.98
Interviewing Expenses	976.56
Principles Meet and Greet	37.32
Paper Submission Fees	200.00
Professional Memberships	1,825.00
Promotional Products	617.19
Recruiting Lunches	582.87
Seminar Attendance	4,935.48
Student Organizations	63.01
Total Expenditures	\$14,025.97

Study Abroad 2017 International Accounting Standards Board (IASB)



Front (l-r): Jeannie Harrington, Hillary Keel, Amber Wiser, Abby Bumbalough, Courtney Watson, Haley Gray, Stephanie Hunt, and Laura Stott. Back: Russel Legreid, Austin Heavrin, Will Crane, Tasha Moore, Ashley Williams, Sarah Ford, Asia Bailey, Trea McMillian, Michelle Haney, Mickey Wells, and Tammy Bahmanziari.

0717-4427/Middle Tennessee State University does not discriminate against students, employees, or applicants for admission or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, age, status as a protected veteran, genetic information, or any other legally protected class with respect to all employment, programs, and activities sponsored by MTSU. The Assistant to the President for Institutional Equity and Compliance has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies and can be reached at Cope Administration Building 116, 1301 East Main Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37132; Marian.Wilson@mtsu.edu; or 615-898-2185. The MTSU policy on nondiscrimination can be found at **mtsu.edu/titleix**.

