



### PUBLIC RELATIONS



#### School of Nursing and Health Professions secures grant to support new dental hygiene program

Murray State University's School of Nursing and Health Professions has secured a \$40,000 grant from the Delta Dental of Kentucky Foundation to support its continued development and implementation of a new Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene program. To date, Murray State has received program approval from the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, and has submitted the initial application to the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

There is a documented need for an increase in registered dental hygienists in rural western Kentucky and beyond. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2021, employment of dental hygienists is projected to grow 11 percent from 2020-30, and it is projected that there will be about 15,000 openings for dental hygienists each year.

The mission of the dental hygiene program is to educate students to become registered dental hygiene professionals who are scientifically oriented, technologically skilled and ethically sound professionals competent for employment in multiple settings. Graduates of the program will be prepared to assume professional responsibilities in providing evidence-based preventative care and therapeutic services to patients across the lifespan.

The program at Murray State will include one semester of prerequisite courses and five semesters of dental hygiene core courses.

#### Biology professor and researcher discovers and names new fly species

Dr. Oliver Beckers, Murray State University principal investigator and associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, has made quite the discovery: a new species of fly.

The species' full name is *Neomintho beckersi*.

It all started when Beckers was collecting katydids in northern Florida for a research project funded by the National Science Foundation in 2021.

"After I brought the katydids to Murray, I noticed that a couple of larvae emerged from the katydids," Beckers said. "I was aware that these katydids are used as hosts by the eavesdropping parasitoid fly *Ormia lineifrons*, that we have here in Kentucky and kills many of the calling katydid males that try to attract females for mating (I do research on those). Thus, I assumed it would be one of those flies and reared them to adulthood in my lab."

However, when the fly emerged as an adult from its pupal stage, an insect's stage of development between larva and adult, it was pretty clear that this was not one of the *Ormia lineifrons* flies. Instead of a yellowish white body, this fly was black and more slender. Beckers contacted a specialist on this group of flies, Dr. James E. O'Hara of the University of Guelph in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, and he was not sure at first what to do with it either. He did some research in museums looking through collections and told Beckers that this was a new species and that he was allowed to name it. O'Hara did some further research and has now officially described the species.

The fly parasitized a katydid host, *Neoconocephalus triops*. Not much is known about how this fly finds its hosts since it has no ears like other parasitoid flies that use the mating songs to find the calling hosts. Also, they are day active when the katydids are not calling and typically

hide in the vegetation from visual predators. So, how this fly finds its hosts is a mystery, Beckers said. However, phylogenetically (relationship) wise, this fly belongs to a group of parasitic flies that uses katydids and crickets as hosts.



"My finding that this fly actually parasitized a katydid is also the first direct evidence that supports this taxonomic grouping related to the other parasitic fly groups," said Beckers. "Flies of this particular group (*Euthelairini*) are established in the Neotropics, which adds a little more surprise to this discovery in northern Florida."

Assuming that the parasitism of the host is similar to that of other closely related flies that use crickets as hosts, the fly's larvae are placed by the female fly on the katydid host. They then bury into the body of the host and develop inside while feeding on non-vital organs of the host. Once the development inside the host is completed (7-10 days), the larva breaks through the body wall of the host, which kills the host. Because they kill their host, they are actually parasitoids, not parasites. Within the same day of emergence from the host, the larvae pupate and develop into adult flies that emerge from the pupa. As evidence, Beckers said he found the pupa of this fly in the cage with his katydids.



Read more about *Neomintho beckersi* at [bit.ly/4sfHg2](https://bit.ly/4sfHg2).

#### Murray State University receives program approval by Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education to offer Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine

Murray State University has received program approval by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education to offer a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), marking a significant step forward in its pursuit of a College of Veterinary Medicine.

Murray State is currently working toward obtaining American Veterinary Medical Association program accreditation.

In 2025, Senate Bill 77 was passed unanimously by both chambers in a bipartisan manner and was signed into law by Governor Andy Beshear. Passage of this bill provided a path forward for the University to establish a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine.



