

HONORS

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Magazine



A LAUREATE'S LEGACY

Alumnus James Buchanan's vision for education—and his Nobel Prize medal—is displayed proudly at MTSU

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY



40

A LAUREATE'S LEGACY

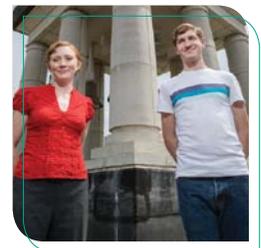
MTSU celebrates the remarkable life and lasting influence of one of its more prominent alums



46

A ROAD LESS TRAVELED

A new fellowship attracts the best and brightest from other, smaller institutions



48

LET THERE BE LIGHT

The EMC program sends another graduate into a burgeoning local industry



50

HONORS BOUND

Newly arrived professor Drew Sieg answers a few questions about his work and goals



Cover photo:
Nobel Laureate
James Buchanan's
(alumnus) Nobel
Prize medal, now
on permanent
loan to MTSU

At left:
Fall at the
Honors College

photos:
Andy Heidt

DEPARTMENTS

4 Dean

5 Students

50 Faculty and Staff

61 Alumni and Friends



HONORS MAGAZINE

is a twice-yearly publication of the MTSU University Honors College, distributed free to faculty, staff, alumni, and friends.

The publications of the University Honors College are made possible, in part, by a generous gift from Paul W. Martin Jr. in honor of Dr. James M. Buchanan and the Buchanan family for their dedication to and their magnanimous bequests in support of the University Honors College and its students.

DEAN

John R. Vile

EDITOR

Marsha Powers

Marsha.Powers@mtsu.edu

UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Drew Ruble

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Bill Fisher

DESIGNER

Sherry Wiser George

DESIGN SUPPORT

Amanda Hooten, Kelsey Greer

UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHERS

J Intintoli, Andy Heidt, Darby Campbell

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Sidney A. McPhee

VICE PRESIDENT OF

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Andrew Oppmann

CONTRIBUTORS

Creative and Visual Services, Philip Phillips, Laura Clippard, Susan Lyons, Karen Demonbreum, April Goers, Kathy Davis, Georgia Dennis, David Foote, Constance Grieves, Samantha Farish, Matthew Hibdon, Davion Baxter, Kaity Newman, Brandon Hazlett, Claudia Barnett, Shelley Thomas, Randy Weiler, Adam Emerson, Kaylene Gebert, June McCash, Jeff Whorley, Bill Lewis, and Jen Stone

2300 copies, printed at Lithographics, Nashville, TN
Designed by Creative and Visual Services

0713-0138 / Middle Tennessee State University is an AA/EEO employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Executive Director of Institutional Equity and Compliance, Cope Administration Building 220, 1301 E. Main Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37132; (615) 898-2185.

From the Dean's Desk

Legacies

In the last *Honors Magazine*, I reflected on the death of my father and the wonderful legacy of devotion to God, country, and family that he left behind. Since then, three other events have reminded me of the importance of legacies.

First and foremost is our cover story that details the \$2.5 million gift that Dr. James M. Buchanan left to the Honors College and the transformative effect that this gift will have on sustaining the Buchanan Fellows Program and attracting top lecturers to MTSU. Dr. Buchanan left far more behind than his money. He also left a legacy of fearless scholarship that has had a major impact on economics, political science, and other disciplines.

We will soon be giving a medallion with Dr. Buchanan's likeness to each of the Buchanan Fellows who graduate. Cast with a bronze finish, it will remind students not only of Dr. Buchanan's Nobel Prize but also of the Bronze Star that he received for service in World War II. In announcing Dr. Buchanan's gift, his nephew Jeff Whorley observed that it was building on yet another legacy, one created when Paul and Lee Martin donated money to help build the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building. This physical manifestation of the University's commitment to Honors continues to draw additional supporters.

In our last issue, we noted the passing of Captain James D. Ingram, who was the father-in-law of Dr. John P. Montgomery, former dean of the Honors College. Just as he had remembered the college in life, so too Capt. Ingram remembered the Honors College with a generous contribution in his will. This donation will be used to support the increasing number of Honors students who are conducting research for their theses.

Finally, I remember Dr. Everett Cunningham, a long-time member of the Political Science Department who passed away late last year. Some weeks later, I received a call from a lawyer telling me that Dr. Cunningham had willed me his books. I haven't yet counted them, but there were more than 10,000. He also left more than 5,000 CDs (mostly classical music) that I have passed along to the Center for Popular Music and MTSU's public radio station, WMOT.

Those who know me well know that I love books and that I have a fairly large home library. It and a storage unit are now groaning under the weight of about 450 boxes of books. Sorting through the books is like sorting through Dr. Cunningham's life. His academic interests ranged from political theory to the Supreme Court to English and Russian history to the history of World War II to art to religion and numerous other topics. He had taken extensive notes on many of these volumes, and he almost always noted when he read them. Dr. Cunningham was a good friend who epitomized the lifelong learner, and I joined his students in becoming the beneficiary of his scholarly obsession.

I don't consider the position of dean as a job but rather an avocation. One of the most fulfilling aspects of this avocation is that it enables me to make a real difference in the lives of students who will carry forward the torch of knowledge. I thank all of you whose contributions to the Honors College continue to be part of your own legacies!




John R. Vile

Students Win NATIONAL AWARDS

Since the inception of MTSU's Undergraduate Fellowships Office in 2007, many students have been recognized for their intelligence, abilities, and hard work by the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship Program, and by other prestigious organizations. This year, ten current students and recent graduates have been honored: Jonathan Herlan, Eric Guyes, David Owens, Patrick Pratt, Daniel Murphy, Brett Bornhoft, Leland Waite, Jacob Basham, Lauren Rigby, and Lydia Harris.



ERIC GUYES

Honors College spring 2013 graduate Eric Guyes, a Buchanan Fellow, visited Israel in 2012 as part of a 10-day Jewish Birthright trip and hoped for an opportunity to return. As the recipient of a 2013 Fulbright Scholarship, he is getting his wish. Guyes is studying and performing research at Technion Israel Institute of Technology in Kesalsaba for 10 months starting in October.

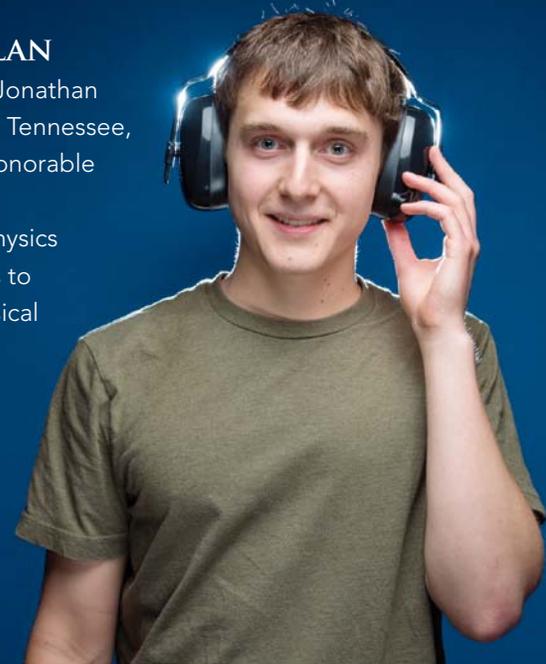
"I am very grateful the (Israel Fulbright) committee selected me," said Guyes, who was a physics major and aerospace researcher in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences. "I'm very excited to be able to go over there and be a part of the scientific community and explore a thriving and flourishing Jewish society and culture."

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs funds the Fulbright

JONATHAN HERLAN

Senior physics major Jonathan W. Herlan of Limestone, Tennessee, received a Goldwater honorable mention.

Herlan, a Society of Physics Students member, plans to earn a doctorate in physical acoustics at the University of Mississippi or a doctorate in physics at Duke University. He has a career goal to conduct acoustic research and teach at the university level.



Program, one of the world's most prestigious. Recipients are chosen on the basis of academic or professional achievement and demonstrated leadership potential. The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program sends American scholars, professionals, and artists abroad to lecture and/or conduct research for up to a year.

Dean John Vile said that Guyes "actually had the choice of two major fellowships—what's called a DAAD award, a 10-month award to study in Germany, as well as a Fulbright to study in Israel. Although he went with the one in Israel, and the Fulbright is a great choice, either would have been great. Both are a testament to the fact that national and international organizations are recognizing one of our students as among the best."

continued on page 6

DAVID OWENS

Doctor of Philosophy student and graduate teaching assistant David Owens has been selected for a Fulbright U.S. Student award for the Brazil English Teaching Assistantship Program for 2013–2014.

Owens said he applied for the Fulbright in order to “shed a positive light on the United States while sharing English skills with Brazilians and to learn more about Brazilian culture.” He has diverse experience, including international teaching and research, outdoor education instruction, and volunteer work.

In addition to his Ph.D. program in math and science education, Owens attended MTSU for his B.S. in biology education and chemistry, which he earned in 2002. He then attended the University of Nebraska, where he earned an M.S. in ecology. He returned to MTSU in 2012 to begin working toward his Ph.D.

Owens has worked as an instructor with Outward Bound and the Chadwick School, planning and orchestrating high-impact expeditions such as white-water rafting, backpacking, and rock climbing, all directed at inspiring character development and self-discovery.

He has served as a mentor with the Big Brother/Big Sister program, a reading tutor with City Impact in elementary schools, an amenity relief volunteer at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, and a paddling guide and naturalist with the Wolf River Conservatory. He has also pursued mission work in Africa and India, yoga teacher certification in India, kickboxing training in Denmark and Thailand, learning Spanish, and earning a blue belt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu.

Owens is the ninth MTSU student in the past four years to receive a Fulbright.

PATRICK PRATT

Patrick Pratt was awarded a 2013 Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship this spring “following a highly competitive nationwide contest,” said Patricia H. Scroggs, director of the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

He is the first graduate from a Tennessee university to receive this honor, which is named for the U.S. congressman who represents Harlem in New York City.

“It’s not easy to describe what this award means,” Pratt said. “Two of my biggest life goals are to attend a top-ranked school of international affairs and to join the U.S. Foreign Service. The Rangel Fellowship has essentially given me everything I’ve been working toward in one package. Now I can attend a great school, and my dream job is waiting at the end of it.”

Laura Clippard said the Rangel Fellowship will provide up to \$20,000 per year for tuition and fees, \$15,000 a year for expenses for two years of graduate study, an 11-week internship on Capitol Hill, a Foreign Service mentor, and a 10-week overseas internship in a U.S. embassy between his first and second years of graduate school. In return, Pratt will serve a minimum of three years as a Foreign Service officer.

Pratt chose to attend George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs in downtown Washington, D.C., a program that is highly regarded throughout the world. George Washington University offered Pratt the High Achievement Fellowship, an additional \$15,000 per year award.

The Rangel program is a collaborative effort between Howard University and the U.S. State Department that seeks to attract and prepare outstanding young people for careers as diplomats in the U.S. Foreign Service.

Clippard told Pratt he is “the hardest-working person” she has ever known. Dean John Vile said Pratt “has scored numerous ‘home runs’ by winning the David L. Boren, Fulbright, and Rangel awards. His tenacity of purpose and his commitment to serving his country will be tremendous assets as he engages in a career with the Foreign Service.”

Pratt majored in international relations and political science and minored in geography and African studies.





DANIEL MURPHY

Buchanan Fellow Daniel Murphy wants to pursue a doctorate in atomic physics someday. The Murfreesboro resident hopes that winning a Goldwater Scholarship will help him reach his dream.

Murphy, a senior Honors student with double majors in physics and philosophy, is a 2013 recipient of a Goldwater award from the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program. He is among 272 national recipients and one of five Tennessee residents to receive the Goldwater distinction for the 2013–2014 academic year. The one-year financial award covers tuition, fees, books, and room and board up to a maximum of \$7,500 per year.

"It definitely took a few moments to process," the Siegel High School graduate said about learning of the award from Laura Clippard, coordinator of the Honors College's Undergraduate Fellowships Office. Murphy said the Goldwater Scholarship gives him "more motivation to do more. It helps me to think about the future more. It makes me want to go for bigger challenges." Those bigger challenges include pursuing Marshall and Rhodes scholarships.

Murphy is a member of the Society of Physics Students, serving as president in 2012–2013. He was inducted into Sigma Pi Sigma, a physics honor society this spring.

The scholarship program was established in 1986 by Congress to honor the late senator Barry Goldwater, who served his country for 56 years as a soldier and statesman, including 30 years in the U.S. Senate. The Goldwater Foundation provides a continuing source of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians, and engineers by awarding scholarships to college students who intend to pursue careers in these fields.

This marks the third consecutive year that one or more MTSU students have received Goldwater awards.

BRETT BORNHOFT

Brett Bornhoft, a senior, earned the Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst Research Internships in Science and Engineering fellowship to serve a 12-week internship at Universität des Saarlandes in Saarbrücken, Germany, this summer.

The fellowship, known as DAAD RISE, is a summer internship program for undergraduate students from the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom in the fields of biology, chemistry, physics, earth sciences, and engineering. It offers unusual opportunities for students to work with research groups at universities and top research institutions across Germany for two to three months.

"I feel really blessed. This is really incredible," said Bornhoft, who is an aerospace major with minors in mathematics, engineering technology, and physics. "This could lead to opportunities to get accepted at higher-level graduate studies at schools like MIT." Bornhoft, scheduled to graduate from MTSU in 2014, plans to pursue a Ph.D.

Bornhoft was matched with German Ph.D. student David Kastelan, who served as his mentor. Working with Kastelan allowed Bornhoft to participate in advanced research and to gain practical experience with control theory in multicopters.

