



# HONORS alternative

University Honors College Newsletter • Spring 2005  
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

## From The Bell Tower

During the past few months I have had the extraordinary privilege of serving the University Honors College in an administrative role. Among the many rewards of such service is the opportunity to reflect upon the mission and ultimate direction of the college as an academic unit within a fast-changing university.

The Honors College strives to reach educational goals of the most exalted type. Its mission is nothing less than to provide undergraduate education of unequalled quality to a small but diverse student population having unequalled passion for learning and a commitment to the virtues espoused by the college: character, commitment, creativity, curiosity, discipline, faith, honor, and integrity. In fulfilling its mission, the college partners with individuals and groups, spearheads achievement of the institutional goal of academic quality, creates a student-centered learning environment, and serves as a source of institutional pride by holding the lamp of learning high.

*Bell cont. on page 2*

## MARTIN LECTURESHIP ESTABLISHED

The Honors College is pleased to announce the establishment of a distinguished lecture series to be known as the Paul W. Martin Sr. Lectureship. The new lectureship came about as a result of the acceptance of a proposal developed by the Honors College in conjunction with Joe Bales (vice president for Development and University Relations) and Kaylene Gebert (provost).

Conditions of the agreement call for H. Lee Martin, son of Paul Martin Sr., to fund the lectureship each year for an unspecified number of years and for the University to make smaller contributions, including in-kind contributions. The lectureship provides for two outside speakers per year with most speakers giving two presentations: one in the Honors College and one in another academic college or unit.



*H. Lee Martin*

The purpose of the Martin Lectureship is to bring renowned artists, politicians, humanitarians, scientists, entrepreneurs, entertainers, military leaders, corporate executives, and leaders of other types to the Honors College and to the environs of Murfreesboro. According to interim dean Phil Mathis, the new lectureship will complement rather than compete with the long-standing and highly successful Honors Lecture Series by MTSU faculty members. He noted that Martin's generosity will afford MTSU Honors students and others the opportunity to see, hear, and interact with some of the more notable people in America. "It will be a new avenue by which students will be able to escape the blindness of provincialism and reach out to a bigger world," he said. "The entire University will benefit from this gift, and we are grateful to the entire Martin family." He also noted that Paul W. Martin Jr. constantly works to support the best interests of the Honors College and that the contribution by Lee reemphasizes his continued commitment to the MTSU Honors College.

If all goes according to schedule, the Martin Lectureship will be launched this spring. The speaker selection committee will include Mathis (interim Honors dean; professor, Biology; committee chair), Lara Womack (associate professor, Accounting; interim associate Honors dean), Tom Cheatham (professor, Computer Science; dean, College of Basic and Applied Sciences), Terry Whiteside (professor, Psychology; Honors Council chair), Lynne Napatalung (Honors student), and H. Lee Martin (managing member, Clarity Resources, LLC). 📌

*Bell cont. from front page*

The future holds many foreseeable challenges but none which cannot be successfully met. Visionary leadership over more than three decades and an impressive new edifice on the east side of campus—the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building—position the college to become a leader and model among a growing number of honors colleges nationwide. The National Collegiate Honors Council recommends, in its Basic Characteristics of a Fully Developed Honors College, a set of attributes that should typify a mature honors program at any college or university. Most of these “standards” have already been met by the University Honors College at Middle Tennessee State University.

Figuratively speaking, the Honors College faces westward with a view toward an unlimited horizon. It is already the central star in the University’s constellation of signature programs that draws outstanding students from Tennessee and beyond. Within a time frame less than that of the existing Academic Master Plan, the Honors College can become the unit locus for a Phi Beta Kappa chapter; it can become the alma mater of a future Rhodes Scholar (or Truman Scholar, Goldwater Scholar, etc.); it can become the place where a dozen or more National Merit and National Achievement Finalists enroll each year; it can become the place where successful entrepreneurs and leaders learn to lead; it can become an undergraduate program that each year prepares several students to enter the world’s most prestigious graduate programs; and it can become the means by which the academic standing of the entire University is advanced.

—Philip M. Mathis  
Interim Dean

## HONORS FACULTY MEMBER PAULA B. THOMAS

Paula B. Thomas, professor and interim chair of Accounting, received the 2004 Distinguished Achievement in Accounting Education Award from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). She received the award at the AICPA governing council’s spring meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona. S. Scott Voynich, institute chairman, was the presenter. According to the citation issued in her honor,



“Throughout her career, students have consistently rated her overall performance as among the top of her department rankings. Paula’s approach to innovative classroom teaching focuses on remaining current in both pedagogical and technical issues.”