# MURRAY STATE IN THE MEDIA

- ★ Dr. Laura Foltz named Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services
- ★ Murray State University Instructor Ed Rode celebrated with exhibition at Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum
- ★ Fort Campbell Regional Campus EMT-B Program approved as Department of War SkillBridge pathway
- ★ Cyber Team places first in Kentucky at the Midwest Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition
- ★ Murray State University launches AI-powered EdSights resource for student success
- ★ Assistant Professor of political science Dr. Brittany Wood named Distinguished Mentor for 2026
- ★ Dr. Paul Twigg named Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- ★ Murray State graduate E. Josiah Kenty named 2026 Outstanding Young Alumnus
- ★ Murray State University earns 2026-2027 Military Friendly® School designation

## PUBLIC RELATIONS (CONTINUED)

### Murray State University and Universidad EIA launch dual degree partnership in Engineering Physics with Aerospace Engineering track

The Institute for International Studies at Murray State University has announced the signing of a new dual degree agreement with Universidad EIA in Medellín, Colombia, marking a significant milestone in the institutions' growing academic collaboration. Developed in partnership with the Jesse D. Jones College of Science, Engineering and Technology, the agreement establishes a dual degree pathway in Engineering Physics with an Aerospace Engineering track, expanding opportunities for internationally engaged engineering education while reinforcing academic quality and global relevance.

Building on a strong foundation of collaboration between the two institutions, this new pathway allows students from Universidad EIA to complete advanced coursework at Murray State as part of their degree program. Through this structure, students gain rigorous technical preparation while fully immersing themselves in the U.S. academic and cultural environment, an experience that enhances both professional readiness and global perspective.

The strength of the agreement is reinforced by the academic excellence and recognized institutional quality of Universidad EIA, one of Colombia's leading engineering-focused universities. EIA holds High-Quality Institutional Accreditation under Colombia's national accreditation framework, reflecting its sustained commitment to academic rigor, learning outcomes and continuous

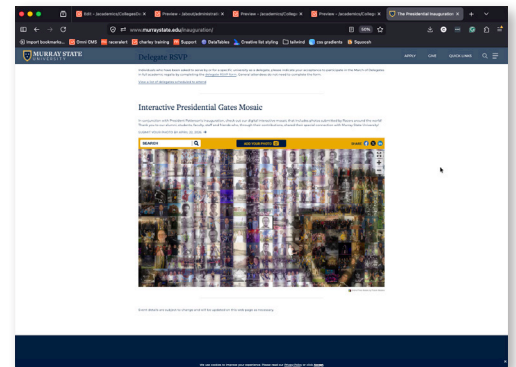
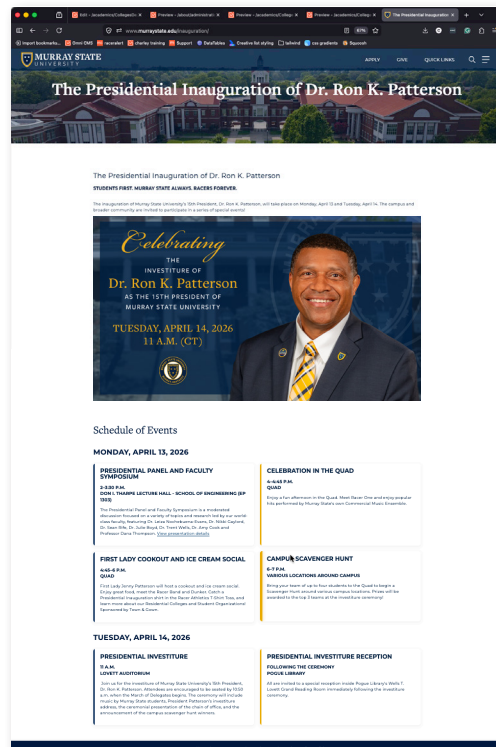
improvement. The university has also demonstrated exceptional performance in Colombia's national Saber Pro examinations, consistently ranking among the top five universities nationwide in recent years, achieving second place at the national level and first place in the Antioquia region. These results underscore EIA's effectiveness in outcome-based education and its ability to prepare graduates who compete at the highest academic levels both nationally and internationally.

