

HONORS alternative

University Honors College Newsletter • Spring 2008
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

From the Bell Tower

As I contemplate the recent past, the adage "Time flies when you're having fun" comes to mind. It's hard to believe that I'm completing my fourth and final year as dean of the University Honors College! Leading this jewel among MTSU's colleges has been a rewarding experience, filled with challenges, opportunities, and celebrations of success. My predecessors—Drs. June McCash, Ron Messier, and J. P. Montgomery—left a legacy of student-centered education, sound policies and programs, and a new Honors classroom building as a foundation upon which to build. Their contributions are greatly appreciated as is the support of President Sidney A. McPhee, Provost Kaylene A. Gebert, Mr. Paul W. Martin Jr., Dr. H. Lee Martin, Mr. Jeff Whorley Jr., and Dr. James M. Buchanan. The contributions of many others—too numerous to mention in this forum—are also praiseworthy and will be acknowledged in private on an individual basis.

Bell cont. on page 2

HONORS COLLEGE BOARD OF VISITORS MEETS



The Honors College Board of Visitors gathered in the Jackson Building for lunch at the inaugural board meeting on Dec. 7, 2007. Front row, from left: Phil Mathis, Albert Cauz, Lee Martin, Jim Bailey, Don Ash, Debra Hopkins. Second row, from left: Emil Hassan, Jim Tracy, Holly Thompson, June McCash, Paul Patel, Jim Thorpe. Third row, from left: Byron Smith, Chasity Nicoll, Paul Martin, Vincent Window, Jeff Whorley, and Mark Hall. Not pictured: Emily Ellis.

The recently organized Honors College Board of Visitors met for a daylong meeting December 7, 2007. Dean Phil Mathis, who recruited and organized the group, greeted board members during a morning session that included a socialization activity, staff introductions, informational print materials, two PowerPoint presentations pertaining to Honors College history and the challenges faced by Honors leaders, and a panel discussion/presentation by five Honors College students: Jayne Andrews, Taylor Arnold Barnes, McFall Castleman, Gretchen Jenkins, and Kyle Williams. The morning session concluded with a buffet lunch in the Tom H. Jackson Building that featured a campus welcome by Provost Kaylene Gebert, classical music by guitar student Silviu Ciulei, and opportunities for board members to interact with representative Honors faculty members and students.

During the afternoon, Laurie Witherow, director of the Academic Support Center, led a tour of new dormitory space comparable to that which Honors students can anticipate this fall (2008) when the Honors Living-Learning Center moves from the outdated Wood-Felder complex to the newly renovated Lyon Hall. The afternoon session also included a guided tour of the Martin Honors Building, an informational meet-

Visitors cont. on page 2

Bell cont. from front page

The Honors College is on course to rise to new heights as it builds on a growing reputation for academic excellence. The recently updated Academic Master Plan, Building on the Blueprint for Excellence (p. 11, Strategic Direction 6), states, "Middle Tennessee State University will promote the Honors College as a national model program." This lofty goal, and the University support that it implies, should buoy spirits and energize all who constitute the Honors community—students, staff members, alumni, members of the Board of Visitors, and parents alike! With dedication, good leadership, and unwavering focus, this objective can be reached within the next few years. Depending on the criteria used to define the term "national model," one could argue convincingly that the University Honors College is already a regional leader and that it is poised to take its place among the nation's elite honors colleges in the near future.

The new dean will inherit a great staff, students whose eyes sparkle with cognition and a readiness to learn, helpful friends and alumni, a supportive administration, facilities that are among the nation's best, and a rising tide of institutional and community growth. I look forward to working on behalf of the Honors College in a postretirement role and to observing the day-to-day progress that will make it a national model in honors education.

—Philip M. Mathis, Dean 📌



HONORS COLLEGE BOARD OF VISITORS MEETS CONT.

Visitors cont. from page 6

ing with Joe Bales, vice president for Development and University Relations, and a business meeting with newly elected board chair John F. (Jeff) Whorley Jr. At day's end, board members were presented with small gifts and invited to participate in a ceremonial signing of the Honors College *Book of Town and Gown*.

According to Mathis, key goals of the inaugural meeting were met: to organize and begin mobilizing for new development and promotional initiatives including the overarching goal of promoting the Honors College as a national model among its peers. During the first quarter of 2008, Whorley expects to meet with individual board members for purposes of arranging committee assignments and to gauge how each board member can best contribute to the betterment of the college. After just this first meeting, there seemed to be a general board consensus that a first step toward future development is the challenge of "getting out the message"—most members of the board were favorably impressed by the quality of current students, faculty, and facilities and by the superior value offered to high-achieving students in today's academic marketplace.

Before the meeting, Mathis and Whorley had hoped that other board members would be motivated and "fired up" by what they saw and heard. The unanticipated consequence, Mathis said, was that he and Whorley were also greatly energized by a review of current assets of the Honors College and by prospects for new resources, promotional strategies, and ideas that will drive it forward. 📌

Board of Visitors members, meeting for the first time, heard about the Honors experience directly from students. Taylor Barnes talked about his passion for research. McFall Castleman engaged listeners with her views. Jayne Andrews articulated her decision to choose MTSU and the Honors College. Gretchen Jenkins took a question from the audience. Kyle Williams related his Honors experience.



BOARD OF VISITORS

Board of Visitors University Honors College

John F. (Jeff) Whorley Jr., chair

Executive Vice President, Debt Management, Sallie Mae Corporation (retired)

James H. Bailey III, vice chair

Johnson and Bailey Architects, Murfreesboro

Don R. Ash

Circuit Court Judge, 16th Judicial District (Rutherford and Cannon Counties), Tennessee

James M. Buchanan

Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences Professor Emeritus, Virginia Tech and George Mason University

Albert Cauz

Headmaster, the Webb School, Bell Buckle

Emily P. Ellis

Vice President for STAR Culture, Gaylord Entertainment

Mark A. Hall

Turnage Professor of Law, Wake Forest University, North Carolina

Emil Hassan

Senior Vice President, Nissan North America (retired)

Debra H. Hopkins

Regional Director, National Geographic and Hampton-Brown

H. Lee Martin

Chair, Abunga.com, Knoxville

Paul W. Martin Jr.

Chief Managing Member, Clarity Resources, Knoxville

June Hall McCash

Professor Emeritus, Foreign Languages and Literatures, MTSU
Founding Director, MTSU Honors Program

Chasity Nicoll

Nicoll & Nicoll, Attorneys at Law, Manchester

Utpal P. (Paul) Patel

Physician, Murfreesboro Medical Clinic and SurgiCenter

Byron Smith

Chief Marketing Officer, Asurion Corporation, Nashville (retired)

Holly Thompson

WSMV Co-anchor, Nashville

James A. Thorpe

Vice President and General Manager, Kentucky/Tennessee, AT&T/Cingular Wireless

Jim D. Tracy

Tennessee State Senator, 16th Senatorial District

Vincent Windrow

Vice President, Zycron Computers, Nashville/Chattanooga/Memphis/Dallas

Members of the board toured Monohan Hall, which will be almost identical to Lyon Hall once renovation is completed (see story on page 8).



Board members Don Ash, left, and Paul Patel



Scott Carnicom presented a short equipment demonstration in the ACT 218 lab.