Bornhoft is founder and president of the MT UAS (Unmanned Aircraft System) Club. He worked as a research assistant for the Center for Unmanned Systems Operational Advancement and Research at MTSU from April 2011 to February 2012 and as a research engineer from January 2012 to June 2012 for MTSU's Fifth-Generation Aerial Target Drone Program under the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Since June 2012, he has worked as a research engineer for MTSU's Unmanned Aircraft Systems program.

"The DAAD RISE program is one of the most prestigious internships that an undergraduate science student can obtain,"

Dean John Vile said. "MTSU students are increasingly securing major national and international honors, and it is heartening to see yet another Honors student join this elite group."

cont. on page 8



LELAND WAITE

Leland Waite, a 2013 Honors graduate, received the Karlem Reiss Scholarship, one of twenty Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) Foundation Scholarships in late June. Waite was the 2012–2013 MTSU ODK circle president and was the only Tennessee student selected for the award.

A Buchanan Fellow from Idaho, Waite received a B.S. in aerospace this spring and is now enrolled in the MTSU aviation safety and security graduate program. A GTA in aerospace, Waite works with Dr. Paul A. Craig in the Flight Operations Center Unified Simulation (FOCUS) lab, where he runs the CRJ-200 flight-training device. He has also worked with aviation safety inspectors as an intern at the Nashville Flight Standards District Office of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Waite has been a member of ODK since December 2011 and is now serving his second term as circle president. He previously served as vice president. In July 2012, he attended the 2012 ODK National Leadership Summit and Convention at the University of North Carolina–Charlotte. Waite and circle vice president Matthew Hibdon presented a workshop session called “Ready, Set, Lead: Effective Strategies for a Clay Grant Application.” He and Hibdon also exhibited an ODK display board that ranked in the top three of twenty displays from other schools.



JACOB BASHAM

Honors graduate Jacob Basham (2013) has been named recipient of the Walter and Adelheid Hohenstein Fellow award for the Southeast Region of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. He received one of about fifty \$5,000 fellowships to pursue a joint M.D./Ph.D. program at the University of Tennessee in Memphis.

Raised in Portland, Tennessee, Basham double majored in mathematics and general science. In addition to completing all requirements for graduating from the Honors College, he was a McNair Scholar and the recipient of numerous undergraduate scholarships and was an officer in MTSU’s Chemistry Society. He also served as a tutor and worked as an emergency room

volunteer.

Basham participated in Posters at the Capitol in Nashville in February 2013 and presented research at the national meeting of the American Chemical Society in 2012 and 2013. He also made a presentation at the Tennessee Academy of Science meeting in November 2012 at Vanderbilt.

Basham said that at MTSU he learned that “the harder I work, the more fulfilling are the later rewards.” In applying for the Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship, he said, “I aim to treat the sick and contribute to medical science the knowledge necessary for future patient care.”

Laura Clippard, coordinator of the Undergraduate Fellowship Office, notes that Basham has overcome tremendous obstacles. He is a first-generation college student who attributes much of his success to grandparents who served as his guardians for a few years while he was in high school.

LYDIA HARRIS

Lydia Harris, a history major has also won a national award.

With the assistance of the Education Abroad Office, Harris received a \$3,000 Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study in Galway, Ireland. She was one of five MTSU students to receive funding from the Gilman program, which offers money for study-abroad experiences for U.S. undergraduate students receiving Pell Grant funding.



I AM *true*
BLUE

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

**LAUREN RIGSBY**

Lauren Rigsby, a spring 2013 Honors graduate, received a Phi Kappa Phi Love of Learning Award.

She received a Goldwater honorable mention in 2011 and was named a Phi Kappa Phi Emerging Scholar in 2009.

A Buchanan Fellow who majored in physics and minored in biology, chemistry, and mathematics, Lauren's Honors thesis was "A New Transmission-Line Matrix Approach for Modeling Metamaterials." She graduated magna cum laude and is now pursuing a professional doctorate in medical physics at Vanderbilt School of Medicine.

One hundred forty-seven Love of Learning Awards are distributed nationally each year to active Phi Kappa Phi members to help fund post-baccalaureate studies. 

[Randy Weiler contributed to this story.]

Three Honors Students Win **TOP**

The University awards program recognized Honors students **Jordan Dodson, Chelsea Fleet,** and **Meredith Holt** this spring for their exemplary character and achievements in scholarship, leadership, and service.

Senior Jordan Dodson won the Provost's Award, which is given to a student who best demonstrates outstanding academic achievement through involvement in scholarly activities. The award was presented at the College of Basic and Applied Sciences Academic Awards Ceremony in April by Dean Bud Fischer.

Jordan, a physics, mathematics, and chemistry triple major, said, "Receiving the Provost's Award has been a truly humbling experience. The academic work that I have done at MTSU has brought me nothing but pleasure. To

be recognized for that work seems too good to be true."

The Provost's Award was not Dodson's first impressive recognition. In 2012, he won the prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship for 2012–2014. In 2013, he received a summer internship at Harvard, where he developed new methods of data mining, finding patterns hidden in data. "Specifically, I worked on a problem from the energy industry. By looking at how natural gas wells have performed in the past, I tried to predict the success of future wells," Jordan said. The National Science Foundation funded the internship.

Chelsea Fleet, a Buchanan Fellow, won the Robert C. LaLance Jr. Achievement Award for her remarkable determination, sacrifices, and contributions. Deb Sells, vice president for

Student Affairs and vice provost for Enrollment and Academic Services, presented the award at the Student Government Association and Center for Student Involvement and Leadership annual awards banquet in April.

Chelsea, who graduated summa cum laude in August, was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease, a chronic autoimmune disease of the gastrointestinal tract, during her freshman year, but she never let the disease hold her back. In spite of fatigue, abdominal pain, and severe joint inflammation that confined her to a wheelchair for several months and caused her to spend spring 2010 at home, she considers these symptoms hurdles that have taught her much.

"I try to make the most of every opportunity I have, said the speech and theatre major. "Crohn's has been a

CAMPUS AWARDS

Students



Jordan Dodson



Chelsea Fleet



Meredith Holt

challenge, but it is one I gladly accept—not because I am capable of overcoming it but because it has taught me to trust in Jesus Christ and to be filled with His Spirit. It is truly a blessing.”

Because of her disease and disability, Chelsea chose to minor in special education and complete her Honors thesis on the topic of using theatre to teach social skills to children with autism.

Meredith Holt, a senior Buchanan Fellow and science/pre-medical major, won the Community Service Award for her outstanding contributions. Meredith’s many activities and involvements include Alpha Delta Pi president, Student Government Association committee head for Academic Affairs, Student Government Association Traffic Court justice, Phi Kappa Phi honor society, Order of Omega Greek honor

society, Epsilon Tau Rosemary Wampler Award recipient, Honors College Dean’s Advisory Council, and Junior Panhellenic Council treasurer.

Meredith said, “There is an inherent altruism and sense of dedication that should almost necessarily be present with the aspiration of becoming a physician, and both of these qualities have influenced my level of involvement at Middle Tennessee State University. Everything I have been involved with has prepared me for some aspect of my future career, and my activities have most certainly bettered me as an individual, as well.”

The President’s Award, the most prestigious award given to a student at MTSU, was awarded to **Rachel M. Lee** for her superior character and honor and for her achievements. Although

not a participant in the Honors College, she graduated summa cum laude this spring and was an Experiential Learning (EXL) Scholar. She majored in organizational communication and minored in leadership studies. She was executive vice president of the Student Government Association and a member of Omicron Delta Kappa leadership honor society in addition to many other leadership roles.

All members of the MTSU community are encouraged to nominate students who have demonstrated a commitment to excellence and meet the awards criteria. Nominations and applications are accepted each year in February. To nominate a student, submit the student’s name and contact information to Jackie. Victory@mtsu.edu in the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership. [U](#)

Spring 2013 Theses Defended



Kendra Campbell¹ *Political Science*
 "Medical Malpractice: A Comparative Analysis of German, English, and United States Practice" *Stephen Morris, advisor*

Anna Caruso² *Animal Science*
 "VEGF-A Concentrations During Uterine Contractions in the Postpartum Mare"
John Haffner, advisor

Evan Craig³ *Biology*
 "Mono- and Digalactosyldiacylglycerol Forms Found in *Euglena acus* and *Euglena gracilis* and Comparisons to Other Green Algae" *Jeffrey LeBlond, advisor*

Chelsea Fleet⁴ *Speech and Theatre*
 "The Use of Theatrical Interventions in Teaching Social Skills to Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in the Rutherford County and Murfreesboro City Public School Systems"
Jette Halladay, advisor

Celia Gendron⁵ *Anthropology*
 "College Students' Perception of Persons with Bipolar Disorder"
Gloria Hamilton, advisor

Alex Gibson⁶ *Mass Communication (Electronic Media Communication)*
 "Live Television Production: A Producer's Viewpoint" *Clare Bratton, advisor*

Annie Gintzig⁷ *Biology*
 "ICD-10: The Next Y2K for Healthcare?"
John DuBois, advisor

Constance Grieves⁸ *Political Science*
 "The Evolution of Criminal Due Process and the Eroded Rights of the Criminally Accused" *Amanda DiPaolo, advisor*

Eric Guyes⁹ *Physics*
 "Developing a Motion Analysis and Sense-and-Avoid MATLAB Program Using a Video Input" *Eric Klumpe, advisor*

Rachel Hart¹⁰ *Biology*
 "Analysis of Regulated Expression in Human LDLR and APOAI through Alternative mRNA Splicing"
Becky Seipelt-Thiemann, advisor

Kathryn Holden¹¹ *Psychology*
 "A Potential Generational Gap: Does Generation Affect Perspectives on Female Leadership?" *Deana Raffo, advisor*

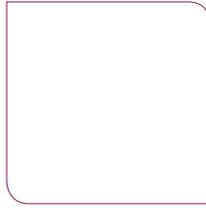
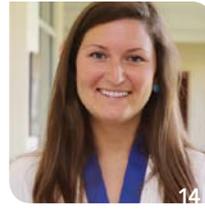
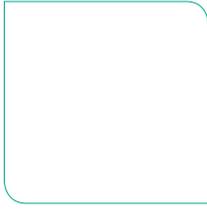
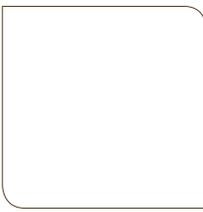
Pearl Howell¹² *History*
 "Well-Behaved Women: The Women of Middle Tennessee after the Civil War"
Lorne McWatters, advisor

David Hull¹³ *Music*
 "Composing a Programmatic Overture for Symphony Orchestra in Sonata Allegro Form" *Paul Osterfield, advisor*

Jennifer Isenberg¹⁴ *Global Studies*
 "Globalization and MTSU: A Legacy of Growth, Engagement, and Vision"
Doug Heffington, advisor

Tyler King¹⁵ *International Relations*
 "An Examination of the Rates of Democide Found in Various Forms of Authoritarian Regimes"
Karen Petersen, advisor

Cody Malone¹⁶ *Aerospace*
 "A Comparison of Single Pilot Efficiency in a Diversion Situation Using EFBs and Traditional Aeronautical Publications"
Wendy Beckman, advisor



Hannah Maulden¹⁷ *English*

"I've Made a Huge Mistake: Arrested Development as a Menippean Satire"

David Lavery, advisor

Christopher Merchant¹⁸ *Mass Communication (Journalism)*

"Pilgrim" *Allen Hibbard, advisor*

Alex Murphy¹⁹ *Mathematics*

"A Prospective Secondary Mathematics Teacher's Model for Scaffolding the Development of Metacognition through Reflective Analysis" *Diane Miller, advisor*

Kaitlyn Newman²⁰ *International Relations and Philosophy*

"Postmodern Conceptions of Political Authority: Reading Plato in Light of Nietzsche and Derrida"

Robb McDaniel, advisor

Shannon Pelynio²¹ *Interdisciplinary Studies*

"How Do Teachers' Perceptions Regarding Technology Affect How They Use Technology in the Classroom?"

Becky Alexander, advisor

Dylan Phillips²² *Recording Industry*

"Holy Verses: How Christians Use Hip Hop as Evangelism" *Kaylene Gebert, advisor*

Lauren Qualls²³ *Psychology*

"Spreading Activation in Persons At-Risk for Eating Disorders" *Paul Foster, advisor*

Chris Ranker²⁴ *Mass Communication*

"Sweet Jane: A Screenplay"

Robert Lawrence, advisor

Lauren Rigsby²⁵ *Biology and Physics*

"A New Transmission-Line Matrix Approach for Modeling Metamaterials"

William Robertson, advisor

Alissa Ruggle²⁶ *Science*

"Characterization of Structural Changes in Trypsin that Lead to Nonspecific Protein Cleavage" *Paul Kline, advisor*

Lema Sbenaty²⁷ *Biochemistry*

"Effects of Gossypol on Yeast Meiosis"

Andrew Burden, advisor

Madeleine Sheinfeld²⁸ *Anthropology*

"Child Labor in Brazil: The Moral Economy of Acai Production in the Brazilian Amazon" *Ida Leggett, advisor*

Will Shelton²⁹ *Biology*

"Synthesis of a Cyclopropyl Peptidomimetic as a Potential inhibitor of BACE1 Enzyme in Alzheimer's Disease"

Norma Dunlap, advisor

Trevor Sitrer³⁰ *Philosophy and English*

"The Sense in Nonsense: Paradoxes in Dogen's *Shobogenzo*" *Jack Purcell, advisor*

Stephanie Smith³¹ *Political Science*

"Classical Greek Philosophy and the Role of the Olympian" *Clyde Willis, advisor*

Leland Waite³² *Aerospace*

"The Feasibility of Using an Electronic Visual Checklist to Enhance Pilot Safety and Performance" *Paul Craig, advisor*

Kelsey Wells³³ *Mass Communication*

"Old Bunch of Keys: African Influences in Traditional Fiddle Tunes in Southern Appalachia" *Jette Halladay, advisor* 



Meet the 2013 BUCHANAN FELLOWS

This fall, 20 freshmen join the elite group of students accepted into the Buchanan Fellowship program, the highest academic honor bestowed upon entering freshmen at MTSU. The students represent two states, two foreign countries, and 10 cities in Tennessee and have an average score of 31 on the ACT and an average high school GPA of 3.9.