Dr. Thomas serves as advisory board distinguished professor of accounting. She has received the Tennessee Society of CPAs’ Outstanding Educator Award and the award for Outstanding Performance in the Accounting Profession from the MTSU chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, the

national accounting fraternity. She has served on many AICPA committees including the governing council, the academic and career development executive committee, and the work/life and women’s initiatives executive committee. She is currently a member of the AICPA board of examiners. She has also been a member of numerous American Accounting Association committees. She is licensed as a CPA in

Tennessee. The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants ([www.aicpa.org](http://www.aicpa.org)), the national professional association of CPAs, has more than 340,000 members in business and industry, public practice, government, and education. It sets professional ethics standards for the profession and accounting standards for U.S. private companies. It also develops and grades the Uniform CPA Examination. 📌

**We would like to share your faculty accomplishments with our Honors students and alumni; please keep us posted!**

You are invited to attend the annual

Wednesday, April 20, 2005 • 3:00 p.m. • Under the tent

## HONORS STUDENT CARRIE E. ROMER

Originally from Jamestown, Tennessee, I was born on August 20, 1983. My parents are Jim and Denise and my brother is Michael. At Alvin C. York Agricultural Institute, I was president of the Rotary Interact Club and vice president of Student Council and was voted Homecoming Attendant and Prom Queen. After graduating fifth in my class, I received various awards including Miss YAI, the Kim Upchurch MTSU scholarship, the Wilma Pinckley Citizenship Award, the Marines Most Distinguished Athlete Award, and the Noteworthy Singing Award.

My hobbies include basketball, swimming, biking, singing, and dancing. Until recently, I was a head lifeguard at MTSU's pool and was president of the Masters Swim Club. Now, I am a member of the club and also take part in the Multisport Club on campus. After cutting a CD as an alto in the high school octet, I discovered I enjoyed singing; I now am in the University Chorus. Also, I enjoy dancing and became even



more interested in it after taking a hip hop class in high school.

Most remarkable, however, are my three and one half

years at MTSU. With a major in Biology and a concentration in Biotechnology and Genetics, I began research with Dr. Rebecca Seipelt in the spring of 2003 in order to fulfill an H-Option in Human Genetics. Through my H-Option, I found my interest for

research and asked Dr. Seipelt to assist me in a future honors thesis. From that point on, I continued work on an experiment titled "Cloning and Characterization of Leukotriene A4 Hydrolase." Unsure of whether working in a lab was my aspiration, I obtained an internship at Vanderbilt University's Medical Center (VUMC) in the spring of 2004 with the help of Dr. Seipelt. There I worked with genetic counselors for VUMC's program in human genetics. My job was to help with the recruitment of individuals for Vanderbilt's genetic studies in epilepsy, macular degeneration, autism, and Alzheimer's disease. I also drafted a letter to be sent out to those involved in a Parkinson's disease



study. After my internship, however, I knew that my heart remained in laboratory

research. So I continued the LTA4 experiment working with Dr. Seipelt on the genetics portion and with her husband, Dr. Michael

Thompson, on the biochemistry part. I even received a scholarship in the summer of 2004 to continue work on the project.

Now, my aspirations include pursuing a six-hour honors thesis in biochemistry this spring under the direction of Dr. Seipelt. I plan on presenting a publication for an oral presentation at a national meeting, because I have already shown my project via poster at several meetings including the Association of Southeastern Biologists, the Tennessee Academy of Science, and the Undergraduate Research Symposium on campus. After my work here at MTSU, I plan on pursuing a Ph.D. in biochemistry. 📍

# Honors Awards Reception

adjacent to the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building • Refreshments • R.S.V.P. 898-2152

## MTSU American Indian Festival Named One of Top 20 Events!



The MTSU festival celebrating American Indian cultures is receiving an honor of its own. The festival has been named one of the Top 20 Events in the southeast by the Southeast Tourism Society for the second year. The annual event, held this year March 4 through March 6, showcases Native American artists, craftsmen, musicians, and performers. Highlights include the Grand Entry, a Native Talent Stage, Native foods, hundreds of dancers, audience participation, and special guests.

The Southeast Tourism Society is a nonprofit organization whose goals and objectives are to develop, market, and promote travel to and within the southeastern states. Since 1985, the society has published its Top 20 Events list. Events must go through an extensive nomination process and are reviewed in detail before being selected for this award.

"This is the sixth festival at MTSU and it's a wonderful honor to have been selected as one of the top events in the southeast for two years in a row," said festival coordinator Georgia Dennis. "A number of departments at MTSU work together to bring this three-day event to campus. They include the University Honors College, Student Programming, MTSU Production Services, the Tennessee Livestock Center, the MTSU Anthropology program, the Native American Student Association, and the Middle Tennessee Anthropology Society."