Profile: Buchanan Fellows, 2007

In his remarks during the October 5, 2007, inauguration of the Buchanan Fellows class, President Sidney A. McPhee noted the class included 15 Tennesseans plus out-of-state students from as far away as Seattle. The average composite ACT score of the group is almost 32, and most members of the class were straight-A students in high school (average GPA greater than 3.8)! This year's class includes a published author, a National Latin Gold Medalist, several Advanced Placement Exam Award winners, a Boy's State leader, the winner of a Regional Academic Decathlon, a third-degree black belt in tae kwon do, several musicians, a choreographer, sports letterwinners, and many, many *Who's Who* and academic award winners!

Honors Faculty: Buchanan Seminar Teachers

The Buchanan Fellows program includes a sequence of six courses, or Buchanan Seminars, that students take as cohorts. Honors faculty members who teach these courses are some of the most distinguished members of the MTSU faculty. They include the following:

Dr. Jill Hague, who has been recognized four times for outstanding teaching in Honors, earned her Ph.D. in English literature from Florida State and did postdoctoral work at the University of Sussex (England). As interim associate Honors dean, she played a key role in developing and coordinating the overall sequence of Buchanan Seminars. She teaches the seminar subtitled Greek Origins of Western Culture.

Dr. Richard Hannah teaches the macroeconomics seminar subtitled *Bigger than America, Brazen as Politics, Better than Plowing*. He holds four degrees including

Buchanan cont. on page 6

CLARIOR HINC HONOS!

Clarior hinc honos—sometimes translated as “Brighter, hence the honor”—is the motto on the family crest, or coat of arms, of Clan Buchanan. Taken within the context of the ceremony surrounding the matriculation of the first Buchanan Fellows class, the phrase has special meaning! It could well

be called the theme of the October 5, 2007, ceremony that celebrated the arrival of the first-ever class of Buchanan Fellows. It should be explained to first-time readers of the *Honors Alternative* that the Buchanan Fellowship is a new program named in honor of MTSU alumnus and Nobel Laureate James M. Buchanan. It is the highest academic award that MTSU offers to a student in the University Honors College. The Buchanan program annually provides top-tier curricular and financial aid benefits to 20 entering freshmen who show outstanding academic promise. Over a four-year span, the program will grow to serve a maximum of 80 Fellows.



Image by Georgia Dennis
"Klar-e-or hink honos"—
Brighter, hence the honor!!

The inauguration of the first Buchanan class was attended by key members of the Buchanan family—Dr. Buchanan, Mrs. Liz Whorley Bradley, and Honors College Board of Visitors Chair Jeff Whorley along with his wife, Lisa, and their son, Haynes. The inauguration was timed to dovetail with the opening

of the Buchanan Reading Room in James E. Walker Library and with Dr. Buchanan's birthday in the first week of October. During the ceremony, Dean Phil Mathis recognized and introduced the six Honors faculty members (attired in academic robes) who teach the six-course sequence collectively called the Buchanan Seminars before inviting President Sidney A. McPhee and Honors students Chloe Robinson

and Bryan Cook to welcome the Fellows to MTSU and the Honors College. This portion of the program was followed by a ceremonial signing of the *Book of Town and Gown* by each new Fellow. Augmented by candlelight and the classical guitar music of Silviu Octavian Ciulei, the signing

CLARIOR cont. on page 6

THE HONORS CREED

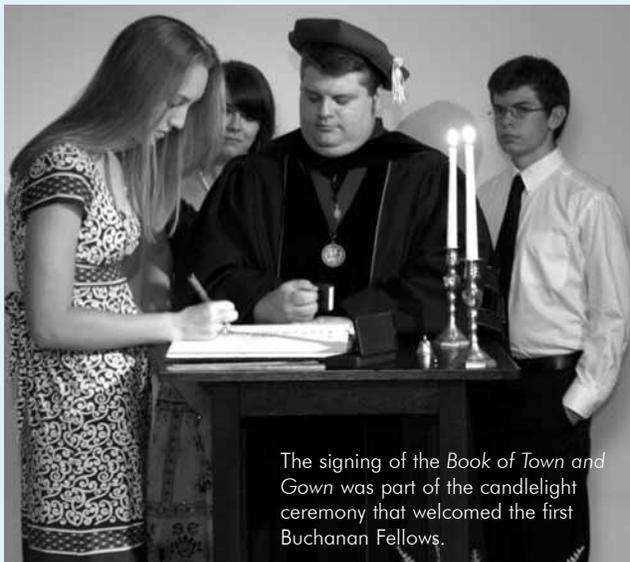
University Honors College at Middle Tennessee State University

It is evident that a set of guiding principles is useful in charting a course for the future; therefore we, the students and faculty of the University Honors College, embrace THE HONORS CREED and acknowledge before others our deeply held beliefs that:

- ☛ CHARACTER, more than anything else, defines the worth of a man or a woman,
- ☛ COMMITMENT is a virtue that sustains us, guides us, and inspires others during uncertain times,
- ☛ CREATIVITY is the essential factor that promotes invention, adaptation to our environment, and personal fulfillment,
- ☛ CURIOSITY, more than anything else, compels human beings to explore and learn,
- ☛ DISCIPLINE is essential to a culture of order, whether on a personal level or within a political system,
- ☛ FAITH and its cousin hope are foundational to human knowledge, whether applied to religion or to science,
- ☛ HONOR is a virtue not to be equated with glory, but with respect and purity, and finally that
- ☛ INTEGRITY is the cornerstone of every creed, every code, every profession, every civilization, and every enterprise. Without integrity, truth - the virtual goal of the academic enterprise - can never be found.



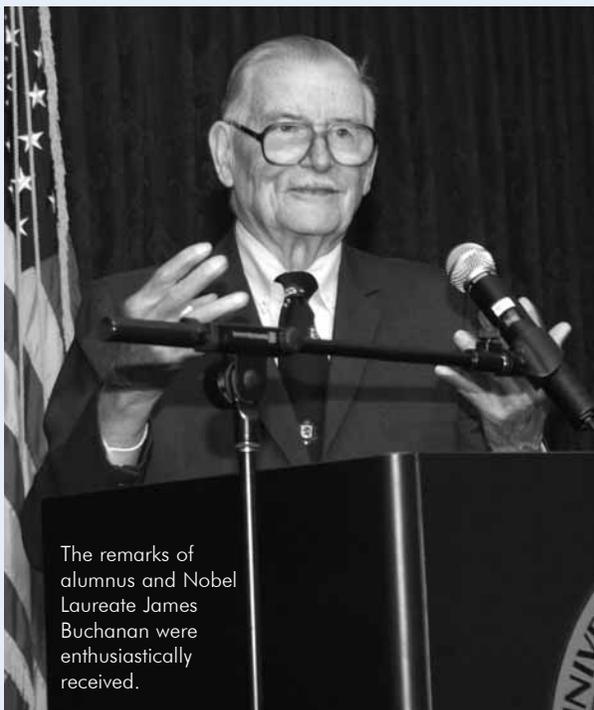
The 2007–08 inaugural class of Buchanan Fellows met Dr. James Buchanan at the welcoming ceremony. Seated from left: Megan Davis, Alexandria Blackwelder, Danielle Rutherford, Taffy O’Neal, Buchanan, Robert Smith, Robert Bridgers, and Richard Skelley. Standing from left: Aaron Larson, Elizabeth Henegar, Jessica Taylor, Jordan Cox, Aaron Scherer, Jonathan Siler, Chelsea Curtis, Jordan Timmons, Colby DeHart, Michelle Ebel, Nellery Marty, and Andrew Trivette. Not pictured: Tiffany Clark.