Dakota Wayne Beverly is from Athens, Tennessee, and attended McMinn County High School, where he earned Academic Honors Awards. He received first place in the Mu Alpha Theta MathFest and second place in the Roane State Academic Festival. The son of Angie and Michael Beverly, he is pursuing a major in computer information systems.

a delegate to Tennessee's Model United Nations Conference. Austin is the son of Kevin and Tammy Gober of Mt. Juliet.

Victoria Lynn Lay was a valedictorian at Blackman High School in Murfreesboro. She was a member of the National Honor Society and the Beta Club and participated in the Academic Excellence Program. She was an officer for the Blackman FFA chapter. Victoria has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity. She is majoring in biology and is the daughter of Harold "JJ" and Jeannette Lay.



Abigail Lorraine Carter is from Spring Hill, Tennessee, and is the daughter of Gary and Bobbie Jo Carter of Thompson's Station. She attended Independence High School, where she was an AP Scholar and was inducted into Mu Alpha Theta mathematics honor society. Abigail tutors nontraditional college students and ESL high school students in math. She is majoring in psychology.

Jordan Goen attended Institut Saint Boniface-Parnasse in Brussels, Belgium, where she lived with her family for two years. Jordan has volunteered at a low-income housing community in Smyrna and with Roma refugees in Brussels, delivering food and teaching English. She is majoring in English at MTSU. She is the daughter of Kyle and Amy Goen.

Darby Elizabeth McCarthy graduated from Siegel High School in Murfreesboro. She was a National Merit Scholar semifinalist, was selected for the Tennessee All State Women's Choir twice, and received the Laura Lee Salmon Award for promising young actors. She is pursuing a major in foreign languages (Spanish). She is the daughter of Patrick McCarthy and Nancy Aragon.



Foster Wayne Ferrell is from Rockvale, Tennessee, and was a valedictorian at Aaron Academy. He was a Commended Student in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship program. He has tutored children, worked with an inner-city ministry, and played guitar in his church's youth worship band. Foster is majoring in recording industry. He is the son of Mike and Sherrie Ferrell.

Claire Ellen Henderson is a graduate of Theresia-Gerhardinger-Gymnasium am Anger in Munich, Bavaria. She earned a bronze medal for skill in music theory and performance from the Bavarian Music Federation. Claire has volunteered with orphans in Moldova and helped children with learning disabilities in Munich. She is majoring in psychology. She is the daughter of Stephen and Robin Henderson of Old Hickory, Tennessee.

Collin Davis McDonald, a homeschooled student from Carthage, Tennessee, is the son of David and Lorrie McDonald and the brother of Connor McDonald (see below). He has earned his private pilot's certificate and is majoring in aerospace. Collin plays piano, guitar, tuba, violin, and trumpet. He has participated in mission trips to Germany and Papua New Guinea.



Austin Ryan Gober is from Old Hickory, Tennessee, and graduated from Mt. Juliet High School, where he was elected student body president and served as Young Republicans vice president. He was also selected as

Kaleb Stephen King graduated from St. Louis University High School in St. Louis, Missouri, receiving First Honors each year. He was appointed an SLUH Ambassador and was named to the all-conference baseball team. He has also participated in the Challenger Baseball program, serving the physically and mentally handicapped. Kaleb is the son of Greg and Jill King of St. Louis.

Connor David McDonald, a homeschooled student from Carthage, Tennessee, plays piano, banjo, guitar, and saxophone. He





The Buchanan Fellowship is named in honor of Dr. James M. Buchanan, an MTSU alumnus and Nobel Prize winner. The newest Buchanan Fellows are listed below with representative accomplishments.

has worked with Representative Terri Lynn Weaver and is studying political science with a pre-law concentration. He has participated in a mission trip to Papua New Guinea and is the son of David and Lorrie McDonald of Carthage and the brother of Collin McDonald (see above).

Katiana Nicole Nicholson graduated from Siegel High School in Murfreesboro. She attended Governor's School for the Humanities and Governor's School for the Arts for instrumental music performance. She served as drum major and was selected for All-Midstate Gold Band. Katiana is pursuing a major in music. She is the daughter of Milton and Hizuru Nicholson.

Nausheen Qureshi is a graduate of Central Magnet School in Murfreesboro, where she earned the Golden "C" Award and the President's Academic Achievement Award. She received a letter of commendation from the National Merit Scholarship program. Nausheen, who served as president of Health Occupation Students of America, is majoring in science (pre-medical). She is the daughter of Wasimuddin and Asma Qureshi.

Jessica Marie Shotwell is from Bartlett, Tennessee, and graduated from White Station High School. She won the Dr. E. D. Davidson Knoxville Teen Step Show Individual Academic Achievement Award. She was a member of the

National Spanish Honor Society and recipient of the Youth United Way's Unsung Hero Award. Jessica's major is psychology. She is the daughter of Christina Williamson and Tracey Shotwell.

Dylan Lane Smith graduated from Sikeston High School in Sikeston, Missouri, where he was a member of the National Honor Society. He served as president of Missouri 4-H Rodeo for four years and is a 10th Tennessee Dismounted Cavalry Civil War reenactor. Dylan is pursuing a major in aerospace. He is the son of Mark and Ronda Smith of Sikeston.

Sydney Lyn Smith, salutatorian of Brighton High School in Brighton, Tennessee, was chosen *Commercial Appeal* Academic All-Star in English and Literature and received numerous academic awards during high school. She was named a Tennessee Scholar and an ACT All Star. Sydney is majoring in science (pre-medical). She is the daughter of Chad and April Smith of Covington, Tennessee.

Darcy Vincent Tabotabo was born in the Philippines and is a graduate of Cumberland Gap High School in Cumberland Gap, Tennessee, where he was a member of the Beta Club and the Key Club. A science major who plans to go to medical school, Darcy attended the Governor's School for Engineering and the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine. He is the son of Ann Caudill and Medardo Tabotabo.

Madison M. Tracy is from Murfreesboro, where she attended Central Magnet School where she served as student body president and was a valedictorian. She served as a Girls State delegate and was named to the All-State Chorus. Madison has volunteered with the Arthritis Foundation and A Soldier's Child Birthday Foundation. She is the daughter of Jim and Raena Tracy of Murfreesboro.

Alden Paul Wakefield attended Blackman High School in Murfreesboro. He attended Governor's School for the Arts and served as trombone section leader of the school band. He received the Aspiring Musician Award and was accepted into midstate jazz and concert gold and silver bands. He is pursuing a major in accounting. He is the son of Jeff and Suzanne Wakefield.

Courtney Alison Wright is from Christiana, Tennessee, and was a valedictorian at Riverdale High School, earning Academic Achievement Awards and graduating with honors. Courtney, whose major is mathematics, earned the AP Physics Award and the Mayo Gentry Award for outstanding achievement in science. She served as adjudicator assistant for the Tennessee Division I State Marching Band. She is the daughter of David and Marlene Wright of Christiana. 

Photos follow story listing beginning at top left.



Thirty-four Students Complete Institute of Leadership Excellence 2013



Challenging, thought provoking, life changing, phenomenal, and meaningful are among the adjectives students used to describe Institute for Leadership Excellence (ILE) 2013.

Thirty-four students from 25 majors explored topics such as the nature of leadership and modeling leadership during ILE in May. A heavily discussion-based interdisciplinary course, ILE is led by management professors David Foote and Earl Thomas. ILE has been offered since 2006 and has involved nearly 200 students from over 50 major areas of study.

The for-credit course offers much more than intensive study in leadership. One 2013 student commented, "I've learned so much, and I can't believe I was able to make close friends in just one week. I think this style of teaching should be used more often in other university settings." Another said, "I got a lot of wisdom from this class—not just knowledge."

ILE is a permission-only course, and application for admission is required. To be eligible, students must have completed a minimum of 45 credit hours and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher or have been nominated by a faculty or staff member or ILE alum.

Students experience team-building activities, talks from guest speakers, case studies, leadership exercises, and group presentations. One 2013 participant said, "This week has been so put together. The class, content, lunches, support, peers, professors, and much more exceeded my expectation of ILE. I will truly cherish this week!" Another said, "It has been one of the most beneficial courses I have taken during my time here at MTSU."

The class met from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and included lunch with a speaker each day. This year's speakers included James Crumlin Jr. of Bone McAllester Norton PLLC; Deborah Thompson, vice president, State Farm Insurance; Steve Estes, chair, MTSU Department of Health and Human Performance; Ralph Hillman, developer of the BREATHE system, a technique designed to help teachers control classroom violence; Christina Allen, diversity advocate and entrepreneur; Brad Bartel, MTSU provost; Deana Raffo, assistant professor of management and advisor for MTSU's Leadership Studies minor; Ken Weaver, president, U.S. and Canada Commercial Tire Sales Division, Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, and executive vice president, Bridgestone Americas Inc.; and Don Klein, CEO, Greater Nashville Association of Realtors.

ILE is grateful to financial sponsors **Financial Services & Solutions Inc.** and **Greater Nashville Association of Realtors** for their generous support in helping make this year's program possible. [H](#)

Good Things Come in Threes

by Samantha Farish | *Samantha is a senior majoring in political science (pre-law) and psychology.*

They say good things come in threes. Well, I don't know who "they" are, but I think they might be on to something.

In spring 2012, I had one of the most exciting weeks of my life. First, I was offered a summer job teaching mock trial to high school students in California on Stanford's campus. That weekend, my mock trial team placed third in our division at the National Championship Tournament. The next Tuesday morning I strutted into the Honors College Building to show off our new, shiny trophy to Dean Vile not realizing that good thing number three was waiting in his office. I was accepted as a fellow for the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress (CSPC).

On its website, CSPC says it is "a unique, nonpartisan, nonprofit policy and education organization that applies strategic thinking and the leadership lessons of history to critical national challenges and opportunities." Their Presidential Fellows Program is an arm of the organization geared toward offering undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to study the office of the U.S. Presidency and Congress for a year.

The program requires fellows to attend a three-day conference in Washington, D.C., in the fall and again in the spring to discuss issues with other fellows; special guest scholars; government officials; and business, media, public policy, and military leaders. This conference also gives fellows an arena in which to discuss the 30-page paper each is required to write. Papers for the fellowship must be centered on either the presidency or Congress.

My paper was "The Presidential Package Deal: Spouses of Candidates Now Included!" I focused on the growing role that spouses of presidential candidates are taking. To examine this, I looked at the national nominating conventions. Starting in 1996 with Elizabeth Dole, every party convention has featured a speech from the spouse. In the 2012 election, the spouses were both keynote speakers.

The takeaway from my paper was that campaign managers should use spouses as extensions of the candidates by supplementing any areas that are lacking or furthering the dialogue about issues the candidate finds important. Ann Romney helped



her husband by humanizing him, and Laura Bush used her experience as a teacher to help further her husband's education discussion.

While writing the paper was a great experience during the fellowship, the conference was where the magic happened. In the fall, we had the opportunity to meet former Supreme Court justice Sandra Day O'Connor and numerous distinguished speakers. During the spring conference, we met senators Bob Corker (R-TN) and Mark Warner (D-NJ) during CSPC's 46th Annual Awards dinner, where they were recognized for their efforts toward bipartisanship. This opportunity was by far one of the most amazing experiences of my undergraduate years.

I will always be grateful to MTSU alumnus Steve Smith and to the Dorothy Cate and Thomas F. Frist Foundation, from which he was able to obtain financial support for this program. [H](#)



Mary Beth Canterbury received a passport this spring with the help of MTSU's Passport Assistance Scholarship Day, cosponsored by the Education Abroad Office and the Honors College.

Pearl Howell, right, waits as her passport photos are prepared.





ART



DANCE



MUSIC



THEATRE

Come enjoy more than **200** performances each year; most of which are **free**.

Ascend
Federal Credit Union
PROUDLY PRESENTS

MTSU *Arts*
ART • DANCE • MUSIC • THEATRE

For more information please visit www.mtsuarts.com or email mtsuararts@mtsu.edu.

Phi Kappa Phi Welcomes Honors Students, Faculty

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi initiated 10 Honors students Thursday, April 11, and named five members of the Honors faculty as Influential Faculty designated by the initiates.

Honors Phi Kappa Phi initiates were **Kelsi E. Carter** (journalism), **Jessie L. Garrett** (recording industry), **Lauren Heusinkveld** (biology), **Michelle C. Katz** (science), **Joseph R. Mosqueda** (biology), **Cheyenne Plott** (foreign languages and organizational communication), **Erin M. Potter** (English), **Amy A. Ridings** (biology), **Joanne S. Tan** (biology), and **Samantha Tankersley** (accounting).

Honors faculty members **Dwight Brooks** (School of Journalism), **Larry Burris** (School of Journalism), **Meredith Dye** (Department of Sociology and Anthropology), **Wendell Rawls** (School of Journalism) and **Wayne Rosing** (Department of Biology) were recognized as Influential Faculty.

