

MURFREESBORO -- Long-time MTSU assistant baseball coach and former Cumberland Bulldog Jim McGuire was named the new Blue Raider head coach last week, following Steve Peterson's Hall of Fame tenure.

McGuire, who played two years for Hall of Fame coach Woody Hunt at Lebanon's Cumberland University, was hired after Arkansas State head coach Tommy Raffo reportedly withdrew his name from the MTSU job search Tuesday.

"I couldn't be more proud of Jim," Coach Hunt said Tuesday morning. "The MTSU program won't skip a beat. Jim turned down some head coaching opportunities in the past to stay with Pete and MTSU. I'm glad to see his loyalty rewarded."

McGuire has spent the last 20 years serving alongside Peterson, who retired on July 5 after 25 seasons at the helm.

"I am extremely excited to have the opportunity to serve as Middle Tennessee's head coach," McGuire said. "I would like to thank Chris Massaro and Dr. McPhee for giving me this opportunity. Throughout the process, I have been humbled by the outpouring of support from the entire Blue Raider baseball family. I look forward to getting started and building upon the tradition that (former coaches) John Stanford and Steve Peterson established."

McGuire becomes just the third different Blue Raider coach since 1974, following John Stanford (1974-87) and Peterson (1988-2012). He is the 21st coach since the program began in 1913.

After eight years as an assistant under Peterson, McGuire was elevated following the 2000 season to associate head coach.

During his tenure, McGuire served as recruiting coordinator for the program and worked with the infielders and hitters. He also has taken an active role in coordinating evaluation visits with professional scouts as well as organizing baseball camps and the annual 'Boro Bash summer

tournament.

He helped Peterson with all three of the Blue Raiders' major fundraisers – the Grand Slam Fish Fry, the Groundhog Day Luncheon, and the Chuck Taylor Golf Tournament – and served as liaison for placing players on summer teams across the country.

After the Blue Raiders' historical season in 2009, SEBaseball.com named McGuire the Sun Belt Assistant Coach of the Year for his work with the record-breaking offense.

Throughout his 20 years in Murfreesboro, McGuire has been a key ingredient in making Blue Raider baseball known throughout the country. He has been a part of 14 winning seasons, six trips to the NCAA Tournament, seven league championships, and five conference tournament titles. McGuire has helped mold 58 players who have been drafted by the pros and 98 first-team all-conference performers, including six conference players of the year and 10 All-Americans. The Blue Raiders are 626-520-1 during his tenure, a .546 winning percentage.

Before joining the Blue Raider staff in the summer of 1992, McGuire was head coach at Rend Lake (Ill.) Junior College from 1989 to 1992. During his stint there, he compiled a record of 220-116, a winning percentage of .655. During his four-year tenure, McGuire's teams turned in four second-place finishes in the Great Rivers Athletic Conference. His 1992 squad was Section III champion and Region 24 runner-up.

McGuire served as assistant coach at Rend Lake from 1987 to 1988 and began his coaching career at Missouri-St. Louis in 1986.

The Belleville, Ill., native played baseball and basketball at Freeburg High School.

McGuire is married to the former Lynn Christophe from Belleville, Ill., and they have two daughters, Kristen and Katie.