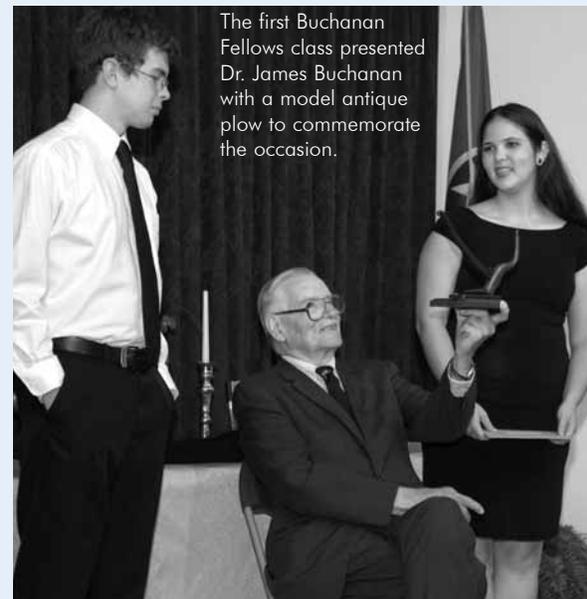
The signing of the *Book of Town and Gown* was part of the candlelight ceremony that welcomed the first Buchanan Fellows.



Board of Visitors Chair Jeff Whorley introduced his “Uncle Buck,” Dr. James Buchanan.



The remarks of alumnus and Nobel Laureate James Buchanan were enthusiastically received.



The first Buchanan Fellows class presented Dr. James Buchanan with a model antique plow to commemorate the occasion.

Buchanan cont. from page 4

a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Utah and has taught abroad in both France and China. Dr. Hannah hosts and produces the public TV program *Inside Academia*.

Dr. Eric Klumpe is an astronomer and astronautical engineer with degrees from Cal Tech, Stanford, and the University of Texas–Austin. He spent more than a decade at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory on the Viking mission to Mars before joining the MTSU faculty. He teaches the seminar subtitled *Exploring the Universe*.

Dr. Tammy Melton, who teaches inorganic chemistry, earned a Ph.D. from Texas A&M and did postdoctoral work in the philosophy of science at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She has been recognized for outstanding teaching by the MTSU Foundation. Dr. Melton teaches the seminar subtitled *Chemistry and Crime*.

Dr. Karen Petersen teaches the *Foundations of Government* seminar. She is an MTSU graduate who holds both M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Vanderbilt. She directs MTSU’s Model United Nations program and is an Academic Fellow with the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Tom Strawman, chair of the English Department, teaches the humanities seminar called *Questing Toward the Modern*. Recognized by the MTSU Foundation for outstanding teaching, he holds a doctorate in comparative literature from the University of Washington and has studied abroad in Germany at the Universities of Tubingen and Freiberg. 📌

CLARIOR HINC HONOS! CONT.

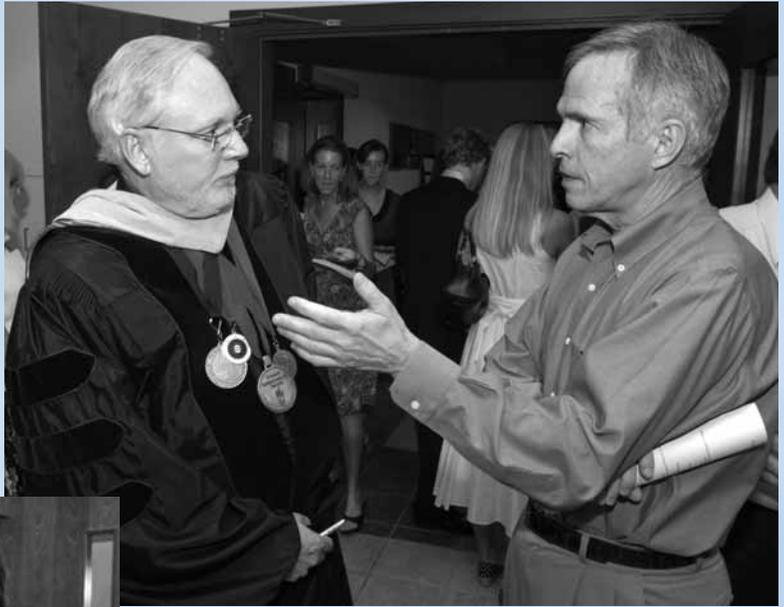
ceremony was carried out in a wonderfully evocative atmosphere, conjuring up near-forgotten images of Colonial-age American colleges, the film *Dead Poets Society*, and the Order of Gownsmen at the University of the South (Sewanee).

Jeff Whorley, nephew of Dr. Buchanan and chair of the Honors College Board of Visitors, introduced his uncle, who then addressed the class by relating personal experiences, reminding the group of the rare opportunity for study being extended to them. Following his address, everyone in attendance in the packed Honors amphitheater—Congressman Bart Gordon, Paul Martin Jr., Provost Kaylene Gebert, former Provost Barbara Haskew, Dr. Reuben Kyle, VP Bob Glenn, Dean John McDaniel, Dean Don Craig, former Honors director Dr. Ron Messier,

former State Senator Andy Womack, and others—rose in unison to give MTSU’s only Nobel Laureate a standing ovation. But there were more highlights to come! Dr. Jill Hague led the Fellows in a recitation of the Honors Creed before the ceremony was concluded with an enthusiastic birthday serenade to Dr. Buchanan led by the newly installed Buchanan class. On behalf of the class, Taffeta O’Neal and Andrew Trivette then presented a gift to Dr. Buchanan: an antique model of a plow, or *aratrum*. (The gift, of course, alludes to Dr. Buchanan’s autobiographical work, *Better than Plowing*, and was displayed alongside a volume of that work.) The evening concluded with birthday cake, hors d’oeuvres, guitar music, and opportunities for conversation and photographs. 📌



Dr. James Buchanan (left) graciously lent his name to the highest award offered by the Honors College (right, Dean Philip Mathis).



Congressman Bart Gordon (right) is an MTSU alumnus and a longtime Honors College supporter (left, Dean Phil Mathis).



Attendees represented a variety of divisions and disciplines. From left: Richard Hannah, Buchanan Seminar instructor; Joe Bales, vice president for Development and University Relations; and Barbara Haskew, professor, Economics and Finance.



Current and former Honors faculty members welcomed the first class of Fellows. Pictured are Tom Strawman, Buchanan Seminar instructor (left) and Emily and Ron Messier (professor emeritus, History).



The ceremony was something of a family affair. Pictured: Haynes Buchanan Whorley, son of Lisa and Board Chair Jeff Whorley, with his great-uncle, James Buchanan.

A New Home for the Honors Living and Learning Community!



The Honors College staff, students past and present, and the Honors

faculty will say goodbye to Wood/Felder at the end of the spring semester. Demolition is slated to begin in June to make room for the new science building. Wood/Felder has been the home of the Honors Living and Learning Community since 1996 (the building was first opened as a dorm in 1964).