For more information about the festival, please visit the Web site at [www.mtsu.edu/powwow](http://www.mtsu.edu/powwow) or call the Honors Event Coordinator's office at (615) 898-5645. 📞



Ron Kates (English) with Amy Toensing

### Noted Photojournalist Visits Honors

One of the many highlights of the Fall 2004 semester was the visit of award-winning photojournalist Amy Toensing on September 23. Toensing has been on assignment for national and international publications such as *National Geographic*, the *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *Fortune*, and the *Boston Globe*. After three years covering capital Hill for the *New York Times*, Toensing embarked on a freelance photojournalist career that has included such assignments as covering Reverend Jesse Jackson's campaign for economic stability throughout Appalachia and Mississippi.

Toensing refers to her pictures as a series of "intimate essays reflecting the lives of ordinary people." Her coverage of Monhegan Island, a winter lobstering community twelve miles off the Main coast (*National Geographic*, July 2001), won second place in the International



*Honors Studies Association members Ty Fox and David Rivenbank worked diligently on their Homecoming banner. They didn't win the contest, but much fun was had by all who participated.*

## HONORS COLLEGE AT MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Pictures of the Year competition, portrait division. In 1998, Toensing won an award of excellence from the Photographer of the Year competition for an image from her story on the impact of welfare reform on a single-parent family.

In addition to discussing her version of the storytelling process, Toensing talked at length about her *National Geographic* story depicting Puerto Rico's intertwined diversity and heritage. Toensing approaches her assignments with an interdisciplinary eye and consequently produces work that appeals to a wide audience.

The event was funded by the support of the University Honors College, the College of Liberal Arts, the College of Mass Communication, the Electronic Media Department, and the Virginia Peck Trust Fund. 📞

### The Honors H-Option

The H-Option proposal is a request for Honors credit for a non-Honors, upper-division class. In order to submit an H-Option, students must have completed at least nine hours of lower-division Honors coursework. Honors College students may use the H-Option for a total of nine credit hours. Proposals for Fall 2005 must be submitted to the Honors College office by April 1, 2005. 📞

# NEWS AND EVENTS STATE UNIVERSITY

## Honors R and R

Below are just a few of the planned events for the spring semester. All presentations are free and open to everyone and take place almost every Wednesday beginning at 4:00 p.m. Come to as many events as you can!

### Lakota Spiritual Philosophy

by Oglala Pipe Carrier J. J. Kent

### Therapeutic and Healing Touch

by Bonnie Johnson

### Delmar Holland and the Blue Creek Ramblers

featuring Rebekah Weiler (dad Randy is so proud!)

*Without Lying Down: Frances Marion and the Power of Women in Hollywood:* (documentary)

### Controlling Disease the Natural Way: Macrobiotic Self-Healing

by Virginia Harper

### Village Cultural Arts Center African Drum Program



*A group of Polynesian dancers from Atlanta, Georgia, performed at the Honors College R and R Series Pacific-themed party in December to cap off the semester activities. The fire-eating demonstration was particularly entertaining!*

## Honors Council 2004–2005

Terry Whiteside, Psychology, chair

David Foote, Management and Marketing, chair-elect

Larry Burriss, Journalism

Richard Hansen, Speech and Theatre

Clay Harris, Geosciences

Chris Haseleu, Recording Industry

Matt Klukowski, Biology

Preston MacDougall, Chemistry

Willis Means, Elementary and Special Education

Paula Thomas, Accounting

Lee Baker, student representative

Lynne Napatalung, student representative

## Honors Studies Association Revitalized

After a period of dormancy, the Honors Studies Association (HSA) is again active, thanks to the organizational work and recruitment efforts of Honors event coordinator Georgia Dennis. Officers have been elected and plans are being made for future student projects and activities. During the fall semester, the organization undertook its first group project when it entered a poster in the Homecoming Poster Competition.

The purpose of the Honors Studies Association is to encourage members to strive for academic excellence and strong intellectual and personal growth; foster a spirit of unity through programs and opportunities for social, fraternal, and volunteer activities; orient new students and maintain ties with Honors alumni; create an appreciation of cultural diversity; cultivate a sense of community within the University Honors College; and ensure student input into the programs and services of the University Honors College.

### HSA Officers 2004–2005

President - Ty Fox

Vice President - Lauren Ferreira

Secretary - Katie Onks

Student Ambassador - Ben Hall

Program Facilitator - Katy Evridge

For more information about membership or about HSA, please contact Georgia Dennis at (615) 898-5645, or stop by her office in HONR 226. 📞

Where's Spiderman?

Karen and Kathy play cards.

## The Honors College Wins Its First Halloween Decoration Contest!

We were up against stiff competition, but the efforts of our event coordinator, Georgia Dennis, paid off. For those of you who did not get a chance to see the spooky Halloween embellishments in person, you really missed quite a sight!



