Homecoming 2021
99 years and counting...

A special publication of The Murray State News
It's an honor to welcome alumni back to Murray State, after the past year the world has endured. Although it's littered the news more than we have wished, COVID-19 has been a big societal obstacle.

This time last year, I could not imagine such festivities happening. I'm happy to see that we are able to gather again and celebrate events like homecoming again. In Fall 2020, most of my days were spent looking at people through a computer screen. Although COVID-19 still affects us, it's great that we are able to safely come together.

Along with students and alumni, I am excited to see the support from the greater Murray community. Never before have I seen a town collectively rally around a school the way the city of Murray supports Murray State.

As a junior, I am lucky enough to experience one normal homecoming, going to tent city, enjoying the parade and cheering for the Racers at the football game. I am also lucky to be able to experience another homecoming as a student. Not only am I happy to see the alumni able to come back and celebrate, but I'm happy for the students who haven't experienced a homecoming yet will be able to do so.

I look forward to being in the stands cheering for our Racers against our rival school, Austin Peay.

Football may not be having their best season, but I am hopeful our team, backed by the pride and support of students, alumni and the great Murray community can bring home the win.

Let's get ready to support our Racers and show up and show out. Shoes up.

Dionte Berry, News Editor
Homecoming is back on campus

Ava Chuppe
Contributing Writer
achuppe@murraystate.edu

Homecoming, a beloved tradition on college campuses across the country, has been no exception to the array of events canceled because of COVID-19 concerns. However, the tradition is making a comeback to Murray State this fall.

Courtney Rager, a senior communication disorders major and candidate for Homecoming Queen, said the return of homecoming is a source of excitement.

“I love the fact homecoming unites so many individuals and brings us all together for one commonality, our love for Murray State,” Rager said.

Rager said homecoming is a reflection of campus values.

“To me, homecoming is essential to our campus community to be able to understand the rich tradition of coming back to the campus that has given so much to the individual,” Rager said. “I also feel that MSU overall embodies a campus that fosters a true community that values each student.”

Rager said this is a bittersweet homecoming for her, but it is also special because she is one of few individuals to be on the Homecoming Court.

“As someone who has only experienced three years at MSU and already a senior, I have had many experiences taken away as a result of COVID,” Rager said. “I have been anxiously awaiting for next weekend for so long and cannot believe it’s almost here.”

see Homecoming, page 4
Kristen Lyons, a middle school education major and another candidate for Homecoming Queen, said the tradition of homecoming builds community. “I am so excited to have a normal homecoming,” Lyons said. “You don’t realize how important traditions are until they get taken away. I know that there is a whole class of Racers who have never experienced a normal homecoming. I am so happy that it is back.”

Lyons said homecoming is important because it helps campus organizations become recognized. “Homecoming is one event that brings everyone together,” Lyons said. “Every organization participates, alumni and past faculty and staff come back and we all get together to honor and recognize this wonderful university.”

Mollie Beck, an elementary education major and Homecoming Queen candidate, expressed similar sentiments. “It is the biggest event that showcases the love of our community,” Beck said. “With many businesses and organizations outside of Murray State participating in the homecoming parade each year, you can sense the pride our small town has for Murray State.”

Beck also expressed enthusiasm for the return of alumni to campus. “The swell of alumni returning to revisit a time of their lives that they hold so dear just rekindles the love of being in the Racer family,” Beck said.

Beck said it is incredible to have homecoming back. “Goodness, I have missed it,” Beck said. “The anticipation of the traditional Murray State homecoming has been building for weeks. It is truly the best day of the year for Racer Nation.”

For those who have never experienced a normal homecoming, Beck said this year will be especially unique. “I am thrilled to see so many students experience a true homecoming this year,” Beck said. “It will definitely make it even more memorable.”

A schedule for all of this week’s homecoming events, including those for students and alumni, can be found at murraystate.edu/homecoming.
2021 Homecoming
Schedule of Events
All registration links can be found at https://www.murraystate.edu/homecoming/reunions.aspx

Thursday, Oct. 21
5-9 p.m. College of Humanities and Fine Arts Annual Wine Tasting, dinner, and auction in Murray Room. CSFB Center. RSVP Required.
8 p.m. Early Bird Gathering @ ATO House
9 p.m. Ques Meet and Greet @ Big Apple Cafe. Registration required.