It's exciting to look forward to fall 2008, when newly renovated Lyon Hall becomes the community's new home. The facility will have 236 resident spaces for Honors students; they will be the first group to live in the renovated dorm.

In addition to the common areas in Lyon Hall, there will be a gorgeous, monumental staircase in the center of the building. A skylight over the staircase will allow light to flow down through the entire building. Each floor will have its own living room plus a study space, laundry room, and kitchen. The main lobby will have a 24-hour desk and a computer lab. 📧

Honors Alternative Credits

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MTSU Publications and Graphics
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GOVERNOR BREDESEN SPEAKS ON EDUCATION AT MARTIN LECTURESHIP

"The field of teaching needs to be updated to reflect larger society," Governor Phil Bredesen recently said. "Schools of education are one path. Let's make sure there's more than one path," he added. Bredesen made these comments last November when he presented "Exploring Issues in Education" to a standing-room-only audience in the State Farm Room of the Business and Aerospace Building. Bredesen's lecture was sponsored by the Paul W. Martin Sr. Lectureship, an Honors College program funded by Dr. H. Lee Martin.

Bredesen, who has made education his first priority as governor, acknowledged that education in Tennessee is failing in critical areas and outlined his plans to address the problems. He specifically mentioned his Teach Tennessee program, which allows mid-career professionals a fast track to a teaching position. Bredesen explained that training people to be teachers without requiring them to major in education will improve public schools. He added that schools of education need to spend more time preparing their students for classroom teaching and in subject knowledge and less time on theory.

Bredesen said that Teach Tennessee has already trained 140 new teachers during its three years in operation. These professionals will primarily teach math and science and help raise Tennessee's math and technical scores, which are below the national average. Bredesen said, "This country is full of bright, capable people who have it in their hearts to teach. Let's get these people in the class-

room where they belong." The governor also said that as the state's largest teaching college, MTSU has the opportunity to step up and be a frontrunner in the program.

In conjunction with the lecture, a luncheon was served at noon in the Martin Honors

Building, where Governor Bredesen was joined by TBR Chancellor Charles Manning, Dr. and Mrs. Sidney McPhee, Honors Dean Phil Mathis, Education Dean Gloria Bonner, Rep. John Hood, Sen. Jim Tracy, Rep. Kent Coleman, Sen. Bill Ketron, Rep. Donna Rowland, Dr. and Mrs. Lee Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Martin Jr., and other honored guests.



The *Book of Town and Gown* represents the connections and shared purposes of the Honors College and supporters business, government, education, and community service. Governor Bredesen added his signature in November.



Representative John Hood introduced Governor Bredesen.



Governor Bredesen answered questions from the audience after his talk.



The governor's lecture highlighted his ideas to improve education and teacher training—topics of great interest to Honors College benefactors. From left: Murray, Paul, Lee, and Carla Martin.



The audience for the governor's lecture included education administrators from a variety of institutions. From left: TBR Chancellor Charles Manning; President Sidney McPhee; Kimberly Edgar, executive assistant to the president; and Ed Gray, Bedford County school superintendent.

Following the luncheon, Dean Mathis introduced the Honors College *Book of Town and Gown* and requested signatures from Governor Bredesen, Chancellor Manning and all elected officials present. The purpose of the book is to record signatures of key individuals—such as University officers, government officials, and important visitors—who influence the University Honors College.



Governor Bredesen donated his lecture honorarium to the Books from Birth program. Paul W. Martin Jr., right, presented the check to local Books from Birth leader Hunter McFarlin.

The Martin Lectureship was established in December 2004 to bolster the stature and recognition of the Middle Tennessee State University Honors College and to bring the University and the community of Murfreesboro closer together. Dr. H. Lee Martin, who funds the lectureship, is an Honors College benefactor and an engineer, writer, inventor, entrepreneur, and son of Paul W. Martin Sr. 📌



Governor Bredesen, who also has a record of success in business, received an autographed copy of Lee Martin's book, *Techonomics*, which deals with the effect of technology on business and organizational change.



In addition to distinctive diplomas, Honors College graduates receive special Honors medallions. Lee Martin presented a medallion (in an engraved case) to Gov. Bredesen at the November lecture.



Spring 2008 Honors College Deadlines

Independent Research or Creative Projects (to be completed in fall 2008)

FINAL PROPOSAL FOR
INDEPENDENT RESEARCH
for Committee Review
February 15, 2008

COMMITTEE MEETING TO
DISCUSS PROPOSAL to
be announced **Weeks of
February 18 and 25**

Independent Research or Creative Projects to be completed in spring 2008

COMPLETED THESIS
READY for DEFENSE
One copy due in the
Honors College office to
be graded by committee
March 31, 2008

THESIS DEFENSE
BEFORE COMMITTEE
Date to be announced

PUBLIC DEFENSE
BEFORE HONORS
LECTURE SERIES
April 14 and 21, 2008

FINAL PROJECT
Any post-defense correc-
tions required must be
made and two copies print-
ed on special cotton paper
must be submitted (one for
the thesis defense room,
the other for Walker Library).
Additional copies can be pur-
chased for \$15 each.
April 23, 2008

H-Options
H-OPTION PROPOSALS FOR FALL
2008 COURSES
March 31, 2008

All materials are due in the Honors
College office, Paul W. Martin Sr.
Honors Building, Suite 205, by
4:30 p.m. on the deadline date. 📌

UH 3500-002 POLITICS, THE PRESIDENCY, AND FILM FALL '08: M 6 to 9 p.m. HONR 117 CRN#87095

The object of this course is to study politics, the presidency, power, and other political ideas as expressed in Hollywood movies. Students will review films critically and analyze them in both written and oral forms. Class meetings will be devoted to watching films, discussing them, and applying their themes to politics, government, and current political events. Outside of class, students will read texts, watch and review films on their own, write a paper, and follow current politics by reading a national newspaper. There will be considerable attention to the presidential election and the office of the presidency. At the end of the course, students will have seen some important classic and contemporary films with political themes. More important, they should be better able to analyze films for their political content, both explicit and implicit. This course will be taught by Dr. Mark Byrnes and may count as an upper-division political science elective. For more information, contact Dr. Byrnes at mbyrnes@mtsu.edu. 📌

UH 3500-001 REVISITING AND RE-VISIONING THE HOMETOWN FALL '08: MW 12:40 to 2:05 HONR 116 CRN#85235

MTSU Honors students will have a unique, interdisciplinary opportunity to gain diverse perspectives on their individual hometowns. In this course, students will compile writing portfolios that encompass the history, the people, the traditions, and the future of their respective hometowns.

Students will engage in a project-based relationship with their peers, instructor, and community while writing five papers. Each writing assignment, from journal entries to the finished essays themselves, will have an impact on the whole, finished product. Project participants will create and maintain contacts in the communities surrounding MTSU, as well as their respective hometowns. These community partnerships with schools, senior centers, and other socially important groups or entities will allow project members to create and refine the history-making and re-visioning processes as they learn while teaching others. The course's project-based nature demands that each student synthesize what he or she has learned in other classes to create a suitable and effective approach to the topic. This course should particularly interest those who plan to complete an Honors thesis. Interested students are strongly encouraged to contact Dr. Ron Kates at (615) 898-2595 or rkates@mtsu.edu or drop by his office, Peck Hall 342, before enrolling in the class. He has materials related to the class and will discuss assignments and expectations in more detail with prospective students. This course is open to students who have completed their English general studies requirement and may count as three hours of upper-division English credit, group E, and also toward a writing minor. 📌

UH 4600-001 HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND EVOLUTIONARY THEORY

FALL '08: TR 2:40 to 4:05 HONR 116 CRN#85236

Have you encountered stories about the newly emerging fields of “evolutionary psychology,” “human behavioral genetics,” or “sociobiology” in the popular press? Have you thought about what evolutionary theory holds for individual and human social behavior? How should you interpret the claims and theories being presented by evolutionary psychologists and sociobiologists? Do you want to know more about the controversial application of evolutionary theory to human behavior? If so, you should enroll in Human Behavior and Evolutionary Theory.