## Fall 2005 Deadlines to Remember

### Independent Research or Creative Projects Proposals (to be completed in Spring 2006)

PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL  
for Committee Review  
**October 3, 2005**

FINAL PROPOSAL  
for Honors Council Approval  
**November 7, 2005**

### Independent Research or Creative Projects (to be completed in Fall 2005)

FINAL COPY FOR  
THESIS DEFENSE  
One copy due in Honors  
Office to be graded by  
committee.  
**November 1, 2005**

THESIS DEFENSE  
BEFORE COMMITTEE  
**Date to be announced.**

PUBLIC DEFENSE  
BEFORE HONORS  
LECTURE SERIES  
**December 5, 2005**

FINAL PROJECTS DUE  
All post-defense corrections  
must be made.  
Submit two copies on cotton  
paper.  
**December 7, 2005**



## U H 4600-001 LEGENDS OF KING ARTHUR MW 12:40 TO 2:05 P.M.

**Legends of King Arthur** will examine the Arthurian legends from their origins in sixth century Celtic-Roman Britain to the late Middle Ages. The primary focus of the course will be Arthurian literature composed from the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries in Latin, Welsh, French, and Middle English (although the text also contains selections translated from German, Old Norse, Italian, Spanish, and Provençal). We will begin by exploring the historical and mythical origins of the characters of King Arthur and Merlin, the two most dominant characters in the legends. The second major unit will examine the two great love stories connected with legends: the romances concerning Tristan and Iseult and, of course, Lancelot and Guinevere. This unit will be followed by a study of the tales about Sir Gawain, the most popular of the English knights. We will conclude with a discussion of the tragedy of King Arthur (that is, Mordred's rebellion and Arthur's death). The course covers a variety of medieval literary forms: the Latin prose chronicle, the poetic epic and alliterative heroic saga, the romance (in both prose and verse), the Breton *lais*, lyrics and songs, and finally the English prose chronicle. This course has been approved for English major and minor credit and fulfills area A or D for the English major requirement. For more information, contact Dr. William Connelly at (615) 898-2573 or e-mail [wconnell@mtsu.edu](mailto:wconnell@mtsu.edu). 📧

## U H 3500-001 MYTHOLOGY AND FILM W 2:40 TO 5:40 P.M.

**Mythology and Film** explores the relationship between mythological narratives and symbols and the film genre, focusing on how film transforms mythic patterns into cinematic art. Students will begin by reading Joseph Campbell's *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* to understand Campbell's influential theory of the "monomyth" and will then study Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*. Two films will be analyzed that represent very different uses of mythic narrative: *Troy* (2004) attempts a historical adaptation of the *Iliad*, while *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* (2000) uses a modern setting and the plot of the *Odyssey* for parodic and comic purposes. The next unit will look at the relationship among the rational, irrational, and creative dimensions of the human psyche. The myths surrounding Apollo and Dionysus will be studied as students read Euripides' *The Bacchae* and Thomas Mann's *Death in Venice* and view Luchino Visconti's 1971 film adaptation of Mann's novel. The irrational aspects of the mythic paradigm of the "trip to the underworld" and the role of shamanism will be examined as students read selections from Mircea Eliade's *The Sacred and the Profane* and *Shamanism* and watch two films that make use of these structures, David Lynch's *Blue Velvet* (1986) and Peter Weir's *The Last Wave* (1977). **Mythology and Film** will be taught by Angela Hague. As an interdisciplinary seminar, the course fulfills the Honors College requirement for interdisciplinary or upper-division Honors coursework. This course also counts as credit toward the English major and minor, fulfills Area H for the English major, and counts as credit toward the Classical Studies and Film Studies minors. Students interested in taking the course should contact Dr. Hague at [ahague@mtsu.edu](mailto:ahague@mtsu.edu). 📧

# FALL 2005 HONORS CLASS SCHEDULE

Students with 3.0 GPAs may enroll in any Honors course as long as they meet the prerequisite(s) and the class has space available.

**Priority Registration Begins April 4, 2005** For the latest, up-to-date course offerings, visit [www.mtsu.edu/~records/sbooks.htm](http://www.mtsu.edu/~records/sbooks.htm).

## Honors Upper-Division Courses, Fall 2005

Check current catalog for prerequisite information.

**ACTG 3000** Survey of Accounting for General Business  
Accounting cycle given minor emphasis; financial statement analysis and managerial uses of accounting given major emphasis.

**BLAW 3400** Legal Environment of Business  
Legal rights and potential liabilities of business persons. Presentation of the dynamic nature of law in responding to the changing social, ethical, political, regulatory, and international environment.

**EMC/JOUR 4210** Mass Communication and Society  
Theories of the process of mass communication, how media affects society, the evolution within a social and cultural context, ethical and social dimensions.

**EMC/JOUR 4790** International Communication  
The gathering of world news and the systems and philosophies associated with supernational communication. Satellite television, international political communications, advertising, and national development with regard to press systems.

**MGMT 3610** Principles of Management  
Concepts of the management functions of planning, organizing, and controlling with an emphasis on behavioral science concepts as applied to managing people in organizations.