Beyond student mobility, the program promotes bilingual and bicultural engagement, faculty collaboration and shared innovation. Students benefit from enhanced academic pathways, while both universities strengthen their capacity for internationalized teaching, learning and applied research.

This agreement aligns closely with Murray State's renewed momentum under the leadership of President Dr. Ron Patterson, reflecting the University's strategic emphasis on global engagement, academic distinction and meaningful partnerships that deliver long-term value.



## WEB MANAGEMENT



### Murray State unveils inauguration site

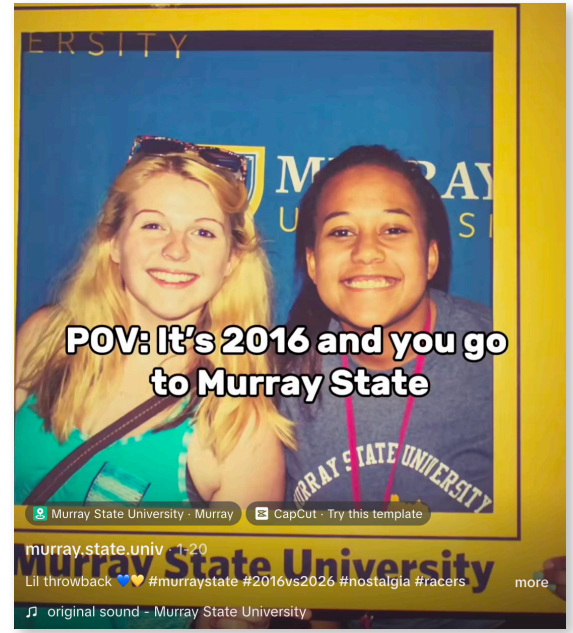
Web Management launched a website in March to highlight the inauguration of Dr. Ron Patterson. The site featured information about the investiture, a schedule of events, a list of delegates who were scheduled to attend and an embedded interactive mosaic. The interactive mosaic was produced by a third party and featured Murray State photos which were shared by the campus and broader community.

## SOCIAL MEDIA



### Winter Storm Fern Response

Showcased the dedication of Murray State Facilities Management, SSC Grounds, Housing, Dining Services and Murray State Police as they worked tirelessly through Winter Storm Fern to keep campus safe, supported and cared for.



### TikTok

Continued growth on the Murray State TikTok channel following last quarter's launch.

Total Fans: +8%

Most Engaging Video:

[tiktok.com/@murray.state.univ/video/7597489454021872951](https://www.tiktok.com/@murray.state.univ/video/7597489454021872951)



Be sure to follow [@murray.state.univ](https://www.tiktok.com/@murray.state.univ) on TikTok or scan the QR code to join the fun!



### Excellence in Action

Created promotional graphics highlighting key Murray State University institutional data to support University social media marketing and outreach efforts.

## DIGITAL MEDIA SERVICES



### Inauguration Recap

A video recap of the two-day celebration of the inauguration of Murray State University's 15th President, Dr. Ron Patterson.



To watch the video, scan the QR code or go to [bit.ly/MSUinauguration](https://bit.ly/MSUinauguration).



### New Fly Species Discovered by Dr. Oliver Beckers

Dr. Oliver Beckers, Murray State University principal investigator and associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, has made quite the discovery: a new species of fly.



To watch the video, scan the QR code or go to [bit.ly/beckersfly](https://bit.ly/beckersfly).




### All Campus Sing Live Stream

The annual live stream production of Sigma Alpha Iota's All Campus Sing.



To watch the video, scan the QR code or go to [bit.ly/acs26stream](https://bit.ly/acs26stream).


# GRAPHIC DESIGN/PRINTING





Conceptual rendering


## Commemorate Our Next Chapter

In conjunction with Murray State President Dr. Ron K. Patterson's inauguration, help us complete our digital interactive mosaic by uploading some of your favorite Racer photos!

 Scan to upload your favorite photo!

 Scan to view a list of special inauguration events April 13-14! We look forward to celebrating with you!