This seminar will introduce you to theories of, and research in, human behavior, genetics, and evolution from the perspectives of biology and psychology. A main focus will be popular treatments of nature/nurture and genes/behavior issues.

From a psychologist’s perspective, what does evolutionary theory hold for human individual and social behavior? From a biologist’s perspective, how should we assess the claims, research, and interpretations arising from the evolutionary psychologists? Special emphasis will be placed on the critical evaluation of data and research underlying these new approaches. Topics to be covered include evolutionary perspectives on personality and the self, emotional expression, memory and cognition, morality and religion, altruism, sexual behavior, mate selection and jealousy, aggression and violence, and cultural universals.

The seminar will be co-taught by Dr. Tom Brinthaup (Psychology) and Dr. Andrew Brower (Biology). All students should have successfully completed General Psychology (PSY 1410 or PSY 1410H). The course can substitute for upper-division credit from either department. 📌

THE HONORS H-OPTION

The H-Option proposal is a request for Honors credit for a non-Honors upper-division class. 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 2008 must be submitted to the Honors College by March 31, 2008.** 📌

Seated with Vincent and Stacy Windrow, center, are Philip Mathis, MTSU Honors College dean, and Michelle Arnold, MTSU Honors College academic advisor. The Windrows are MTSU alumni.



HONORS ALTERNATIVE WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

At the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Denver this past November, the newsletter you’re reading, the *Honors Alternative*, was awarded second prize in the national newsletter competition. Dr. Carnicom, associate dean, said, “This is wonderful recognition and helps to position us among the best Honors Colleges in the country. The newsletter is a great source of pride for the entire college and reflects a group effort, but special thanks must go to editor Karen Demonbreum and graphic designer Sherry Wiser George in Publications and Graphics.” 📌



Windrows Donate Books

New Board of Visitors member Vincent Windrow and his wife, Stacy, dropped by the Honors College to donate a variety of books to the Michael Martinelli Memorial Library. Among them were Barack Obama’s *Dreams from My Father*; Melva Wilson Costen’s *In Spirit and In Truth*; My *American Journey* by Colin Powell (with Joseph E. Persico); Taylor Branch’s *Pillar of Fire*; and Na’im Akbar’s *Akbar Papers in African Psychology*. 📌

Principles of Management: An Experiential Honors Class

by Dr. Jackie Gilbert

Because I believe that students learn best by hands-on activities, the courses that I teach include experiential components. Students in both my Principles of Management Honors section and International Human Resource Management courses are required to present the business and social customs of various countries and, in some cases, to describe a current issue. This semester the Principles of Management Honors class was divided into three groups: China/Health Care; India/White Collar Crime, and Pakistan/Benefits, resulting in six different presentations. Students were encouraged to be very creative in their delivery of business and social culture, which was showcased through skits, dance, food, video, and native costumes. Background research for these projects can be quite extensive, including resources such as travel agencies and foreign embassies along with interviews of restaurant owners, foreign students, business people who have relevant experience and relatives who have lived in other countries. This semester, Dean Mathis was both an



observer and a participant in the Pakistani presentation. He played the role of a "qazi," or judge, who

Management cont. on page 13

HONORS STUDENT FEATURE GRETCHEN JENKINS: CAMPUS LEADER

If anyone has made the most out of the college experience, that person would be Gretchen Jenkins. Gretchen, a senior majoring in Political Science with an emphasis in Pre-Law and a minor in English, has spent her entire college career involved with and leading campus organizations, projects, and fellow students.

As a freshman, Gretchen joined the Honors program right away. Taking two Honors classes her first semester, she made her first B+ in an Honors class and nearly dropped out of the program! "I was absolutely devastated," she said. "When I went to tell my parents, they couldn't contain their amusement. Eventually, I was laughing with them. Thus, my very first semester in the Honors College, I learned how to deal with my imperfection."

Also during her freshman year, Gretchen was a featured editorial columnist for MTSU's *Sidelines* and was very involved in the Wesley Foundation. An ambitious fresh-



Gretchen Jenkins led fellow SGA senators on a white-water rafting retreat.



Gretchen joined sorority sisters at the Wacky Tacky Prom.



Gretchen was named Best New Female Greek Member in 2007.

man, Gretchen was awarded an internship with the 15th Judicial District Attorney's office, which furthered her interest in the field of law.

As a sophomore, Gretchen was elected vice president of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) and later became NSCS president. She also served on the Dean's Student Advisory Council in the Honors College. At the end of her sophomore year, she interned in Washington, D.C., in Congressman Bart Gordon's office. The internship inspired an avid interest in government and led her to seek an SGA senate seat representing the College of Liberal Arts.

Feeling something was missing from her college career, Gretchen decided to join the Greek community as a junior. As a member of Alpha Delta Pi, she took on a leadership role as scholarship chair, responsible for overseeing the academic progress of more than 100 chapter members. "It was no small task," she said. "Yet, it was one of those

STUDENT FEATURE CONT.

jobs where no matter how hard you work the results are ultimately up to each individual lady."

After a year of shepherding SGA legislation and serving students in the College of Liberal Arts, Gretchen decided to try for a higher post in the SGA. In spring 2007, she was elected SGA executive vice president and speaker of the senate, the second-highest post in student govern-

ment. Since then, she has increased her efforts to provide leadership opportunities by joining Bettering Our Leaders for Tomorrow (BOLT) and continuing her participation in honor societies

such as Gamma Beta Phi, Pi Sigma Alpha, NSCS, and Phi Kappa Phi.

Even with her many responsibilities and extracurricular activities, Gretchen has made time (or found time) for research and her Honors thesis. Her love of the U.S. Supreme Court combined with her interest in Dr. John Vile's Constitutional Law classes inspired

her thesis: "Charting the Future: The Supreme Court's View of the



Gretchen served as SGA executive vice president and speaker of the Senate. She's pictured with fellow SGA executive officers.

First Amendment Right of Free Speech and Press within the College Environment." She said of her thesis, "It really explores college students' First Amendment right to speech. The Supreme Court has ruled time and time again in regard to high school students' First Amendment rights, starting with

black-arm-band wearing in *Tinker* continuing to the more recent *Bong Hits 4 Jesus* case. Yet, there is no precedent for college students. That is the road I want to go down."

Gretchen expects to

defend her thesis on April 11. Let the bells toll!

So what is in store next for a young woman who has seemingly done everything there is to do at MTSU? Gretchen says, "More school! I am looking in the New York City and Washington, D.C., area for law school." 📌



Gretchen was awarded the Bart McCash Scholarship at the 2006 Honors College Awards Ceremony. Pictured: Gretchen and her parents, Baxter and Sandra Jenkins.