Gina K. Logue, producer and media representative in the Office of News and Media Relations, is president of the MTSU chapter of Phi Kappa Phi. Dean **John R. Vile** is fellowship coordinator and treasurer, interim associate dean **Philip Phillips** is secretary, and **Kathy Davis**, Honors College executive aide, is chapter coordinator.

Phi Kappa Phi encourages and recognizes superior scholarship in all academic disciplines. [H](#)

National Merit Scholarship Initiated

In an effort to increase recruitment of outstanding students, the Honors College has initiated a scholarship for incoming high school students who are finalists and semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship competition.

This year, the scholarship was awarded to two students: **Nathaniel J. Sherman** and **Mika K. Giedt**. Sherman, from Murfreesboro, plans to major in English with an emphasis in writing. Giedt is from Franklin and plans to major in nursing. **Darby E. McCarthy**, from Murfreesboro, who had already accepted the prestigious Buchanan Fellowship and plans to major in foreign languages with an emphasis on Spanish, is a semifinalist award winner.

Other incoming Buchanan Fellows who received National Merit letters of commendation were **Foster Ferrell** and **Nausheen Qureshi**. [H](#)



Mika K. Giedt

Senior Honors student Jordan Dodson, right, and Paige Stubbs discuss their research with state senator Jim Tracy (left photo) and Dr. Adrienne Friedli (right) at Posters at the Capitol in Nashville February 13.



Honors Students Earn Lower-Division Certificates

In January, Honors College executive secretary Karen Demonbreun announced that 14 students completed 20 or more Honors hours and received lower-division certificates of achievement last fall.

From the College of Liberal Arts, students reaching the 20-hour milestone were political science major **Davis Thompson**, a junior, and **Kelsey Rogers**, a senior art education and English double major.

Four students from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences earned certificates: computer science major

Pedro Reyes, a junior; physics major **William Wright**, a senior; forensic science major **Justin Lowe**, a junior; and engineering technology major **Stephen Falkenberry**, a senior.

From the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, information systems major **Jacob Burlington**, a junior, and **Nicholas Ferran**, a junior finance major, received certificates.

Five students from the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences earned certificates: industrial/organizational psychology majors **Biven Alexander**, a senior, and **Justin**

Hudson, a junior; **Matana Clark**, a junior nursing major; and psychology majors **Michael Baker**, a junior, and **Lauren Qualls**, a senior.

Elizabeth (Rhi) Brown, a senior interdisciplinary studies major from the College of Education, also reached the 20-hour milestone.

Dr. John Vile said that students who complete the lower-division certificates only need 11 additional hours (including thesis-related classes) to graduate with an Honors degree. 



Students in Mary Hoffschwelle's Honors Tennessee History class who worked with archivist Donna Baker this spring to create new content for the Gore Center's new channel on Historypin show the results to director Jim Williams, left, Liberal Arts dean Mark Byrnes, and Dr. Jan Leone. Nancy Burton, at right, daughter of former MTSU president Q.M. Smith, was a guest at the class demonstration.



Ben Conrad



Emma Fredrick



Lauren Rigsby



Stephanie S. Smith

Students Receive Awards for Excelling on General Education Test

The Honors College recognized recent graduates **Ben Conrad** and **Emma Fredrick** for earning the highest scores among all Honors students on the fall 2012 General Education Test; **Lauren Rigsby** and **Stephanie S. Smith** received the highest scores on the spring 2013 test. Individual awards in the form of engraved plaques were presented to the students by deans Vile and Phillips.

Ben Conrad, a December 2012 graduate, majored in psychology with a pre-grad school concentration and minors in neuroscience and philosophy. He graduated magna cum laude with distinction from the University Honors College. He plans to study cognitive neuroscience and psychology in graduate school.

Emma Fredrick, also a psychology major with a pre-grad school concentration, minored in French. She graduated summa cum laude with distinction from the Honors College. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in

experimental psychology with a focus in social psychology at East Tennessee State University.

Buchanan Fellow Lauren Rigsby was a physics major with a concentration in professional physics and minors in biology, chemistry, and mathematics. She graduated magna cum laude with distinction from the Honors College. She is pursuing a professional doctorate in medical physics at Vanderbilt School of Medicine.

Political science major Stephanie S. Smith had a concentration in pre-law and a writing minor. She graduated summa cum laude with distinction from the Honors College. She is attending the University of Alabama School of Law.

All undergraduate students must take a general education exam the semester they graduate. MTSU's exam, the California Critical Thinking Skills Test, reflects students' basic knowledge of the general education core courses required for all under-

graduates and is designed to give students a solid foundation for acquiring higher-level knowledge in their chosen fields of study. The Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Planning, and Research (IEPR) administers the exam.

Exam results help the University determine the effectiveness of general education courses and make changes where needed. Good test results also provide proof to the general public that the University is achieving its goals.

Although a specific score on the general education test is not required in order to graduate, good scores reflect on the University as a whole and ultimately affect the value of degrees. Also, the University can earn more than \$500,000 annually from the state of Tennessee if students do well on the general education exam. These funds help the University offer students the best education at the lowest possible cost. [U](#)

OΔK Celebrates Three Years at MTSU

MTSU's circle of Omicron Delta Kappa (OΔK) celebrated the third anniversary of its chartering with a semiannual initiation ceremony in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building amphitheater April 26.

Mark Byrnes, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and Deana Raffo, assistant professor of management, joined twelve graduate and undergraduate students as new members of the national leadership honor society. Student initiates were Emilie Aslinger (history and global studies), Courtney Barnicoat (sociology), Brett Bornhoft (aerospace), Kelsi Carter (mass communication), Joan Crenshaw (anthropology and French), Natasha Gerstenschlager (accounting), Jonathan Graham (sociology), Rikki Grieves (psychology), Reshma Pudota (mass communication), Alissa Ruggle (pre-med and Spanish), Brittany Smith (mathematics), and Shavangi Sutaria (public relations and global studies). Sophomores Joanne Tan (biology) and Kevana West were introduced as circle squires.

Dean John R. Vile welcomed participants and gave a brief history of the organization. Raffo was the speaker, and Philip E. Phillips, interim associate dean, presented new initiates. At the close of the ceremony, Vile recognized retiring Honors College event coordinator Georgia Dennis for over 35 years of service to the University and three years as OΔK secretary.

Leland Waite and Matthew Hibdon, both current graduate students, are circle president and vice president/public liaison, respectively.

Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society, was founded December 3, 1914, at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. OΔK was the first college honor society of national scope to give recognition and honor for meritorious leadership and service in extracurricular activities and to encourage development of general campus citizenship.

The OΔK circle of MTSU has initiated 130 leaders from across campus and the community in its three years. The organization accepts applications from juniors, seniors, and graduate students who maintain a 3.5 GPA and who are involved in leadership and service roles on and off campus.

The society recognizes leadership in five areas: scholarship; athletics; campus/community service, social/religious activities, and campus government; journalism, speech, and the mass media; and creative and performing arts. [H](#)



From top: Deana Raffo speaks to new OΔK initiates during the spring ceremony.

Circle president Leland Waite congratulates new initiate Dean Mark Byrnes.

Dean Vile, OΔK faculty advisor, recognizes Georgia Dennis for her service as circle secretary.

Left: Campus OΔK leaders and new initiates participating in the spring ceremony were (front, L-R) John Vile, Natasha Gerstenschlager, Joanne Tan, Shavangi Sutaria, Jonathan Graham, Emilie Aslinger, Rikki Grieves, Alissa Ruggle, Kelsi Carter, Philip Phillips, (back) Matthew Hibdon, Courtney Barnicoat, Reshma Pudota, Joan Crenshaw, Brittany Smith, Brett Bornhoft, Deana Raffo, Mark Byrnes, and Leland Waite.



Honors College Hosts OΔK Drive-in Meeting

Representatives from several area universities gathered at the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building February 23 for a regional Omicron Delta Kappa (OΔK) Drive-in Meeting. The event was one of ten meetings nationwide sponsored by OΔK National Headquarters during the spring semester.

President Sidney A. McPhee and Provost Brad Bartel welcomed participants from Austin Peay State University, MTSU, Murray State University, and Samford University. Dr. McPhee is a charter member of MTSU's Omicron Delta Kappa circle, and Dr. Bartel was initiated in 2011.

Kelly Jezierski and Betsy Bugg Holloway welcomed attendees on behalf of OΔK. Jezierski was the 2011–2013 OΔK Fellow, and Dr. Holloway is an OΔK Foundation Trustee and serves on the board of directors as immediate past president. Kaleigh Warwick from the Samford University circle and a contributor to the OΔK publication *The Circle* also represented the national organization.

After introductions and official greetings, roundtable discussions were held about membership and circle rituals. Event organizers and national leaders guided two discussion groups. Holloway and Matthew Hibdon, National Advisory Council member, led one group. MTSU circle president Leland Waite and OΔK Foundation trustee Michael Giles Jr. led the second group, which identified best practices.

In the afternoon, Philip Phillips, MTSU OΔK faculty secretary, and other faculty officers discussed roles as local circle administrators, and Jezierski led a discussion of OΔK hot topics such as community service, alumni engagement, and upcoming national opportunities.

All participants joined a StrengthsQuest session sponsored by Gallup specifically for OΔK Drive-in Meetings. Valerie L. Holmes from Indiana State University, an OΔK member and StrengthsQuest educator, guided this leadership initiative.

During the closing session, Hibdon asked all attendees to sign the MTSU circle's record book in recognition of this significant event in the circle's history. Jezierski closed out the day with wishes for safe travel and an announcement about the Omicron Delta Kappa Centennial Celebration and National Convention in June 2014.

Former OΔK faculty secretary Georgia Dennis said, "It was a successful event and an honor for our circle to have hosted the meeting. Attendees saw the Honors College's partnership and sponsoring of our OΔK circle as an admirable concept, and attendees left with new ideas for developing support with their honors programs for their own circles." [H](#)

From top: Dr. McPhee addresses participants.

Dr. Bartel speaks to regional delegates.

Kelly Jezierski, OΔK Fellow, welcomes attendees.

Left: Representatives of OΔK and MTSU at the February Drive-In Meeting were, from left, Kelly Jezierski, Matthew Hibdon, Brad Bartel, Betsy Bugg Holloway, Sidney A. McPhee, Philip Phillips, Leland Waite, and Michael Giles Jr.



Collage Strikes National Gold Again

by Randy Weiler

MTSU's *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression* continues to excel in comparison with peer publications in national competitions.

In March, *Collage* won a Collegiate Gold Crown Award from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association for the second straight year, which is the journal's third major award in the past three years, according to Dean John Vile.

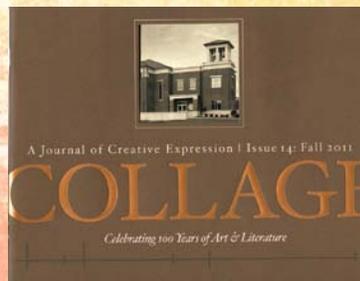
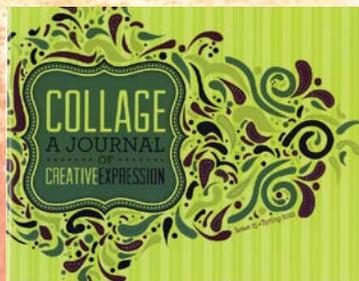
Edmund J. Sullivan, executive director of the association, announced the 2013 Collegiate Crown Award winners at the College Media Convention in New York City.

"In the years that *Collage* has been housed in the Honors College, it consistently has won awards, but the last three have been especially special," Vile said. "*Collage* is a great example of bright students working under the coordination of a dedicated staff member [Marsha Powers] and producing a publication in which the entire university community can take pride."

"Winning Crown Awards three years in a row, one silver and two gold, is a high honor and a testimony to the quality of our students," Powers said, mentioning



Designer Courtney Hunter, left; Marsha Powers, adviser, and Jennifer Johnson, editor-in-chief of award-winning issues of *Collage*



senior Courtney Hunter and alumna Jennifer Johnson, who "worked tirelessly to produce quality journals both semesters. Their leadership, the input of our committed staff and the talent of MTSU's student contributors were a winning combination."

Hunter and Johnson discussed their *Collage* experiences and the awards.

"I'm proud of the staff and submitters who contributed to the fall 2011 and spring 2012 issues," said Hunter, an art major, the 2012–2013 editor-in-chief, and designer of the award-winning issues.

"They gave me ample creative content to design two impressive journals," Hunter added. "Designing these issues was an invaluable experience that allowed me to explore and develop my style on a platform where my growth would be recognized. I am grateful to have had the opportunity."

"I was delighted to learn that *Collage* was awarded a Gold Crown Award for the fall 2011 and spring 2012 editions," said Johnson, an Honors College graduate who served as editor-in-chief of the publica-

tions. "*Collage* holds a very dear place in my heart, perhaps because of the community and collaboration of which it is a product. It is an honor to have been a part of this publication and to have contributed to the Gold Crown magazines."

Johnson recently was accepted into the graduate counseling program at Peabody College of Education and Human Development at Vanderbilt University.

In the recent contest, 1,344 digital, print, and hybrid magazines, newspapers, and yearbooks published during the 2011–12 academic year

continued on page 26

Creative Expression Earns Awards

Four students won spring 2013 Collage Creative Expression Awards. **Chelsea Harmon** and **Krysta Lee Frost** won Martha Hixon Creative Expression Awards for best literature submissions. **Starling Sensing** and **Amber Lelli** won Lon Nuell Creative Expression Awards for best visual submissions.

Frost, a freshman English major with a concentration in writing, won the Hixon Award for her poem "Why I Write."

Harmon, a freshman Buchanan Fellow, won an award for her story "Fine." She is majoring in chemistry.

Sensing, a senior majoring in mass communication with a concentration in photography, won the Nuell Award for her photograph *Legs in Paradise*.

