

Welcome to Murray State University's fourth annual *Scholars Week* celebration. As stated in my cover letter in *Chrysalis*, Murray State University's new undergraduate research journal, "Undergraduate research and scholarly activity are among the most under-appreciated of all student university experiences." At Murray State University, we are working to change that. Our faculty and students are working hard to make research, scholarly, and creative work a focus of the Murray State academic experience and, as importantly, we are playing a leadership role in helping other institutions in the state and region bring these important educational opportunities to their campuses.

At MSU, we have created the Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity Office to emphasize the importance we place on developing these learning opportunities and to coordinate our efforts across the entire campus. Clearly our efforts are paying dividends. Over 600 students participated in last year's *Scholars Week*; we have published MSU's first issue of its undergraduate research journal; and more and more students seek support for their scholarly endeavors through our URSA grant program.

Over the past year, MSU has worked with the broader community to ensure that others understand the importance of these learning opportunities. Murray State University again coordinated *Posters-at-the-Capitol*, an event that brought over 220 undergraduates from Kentucky's eight public institutions to Frankfort to help members of the House and Senate better understand the importance of research, scholarly, and creative work to the education of our undergraduates. Murray State University was pleased to have 32 undergraduates participate in this event. In addition, this past March we hosted an institute on "Institutionalizing Undergraduate Research Scholarly Activity" that was attended by 36 faculty from 10 area universities.

As an institution, we are grateful to our students, and especially the faculty, for making this all happen on our campus. I thank you for making this another outstanding year of undergraduate and graduate student scholarly accomplishment at Murray State University.

F. King Alexander, Ph.D.
President, Murray State University

Welcome to the fourth annual *Scholars Week* at Murray State University! Please join me in this university-wide celebration of undergraduate and graduate research, scholarship, and creative activity. As you view the contents of this program, you will note the many student accomplishments in a variety of academic disciplines. During the week, students will have the opportunity to showcase their scholarship efforts through oral presentations, poster sessions, exhibits, and performances.



I applaud the efforts of our Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity Office in organizing and coordinating this *Scholars Week*. I believe research, scholarship, and teaching go hand-in-hand and provide one of the very best learning environments for students. Through the efforts of our dedicated faculty, Murray State University is developing into one of Kentucky's institutions of choice for students who want to engage in the process of discovery and do significant research and creative work as undergraduates.

I encourage all of you to take advantage of the activities this week and enjoy!

Gary Brockway, Ph.D.
Provost, Murray State University





May I take this opportunity, on behalf of the College of Business and Public Affairs, to enter our congratulations to each of you for becoming part of a rapidly growing number of students at Murray State University participating in *Scholars Week*. You are part of a unique group, and we applaud you for your exceptional effort and hard work. There is a quote from an unknown author that I believe applies to each participant in *Scholars Week*. “Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.” Through your research and participation in *Scholars Week* you are truly “pathfinders!”

Dannie E. Harrison, Ph.D
Dean, College of Business and Public Affairs

The College of Education joins the entire campus of Murray State University in celebrating *Scholars Week*. Undergraduate and graduate students’ displays of scholarship, research, and creative activity will be held high for all to admire. These student efforts are reflections of the contributions of our faculty in focusing on preparing students to become exemplary professionals who will continue their creative and research activities. As you visit the various exhibits and presentations, I hope your appreciation for the exciting learning environment the university is fostering will be enhanced. *Scholars Week* demonstrates that Murray State University is preparing students to make significant contributions to a global and technological society. I am sure you will enjoy this event, and I encourage you to congratulate the participants on their accomplishments.



Russell Wall, Ed.D.
Interim Dean, College of Education



Murray State University's *Scholars Week* provides an exciting opportunity to recognize and celebrate the academic achievements of our undergraduate and graduate students, showcasing the results of their research, scholarly, and creative projects. Research, fundamental and applied, is an essential component of our curricula. Throughout history, major discoveries and new knowledge were essential to human progress. Through active research agendas and creative endeavors, our faculty and students explore the boundaries of their disciplines and expand our realm of possibilities. Discovery through research encourages a sense of relevance and excitement in the classroom as new knowledge is applied to society, industry, and beyond. The faculty in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts work together with their students on research and creative projects in classrooms, clinics, and studios, becoming partners in the exploration of disciplines and the acquisition of new knowledge. This partnership expands the potential of our students to think independently, creatively, and critically. As one of the top universities in the nation, this is our ultimate mission.

