Presley Woodrum Nickens

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# Education

**PhD** Doctor of Philosophy Anticipated 2027

Plant, Soil, and Environmental Science

Soil Science Concentration, 4.0 GPA

University of Tennessee

Advisors: Dr. Forbes Walker and Dr. Debasish Saha

**MS** Master of Science in Agriculture December 2022

Sustainable Agriculture Concentration, 4.0 GPA

Murray State University

Advisor: Dr. Kristie Guffey

**BS** Bachelor of Science in Agriculture December 2021

Agriscience Technology, 4.0 GPA

Emphasis in Communications and Public Relations

Accelerated Master’s Degree Program

Graduated Summa Cum Laude

Honors College Focus

# Professional Experience

**Graduate Research Assistant at the University of Tennessee** 2023

I currently am a Graduate Research Assistant in Dr. Debasish Saha’s Biogeochemical Nutrient Cycling Lab. My dissertation research will focus on enhancing soil health and climate change mitigation potential of grasslands. Additionally, I worked with the Smith Center for International Sustainable Agriculture to disseminate information on Sustainable Technology Intensification in Cambodia.

**Grow Smart Live Manager and Communications Specialist** **with BASF** 2022-2023

I worked to create content and improve feedback strategies for an agronomic app and internal programs for BASF Agricultural Solutions. I managed the flow of technical, agricultural content covering focus crops and products for the continental U.S. This required creative, strategic planning to appeal to a target audience.

**BASF Agricultural Solutions Sales and Marketing Intern** 2020-2021

During my three internships at BASF, I worked in various roles. My responsibilities included writing newsletters, digital content creation, content management, conducting surveys, and composing sales program user guides. My favorite experience was in the e3 Sustainable Cotton program. I created a learning kit focused on sustainable agriculture that was utilized across North America and in the FFA National Convention Blue Room.

# Research Interests

I am interested in sustainable agriculture, specifically, practices that improve soil and water quality. Soil health and climate change mitigation are key areas of interest. I am passionate about stewarding our agricultural resources in order to feed a growing population.

# Research Experience

Determining the Sustainability of Digital Agriculture Technology: Grow Smart Live™

* Advisor: Dr. Kristie Guffey
* Master’s Research Project in partnership with BASF Agricultural Solutions
* The project aimed to better understand the factors that contribute to the adoption of technology and the dissemination of technical agricultural content through the evaluation of user engagement trends on BASF’s farmer-facing agronomy platform, Grow Smart Live™.

Evaluating Topsoil Health Under Different Management Conditions: An Important Indicator for Sustainable Agriculture.

* Advisors: Dr. Iin Handayani, Dr. Alyx Shultz
* Senior Research Project
* Murray State University Pullen Farm
* Measurements taken include soil organic matter, soil color, bulk density, earthworm population, soil pH in water, soil compaction, macroporosity, soil water at field capacity, and soil water holding capacity.
* Twelve different locations were studied that varied in their land management practices.

# Honors and Awards

**Murray State University Outstanding Woman in Agriculture** 2022

Recognized for exceptional leadership, academic achievements, and service in the Hutson School of Agriculture.

**Murray State University Outstanding Senior Woman** 2021

One woman is chosen from the university graduating class based on academic excellence,

campus involvement, and professionalism to provide a valedictory address at graduation.

**Kentucky Academy of Sciences Student Research Competition Winner** 2021

Second place in Agricultural Sciences and Second place overall for undergraduate

research and poster presentation.

**Farm Credit Mid-America Scholar** 2020-2021

Completed leadership program that included attending leadership conferences and educational seminars.

**Agriculture Futures of America Delegate** 2019-2020

Earned scholarship to attend Crop Science Institute and the Leaders Conference.

**Dean’s List** – every semester at Murray State 2018-2021

**Miss Murray State University Fourth Runner-Up** 2020

Based on academics, involvement, speech, and interviews.