Lelli, a sophomore art major with a concentration in studio art, won the Nuell Award for her sculpture *We Change with the Passing of Every Sun*.

Each semester the *Collage* staff participates in a blind-grading process to choose approximately 60 pieces for publication from 250 to 300 submissions. The Collage Faculty Advisory Board gives awards to outstanding submissions of prose, poetry, art, and photography. [H](#)



Krysta Lee Frost



Chelsea Harmon



Starling Sensing



Amber Lelli

Contributors to the fall 2012 and spring 2013 issues of *Collage* celebrate the journal's second consecutive Gold Crown Award at an April 25 recognition ceremony and reception.





Spring *Collage* staff members included (front, L-R) Annise Blanchard, Chloe Madigan, Erin Potter, Courtney Hunter, Katie Parker, Caitlin Noonan, Emily Randoll, Kelsi Carter, Fernando Ramos-Cintrón, Brianna Diffenderfer, Shelby Flatt, (back) Biven Alexander, Alexa Games, Tatiana Silvas, Emily Brown, Della Wheeler, Sheila Smotherman, and Davion Baxter. Not pictured: Bethany Wilson, Davis Thompson, and Melody Vaughan.

Collage Strikes National Gold Again

continued from page 24

were eligible for judging in the Crown Awards program, Powers said. Only three college print magazines received Gold Crown Awards, and five earned Silver Crown Awards. All were judged Dec. 8–10, 2012, at Columbia University.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of *Collage*, which began in 1968. It has been sponsored by the Honors College since 2004.

Powers oversees student editors, who review visual submissions that

include photographs and works of art and literary selections that include prose, poetry, short plays, and song lyrics from MTSU students. She said *Collage* is very selective, typically choosing only 50 to 60 out of about 250 submissions per issue. Nashville-based Franklin Graphics prints the magazine.

For the past two years, alumnus Paul Martin Jr., the first graduate from the Honors College, has made a special contribution to support

Collage and other Honors publications. He gave a 2012–2013 donation in honor of President Sidney A. McPhee for his continuing dedication to the Honors College and for his unwavering commitment to academic excellence.

Alumnus Bruce C. Huskey also supported the publications with a special gift. [H](#)

A Week with **Laura van den Berg**

by Kyle McCarthy | Kyle, an English major with a minor in film studies, participated in the 2013 Visiting Artist's Seminar, "The Blazing Thing: Magical Realism and the Short Story."



During my week in spring 2013 with visiting artist Laura van den Berg and my fellow workshop writers, I discovered something about myself: I have some untapped potential that needs a swift kick in the butt to get started on my ideas for stories with characters that mean something.

Before the workshop, I was complacent about my plan to wait until after finishing my university work to focus my time and energy more directly on writing. But there loomed over me an eagerness and impatience that bit the back of my neck like a mosquito during the hot months of July. It irritated me that I had not put forth any effort to actually *finish* a work.

After a discussion with my supportive girlfriend and a friend in the class, I finally put myself out there—out there being the class registration office. I had finally done it.

Never once had the opportunity arisen, either that or I had never looked around for a chance. The latter is probably truer than the former, and for that I am thankful. It would be a dull world if opportunities did not exist.

That week taught me there is more to writing than just solitary confinement in a room with nothing but paper, pens, and a light. Writing is a social gathering in which one can present an idea to folks who have some of the same aspirations in mind.

Class members were able to bounce ideas and comments off one another about how one character of a story needed refinement and how lines could be omitted. What I learned was structure, which I had never before conceived of as a plausible idea.

Before the workshop, I thought structure was something that an author word-vomited onto a page. But it is so much more than writing the most words or smartest sounding words in a book; it is about writing something of quality, something wholly your own from which anyone can take something. Whether it is a tear, laugh, grunt, smirk, frown, scowl, or grumble, writing is a social experience; we all feel something.

In order to cultivate my writing, I had to first exercise diligence, patience, and finally, panic. Artists, in general, need a fire lit under them every so often. Why put off art? Expression that has waited months, perhaps years, to show itself is only going to fade if the artist does not nourish and love that emotion, idea, notion.

I've learned much from that week with Laura and will continue to learn from others who are equally talented, for as long as pen and paper or a computer with keys to click-clack are available, I will continue writing. [H](#)

The Spring 2014 Visiting Artist's Seminar: Playwriting

Playwrights Cory Hinkle and Victoria Stewart will teach a weeklong seminar in playwriting in the spring. Hinkle, who earned his M.F.A. in playwriting from Brown University, and Stewart, who graduated from the Playwrights Workshop at the University of Iowa, are members of the Workhaus Collective in Minneapolis. They have won many awards, and their work has been performed throughout the United States.

The workshop-style class is driven by the belief that good writing is founded on a combination of practice, imagination, and experimentation. It is intended for writers who want an active, hands-on, multifaceted approach to writing for the stage. The playwrights will begin each class day by reading plays aloud together and discussing techniques to borrow and adapt. Every day will include in-class writing exercises based on the reading. By the end of the week, students will have produced at least one scene suitable for a public reading.

The spring 2014 Visiting Artist's Seminar (UH 3200) will meet every afternoon Monday through Friday from 3:00 to 5:40. Dates will be announced this fall. The class is open to students from all majors who have earned GPAs of 3.25 or higher. Registration is through Pipeline. Students who have class conflicts should contact their professors, get written permission to miss classes, and then forward that permission, along with their M-numbers and requests to Kathy Davis, executive aide in the University Honors College, at Kathy.Davis@mtsu.edu.

The course will include two public events: an afternoon of staged readings by the visiting artists and an afternoon of staged readings by the students.

The Visiting Artist's Seminar, an interdisciplinary Honors course taught by a professional artist, has been offered ten times so far and has included topics such as songwriting, filmmaking, papermaking, poetry writing, and performance art. While artists frequently visit campus to speak, this Seminar couples inspirational experience with a hands-on component that lasts five days and requires intensive participation. Students earn one credit hour, and grading is pass/fail.

Cory Hinkle and Victoria Stewart's visit is made possible by the generosity of the Distinguished Lecture Fund, the Virginia Peck Trust Fund, the University Honors College, and the English Department.

For more information, contact Claudia Barnett, professor of English and coordinator of the Visiting Artist's Seminar, at Claudia.Barnett@mtsu.edu or (615) 898-2887. [H](#)

Conversation with Victoria Stewart and Cory Hinkle

TORY AND CORY:

We are teaching a playwriting class in the spring using scenes from established playwrights to guide us into exercises to work on specific techniques. We have very different perspectives and experiences in theater so we thought if we interviewed each other, you could get to know us more. We're looking forward to being at MTSU in 2014.

TORY:

So, we came to playwriting from very different roads. I was a professional stage manager, supervising scene changes and making props lists before I realized I wanted to be a more creative part of the process. What was your journey?

CORY:

I came from an acting background, but I was always thinking like a writer. Even as an actor, I always saw the bigger picture. Then after college I was most excited about new plays, maybe because my undergraduate acting program was so focused on the classics. But by the time I finished school I was a little sick of the canon of American classic plays and wanted to explore what new things were happening in the theater.

TORY:

How do you think your acting background influenced your writing?

CORY:

My plays are character driven. I don't mean they're like Chekhov or Tennessee Williams. They can often be formally and structurally inventive, even sometimes strange, but I am always exploring the psychology of people, how we behave, why we do what we do. It's the same reason I was attracted to acting. I wanted to figure out what makes people tick, why we can be so awesome and so shitty all at the same time. How do you think your background influenced your writing?

**TORY:**

One of the themes that I return to again and again is the thin line between art and reality. When does art mirror reality? When does reality mirror art? I spent so much time watching actors create roles and then have those characters influence their real lives. Also, I've been told that, unlike other playwrights, I'm very mellow in rehearsal, which is largely due to my understanding of process thanks to years in rehearsal rooms watching awkward first read-throughs moving into nuanced and complex productions. What's a theme you return to over and over again?

CORY:

I was thinking about this recently, and I often deal with a very personal struggle (one that's often internal) set against the backdrop of a struggle in the greater world. I'm really interested in how our everyday lives get played out in larger arenas or vice versa. The larger world moves and changes according to the habits and rituals of millions of individuals—that may seem obvious, but it gives me hope that the things each of us do and experience every day actually matter in the larger picture. You have a series of plays that a friend of yours refers to as "The Bitch Trilogy." What's that all about?

TORY:

I have three plays with strong, difficult female characters in the

lead: Live Girls, Hardball, and Rich Girl. All of them have similar structures: direct address where the character shows a certain aspect of herself to the audience, and then we see how it plays out in her personal life. And they're all very loosely based on real performers: Anna Deavere Smith, Ann Coulter, and Suze Orman.

CORY:

Why do you feel like you're drawn to "bitches"—your term, not mine.

TORY:

My favorite characters in the classical repertory are the bad guys—Richard III, Iago, everybody in Jacobean revenge tragedies. Their drives are so strong, and often they have a great sense of humor while they are doing these bad things. But there aren't enough women! So I decided to write them. Although my characters are actually very conflicted about their actions, they have second thoughts.

CORY:

Maybe you should just write the female Iago and let 'er rip!

TORY:

I should! We've done a lot of collaborative work together but you've done more ensemble-driven work than I have. What do you like about that kind of work?

CORY:

I find it freeing, actually. I like writing my own plays, but working with an ensemble has some of its own unique positive aspects. It's a little less lonely, and you don't have to dream up an entire world in your head all by yourself—you can dream it up together. Also, the process always surprises me, and I write something unlike anything I've ever written. I think because I'm influenced and changed by the other voices in the room.

TORY:

As you know, collaborative work kind of drives me crazy. But in the case of Clandestino, our play about immigration in the Midwest, I found it really rewarding. What's your most recent project about? You had a play in New York this summer, right?

CORY:

I wrote a play called *A Disappearance in Two Parts* about a writer who is obsessed with obscure history. He is trying to write a novel, but he ends up very interested in writing about the history of his own family. I am also, for the first time ever, going to perform in one of my own plays, so I am going to play the writer. It should be very interesting to develop a play from the inside like that.

TORY:

See, it all comes back to your acting roots! 



Physics and Astronomy professor Eric Klumpe gives a "mad science" demonstration



Dean John Vile and Sam Farish, Davis Thompson, Margaret Noah, and Carey Buchanan present a mock trial demonstration

President's Day Open House Draws Record Crowd

by Randy Weiler

From as far away as Missouri and New York City, a record number of people attended the fourth annual University Honors College President's Day Open House on Feb. 18.

The open house, which has become a campus tradition, allows prospective students to get a glimpse of MTSU on a day when many are out for a school holiday. A record 375 students and family members attended. Dean John Vile and Laura Clippard, undergraduate fellowships coordinator and the event organizer, said they were extremely pleased with the turnout.

For Kaleb King, who signed to play baseball for the Blue Raiders and who is a 2013–14 Buchanan Fellow, the trip was his third visit to campus.

"I found the Honors College through Coach [Jim] McGuire when I came for a visit," said King, a pitcher and outfielder for St. Louis University High.

He called the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building "a really nice building. I like how the Honors College classes are small." King, who was visiting with his father, Greg, said he is still undecided on a major.

Shelley Cobb of Antioch, Tenn. and a senior at Hume-Fogg in Nashville, is also a 2013–14 Buchanan Fellow. She plans to major in biology with a pre-med track. "This has been really good," she said. "I went to the Buchanan breakfast, which was real personalized. I talked to a current Buchanan Fellow."

Cobb, who was visiting with her parents, 1984 MTSU alumni Carol and Gregory Cobb, said the visit allowed her "to get to know a lot about the school I didn't know," which included learning more about the Buchanan Fellowship and the advantages of the Honors College and being able to study abroad.

Aiman Farooqui, a senior at Cambridge High School in Milton, Ga., said he plans to study engineering technology with a mechanical engineering concentration. He and his mother, Iffat, attended the open house and were awaiting his father's arrival. Since his father, Hassan Farooqui, has taken a job in Franklin, Aiman said he is "very likely to come here. I find the



Honors student Leland Waite, right, leads a tour of the Martin Honors Building



Dean John R. Vile welcomes guests to the President's Day Open House



Bonnie McCarty, right, assistant director of scholarships, explains scholarship requirements to open house guests.

school very interesting. It has what I need, plus it is close to where my dad works."

Knoxville Catholic junior Bailey Poteet, who said she plans to be a psychology major, made MTSU her first college visit with her parents, Rhae Nell and Steve Poteet. "I like it," she said. "I like how there's people you can talk to in the departments."

Eight other students visited through New York City-based group called Shiloh, a not-for-profit Christian organization that helps at-risk youth.

Clippard said the President's Day schedule provided a mix of information about MTSU, educational events, and fun activities.

Guests had lunch and toured campus housing, the College of Mass Communication, the Department of Aerospace's Air Traffic Control Training and Research Facility, and the School of Nursing.

Other open-house activities included a "mad science" event, a mock trial demonstration, and tours of the Martin Honors Building. [H](#)

Unexpected Beauty and Vibrancy Found in Rwanda

by Kaity Newman | Kaity is a 2013 Honors graduate with majors in international relations and philosophy.

I always planned to study abroad, but I never thought I would go to Rwanda, one of the tiniest countries in east Africa. Rwanda is well known for one thing: the genocide of 1994. So it was difficult to explain my decision to study abroad there to my family and friends. Even today, I find it hard to explain exactly why I chose Rwanda when I had always planned to study in France.

As a freshman, I saw a documentary on the Rwandan genocide in my introductory political science course, and I couldn't get Rwanda out of my head. At first, I felt discouraged when I started to look for study abroad programs because MTSU does not offer any in Rwanda. I stumbled upon the School for International Training (SIT) through a Google search and immediately knew that I wanted to go to Rwanda through its program.