**MKT 3820** Principles of Marketing  
Survey of the functions, processes, and institutions involved in the distribution of consumer and industrial goods and services. Decision making in marketing management introduced.

**P S 4230** Classical Political Theory  
Western political theory from the ancient Greeks through the medieval Christians. Includes Sophocles, Aristophanes, Plato, Aristotle, stoicism, skepticism, Lucretius, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Thomas More.

**PSY 4600** Psychosexual Adjustment  
Psychological, cultural, and biological facets of the human sexual experience. Attitudes and behaviors, variances, and dysfunctions, implications and strategies for treatment.

**PSY 4650** Health Psychology  
Psychological factors and principles involved in the study of correlates of health and illness, disease prevention, therapeutic interventions, and rehabilitative strategies.

**U H 3000**  
Honors Lecture Series  
Sports: Mythology, Ego, and Economics

**U H 3500**  
Mythology and Film (See page 6 for details.)

**U H 4600**  
Legends of King Arthur (See page 6 for details.)

## Five Honors Theses Successfully Defended During Fall 2004

**Ada Egbuji (B.S. 2004F)**  
"The Incidence of Borrelia Species among Ticks in Middle Tennessee"

**Brandon Schexnayder (B.S. 2005S)**  
"Reshaping Digital Audio: DSD Encoding as a Viable Alternative to PCM"

**Kay Malone (B.S. 2004F)**  
The Light Child (screenplay creative project)

**Lynne Napatalung (B.S. 2005S)**  
"Locational Determinants of House Price in Davidson County"

**Andrey Koval (B.S. 2005S)**  
"Influence of Brand Advertising in Ukrainian Society"



*Journalism Professor Ed Kimbrell with Andrey Koval, November 2004*

## Plan Ahead for Graduation

Set Yourself Apart . . .

with a degree from the University Honors College. Know where you're going and how to get there. Make an appointment today with Honors Academic Advisor Michelle Gadson. She can be reached at (615) 898-5464. 📞

# COMING SOON

## *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression*

During the Fall 2004 semester, an ad hoc committee was formed for the purpose of developing a written set of guiding principles that would facilitate the transfer of the MTSU student literary magazine, *Collage*, to the auspices of the Honors College. After much hard work by committee members, the first issue of *Collage* as an Honors publication is anticipated this semester. Committee members were the following:

**Martha Hixon**  
English (chair)

**Tom Strawman**  
English

**Gaylord Brewer**  
English

**John Minichello**  
English

**Virginia Donnell**  
Speech and Theatre

**Seth Johnson**  
Art

**Teresa Pickering**  
student representative

**Marsha Powers**  
Honors College

**Suma Clark**  
Publications and Graphics

**Lara Womack**  
Accounting,  
Honors College

**Amy Foster**  
student representative  
and newly appointed  
*Collage* editor

**Jenny Crouch**  
former staff advisor  
to *Collage*

## Honors Scholarships

Honors scholarships are available to students who have successfully completed one or more Honors courses. Applications are available in the Honors College Office (HONR 205), or on our Web site at [www.mtsu.edu/~honors/Scholarships.htm](http://www.mtsu.edu/~honors/Scholarships.htm).

All scholarships are for returning students and will be applied to Fall 2005 accounts. Award recipients will be recognized at the annual Awards Reception in April. Check with our office early in the Spring 2005 semester for deadline dates. 📧

## HONORS SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS

### Front Porch Institute

What is the Front Porch Institute (FPI)? The answer: a semester-long program created by students enrolled in the Honors College



wherein collaborations are established with area high school seniors. MTSU students taking an Honors Interdisciplinary Seminar titled "The Hometown Project," under the tutelage of Ron Kates, created the Front Porch Institute as an opportunity for high school seniors from across the midstate to participate in a series of gatherings to discuss pertinent topics, exchange ideas, and learn to interact in a community of new peers. During these meetings, FPI organizers led discussions, introduced community-building activities, and generally helped to improve interaction between the group members. Part of sitting on a front porch and engaging in a conversation involves not just talking and listening but also absorbing and applying information. Indeed, while each of the meetings had an activity geared toward helping the participating students learn about different cultures, attitudes, or people, the meetings also had a self-awareness or self-reflective component. Hometown students ran three

separate groups during the semester. One focused on high school students from the surrounding counties; one worked with students from all four Murfreesboro high schools; and one brought together representatives

of Maplewood, East Literature Magnet School, Harpeth Hall, and Montgomery Bell Academy in Nashville.

Improving communication skills is the goal of the Front Porch Institute pro-

gram. Since Americans have gone (and stayed) inside to watch 500 channels of cable television, play video games, write e-mails, and generally wall themselves off from their neighbors, their ability to communicate has begun to decline. We particularly see this among teenagers, who would rather instant message than sit down and talk. As the MTSU students who organized the project well know, it is remarkably easy to spend one's college career in a dorm room, library, or apartment in pursuit of "knowledge," when this knowledge can be found in everyday interaction with peers, teachers, and other members of the university and civic communities.