**Murray State University Homecoming Court** 2020

Based on campus voting, academics, involvement, and interviews.

**Outstanding Agriculture Ambassador** 2020

# Leadership Experience

**Alpha Sigma Alpha National Ritual Coaching Committee** 2023-2024

Alumnae committee member of a national advisory council

**Agriculture Leadership Council** 2018 – 2021

Chair, Vice Chair, member of the Hunger Initiative Committee

**MSU Agriculture Ambassador** 2018 – 2021

**Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority** 2018 – 2021

Ritual Chair, New Member Education Assistant, Sunshine Chair

**Baptist Campus Ministry** 2018 – 2021

Freshman Family Group Leader, Outreach Team

**Honors College** 2018 – 2021

Honors curriculum covering ethics, philosophy, international government,

and foreign language.

**Murray State News**  2020

Anchor, content creator, broadcaster

# Presentations

**Woodrum, P**., Shultz, A., Handayani, I. (November, 2021) Examining Soil Health Indicators

at the Pullen Farm in Murray, Kentucky. Poster presentation for Murray State University’s Scholars Week.

**Woodrum, P**., Shultz, A., Handayani, I. (November, 2021) Evaluating Topsoil Health Under

Different Management Conditions: An Important Indicator for Sustainable Agriculture. Poster presentation for the Kentucky Academy of Science.

**Woodrum, P**. (July 2021) Summer Internship Experience Told Through the e3 Sustainable

Cotton Value Chain. Presentation for BASF North American Cotton Leadership Team for summer capstone project.

# Teaching Experience

**National University of Battambang**  2023

Guest lecturer covering soil health and microbiology for Farmer-to-

Farmer Assignment.

# Publications

Nickens, P., Ader, D., Enriquez, J., Bates, R., Gill, T., Huot, S., Hok, L., & Pao, S. (2023).

Where do Smallholder Farmers get Their Information? An Exploration of the Sources of Agricultural Information in Northwest Cambodia. *Journal of International Agricultural and Extension Education, 30*(2), 160-172. https://doi.org/10.4148/2831-5960.1143

# Professional Training

**Intern Agronomy Training**

BASF Agricultural Solutions, Virtual, 2020-2021

Multiple webinars to equip interns with key agronomic information for fieldwork.

**Gettysburg Leadership Experience**

FCCS, Gettysburg, PA, August 2021

Learned leadership skills through the program’s integration of “uniquely tailored, core learning modules with game-changing case studies to engage participants and encourage dialog.”

# Community Service

**USAID Farmer-to-Farmer Volunteer** 2023

I volunteered in Cambodia where I taught soil biology and soil health to high school and university level students. Additionally, I collected data using a Microbiometer that will be used for future publications and research.

**Crossroads Christian Church Student Ministry Volunteer** 2022-2023

I volunteer weekly in middle school, high school, and young adult mentorship programs.

**Toys for Tots** 2018- 2021

Fundraised, bought presents, and hosted meals for families in Murray, Kentucky.

**Hutson School of Agriculture Hunger Initiative** 2018-2021

Planned food drives, directed volunteers, and coordinated with other organizations to combat hunger in Calloway County.

**Fall on the Farm** 2018-2021

Volunteered at Murray State University’s agriculture education event for elementary schoolers.

# Conferences and Workshops

**University of Tennessee Beef and Bees Workshop** July 2023

**Agriculture Future of America Crop Science Institute** July 2021

**Agriculture Future of America Leaders Conference** November 2019

# Languages

**English**: Native Language

**Spanish**: Novice Listener, Novice Speaker, Intermediate Reading and Writing

# Computer Skills

**Applications**: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Abode Premiere

**Platforms**: Canva, Zoom, WebEx, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube

# References

**Dr. Debasish Saha**

University of Tennessee

Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science

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**Dr. Forbes Walker**

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**Dr. David Ader**

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**Dr. Kristie Guffey**

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Hutson School of Agriculture

Assistant Professor and Graduate Coordinator

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