SIT is an independently accredited institution based in the U.S. that offers unusual study abroad programs around the world, including one semester-length program in Rwanda. The theme of my program was post-genocide restoration and peace building; it was based in Kigali and included two weeks in northern Uganda.

Living in Rwanda is quite different from living in the United States or Europe—so much so that it is difficult to describe to someone who has not experienced it. In Kigali, I lived with a host family and had nine host siblings ranging in age from three to twenty-five. I lived in a fairly typical Rwandan home, meaning that we had electricity (when the

weather was good) but did not have running water. We got our water from a rainwater tank in back of the house. I found it difficult at first to take “bucket showers” but quickly became accustomed to my new routine.

Life in Rwanda is less focused on time and punctuality than American life. The lives of Rwandans flow almost effortlessly because they do not know stress the way we do. Their main sense of time comes from the rising and setting of the sun, and their daily routines are conducted accordingly. No Western notion of time makes Rwandan culture extraordinarily laid-back, friendly, and beautiful.

Rwanda is the most beautiful place I have ever been. It is known as the “land of a thousand hills,” and because of its high elevation, the temperature remains much cooler than in other countries in east Africa. The capital, Kigali, is alive in every imaginable way—this is still the best way I can describe it, as simply alive—and its vibrancy strikes one immediately. The city is a mix of New World technology and Old World tradition, a contrast most strikingly represented by the many cars that clog the streets during rush hour and the people walking the very same streets in traditional dress.

In Rwanda, especially Kigali, it's hard to believe that something as horrible as the 1994 genocide ever occurred. I visited several genocide memorials and met survivors, perpetrators, and heroes and listened to their stories. Anyone who visits postgenocide Rwanda and



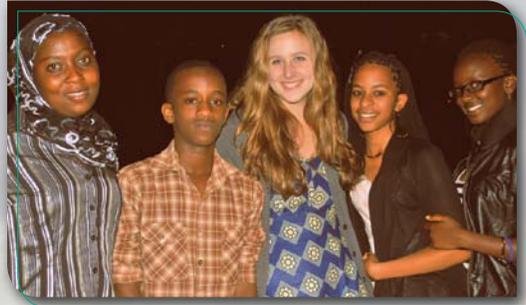
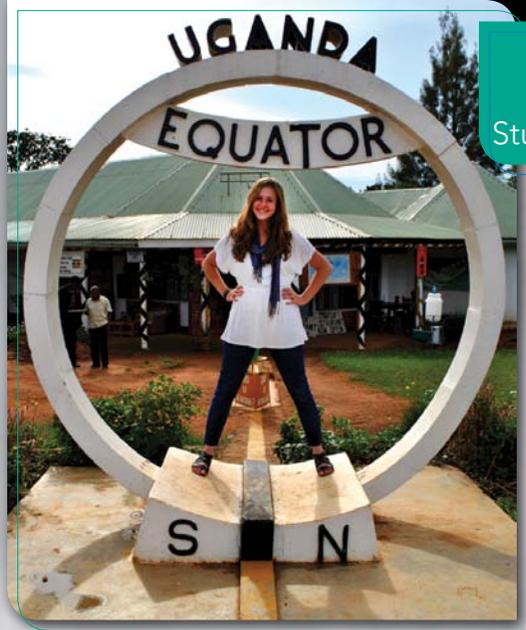
meets even one survivor, one victim, cannot help but notice the strength of the people. It is simply remarkable that a country could progress and grow after losing almost one million citizens in such a terrible way.

The most important insight I had while studying abroad relates to matters of perspective. Whenever visiting another country, one is confronted with many perspectives both similar and dissimilar (perhaps even radically so) to one's own. Rwanda made me question myself—my beliefs, my goals, my political views and opinions—and I think that is very important.

Now that I have been home for some time, I realize how much studying abroad affected me. I think about Rwanda often, and I plan to return eventually. I am incredibly thankful to all who made my study abroad experience possible—the professors, study abroad advisors, and wonderful staff at SIT—and I hope that many more MTSU students make the decision to study abroad.

Don't be afraid to experience something new and enjoy all the experiences such an opportunity presents. [H](#)

From top: Kaity Newman straddles the equator near Gulu; Kaity and members of her host family on her last night in Rwanda; A Rwandan basket weaver attempts to teach Kaity the art. Background: A view of Kigali from the countryside.





Trip Abroad Instills Confidence

by Brandon Hazlett

When did I decide that I wanted to see the world? I decided I had to travel and see the world for myself at a very young age as I read stories of fantastic, faraway places.

When did I decide that I wanted to study abroad? I told myself that I would do it when I fell in love with a language, German, which became one of my minors.

The catalyst that made my desire a reality? My fate was sealed when I began working in the Office of Education Abroad at MTSU. Working there, I was constantly faced with the question from students, “Have you studied abroad?” From my peers and supervisors I heard, “When are you going to study abroad?”

Eventually, I had an answer. I ran across a program based in Bregenz, Austria. In what seemed like a whirlwind, four months later I found myself on a plane,

out of the country on my own, to meet a group of people for my big adventure.

Jet lag is a terrible thing. Not long after landing, trying to navigate the airport, the railway, and the streets of a foreign city took its toll on me, and I questioned my ability and my sanity in choosing to do this. After five minutes, my confidence reasserted itself, and I was off again.

This self-assurance was necessary. With weekends at my disposal, I had to make plans to travel either with a group or by myself. I found a small group with whom I planned my weekends. We were given Eurail passes and told to sign a sheet marking our destinations including estimated departure and arrival times. Despite traveling in a group, somehow I still ended up with time alone, which required planning my next step.

Each weekend tested my self-assurance and the skills I had acquired for using public transportation.

In Paris, a disagreement on where to eat led me to leave the group. I wanted at least one French meal before I left, and my travel companions were not particularly interested. I found myself roaming the subways until I ended up in a small café across from the train station. Since I was alone, I decided I would pretend to be German, something I probably would not have had the confidence to attempt in the past. My lack of French made communication between the waiter and me amusing, to say the least. The meal also gave me a rare opportunity to observe Parisian dining habits.

Returning to Zürich at the end of the program was like a final test for me. One month before, I had come into the country jet lagged, unsure of my abilities, and questioning if the trip was a good idea. In a month, I had worked out how to navigate the streets, trams, buses, and trains and each city's differences concerning where day passes were bought and whether tickets had to be scanned or stamped before boarding.

Overall, my time abroad instilled a new sense of confidence in me and in my abilities to reach my goals. This confidence leads me to believe that I am fully capable of completing my thesis when the time comes, no matter what obstacles arise. [H](#)

Lake Constance



Cheese Factory

The Honors College Goes to **Italy!**

The college is designing its first signature study abroad program to Italy for June 2014. It will merge the Honors academic structure with an engaging cultural experience. Students will explore the cities of Rome and Florence and take day trips

to Ostia Antica, Pompeii, Herculaneum, Ravenna, and Pisa.

The course, taught by interim associate dean Philip Phillips, will focus on selected classical Roman and medieval Italian works of literature and culture, by such writers

as Virgil, Pliny, Augustine, Boethius, and Dante. In addition to visiting the Roman Forum, the Colosseum, the Capitoline Museum, Vatican City, the ruins of Pompeii, and the magnificent mosaics of Ravenna, students will have the opportunity to participate in



From left:
Gelato in Florence
Trevi Fountain
Vatican City (guard)
Background: Florence (residences)

meaningful service learning during the trip. The program will include pre-travel, travel, and post-travel components.

The Honors College is committed to making it possible for students to have global experiences and gain a

better understanding of the world. This new program seeks to provide cultural experiences that prepare students for graduate programs, fellowships, and careers in the ever-increasing global marketplace.

There will be a selective application process that will start this fall once planning is finalized. Students who are interested or who have questions should email April Goers at April.Goers@mtsu.edu or Philip Phillips at Philip.Phillips@mtsu.edu. 



Florence at night

Third Issue of *Scientia et Humanitas* Published



Katie Stringer



Clint Bryan



Dean Vile, Anna Mooney Love, Ngee Sing Chong, and Interim Associate Dean Philip Phillips

Fourteen articles, including two award-winning papers, make up the third volume of *Scientia et Humanitas: A Journal of Student Research*, published by the University Honors College this spring. The issue features articles from the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences by current and former MTSU students.

Clint Bryan won the 2013 William R. Wolfe Graduate Writing Award and a Distinguished Deans' Essay Award for his paper "Why Humphry Can't Read or Write: Tobias Smollett, 18th-Century Literacy, and Preservation of the Social Order." Kayla McNabb's paper, "Discovering Poe as a Composer: Edgar Allan Poe's 'The Philosophy of Composition' and Process Theory," received second place for best Liberal Arts Graduate presentation at Scholars Day 2013.

Two other articles were selected for Deans' Distinguished Essay Awards: "Disability, the Sideshow, and Modern

Museum Practices" by Katie Stringer and "An Exploration of the Gas Phase Reactions of Chlorine Dioxide and Malodorous Compounds of Putrefaction Using FT-IR Instrumentation" by Anna M. Love and Ngee Sing Chong.

Other contributors were Jamie Sutton, Jonathan Bradley, Rita Jones, Yang Soo Kim, Rachael Smith, Crystal VanDalsem, Sarah Panesi-Gray, Hyeryon Kim, and Margaret Johnson.

Graduate students Sarah Gray-Panesi and Kayla McNabb served, respectively, as editor-in-chief and managing editor with Helen Albert, Marcelle Albert, Christian Brown, Jonathan Bradley, Clint Bryan, Jacquelyn Hayek, Jessica Hanson, and Khristeena Lute serving on the student editorial board. Graduate students Jonathan Bradley and Clint Bryan were print-setter/webmaster and copy editor, respectively.

Philip Phillips, Marsha Powers, and John Vile served on the advisory board. The journal was supervised by Marsha

Powers, who directs other publications for the Honors College, including *Collage*, its award-winning arts and literary journal, and *Honors Magazine*.

The printed piece, formerly an online journal called *Scientia* and founded by Phil Mathis, an emeritus professor of biology and former dean of the University Honors College, was renamed in 2010 to reflect its wider scope. John Vile, dean of the University Honors College, says the new journal accepts submissions from all academic disciplines and provides opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students and recent graduates to publish their work.

The Honors College publishes *Scientia et Humanitas* annually and is accepting submissions for volume four through Monday, February 10. Students interested in contributing can get further information at capone.mtsu.edu/Scientia.

Although *Scientia et Humanitas* does not accept articles that have been

Honors Worthy {student achievement}

Spring 2014 Interdisciplinary Seminars

Gothic Culture

UH 4600-001 (CRN# 16681)

Dr. Linda Badley

TR 2:40 to 4:05–HONR 117

From deathrock to zombie apocalypses, psychotic serial killers, and vegetarian vampires, contemporary Western culture has been haunted by Gothic iconographies and themes. They inform and are informed by popular psychology, science, ethics, academic theory, and a culture of violence, terrorism, and trauma that often seems to live out our myths. With this context in mind, this class will study Gothic culture from an interdisciplinary perspective, beginning with a brief historical overview from the late 18th century to the present, noting how its forms and themes have infused art, architecture, literature, film, social institutions, ideologies, and contemporary mass media culture.

Spinning off literary texts such as *Carmilla* (1872), *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1886), *Books of Blood* (1984–87), and *American Psycho* (1990), students will examine Gothic themes in key documents in psychoanalysis, philosophy, anthropology, queer theory, and feminism.

A secondary emphasis will be the role of the Gothic in the development of cinema, the horror film, and film theory in general. Students will view up to five films and a number of clips.

This course is open to students who have fulfilled their general studies requirements and will count as three hours credit toward an English major or minor. For more information, contact Dr. Linda Badley at Linda.Badley@mtsu.edu or (615) 898-2597.

Mythology and Film

UH 3500-001 (CRN# 14291)

Dr. Angela Hague

W 2:40 to 5:40–HONR 117

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 that represent very different uses of mythic narrative will be analyzed: *Troy* (2004) attempts a historical adaptation of the *Iliad*; *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* (2000) uses a modern setting and

the plot of the *Odyssey* for parodic and comic purposes.

The following study 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 Baachae* 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).

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. Angela Hague at Angela.Hague@mtsu.edu. 

Scientia cont.

published elsewhere, it does allow contributors to maintain copyright so that they may submit their work to other journals. Dean Vile said that for the increasing number of MTSU students who are applying to graduate and professional schools,

having a publication in hand can be an important credential. Also, students who join the journal staff have an opportunity to gain publishing experience in reviewing, editing, and formatting articles.

This year's publication was made possible in part by a contribution from Paul W. Martin Jr., an Honors alumnus and member of the Honors Board of Visitors. 

A LAUREATE'S

MTSU celebrates the remarkable life and lasting impact of one of its

The Bronze Star
for his World
War II service

To the family of a world-renowned economist who is the only MTSU alumnus so far to win a Nobel Prize, it was clear that Dr. James M. Buchanan's affection for, connection to, and pride in MTSU became stronger as the years went by.

Buchanan died Jan. 9, 2013, at the age of 93. But in the last years of his life, when "Uncle Buck" would talk about Tennessee and his birthplace of Rutherford County, family members say he most often mentioned the University and what was happening with the Buchanan Fellows—student recipients of MTSU's most prestigious academic honor—as well as other good works occurring in the MTSU Honors College. "He took real, personal pride in his association with it," says Jeff Whorley, Buchanan's nephew and MTSU alum. "Jim Buchanan did have very close relationships with several institutions of higher learning . . . But in the end, MTSU had a truly special place in his heart and mind."