Management cont. from page 12

united a "Pakistani" couple in matrimony. Note that in the picture he is dressed in a traditional shawl, or japha (dis-dasha). The group served a traditional Pakistani dish of chana-puri, or spicy chick peas and fried bread, followed by a dessert of "salooda," which is rose syrup and ice cream.

Through these projects students learn teamwork, effective presentational styles, knowledge of the topic matter, and the ability to behave as a respectful audience member. In the spirit of instructional sharing, I offer to give student groups intensive feedback sessions prior to the actual presentation date. Learning by doing and, in particular, working within groups, is part of my mission to promote collaboration and a sense of unity among students and an esprit de corps which they will hopefully nurture within their future workplaces. 📌

Barnes Coauthors Research Papers

Honors student Taylor Arnold Barnes coauthored "Silver Dichloroacetate: A Compound with Ag-Cl Bonding Interactions and an Extraordinary Range of Weak 35Cl NQR Frequencies," which has been accepted for publication in *Inorganica Chimica Acta*. His biophysics research, written with Dr. Daniel Erenso (Physics and Astronomy) was presented at the state capitol during the Posters at the Capitol event in February. He will also present new research with Dr. Preston MacDougall (Chemistry) in New Orleans in April at the 235th American Chemical Society meeting. He hopes to work at Oak Ridge National Laboratory this summer in a research program. 📌

Discovery School Partnership Thrives



The partnership between the Discovery School and the MTSU Honors College was celebrated last October. Pictured: Principal Nadine Harris and Dean Phil Mathis.

The Honors College has continued its valued partnership with the Discovery School at Reeves-Rogers, the elementary school for gifted and talented students in the Murfreesboro City Schools system. Last fall, a dedicated group of Honors students volunteered on a Saturday morning and afternoon, cleaning and landscaping the Reeves-Rogers building adjacent to MTSU on Greenland Drive. In addition to cleaning all interior and exterior windows, the students assisted with mulching and the planting of numerous shrubs and trees including two 20-foot-tall magnolias. Later in the fall, Dean Mathis participated in a poetry reading in Mrs. Elizabeth McPhee's third grade class, listening to student recitations and sharing a bit of his own original work. On October 18, Drs. Mathis and Carnicom were on hand for the official opening and dedication of the school, and Dr. Mathis was presented with a plaque commemorating our budding new partnership (see picture). This spring, teachers from the Discovery School will tour the Martin Building and gain hands-on experience in the Advanced Classroom Technology Laboratory. "Our goal is to share the cutting-edge instructional technology of the ACT lab with the Discovery School teachers so that they in turn will be able to utilize it in demonstrations with their students," said Associate Dean Scott Carnicom. 📢

HONORS FACULTY PROFILE KEVIN DONOVAN

Kevin Donovan has been teaching Shakespeare courses at the college level for over 20 years, 19 of them at MTSU, where he's taught students about Shakespeare and his contemporaries at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Several years ago, he was campus coordinator or co-coordinator for a series of residencies by troupes from the group Actors from the London Stage (AFTLS), a program that brings actors from the U.K. to American college campuses for performances and classroom visits. That experience made him alert to the ways in which strong performances can illuminate the texts and open up their interpretive possibilities; it's influenced his classroom teaching directly and indirectly.

Donovan makes a point these days of seeking out performances of Shakespeare not only locally, at MTSU and in Murfreesboro and Nashville, but also throughout the region whenever possible. Last fall he traveled to Davidson College in North Carolina for a symposium that included performances of *The Winter's Tale* and *Pericles* by the Royal Shakespeare Company as well as lectures by some of the leading Shakespearians in the United States.

Donovan and his wife Ellen, also a professor in the English Department, drive to Montgomery every summer for the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and also have a trip planned to the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, Virginia, this spring. They will take in four plays in three days, two by Shakespeare, one by



Marlowe, and one by Ben Jonson, on whom Donovan wrote his dissertation ("Back in the Stone Age," as he puts it). The couple recently went to Knoxville to see a very fine AFTLS production of *Macbeth*. Donovan said, "I'm very lucky that Ellen enjoys watching the plays as much as I do."

Donovan's training and area of expertise, though, is the page rather than the stage, specifically the field of textual scholarship, which is both the oldest and newest branch of Shakespearean scholarship. "It's old: scholarship aimed at establishing accurate or authoritative texts of the plays goes back at least as far as the early 18th century," he said. He added that the production of authoritative scholarly editions continues to be a vital area of Shakespeare studies. This can be seen in the various series of individual works being produced, such as the third Arden series and the New Variorum Shakespeare.

In the undergraduate classroom, Donovan mainly tries to focus on reasons why the Shakespearean texts remain compelling to readers and playgoers—the rich poetic experience they provide as well as their historical interest. Donovan's love of Shakespeare's great tragedies was his motive for pursuing an academic career in the first place, and he hopes that he has succeeded at least partially in communicating some of that enthusiasm to his students.

Until recently, Donovan avoided writing on Shakespeare for publication,

SPRING 2008 HONORS LECTURE SERIES



Free and open to the public

Mondays, 3:00–3:55 p.m.

Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors
Building, Room 106

March 10

*Acquisition and Expression of
Language: A Brain-Based Approach*
Shelley Thomas, Foreign Languages
and Literatures, and Will Langston,
Psychology

March 17

*Sex and the Brain:
Neurobiology of Mating*
Amy Jetton, Biology

March 24

*The Mind of the
Renaissance Individual*
Ed Beemon, History

March 31

*Social Conformity, Group Think,
and Violence: Social Activism in the
1960s*
Ben Austin, Sociology and Anthropology

April 7

On the Neurobiology of Truth
Ron Bombardi, Philosophy

April 14

Thesis Presentations

April 21

Thesis Presentations 📌

Donovan cont. from page 15

focusing instead on Shakespeare's great rival Ben Jonson and his other dramatic contemporaries, heirs, and successors. However, he agreed a few years ago to write a survey of interpretive criticism of *King Lear* for the forthcoming New Variorum edition of the play. The survey he's completing is an appendix that requires the attempt to read every literary/critical essay or book published on the play. Donovan said, "I probably won't succeed in reading everything, but I'm obliged to read everything that might be thought to have been in any way influential in critical discussion of the play from the 17th century to the present day. While I've

often been bored or annoyed by wading through much writing that is tedious or wrong-headed, I've also discovered some genuinely illuminating and inspired discussion of the play that I hadn't previously encountered. I think the experience has been very good for me as a teacher and critic of Shakespeare. I really believe that I'll bring to the classroom a more informed and nuanced understanding of *Lear* in particular and of Shakespeare in general, as well as a greater sense of how current critical concerns relate to broader historical trends. I'll certainly be able to direct students' research projects more effectively." 📌

Carnicom Accepted to Harvard Seminar

Dr. Scott Carnicom, associate dean, will attend the Management Development Program (MDP) at Harvard University June 14–26. This academic leadership develop-



ment program, conducted by Harvard's Graduate School of Education, is designed for midlevel administrators in the early stages of their careers. The two-week program covers topics in higher education ranging from leadership and financial management to diversity and community. Participants, who are housed together in a dormitory, work on numerous case studies throughout day and evening sessions. This approach is designed to foster new perspectives and provide participants with hands-on experience to deal with challenges at their home institutions. Said Carnicom, "I'm very excited to participate in such a prestigious seminar and greatly appreciate the support I've received from Dr. Mathis, Dr. Gebert, and 2007 MDP alum, Dr. John Omachonu." 📌

Building For Your FUTURE

Contact our academic advisor, Michelle Arnold, to find out how you can graduate from the University Honors College. She can be reached at (615) 898-5464. Call for an appointment today! 📌

WHERE IN THE WORLD!?!