Besides the obvious college preparation benefits, participating students can also sharpen their communication, teamwork, leadership, and listening skills while interacting with peers from diverse backgrounds.

## HONORS FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Ron Kates**, associate professor of English, recently became advisor of the Interdisciplinary Writing Minor. He has developed a new brochure and has updated the list of courses students can take for credit in the minor. If you teach a course (or know of a course) you think would make a good addition to the Interdisciplinary Writing Minor, please contact Dr. Kates. Briefly, any course within the minor should be writing intensive; that is, it should emphasize writing beyond the requirements for a typical course. Since students can take no more than twelve of the eighteen required hours in a single department, there is a need to identify appropriate courses in areas other than the Department of English and the School of Journalism. Dr. Kates would be happy to address any questions, comments, or concerns about the minor. Call him at 2595 or e-mail him at [rkates@mtsu.edu](mailto:rkates@mtsu.edu).

**Gary Wulfsberg**, professor of Chemistry, submitted two posters for Scholar's Day 2004. They were (1) Talking to Our Colleagues: Coordinating Course Content among Three Divisions of Chemistry, and (2) NQR and Computational Studies of the Weakly Coordinating Chloroacetate, Trichlate, and Trisphate Anions. Coauthors from the Department of Chemistry were Tibor Koritsanszky and James Howard.

**Will Brantley**, professor of English, wrote the afterword for an anniversary edition of Lillian Smith's *Now Is the Time*, published by the University Press of Mississippi to mark the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education. He was asked to speak about Smith and her book at the

Brown v. Board of Education Faculty Symposium hosted by the Tennessee Board of Regents at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts in Nashville in October. He was also invited to discuss the book at the Southern Festival of Books in Memphis in 2004. For more information about the book, visit [www.middleenglish.org/MiddleEnglish/brantley\\_smith.html](http://www.middleenglish.org/MiddleEnglish/brantley_smith.html).

**Laura Dubek**, assistant professor of English, published "White Family Values in Ann Petry's *Country Place*" in *MELUS* (29.2 [Summer 2004]: 55-76), the journal of the Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States. In addition to this accomplishment, students in her UH 4600 interdisciplinary seminar (Life Stories: African American Literature and Culture) produced a collection of personal essays that were bound and placed in the Martinelli Memorial Library in the Honors College. Dr. Dubek was very proud of her students' work in this brand new Honors seminar.

**John Vile**, professor and chair of the Political Science Department, had a most productive past year. Roman & Littlefield published his *Summaries of Leading Cases of the Constitution* (coauthored with Joseph F. Menez) this past March. It was the fourteenth edition and the fiftieth anniversary of this long-established classic and is the first edition on which he worked. He also participated in a scholar's conference sponsored by the Center for Civic Education in California in January, organized the panels for a faculty leadership conference in Alexandria in June, and addressed a high school faculty seminar on the U.S. Constitution in Chattanooga in

July. M. E. Sharpe is publishing a three-volume set titled *Civil Liberties in America* that Vile coedited with David Schultz of Hamline University in the fall. A followup to the three-volumes *Civil Rights in America*, this latest work contains entries from about 150 scholars from throughout the country. Vile has recently submitted the text of another work, *The Constitutional Convention of 1787: A Comprehensive Encyclopedia of America's Founding* (two vols.) to ABC-CLIO for publication on or before July 4, 2005. It is the first such work of its kind and will contain more than 500,000 words.

**Preston MacDougall**, associate professor of Chemistry, was among the invited speakers at a symposium titled "3-D Visualization Technology for Teaching Chemistry." The event was part of the 228th national meeting of the American Chemical Society, held in Philadelphia August 22-26. Other symposium speakers represented universities from CalTech to Carnegie-Mellon as well as universities from the Netherlands and Germany. The title of MacDougall's presentation was "Conquer Without Dividing: Volume Rendering of Intact Molecular Charge Densities Effectively Illustrates Key Concepts in Bonding and Reactivity." MacDougall was the principal author and presenter, and Christopher E. Henze, NASA Ames Research Center, was a collaborator and coauthor. Also during the meeting, MacDougall accepted a ChemLuminary Award for Outstanding Public Relations in the small or medium local section category. (MacDougall is public relations chair for the society's Nashville section.)

One of our newest Honors faculty members, **Virginia Donnell** of the Speech and Theatre Department, had a paper titled "Gender and Multimedia Communication Used for Collaboration" published in the National Social Science Association's *Perspectives Journal*, vol. 26, No. 1, 2005. 📌

## Student Volunteer Meets Bush

Because of her volunteer work, Honors student Andrea Dawn Martin earned the opportunity to meet President George W. Bush last year. According to an article in the *Daily News Journal*, Martin has



worked for three years with Mercy Ministries, a nonprofit agency for young women who have problems with addiction, abuse,

or unplanned pregnancies. Because her efforts fit the goals of the USA Freedom Corps initiative, Martin was invited to meet Bush at the Nashville airport on August 31 when the president arrived for a campaign event.