"The purpose of education, finally, is to create in a person the ability to look at the world for himself." James Baldwin

Sandra Jordan, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts

Scholars Week has been an astounding success at Murray State University. The number of students and faculty members participating has grown exponentially. It has become an event of which each one of us can be justly proud. *Scholars Week* is a celebration of the unique relationship between students and faculty as they join together to address problems in creative and scientific ways. Faculty student collaboration in the research process provides an opportunity for personal and professional growth for both students and faculty that few other activities afford. The College of Health Sciences and Human Services along with the rest of Murray State University is committed to continued exploration and to the importance of including undergraduates as well as graduate students in this exciting process. This event celebrates the product of these collaborations as well as the process. As you examine these exhibits, join us in appreciation of the diversity of intellectual and creative activity going on at Murray State University.



Elizabeth Blodgett, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Health Sciences and Human Service



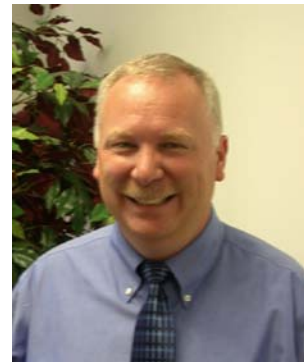
On behalf of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology, it is my honor and privilege to recognize all the gifted and dedicated students participating in this week's activities. It is extremely gratifying to see the unprecedented growth in student participation over the past three years (i.e. from 150 student presentations to over 600). Central to the mission statement of Murray State is a strong commitment to recruit and retain highly credentialed professionals, deeply involved in the intellectual development of students. During *MSU Scholars Week*, we celebrate the research, scholarship, and creative accomplishments of our students – testimony of the strength and dedication of students and faculty toward the enterprise of learning. May this week bring an image of an even greater commitment to a lifetime of scholarly contribution to society.

Neil V. Weber, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Science, Engineering, and Technology

On behalf of the School of Agriculture, I would like to welcome you to this unique opportunity to celebrate research, scholarly, and creative activity. It is also a time to showcase our dedicated faculty and students who are devoted to personal and professional growth.

Life is a journey with many avenues. As you participate in this event, you will view the numerous ways the University and the School of Agriculture are committed to academic excellence as well as to providing the opportunity to explore these avenues.

I would like to commend all participants in this event.



Tony L. Brannon, Ph.D.
Interim Director, School of Agriculture

A WELCOME FROM THE *SCHOLARS WEEK* ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

On behalf of the URSA Office and the URSA faculty Advisory Board, welcome to Murray State University's fourth annual *Scholars Week*, a celebration of our students' scholarly, creative, and research accomplishments.

The work displayed in this program booklet represents thousands of hours of effort on behalf of the students and faculty of Murray State University. We commend you for your efforts and your dedication. As a student you should always remember that you are investing in yourself and this investment will pay significant dividends when you apply to graduate or professional school or look for that first job. Your *Scholars Week* project will help make you stand out from your peers when your application is reviewed by an employer or graduate admissions officer. As faculty, we are investing in our students. By going the extra mile and working with your students to develop a *Scholars Week* project, you are helping your students succeed and that is among the greatest rewards of our profession. The members of the URSA Advisory Board and the URSA staff are gratified to see that ever increasing numbers of Murray State faculty are recognizing the importance of engaging students in research, scholarly, and creative work and committing the time it takes to ensure that we are giving our students the best education we possibly can.

Please join us in celebrating the accomplishments of our students and academic excellence at Murray State University by attending as many of the *Scholars Week* activities as your schedule allows. Our young scholars need your continued support. Show them you are behind them by making attendance at *Scholars Week* a priority for yourself and your students.