Dr. Larry Burriss and Dr. Kathleen Burriss drove nearly 10,000 miles from Murfreesboro to Fairbanks and back.



The adventurous Dr. Burriss (right) has been known to take glider flights over middle Tennessee from a small airport near Rockvale.



The Burriss's travels have included a stop at the Witches Market in La Paz, Bolivia.



The Burriss's recently explored the Inca ruins at Machu Picchu, Peru.

Dr. Larry L. Burriss is a scholar on the move! If he's not exploring ruins at Machu Picchu, Peru, he may be in Washington, D.C., working on media and national security issues, climbing to the Diamond Head volcanic crater in Hawaii, or maybe driving to Alaska and back. "It's hard to hit a moving target," he says with a laugh.

But his students also know he is readily available for just about any kind of advising or conversation. "I've done job counseling over lunch at the Grill and course advising at MTSU football games and discussed term projects while working out at the Rec Center."

Burriss is a professor in the School of Journalism, past president of the MTSU Faculty Senate, and former member of the Tennessee Board of Regents. He has served as interim dean of the College of Mass Communication, chairman of the Department of Journalism, director of the School of Journalism and director of the Mass Communications graduate program.

Given his energy level, it is no surprise that Burriss holds five degrees from four schools! He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Ohio State University, where he majored in broadcast journalism. He also has a master's degree in human relations from the University of Oklahoma. He earned a Ph.D. in communication from Ohio University, where he minored in law, and a J.D. from Concord Law School.

He is particularly interested in issues dealing with government-media relations, and he developed a course,

Mass Media and National Security, to explore the historical background of the conflict between the public's right to know and the government's obligation to protect the nation; how the government and media interact in relation to national security issues; the legal issues involved in



this interaction; and the roles of reporters and public affairs officers in coverage of the "alphabet agencies" such as the DoD, CIA, NSA, DoJ, etc. "The basic assumption in the course is not that

the media and the government are natural enemies, but rather that both have role to play in ensuring the security of the nation," he said. In the 1980s, Burriss may have been one of the first teachers in the nation to offer a university course in media law completely online.

In the Honors College, Burriss has served on the Honors Council and taught Journalism/Electronic Media Communication 1020 (American Media and Social Institutions), and Journalism/Electronic Media Communication 4250 (Mass Media Law). "One of the major goals of the law course is to help student-citizens understand the nature, functions, and limitations of the American legal system as it relates to other fields," Burriss said. "Thus, in terms of mass media, the course deals with both freedoms and responsibilities."

Burriss has worked in both print and broadcast news as well as in public relations. He has published extensively in professional research journals and popular magazines and is the coauthor of two books. He has

HONORS FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Professor Marc J. Barr (Electronic Media Communication) recently had a computer-designed ceramic tea set accepted by a nationally juried exhibition at the Xiem Clay Center in Pasadena, California. Only 42 pieces by 28 artists were accepted out of 400 entries for the exhibition!

Professor Barr also has a computer-designed ceramic tea set that will be included in *Big Fish, Small Pot 3: Third International Small Teapot Competition and Show* February 25 through March 20 at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, California. The exhibition will feature more than 100 pieces from 10 countries.

Dr. Robert Blair (Business Communication and Entrepreneurship) attended the International Society for Business Education Conference in Vienna, Austria, in late summer. Last October, Dr. Blair presented “Seven Keys to Leadership Success” at a state officer leadership training seminar at the Southern Business Education Association Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Dr. Blair also presented “Communication Learning Goal Assessment in an AACSB Accredited College of Business” at the 72nd Annual International Convention of the Association for Business Communication in Washington, D.C., during the fall semester.

Dr. Tom Brinthaupt (Psychology) coauthored an invited article, “Caveat Emptor: Computers in the Classroom,” in the September/October 2007 issue of *Principal* magazine, the national journal serving elementary and middle-level principals (Vol. 87(1), pp. 76–66).

Dr. Wendy Koenig (Art) was named contributing editor for the journal *Artpapers* recently and published the article “Black is the Color: Lester Julian Merriweather and Invisibility’s Sticky Side” this past summer. Dr. Koenig also presented “Bending Over Backwards:

Hysteria in Contemporary Art” at the Southeastern College Art Conference meeting in Charleston, West Virginia, and “The Pressure of Space: How Holocaust Museums Reframe History” at the Southern Historical Association meeting in Richmond, Virginia, during the fall.

Dr. Philip Phillips (English) recently published *New Directions in Boethian Studies: Studies in Medieval Culture Series XLV* (Kalamazoo, Michigan: Medieval Institute Publications, 2007), a collection of interdisciplinary essays on the fifth-century Roman philosopher Boethius. Dr. Phillips coedited the collection with Dr. Noel Harold Kaylor Jr. of Troy University. In addition to the essays, the volume includes a re-edited critical edition of the late 14th- to early 15th-century Middle English translation, *The Boke of Coumfort of Boece*, also coedited by Phillips and Kaylor.



Dr. Phillips was invited to participate in the Medieval and Early Modern English Studies Association of Korea International Conference at Kyung Hee University in Seoul in November 2007. The conference theme was “The Issues of Translation in Medieval and Renaissance Studies,” and Dr. Phillips presided over a session devoted to translating *Beowulf* and served as a respondent to a paper on King Alfred’s translations.

Dr. Susie Watts (Educational Leadership) won the 2007 Louisiana Education Research Association Outstanding Research Paper Award for “A Study on the Effects of Smaller Class Size on Student Achievement,” coauthored with MTSU graduate student Andrea Georgious. Dr. Watts has been invited to present the paper at the American Education Research Association meeting in New York City in March 2008. 📌

Alumni Feature Burley Grimes

Burley Grimes (professionally known as Drew) lives with his wife, MTSU alumna Kelly (Mains) Grimes, and their cats, dog, and horse in Raleigh, North Carolina. Burley graduated from the MTSU Honors program in the fall of 2002 with a double major in Anthropology and French. In the fall of 2003, after a brief stint working on a framing crew in the Murfreesboro area, he decided to marry his academic interests in language and culture by pursuing a master’s degree in the linguistics program at North Carolina State University (NCSU). There, he developed an interest in sociophonetics and dialect perception, and under the direction of sociophonetician Erik Thomas completed his degree in 2005. His master’s thesis, “In search of ethnic cues: the status of /æ/ and /ɛ/ and their implications for linguistic profiling,” used speech resynthesis with Praat (a computer program for speech analysis and synthesis) and a quantitative research methodology to examine listener response to two vowels in African-American English.

These academic pursuits notwithstanding, Burley was drawn to NCSU for other reasons. The NCSU linguistics program is host to the North Carolina Language and Life Project (NCLLP), a community outreach and media production organization headed by renowned sociolinguist Walt Wolfram. During his tenure at NCSU, Burley collaborated with a fellow student on an hour-long documentary video, *This Side of the River*, about the history of Princeville, North Carolina, the oldest black town in America. After graduation, he worked as a multimedia producer for NCLLP; he also collaborated on an extensive, interactive multimedia exhibit



The Honors Homecoming tailgate celebration offered a variety of fun activities, including darts. Pictured: Andrew Trivette and Jordan Fey.