Martin, a science major in the pre-medical curriculum, is one of more than 300 persons recognized by the president for volunteer service of at least two years or 4,000 hours. 📣

## Honors Alternative Credits

Phil Mathis  
interim dean

Lara Womack  
interim associate dean

Karen Demonbreum  
newsletter editor

MTSU Publications and Graphics  
copy editing, design, and production

MTSU Printing Services

MTSU Photographic Services

## HONORS SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS CONT.

### *Honors Service* from page 8

Those participating students planning to attend MTSU had an opportunity to interact with current Honors students and faculty members and learn strategies that will help them build successful college careers.

### Keeping the Night Train Rolling Mural Project

One group of students worked on a community mural project that brings together three high schools, two colleges, and the Country Music Hall of Fame. The hall currently has an exhibit celebrating Nashville's rhythm-and-blues culture and history. Dr. Kates' students researched this history and collaborated with high school artists to create a mural celebrating the people and culture shown in the exhibit. Students from Watkins College of Art and Design and Stratford High School worked on one mural during the fall semester, and students from Oakland and Riverdale and MTSU art education students are working on another mural this semester.

### Health and Wellness

Several students created health/wellness minicourses that they implemented with Campus School first and sixth graders and a group of home-schooled children. These students went into classrooms and taught the younger children such wellness elements as the importance of a balanced diet, how to properly wash their hands, why exercise is important, and how to live a healthy life.

### Generation to Generation

An FPI group worked with the Boys and Girls Club of Rutherford County to create a program much like FPI but geared to trying to improve communication between teens and their parents. Kids and parents attended sessions where they played games, completed assignments, and exchanged stories. All of these elements worked toward the larger goal of each generation getting to understand the other a little bit better.

### Campus School Newspaper

Another of Dr. Kates' students worked with students from Campus School on trying to improve their newspaper. The paper wasn't much—just some mimeographed sheets. This student worked with the sponsoring teacher to create an active group of students who covered the entire school. They created a classroom news bureau to cover the daily happenings in each classroom and also a school news bureau to cover bigger and special stories. The kids were SO excited, as was the student leader, Samantha Meeks. The kids worked hard to come up with stories and responded well to Samantha's guidance.

### County School Partnership

Other FPI members had discussions with Rutherford County's Language Arts Curriculum Director to see how MTSU students can assist county students. One of the Hometown students worked with the County School office to create programs to meet this goal. A program was created that will be implemented this semester at one of the county's K-8 schools. Third and eighth graders will read the same text (maybe fiction, maybe poetry), discuss it (moderated by MTSU students), and then create some sort of visual representation/reaction related to what they've read and discussed. MTSU art education students will help as well, and it is hoped that this will be a long-running program.

### Get Off the Couch

The purpose of this plan was to get MTSU Honors students more involved in the campus community. While there were problems getting students involved, the group came up with some excellent ideas. The last activity they sponsored during the fall semester was a food drive. Students received free food if they made a donation to the canned food drive. The project raised \$175 that was donated to GreenHouse Ministries.

—Ron Kates 📣

## ALUMNI CORNER

### WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

#### MARK A. HALL

**Honors Thesis: These Are Facts that the Heart Can Feel: The Absurd and Its Consequences in the Work of Albert Camus**

**B.A., Spring 1977**

Mark A. Hall is the Fred D. and Elizabeth L. Turnage Professor of Law at Wake Forest University School of Law and School of Medicine and is an associate at the Babcock School of Management. He received his B.A. from Middle Tennessee State University in 1977 and his J.D., with highest honors, at the University of Chicago in 1981. Before joining the faculty at Wake Forest in 1993, he taught at Arizona State University. He has also completed a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Finance Fellowship at Johns Hopkins University and has more recently been a visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania.

Hall specializes in health care law and public policy with a focus on economic, regulatory, and corporate issues. His present research interests include doctor/patient trust, managed care regulation, health care rationing, genetics, and insurance market reform. He is the author or editor of ten books on health care law and policy, including the four-volume series *Health Care Corporate Law* (Aspen), *Making Medical Spending Decisions* (Oxford University Press), and *Health Care Law and Ethics* (5th ed., Aspen).



#### SHARON CATON

**Honors Thesis: Effect of Master Classroom Technology on Retention of Course Material by Students at MTSU**

**B.S., Summer 2003**

Sharon Caton joined the staff of the Southeast Georgia Regional Development Center in August 2004 as a planner in the Planning Division. Sharon has a master's degree in community and economic development with an emphasis in rural planning and development. In her current job, Caton prepares ordinances and comprehensive plans and assists with grant writing, transportation issues, and local service delivery strategies.