***Scholars Week* Organizing Committee**

Pictured L to R: Jim McCoy, Kenneth Bowman, Marcia Hobbs, Zbynek Smetana, Joyce Shatzer, Laura Ewald, Paula Waddill, Tracey Wortham, and John Mateja,
(Not pictured: David Feguson, Tom Lough, Mark Masthay, Fred Miller, and Howard Whiteman).



Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity (URSA) Advisory Board

Howard Whiteman, PhD.
Biological Science

Tracey Wortham, PhD.
Occupational Safety and Health

Zbynek Smetana, PhD.
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Tom Lough, PhD.

Joyce Shatzer, PhD.

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Education

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David Feguson, PhD.

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Kenneth Bowman, PhD.

Marcia Hobbs, R.N., D.S.N.

Mark Masthay, PhD.

Agriculture

Nursing

Chemistry

Laura Ewald, M.L.S.

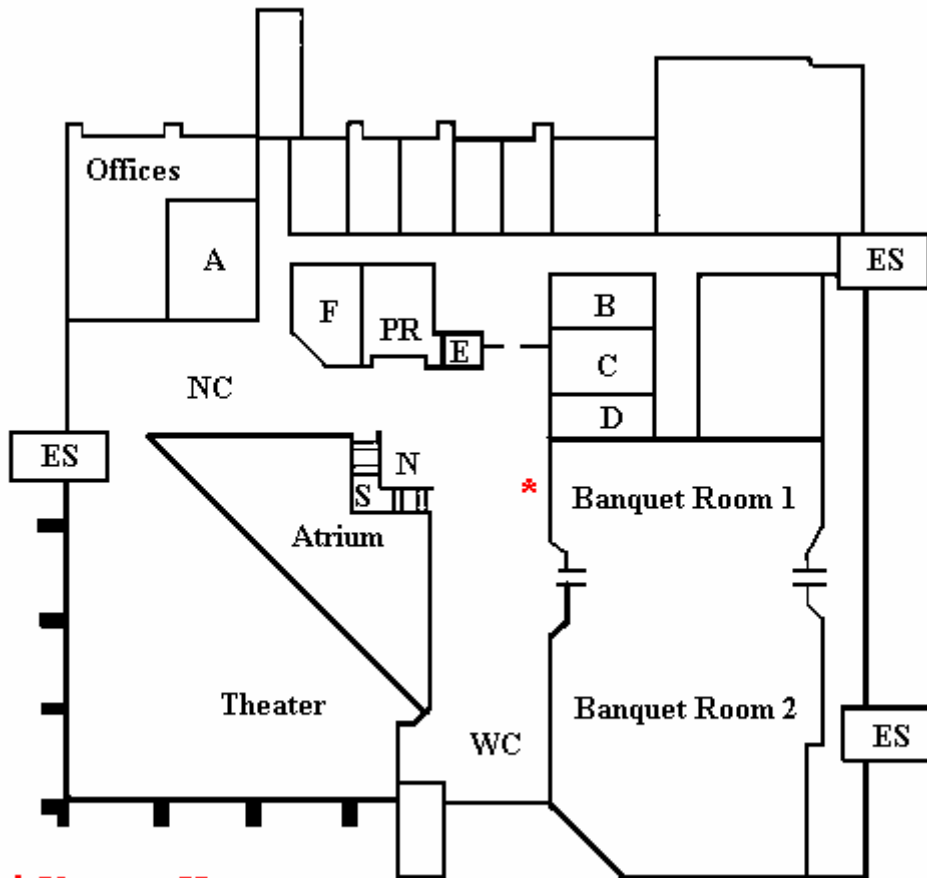
John Mateja, PhD.

Library

Director URSA / McNair

Murray State University
Scholars Week

April 18 - 22, 2005



*** You are Here**

A – Barkley Room

B – Ohio Room

C – Mississippi Room

D – Cumberland Room

S – Center Stairs

NC – North Concourse

E – Elevator

F – Tennessee Room

N – Crow’s Nest

PR – Public Restrooms

ES – Emergency Stairs

WC – West Concourse