Buchanan Fellows helped at the Honors tailgate tent at Homecoming. From left: Jordan Cox, Taffy O'Neal, and Elizabeth Henegar.

Grimes cont. from page 17

about black history on the Outer Banks. The exhibit, Freedom's Voice, was on display for nine months at the Outer Banks History Center in Manteo, North Carolina. He also created educational multimedia materials for the North Carolina Dialect Curriculum.

In the years since his graduation from NCSU, Burley has shifted his professional focus from academics to multimedia design and video production, with a preference toward community and culturally oriented projects. In 2006 and 2007, he worked in the design section at the North Carolina Museum of History, building exhibits and creating multimedia interactive presentations. He is now working on a freelance basis, building practical experience in film and video production. Check out his portfolio at www.drewgrimes.net. 📌

TAILGATING, HONORS COLLEGE STYLE

November 10, 2007, was a beautiful day to gather for Homecoming festivities in Walnut Grove between Cope and Peck. Honors College administrators, faculty, staff, students, friends, and alums all joined to celebrate the Honors College and show support for the big game. Tailgaters enjoyed barbecue and all the fixin's. Phil Mathis, dean, said, "Many thanks are due to everyone who made this event such a success, especially our event coordinator, Ms. Georgia Dennis, and several of the Buchanan Fellows who helped her work the event. We hope that this tradition has caught on and even more alums will drop by next year." In addition to the great company and ambience, special door prizes and raffle prizes were given away, including t-shirts and an iPod. We hope you will join us next year for this fun event! 📌



Honors students Emma Stickel, left, and McFall Castleman.



With last year's success the Honors College Homecoming tailgate celebration should become a tradition. Clockwise from top left: Elizabeth Henegar, Dr. Mathis, Collage assistant editor Carolyn Crawford, and Taffy O'Neal.

World cont. from page 16

won numerous awards for both writing and work with new technologies.

He is married to "the other doctor Burriss," Dr. Kathleen G. Burriss, an Honors professor in the Department of Elementary and Special Education. They have traveled the world giving presentations and using their experiences in television programs developed by the MTSU Satellite and Webcasting Center.

Said Burriss, "It is obvious the legal, communications, and teaching professions are going through a time

of tremendous change in philosophies, programs, and activities. Such changes can serve as either a catalyst for progress and improvement or as an excuse for retrenchment and stagnation.

"I, for one, favor progress and improvement. And I feel the Honors program at MTSU equips students to both deal with these changes in both their private lives and as they interact with the larger world." 📌

THESES DEFENDED FALL 2007

Jayne Andrews

"Evolutions and Revolutions of Hell"
Philip Phillips, advisor



Philip Phillips, advisor, and Jayne Andrews

Jennifer Fleshman

"The Fort Kent Retreat"



From left, Fleshman and her thesis committee: Phil Mathis, Jennifer Fleshman, Larry Mapp, and Richard Hansen.

Eric Little

"Medieval Catalonia: An Expansionist State in a Competitive Arena"



From left: Louis Haas, advisor, and Eric Little

Jeremy Davis

"The Fort Kent Retreat"
Michael Johnson, advisor



From left, Davis and his thesis committee: Phil Mathis, Richard Hansen, Jeremy Davis, and project advisor Michael Johnson.

Hannah Green

"Genetic Heirloom"
Michael Baggarly, advisor



From left, Green and her thesis committee: Phil Mathis, Teresa Davis, Hannah Green, and advisor Michael Baggarly.

Joshua Parker

"Testing and Developing a New Method of Impulse Response"
William Robertson, advisor



From left: Josh Parker and advisor William Robertson.

Kalina Ferencei

"A Comparison of Microfinance Programs in Bangladesh and South Africa"



From left, Ferencei and her thesis committee: Earl Thomas, Tony Eff, Kalina Ferencei, and Scott Carnicom.

Zachary Hall

"Man with a Camcorder"



From left: Zach Hall and advisor Clare Bratten.

Sarah Young

"Effect of Education on Approval Ratings of Genetic Engineering: Chimeras vs. Food Products"
Gloria Hamilton, advisor



From left: Gloria Hamilton, advisor, and Sarah Young



ALUMNI FEATURE JEFF CRAIG

Many graduates of the University Honors Program further their education at some of the top universities in the nation. Jeff Craig is one of the few Honors graduates to return to MTSU to pursue his master's degree. It made perfect sense, considering the University has one of the top 10 graduate programs for industrial/organizational psychology in the nation. In fact, MTSU has always held a fond place in Jeff's heart: his father, Don Craig, has been dean of the MTSU library for over 25 years. The first time his parents took him out as a baby was to an MTSU basketball game. So attending the hometown university following high school was an easy decision!

Jeff, a Rutherford County native, attended MTSU from 1992 to 1996 and graduated with Distinction in University Honors and a bachelor's degree in Psychology. He attended MTSU on a Presidential Enrichment Scholarship for four years. Following graduation, he married Jaime Coles, a woman he had met through the Raiders for Christ organization. He then went to work for the Rutherford County Finance Department as a fixed asset accountant. After Jamie graduated from MTSU, Jeff returned to obtain his master's in Industrial/Organizational Psychology in 2000. "I had always wanted to pursue a master's degree but needed to wait a couple of years after entering the work force while my wife finished her under-

During Jeff's three-year service on United Way, county employee contributions increased dramatically.

graduate degree, also at MTSU," he said. Though the I/O graduate program is geared toward full-time study, Jeff was able to complete the program as a part-time student while working full-time for the county. "It took a lot of time and effort to finish the intense program. I am thankful for the support of my wife and my employer during that difficult three-year period," said Jeff.

The I/O graduate program is an applied course of study with a lot of emphasis placed on real-world experience. In addition to class projects with Hollywood Video Distribution Center, Ingram Books, and DTS America, Jeff interned with Rutherford County as the county established its first-ever human resources department in 2002. In 2003, after obtaining his master's, Jeff was selected as human resources director for Rutherford County government, a position that required him to build the department from scratch. He developed and implemented the compensation plan and an interactive HR Web page; improved benefits to include vision, dental, and an employee assistance program; and centralized the employee hiring process. His greatest concern and interest was for employee wellness. Accordingly, he implemented one of the first on-site medical programs for government employees

in the state and developed a thriving wellness program including health fairs for employees, healthy choices discount cards, weight-loss contests, and health-related "lunch and learn" sessions.

Giving back to the community has been important to Jeff, and he served on the county's United Way campaign committee for three years. County employees increased donations by more than 400 percent during that time and were recognized by the United Way for having the most improved campaign in 2005. Jeff served as human resources director for nearly four years before being offered a similar position in Smyrna. He plans to continue his emphasis on wellness programs and community involvement and to pursue his senior professional human resources certification from the Society for Human Resources Management. Jeff is thankful for all his undergraduate and graduate professors for supporting him through his years at MTSU. He and Jamie have a two-year-old daughter, Hailee, and considering his deep family roots here, he would be happy to see his daughter have a successful collegiate career at MTSU, too. 📌



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