Friday, Oct. 22
9 a.m. ATO Golf Scramble at the Murray Country Club, 2200 College Farm Road.
10 a.m. Alpha Sigma Phi Alumni Golf Scramble at Miller Golf Course, 2814 Pottertown Road.
11 a.m. Dean's Circle Luncheon at the Hall of Benefactors in Heritage Hall
3:30 p.m. Library Open House at Waterfield Library
5 p.m. Golden Reunion in the Murray Room at the CFSB Center. Registration required.
5 p.m. Racer Football Reunion in the Dennis Jackson Room
5:30 p.m. Hutson School of Agriculture Alumni Pinic at the Cherry Expo Center. Registration required.
6 p.m. Alpha Kappa Alpha 50th Anniversary Meet and Greet at the Sid Easley Alumni Center
6 p.m. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity 50th Anniversary Banquet at the Pogue Special Collections Library
6 p.m. Zeta Phi Beta 20th Anniversary Dinner at the Murray-Calloway Fairgrounds Facility, 211 Fairgrounds Road
6:30 p.m. MSU Black Alumni Receptions and Awards Program at the Upper Concourse of the CFSB Center
7-9:30 p.m. Alpha Sigma Alpha Social - free t-shirts at the Big Apple Cafe

Saturday, Oct. 23
5-9:30 a.m. COEHS Homecoming Breakfast at Murray Middle School. Registration Required
5-9:30 a.m. M-Club Breakfast at the Murray Room of the CFSB Center. Registration Required
9:30 a.m. Homecoming Parade on Main St. from 4th St to 13th St.
10 a.m. Race for the Homecoming Cup, Varisty Rowing vs Murray Rowing Society at the Racer Rowing Boathouse, Kenlake State Park
10:30 a.m. Tent City at Roy Stewart Stadium
10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. School of Nursing and Health Professions Brunch outside Waterfield Library. Registration available
11 a.m. National Pan-Hellenic Council Plaza Groundbreaking next to Waterfield Library
1 p.m. SGA Annual Picture at the south end of Stewart Stadium under the scoreboard
2 p.m. The Racers vs Austin Peay Governors at Roy Stewart Stadium
5:30 p.m. NPHC Reception at the Curris Center
6:30 p.m. Alpha Sigma Alpha Formal Banquet at the Murray Country Club, 2200 College Farm Road
7 p.m. Racer Rowing Reception
7:30-10 p.m. NPHC Step Show at the Curris Center. Tickets available at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nphc-reunion-step-show-tickets-151625234157
8 p.m. Ques Alumni Bash at Spring Hill Suites. Registration Required.

Sunday, Oct. 24
10 a.m. Alpha Sigma Phi Alumni Meet and Greet at the Oaks Country Club, 363 Oaks Country Club Road
8 p.m. ATO Alumni Meeting at the ATO House
9:30 p.m. Black Alumni Reunion Masquerade Party at the CFSB Center, Upper Concourse

7 p.m. Alpha Sigma Phi Alumni Meet and Greet at the Oaks Country Club, 363 Oaks Country Club Road
8 p.m. ATO Alumni Meeting at the ATO House
9:30 p.m. Black Alumni Reunion Masquerade Party at the CFSB Center, Upper Concourse

Pam Goodwin/The News
MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Humanities and Fine Arts

There’s a place for you in CHFA.

@murraystatechfa
Mollie Beck, senior elementary education major, was an orientation leader and is the vice president of recruitment for Alpha Gamma Delta. She is also the president of the College of Education and Human Services Student Ambassadors.

Ellie McGowan, sophomore agriculture business major, is the chief of staff for SGA. She is also the philanthropy and fundraising chair for the Murray State Ag-Business Club and part of 2021 Racer Nation Orientation Team.

Jaclyn Paige Carter, senior nursing major, is the president of Zeta Phi Beta and a member of Emerging Scholars Institute. “It would be an honor to represent the school I fell in love with over the years,” Carter said.

Kristen Lyons, senior middle school education major, is a member of Alpha Gamma Delta. She is a College of Education and Human Services student ambassador. She is also a member of Educators Rising Collegiate.

Courtney Rager, senior communication disorders major, is a College of Education and Human Services student ambassador. She's also in Alpha Gamma Delta, National Student Speech Language Hearing Association and SGA.

Ellie McGowan, senior elementary education major, was an orientation leader and is the vice president of recruitment for Alpha Gamma Delta. She is also the president of the College of Education and Human Services Student Ambassadors.

(270) 305-5980
300 MAIN ST, MURRAY, KY 42071

SOCIAL MEDIA
Facebook: @hairbybrookleshea
Instagram: @hairbybrookleshea

Welcome home, Racers.
Hayden Smee, junior engineering physics major, is involved in the Murray State Student Ambassadors, School of Engineering Ambassadors and Honors College Ambassadors. He is also a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society and the Honors Student Council.