Four months after his death, Buchanan's family gathered at MTSU near the Honors College Building to celebrate his remarkable life. At that event, the family gave Buchanan's Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences to MTSU on perpetual loan. According to Whorley, the moment he received word that his uncle had left the Nobel medallion to him, he knew immediately what he needed to do with it.

"Uncle Buck left the Nobel medal to me because he knew that meant it would end up being displayed at MTSU," Whorley says.

At the May celebration, Whorley also announced a \$2.5 million bequest from Buchanan's estate to the University. The gift is earmarked for the Honors College and is the largest donation to the college in history. (In 2002, brothers Lee and Paul Martin Jr. gave \$2 million to the University to help construct the building that bears their late father's name.)

In accepting the \$2.5 million donation, President Sidney A. McPhee described Buchanan as "a gifted individual," adding, "Dr. Buchanan's passion for economic theory was ignited by a professor on our campus, and his generosity to MTSU has allowed many more students to find their calling. His continued involvement and connection to this University brought honor to our institution. We are forever in his debt."

Honors College dean John Vile said during the ceremony that Buchanan's generous gifts to the college "testify that he never forgot either his humble beginnings or his ties to Murfreesboro and MTSU."

Dr. Barbara Haskew, professor emerita in economics and finance in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business and former university provost who now serves on the Tennessee Valley Authority board, added, "I am proud that such a man and a scholar found warmth and meaning in this community and at MTSU."

A Local Boy, an International Legacy

The grandson of John P. Buchanan, the 25th governor of Tennessee, James M. Buchanan grew up on a Depression-era farm in the Gum community of Rutherford County. He attended Buchanan School, which got its name because it was built on land once part of the Buchanan family farm.

J. M. BUCHANAN

LEGACY

more prominent alums

by Drew Ruble

In his book of personal essays, *Better Than Plowing*, the down-to-earth Buchanan pointed out that his family's humble roots instilled a strong work ethic in him. He earned money for college books and fees by milking cows.

Buchanan graduated in 1940 from what was then Middle Tennessee State Teachers College with majors in mathematics, English literature, and social science. (Economics did not exist then as a major at the institution.) He went on to a graduate fellowship at the University of Tennessee and an economics fellowship at Columbia University.

Duty to country called during World War II, and Buchanan entered officer training in the U.S. Navy ROTC program, eventually serving on the staff of Adm. Chester Nimitz in Hawaii. Buchanan was awarded the Bronze Star for his World War II service. Following his service in the Pacific, Buchanan earned his doctorate from the University of Chicago.

About winning the Nobel Prize in economics in 1986, Buchanan once wrote, "If Jim Buchanan can get a Nobel Prize, anyone can. Recognition and acceptance of this simple truth are very important."

A stridently independent thinker, Buchanan earned the Nobel for "his development of the contractual and constitutional bases for the theory of economic and political decision making." Within the economics discipline, his contribution is known as the field of public choice, which brings the tools of economic analysis to the study of public decision making.

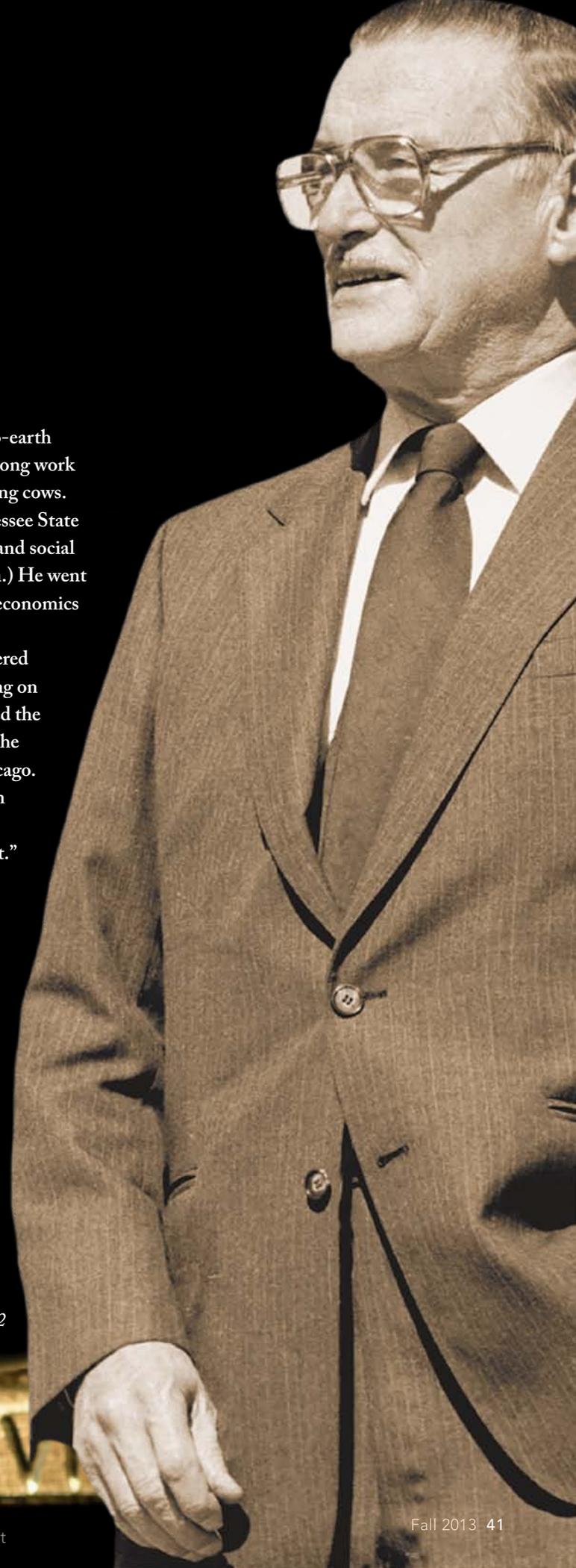
His book, *The Calculus of Consent: Logical Foundations of Constitutional Democracy*, which he coauthored with Gordon Tullock, is considered a classic work on public choice theory.

Buchanan spent much of his academic career in Virginia with tenures at the University of Virginia; Virginia Tech, where he established the Center for Study of Public Choice; and George Mason University, to which he and the center moved in 1983 and from which he retired in 2007. He also taught at UT-Knoxville, Florida State University, and UCLA.

continued on page 42

MCMLXXXV

photo by Andy Heidt



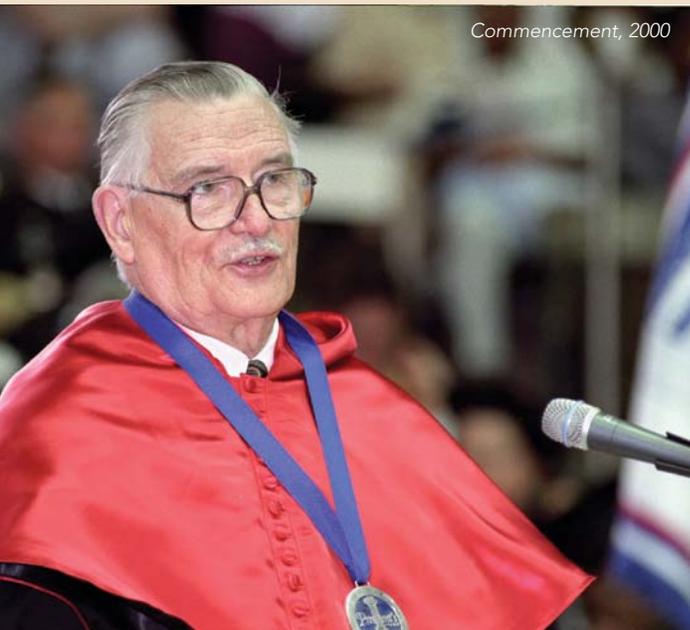
continued from page 41

In 1997, MTSU established the Buchanan Scholarship in his honor to recognize top students. When asked to address the first group of scholarship winners, he shared words of encouragement: “Economics, the discipline that was to become my scientific home, requires expository writing skills, logical structures of analysis, and a grounding in ultimate reality. And political economy, the branch of moral philosophy from which economics springs, requires philosophical coherence. I came away from Middle Tennessee with all of these.”

Speaking at spring commencement in May 2000, Buchanan challenged graduates to question political leadership,

decades ago, “Uncle Buck” didn’t always tell people at MTSU what they wanted to hear regarding the status of the University. According to Whorley, Buchanan always expressed happy memories for his time at “the Teachers College” but didn’t issue automatic and comfortable praise.

“The bottom line was that he wanted some of the very brightest students to go to MTSU, not just because it might be closer to home or more affordable but because the best of what this institution had to offer could compete with anywhere,” Whorley says. “He believed having more of the



Commencement, 2000



Stockholm, 1986

which often seems to lack the Middle Tennessee values he held so dear: “An open politics makes no distinction between the Ivy Leagues and the bush leagues when it comes to telling us what we want our government to do. The people, yes, but all the people, treated as equals, and not some more equal than others. Along with this attitude, there is an abiding mistrust in allowing others, no matter whom, to control too many elements of our lives.”

In 2006, McPhee established the Buchanan Fellowship in the University Honors College, which is intended to attract outstanding scholars from across the state and country. Only 20 applicants each year are chosen as Buchanan Fellows, the highest academic award given to entering freshmen.

A Campus Perspective

Whorley says MTSU faculty and staffers most associated with the Honors College know that, dating back three or four

very best students in the mix on this campus would, over time, raise the value of everyone’s MTSU degree.”

That’s certainly more true today than during Buchanan’s years as a student at MTSU. And the Honors College is key to that reality.

All that considered, it is no surprise that as Honors College founder and professor emerita June McCash listened to Whorley’s remarks at the celebration of Buchanan’s life, her mind drifted back to 40 years earlier, May of 1973, when a \$2.5 million estate gift was only a dream. As the founding director of the Honors Program, McCash was preparing to initiate the first Honors classes in fall 1973. At that point, the program was operating with a half-time director and a half-time secretary out of a storage room in the Department

of Foreign Languages and Literatures, where McCash was a faculty member.

“For me, the spring semester of 1973 had consisted of meetings with reluctant department chairs, many of whom crossed their arms against me and argued that the Honors Program was ‘elitist,’” McCash remembers. “Many were reluctant to offer an Honors course where they had to limit enrollment to 20 students when they could have 35 or 40 in a regular class. They also thought the requirement for an Honors

June McCash



thesis for undergraduates was just plain silly. It was my job to persuade them, ask for their best teachers, and to make sure the program survived and even thrived. Somehow, we managed, and attitudes slowly began to change. I was fortunate to have the help of a terrific Honors Council made up of some of the most supportive and effective members of the faculty—people of the caliber of Bill Windham and Barbara Haskew, who would be important campus leaders. We all believed in the mission, but we were also aware of the uphill battle we were engaged in.”

The University was a very different place in those days. MTSU had only

continued on page 44

Paying It Forward

MTSU, 1988



Dr. James Buchanan was married to the late Anne Bakke Buchanan, who died in 2005. He is survived by sisters Lila Graue of Fayetteville, Ark., and Elizabeth Bradley of Pearland, Texas, and nephews Jeff Whorley, Doug Graue, and Jim Whorley.

Jeff Whorley, founder and president of JFW Consulting and an Honors College Board of Visitors member and past chair, has enjoyed a successful career as an administrator in higher education’s student-loan process. He is a former president of Student Aid Services, former executive at Sallie Mae, and former senior vice president at USA Group (now USA Funds). He lives in Indianapolis, Ind.

Whorley was the Buchanan family member who announced the gifts of his uncle’s Nobel Prize medallion on a perpetual loan basis and \$2.5 million from Buchanan’s estate. According to Whorley, Buchanan’s monetary gift was “quite a statement from a man who took such things as how to spend money very seriously. Of all the places where his life earnings might have made a difference in the decades to come, he determined that the greatest difference would be made right here at MTSU, at the Honors College. That says something about where this University is today and where Nobel Laureate Jim Buchanan thinks it is going.”

“As the executor said to me, ‘[Buchanan] decided that once all the smaller gifts are made and the taxes are paid, he wanted everything that was left to go to the Honors College at MTSU,’” Whorley said, adding that there “probably will be additional funds coming to MTSU once the [estate’s] books are closed one to two years from now.”

Stemming from the \$2.5 million gift, MTSU and George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., where Buchanan worked and headed the Center for Study of Public Choice, plan to explore a partnership called the Buchanan Papers Project, a Collection of the Papers of James M. Buchanan. President McPhee says the idea could “create an exceptionally accessible and complete record of Dr. Buchanan’s work.”

A portion of the bequest will also be used to establish the James M. Buchanan Lecture Series: Applying the Ideas of James Buchanan in

continued on page 45



Jeff Whorley
Buchanan Celebration, 2013

our determination to keep us going. Yet somehow we managed, and I am happy to have lived long enough to see the fruition of our dreams. We often talked in 1973 about the potential spillover effect of Honors classes, where both faculty members and students would carry their new goals, teaching methods, and standards into other classes so that the entire University would benefit in the long run. There is no question that that has happened. While there have certainly been other factors that contributed to the raised standards, higher expectations, and overall striving for excellence at MTSU today, there is also no doubt that the Honors College has played a significant role.”

Buchanan’s dream to attract more of the very best students and raise the value of everyone’s MTSU degree has indeed come true, in large part due to the growth and energy of the Honors College program and its directors and deans, who have included McCash, Ron Messier, John Paul Montgomery, Philip Mathis, and Vile. In McCash’s words, the Honors College has become “the lodestar of MTSU.”

Cementing a Legacy

In his remarks at the Buchanan celebration in May, Whorley said that his uncle used to ask his graduate students the question, “Is any of the work you are doing today going to matter in 100 years?”