Those of you who know her will understand her description of her job: "I get to terrorize nine counties in southeast Georgia. How cool is that?" We wish her well in her new career!

#### VIRGINIA L. VILE

**Political Science (pre-law) and Foreign Language Major**

**B.A., Spring 2002**

**Summa Cum Laude**

Virginia Vile is in her third and final year at the Marshall-Wythe Law School at the College of William and Mary. Her father, John Vile (Political Science), is quite proud of her accomplishments to date. Last year she placed first among her second-year law school peers in the Bushrod T. Washington Moot Court Tournament at William and Mary (she had placed second in the previous year's competition). She also became the first student fellow of the Twenty-first Century Courtroom at William and Mary after participating with a group of

attorneys in an all-day televised moot court, mock mediation program. She is the president of the William and Mary Trial Court team and coaches the William and Mary undergraduate teams. She is heading up a group of students who are working on a case for an attorney in Williamsburg, Virginia, and worked during the 2004 summer for the New York Law Department. She plans to marry Keith Wesoslawski, a graduate of Yale and William and Mary Law, this spring. After graduation, she hopes to get a full-time job in New York City.

#### RANIN KAZEMY-BAHNAMIRY

**Honors Thesis: The Sun Making Rubies, the Sea Pearls: A Study of Love Imagery in the Mathnawi**

**B.A., Spring 2002**

On September 22, 2004, Honors College graduate Ranin Kazemy-Bahnamiry returned to campus to address students in the U H 4600 interdisciplinary seminar "Contemporary Middle East Culture" taught by Allen Hibbard and Ron Messier. The central topic of discussion for the class that day was Islamic mysticism, particularly Sufism. Kazemy-Bahnamiry, currently in The Ohio State University's graduate program in Middle East Studies, spoke to the class about the great medieval Persian mystical poet Jalal al-din Rumi. Under the direction of Messier and Hibbard, Kazemy-Bahnamiry wrote his Honors thesis on the use of imagery in Rumi's extraordinarily challenging long work the *Mathnawi*.

In a session open to all Honors students, Kazemy-Bahnamiry spoke about the process of writing his thesis and the value it has had in his current work. Though he has not carried on

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*Alumni Corner from page 11*

his research on Rumi, Kazemy-Bahnamiry said that the modes of analysis, research methods, and writing skills he developed while writing his thesis have helped him enormously. Above all, he noted, it built confidence in his ability to complete a major project. Kazemy-Bahnamiry is now working on his M.A. thesis and plans to continue with his Ph.D.

Ranin immediately noticed the tremendous visible transformations the Honors College has undergone in the few years since he graduated as Dr. Mathis gave him a tour of the new building. One could sense Ranin measuring his own personal growth alongside the growth of his alma mater.

*You're song,  
a wished-for song.*

*Go through the ear to the center  
where sky is, where wind,  
where silent knowing.*

*Put seeds and cover them.  
Blades will sprout  
where you do your work.*

—Rumi (trans. by Coleman Barks)

## **KIMBERLY A. MYERS**

**Biology Major  
B.S., Spring 1999  
Summa Cum Laude**

Since leaving MTSU, Myers has been pursuing a Ph.D. in virology at Harvard Medical School in the lab of Max Nibert. Her work involves the study of viral entry into host cells. She is on track to complete her degree within the next year and a half. Following its completion, she plans to take a more nontraditional career path, most likely pursuing a career in science policy and/or science law. Her goal is to use her training as a scientist in areas of public interest and/or public policy.

## **DEBRA HOLLINGSWORTH HOPKINS**

**Mass Communication Major  
B.S., Spring 1980  
Cum Laude**

What started out as a career focused on advertising and public relations for such firms as Rotary International, Aladdin Industries, Geomap Company, and KERA-FM radio branched out into another direction in 1987. Since that time, Hopkins has been deeply involved in education, especially in teaching, curriculum development, and

teacher training related to English as a second language. With the recent explosion of immigrants who are just beginning to learn English, teachers around the country are hungry for training on how to support these students and how to accelerate their acquisition of language and literacy skills. Hopkins considers her work to be a sort of “mission” and is proud of the contributions she has been able to make through her work as a teacher trainer and curriculum developer. In a way, she says, it has been a perfect blend of education and mass comm., since communication is one of the most important elements of what she does! It has also allowed her to use the language skills she picked up at MTSU and beyond.

She presently works for Hampton-Brown Company as a national consultant and travels around the country to deliver teacher training, workshops, speeches, and presentations at school districts and conferences. 📍

## **Attention Honors Alumni!**

**We want to hear from you! Don't be modest. We want to spotlight you and your accomplishments. Send us your current bio so we can share your news with other students and alumni. Pictures are also welcome.**

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