Senior Zaid Haija is a member of Pi Kappa Alpha and was nominated by the Order of Omega. “I am greatly honored to have been nominated... I am thankful for all the opportunities that Murray State has provided me and it would be a privilege to represent this great institution,” Haija said.

Senior Walter Steely was first runner-up in the Mr. MSU Pageant. He is also a member of Alpha Sigma Phi. “It is an absolute honor to be on Homecoming Court,” Steely said. “...I always loved watching the parade and seeing the court, and to be on it senior year is a dream come true,” Steely said.

Ian Puckett, senior history major, is the president of SGA. He is a student regent and a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon. “I am honored to be on the Homecoming Court this year with my lifelong friend, Mollie Beck,” Puckett said. “We love Murray State more than anyone.”

Ty Allen, senior biology/preoptometry major, is the SGA Chief Justice of the Judicial Board. He is also involved in UNICEF and Pre-Health Professionals. “I want to use this pedestal of homecoming court to impact positive change and shine a light onto... Murray State University,” Allen said.

Senior Walter Steely was first runner-up in the Mr. MSU Pageant. He is also a member of Alpha Sigma Phi.

Happy Homecoming!
from
Racer Dining

Have a safe weekend Racers! Remember, check out our social media to be in the know concerning all our upcoming events!
Racers look to end losing streak against Governors

Jakob Milani
Sports Editor
jmilani@murraystate.edu

Homecoming is known for many things in schools across the country, but one of the biggest events for Murray State’s Homecoming is the annual football game.

This year, the Murray State football team is set to take on rival school Austin Peay in the annual “Battle Of The Border” game for homecoming.

The Racers are 36-18 all time against the Governors. Their biggest victory over the Governors came in 2016, when the Racers traveled to Austin Peay and won by a score of 45-17; however, the Governors have won the last four meetings between the two teams.

The Racers currently sit at 3-3 overall, including their comeback win over SEMO on Saturday, Oct. 15, and their victory over Eastern Illinois on Oct. 2. They have put up a total of 130 points this season and have gained 1112 yards across their six games.

Freshman running back Demonta Witherspoon leads the Racers in rushing with 425 rushing yards, four rushing touchdowns, 144 receiving yards and a receiving touchdown. Senior wide receiver Malik Honeycutt leads the Racers in receiving with 226 yards, followed closely behind by junior wide receiver LaMartez Brooks with 219 receiving yards.

The Governors sit at 2-4 on the season, with their two wins coming against University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and Morehead State. They have put up 69 points across six games but have allowed 198 in those games.

Graduate running back Ahmaad Tanner leads the Governors in rushing with 454 yards and six touchdowns while also picking up 41 receiving yards and a receiving touchdown. Graduate wide receiver Baniko Harley leads them in receiving with 575 yards and five touchdowns.

Junior quarterback Preston Rice has been a do-it-all player for the Racers in 2021, passing for 630 yards and rushing for five touchdowns. Freshman backup quarterback DJ Williams has also made an impact for the Racers, passing for 422 yards and two touchdowns, as well as rushing for three touchdowns.

Sophomore quarterback Draylon Ellis leads the Governors under center this season. He’s thrown for 1,709 yards and 10 touchdowns.

There’s no better opponent for the Racers on Homecoming than the Governors. The history between the teams runs deep in football and almost every game between the two is a close one.

Can the Racers stop their losing streak against the Governors this year? Only time will tell.

The Murray State vs. Austin Peay game is set for Saturday, Oct. 23, with kickoff at 2 p.m at the Roy Stewart Stadium.

File Photo from the 2016 Homecoming Game
2014 Homecoming Parade: Thanks for the memories

• STATE NEWS FILE
PHOTOS BY JENN
ROHL

• FROM TOP, RACER BAND STEPS OFF THE PARADE; T SIGMA PHI EPSILON AND AL-
PHA GAMMA DELTA FLOAT BY; THE ALPHA GAMMA RHO-ALPHA OMICRON PI FLOAT
BY; HE CLASS OF 1964 CELEBRATES THEIR 50TH REUNION.
This is your **LEGACY**
That will last a **LIFETIME**

**MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY**
Alumni Association

**Become a Lifetime member today!**

murraystate.edu/alumni

facebook.com/raceralumni
twitter.com/raceralumni
@RacerAlumni
instagram.com/raceralumni
@raceralumni

100 Easley Alumni Center | Murray, KY 42071

270.809.5600  | Toll Free: 800.758.8510

Equal education and employment opportunities M/F/D, AA employer.
Murray State University supports a clean and healthy campus.
Please refrain from personal tobacco use.