

Raider Report

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY.

Week of Jan. 21, 2019

Can't mute the flute

The 11th annual MTSU Flute Festival, featuring guests Bradley Garner and John Steele Ritter, is Saturday, Sept. 9, with registration beginning at 8 a.m. in the Wright Music Building lobby on the MTSU campus.

The day's events include master classes with Garner, exhibits on flute products and repair, a high-school competition with cash prizes and a final concert featuring the high school winners and a festival flute choir.



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Garner teaches on the faculties of The University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Queens College, New York University and

the Juilliard School. Guest pianist Ritter has recorded 11 classical CDs and currently is teaching at the College Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati.

Public admission for the flute festival is only \$5.



DEEP APPRECIATION—Alumna Pamela J. Wright, center, accepts the Tennessee Board of Regents' Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Philanthropy from TBR Chancellor John Morgan, left, and MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee during the university's recent commencement ceremonies. Wright, owner and founder of Nashville-based Wright Travel, made a \$1.25 million commitment in

MTSU Fossile exploration

MTSU's Mineral, Gem and Fossil Museum is celebrating its eighth anniversary with a new mascot that's also a monstrous new teaching aid.

It's an allosaurus, a dinosaur that lived 155 to 145 mil-



lion years ago during the late Jurassic period. MTSU's model stands 6 feet tall and is 10 feet long. The bipedal predator with a large skull and dozens of sharp teeth averaged 28 feet in length, but experts say some reached nearly 40 feet long.

Dr. Albert Ogden, professor of geosciences and curator of the museum, recently purchased the allosaurus as a teaching tool for MTSU students and visiting school groups.

Ogden says that hundreds of elementary- and middle-school classes tour the museum every year. The facility recently surpassed 9,500 visitors and has served as a valuable resource for Boy Scouts working to earn their merit badges in geology.

Established in 2005, MTSU's Mineral, Gem and Fossil Museum serves as an experiential lab for earth science classes and a learning center for the general public. It has two main exhibit rooms and a smaller black-light room that displays fluorescent minerals. Samples come from every state in the union and from more than 50 countries around the world.

The museum is located in Room 122 of Ezell Hall. It's open on Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m., and free visits can be arranged during the week by calling 615-898-5075 or e-mailing adbrown@mtsu.edu.