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Additional details are available at [murraystate.edu/inauguration](http://murraystate.edu/inauguration)

*Save the Date*

You are cordially invited to attend the investiture for

**Murray State University President**  
**Ron K. Patterson, Ed.D.**  
**15th President**

TUESDAY | APRIL 14, 2026 | 11 A.M. (CST)  
INAUGURATION EVENTS APRIL 13-14

STUDENTS FIRST. MURRAY STATE ALWAYS. **RACERS FOREVER.**

CFSB Center Entrance B • Professional Dress Required

## CAREER EXPO

**FEB. 17 • 2-5 P.M.**  
**ALL MAJORS CAREER & GRAD SCHOOL FAIR**

Attendees will receive a \$40 Murray State graduate school application fee waiver.

**FEB. 18 • 2-5 P.M.**  
**STEM & OSH FAIR**

**What to Expect:**

- 20+ employers offering internships and full-time positions
- 50+ industries represented – from tech to healthcare
- Networks with industry pros, recruiters and alumni
- Explore grad school options and speak directly with program reps
- Free professional headshots – perfect for LinkedIn and resumes!
- Networking tours to help you navigate with confidence
- Free career and informational job fairs, explore resources, find early internships
- Juniors and seniors. Look to job offers or grad school plans
- Free raffle prizes from Curran Center to CFSB Center – no parking stress!

 Scan to register for the Career Expo

 MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY Career Services

Contact us for all attending organizations at [murraystate.jobinfo@state.ms.edu](mailto:murraystate.jobinfo@state.ms.edu)

**Career Expo Marketing**

In collaboration with Career Services, we revamped the advertising for this semester's two-day Career Expo.

### Presidential Investiture Branding

In preparation for the inauguration of our 15th president, Dr. Ron K. Patterson, we developed a cohesive visual identity and marketing collateral. Examples of paraphernalia include digital "Save the Date" reminders, event signage and balloons, t-shirts, and a commemorative program.

## STUDENTS!

Reach out to your academic advisor today to register for:

**Summer Session**  
REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 30

**Fall Semester**  
REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 6

 Scan QR code for more registration information

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### Registration Reminders

In collaboration with Student Engagement and Success, we developed promotional graphics, flyers, and yard signs to remind students to register for the upcoming summer session and the fall semester.

## Racer Ready

with the Transfer Center

 Feb. 16-20

Register at [bit.ly/racerreadyspring](http://bit.ly/racerreadyspring)

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### Racer Ready with the Transfer Center Marketing

In collaboration with the Transfer Center, we developed a series of print and digital graphics encouraging students to enroll during designated fee-waiver dates.


YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE


## GROUND BREAKING

for the new  
**Veterinary Sciences Building**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 | 2 P.M.  
MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY WEST FARM  
2101 COLLEGE FARM ROAD  
MURRAY, KENTUCKY

In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held inside the Bluegrass Pipeline Education Center.

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### Veterinary Sciences Building Groundbreaking eVite

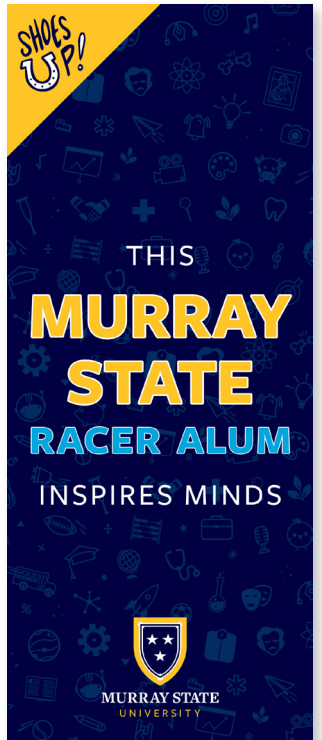
In preparation for the new Veterinary Sciences Building groundbreaking, we developed digital invitations and "Save the Date" reminders, with parking guidelines attached.

**SHOES UP!**

## THIS MURRAY STATE RACER ALUM

### INSPIRES MINDS

 MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY



### Racer Alumni Door Hangers

At the request of the Office of Recruitment, we developed door hangers for Murray State education alumni to proudly display outside their classrooms.

To access an e-edition of this report and previous quarterly reports, visit [murraystate.edu/bmc](http://murraystate.edu/bmc)



We are Racers.

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