Thanking many of those assembled, Whorley said, “To everyone who ultimately contributed to this day—Mom [Whorley’s mother and Buchanan’s younger sister, Liz], and Barbara [Haskew], and June [McCash] and Ron [Messier], Dean Mathis and Dean Vile, and [author] Reuben [Kyle] and so many others I’ve missed, and most especially to Dr. McPhee and to Lee Martin and to Paul Martin, the answer to Dr. Buchanan’s tough question is a resounding ‘Yes!’ What you have done will matter, even 100 years from now. And that is something to celebrate.”

Buchanan’s work will matter for a long time. On May 11, 2013, during commencement ceremonies, Buchanan posthumously received one of the first two honorary degrees in the University’s 102-year history.

The granting of an honorary degree, a tradition of universities dating back to the Middle Ages, is higher education’s most significant accolade. Such degrees honor those with sustained records of achievement who have made outstanding contributions and who exemplify the ideals for which a university stands. They are not lightly given. It is a university’s ultimate sign of respect.

As MTSU’s only Nobel Prize winner to date and a man who was respected in business and academic circles alike, it is a fitting tribute for “Uncle Buck.” 

[Jimmy Hart, June McCash, and Jeff Whorley contributed heavily to this report.]

continued from page 43

achieved university status eight years before, and still felt, in many ways, more like a teachers college than a real university. But times were changing, and new faculty members were coming on board who didn’t remember those old days. A relatively new president, Dr. Mel Scarlett, had broader ambitions for the University, and one of them was the establishment of an honors program. He also took the risk of appointing as its first director a woman—McCash—at that time still an anomaly in leadership at MTSU.

“Given those challenges, it’s a miracle we survived, but tenacity and temerity kept us going,” McCash says. “And the dream. The dream of what could be. The dream of what now is.”

The Buchanan celebration on May 9, 2013, was the realization of goals people like McCash fought so hard for in the 1970s. The Honors College is now recognized nationwide for its excellence. It is, as it was intended to be, a program that challenges students to strive for the best and to compete successfully for Fulbright and Goldwater Scholarships or for acceptance to graduate study at universities like Harvard and Stanford. (MTSU was recently named by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* as a top producer of Fulbright scholars for 2012–13, joining academic powerhouses such as Duke, Stanford, and Princeton. Just 108 colleges were recognized, and no other college or university in Tennessee was listed.)

McCash says, “We knew then what we were doing was important, but we had no idea how important. It felt like we were in the trenches, with little support, virtually no funding, and only

continued from page 43

Today's World, McPhee says. The lecture series will end on Buchanan's 100th birthday in 2019. The University then intends to make printed and video versions of the lectures available as part of the Buchanan Papers.

Starting with next May's graduation, Buchanan Fellows who have successfully completed the requirements of the Honors College will receive the Buchanan Medallion, an award cast in bronze, like the Bronze Star earned by Buchanan for his World War II service, with his likeness on the front and a ribbon in Raider blue.

Announcing his family's gift, Whorley made a point of spotlighting the Martin family's support, which inspired a number of donors to help the University raise \$2 million in matching funds and led to the building that is home to the Honors College.

"While Jim Buchanan's gift to the Honors College is the largest from a single individual, I believe the Martin brothers' gift—which came at a crucial time over a decade ago—was the most impactful."

Whorley thanked several others at the celebration event. They included **Dr. Barbara Haskew**, professor emerita in economics and finance in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business and former university provost. Said Whorley, "Many years before the Nobel, Dr. Barbara Haskew was doing things to make sure that MTSU recognized that one of its own, Jim Buchanan, was becoming a more and more influential thinker in academia," said Whorley. "And when the opportunity availed itself back in the '70s and early '80s, I think no one so much as Barbara was making sure that Jim Buchanan kept in mind that his own higher education journey began right here. With a combination of warm smiles and words about "home," Barbara gently reminded Uncle Buck back then—even in her very presence—that there was plenty of intellectual vigor right here at MTSU."

Whorley thanked Senator **Andy Womack**, his former Little League coach and a steadfast friend of the University. He said that Womack got him focused on MTSU in the 1990s and kept him focused on what is happening here ever since.

Whorley also recognized **Drs. June McCash** and **Ron Messier**, whose leadership and vision for the Honors program made today's Honors College possible.

Whorley said that former Honors College dean **Dr. Philip Mathis** "... deserves enormous credit. I saw Jim Buchanan smile more at the ceremony for the first class of Buchanan Fellows than at receiving the Nobel Prize in Stockholm."

Whorley said **Dean John Vile**, "has diligently kept the momentum going at the Honors College, with the quality of the publications and the achievements of the students seeming to get better and better each semester. James Buchanan was paying attention." (Whorley said it may have helped that Vile leads a double life as a Cumberland Presbyterian preacher. "My Uncle claimed that he wasn't religious, but he did make a generous gift to my home and his home church, Mt. Tabor, here in Rutherford County.")

Also noted was **Dr. Reuben Kyle**, whose book *From Nashborough to the Nobel Prize: The Buchanans of Tennessee*, according to Whorley, "puts Jim Buchanan's success in the context of a family."

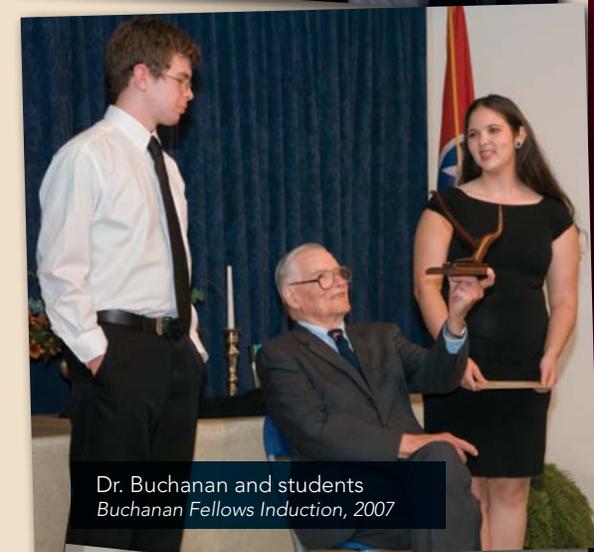
Finally, Whorley praised **President Sidney A. McPhee** "for having a vision about meeting the challenge of creating a real Honors College and making Jim Buchanan's story so central to the culture of the Buchanan Fellows program and the Honors College." 



President McPhee, Paul Martin Jr., Carla and Lee Martin
Buchanan Celebration, 2013



Dr. Buchanan and former dean
of the Honors College Phil Mathis
Buchanan Fellows Induction, 2007



Dr. Buchanan and students
Buchanan Fellows Induction, 2007



Dr. Buchanan and his great nephew
Buchanan Fellows Induction, 2007



**A new fellowship attracts
the best and brightest from
other, smaller institutions**

A Road Less

Rikki Grieves thought she was finished with formal education after leaving high school and attaining a GED at 17. Years of working aimlessly in the restaurant industry convinced her to reconsider the value of a degree.

Jay Bailey Voorhies was searching for a welcoming environment where as a gay man he could develop the skills to help individuals struggling with their sexual orientation or others who might be unable to afford mental health services.

Both began their academic careers at other schools but found themselves on a path that led to MTSU, where they are participating in the university's new Honors Transfer Fellowship program.

They are among 15 students selected to participate in the program, which is designed to attract top students whose route to MTSU might begin at a community college or a smaller four-year school. The Honors Transfer Fellowship is modeled after the popular Buchanan Fellowship program, through which 20 incoming freshmen are selected each year to receive fellowships.

Participants in the Honors Transfer Fellowship will each receive \$3,500 per semester for four semesters of work. It is the highest academic scholarship for students transferring from other schools.

Grieves and Voorhies are both majoring in psychology but never met until they began participating in a required honors research seminar designed to help fellowship recipients gain solid footing at MTSU. The class is taught by Dr. Martha Hixon.

Grieves, who transferred to MTSU after completing two years of study at Nashville State Community College, was 30 when she began her pursuit of a degree. She has no regrets about starting "so late." In fact, she believes the lessons she learned about life give her an advantage.

"Ten years in the trenches tells you [merely earning a paycheck] is not enough," she says. "You take it more seriously. This is important. This is knowledge."

Grieves selected MTSU on the advice of her younger sister, who also transferred from Nashville State Community College and is a graduate of the Honors College.

"There's a lot more to explore, academically and in extra-curricular activities, than at a smaller school," says Grieves, whose goal is to earn a Ph.D. and practice clinical psychology.

Traveled

by Bill Lewis

After years of holding two jobs while maintaining a 4.0 academic standing, she is grateful for the financial security provided by the Honors Transfer Fellowship scholarship. She also receives a smaller university scholarship and a Pell grant.

That financial assistance has enabled Grieves to cut back to just one job and is providing the resources for her to pursue her twin goals of a career and financial independence.

“Waitressing was always erratic hours at the whim of my boss,” Grieves says. “I will one day call my own shots. I will.”

Voorhies transferred from Belmont University. Taking a semester off resulted in the loss of his scholarship. While visiting MTSU, he was attracted by the university’s atmosphere of tolerance and diversity.

“Belmont was very homogenous. MTSU is more welcoming to gay people. And at MTSU, I saw a lot of people working very hard to push themselves up the economic ladder. I felt positive energy,” says Voorhies, who hopes to study abroad and attend graduate school.

While maintaining a 4.0 GPA, Voorhies works full time as assistant manager of an ice cream shop. On weekends, he works at a restaurant. He is also a caregiver for two family members with disabilities. Since he helps with his mother’s mortgage, quitting either job isn’t an option, even with the Honors Transfer Fellowship scholarship.

“There’s not a lot of downtime,” he says. “I’ve never been a procrastinator. Just do it.”

Those experiences taught him the value of empathy and perseverance, to say nothing of time management. But it was a personal experience of another kind—two months in jail on a marijuana charge—that gave urgency to his desire to earn a degree in psychology.

Voorhies recognized that he was self-medicating instead of dealing with stress. He understood how to change that in his own life but realized many of the inmates would never have that opportunity. They were mentally ill, but instead of being treated, they were incarcerated. In fact, the U.S. Justice Department estimates that more than half of prison and jail inmates have a mental health problem.

“There are a lot of people with no one to help them,” says Voorhies, who is determined to change that.

For both Voorhies and Grieves, a degree from MTSU’s Honors College will be a major step toward their goals. [H](#)



photos by J Intintoli

It's easy to get caught up in the entertainment of movies, sports, live music, and theater without thinking about all the work that goes on behind the scenes. Any live or televised production, though, has dozens of people on the other side of the curtain or camera making sure everything goes smoothly.

One of those people is Alex Gibson, a spring 2013 graduate of MTSU's Electronic Media Communication (EMC) program. Gibson oversees the work of making sure everything is lit properly, a job he has done for some pretty big productions.

Gibson was drawn to the entertainment industry from an early age. He got involved in technical theater starting in middle school, and by the time he was a high school senior, he knew he wanted to work in show business. Gibson nearly chose theater as a major, but one visit to the John Bragg Mass Communication building on the campus of MTSU during spring break won him over to EMC.

"All of the various studios, student groups, and the promise of a new [\$1.4 million] Mobile Production Lab had me starstruck," he says. He enrolled at MTSU on a Buchanan Fellowship and hit the ground running, getting involved right away with his classes and all the extras offered through student groups and special programs.

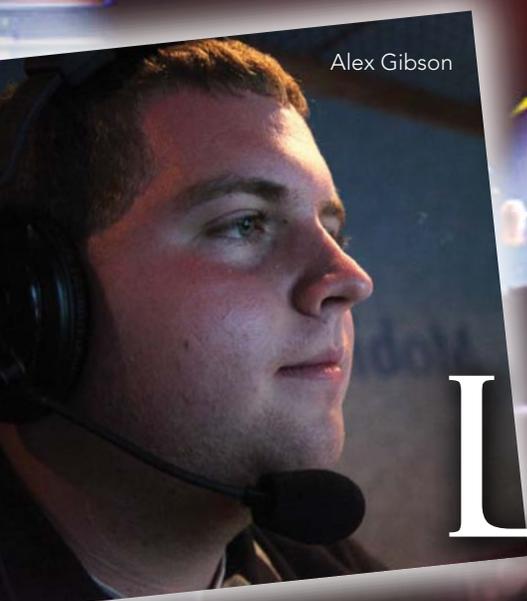
The features that won Gibson over provide many ongoing opportunities for EMC students both on and off campus. On campus, students can produce, direct, and crew their own shows, which run on campus television station MT10. They can get real-world experience off campus at Capitol Street Party, a downtown Nashville concert produced by Capitol Records. At this annual event, students have the chance to operate audio and cameras, interview artists, record the show for the label, and even produce music videos. Gibson particularly enjoyed working with EMC

Productions, a student-run production company which broadcasts MTSU games and other sports programming on ESPN's online channel, ESPN 3.

"Whereas with a class project you are there to learn, with EMC Productions we are there to do," he says. "If we messed up or something seemed wrong, we actually got phone calls from ESPN's master control! That added so much excitement to the program, while also preparing me to enter a real job with those demands."

Gibson was able to do just that even before graduating in May. An alum he knew recommended him for a position working as a lighting technician with Christian rock band Third Day. It took a little rearranging of his schedule, but Gibson was able to work out his final semester with online classes and one on-campus class. Then, he took off on tour with the band. He would do online coursework on the road, and was usually back home for his Tuesday on-campus class.

The job gave Gibson a lot of hands-on experience—he helped load the shows in and out of each arena, pack the truck, and perform any other tasks assigned. Additionally, he



LET THERE

got the opportunity to run the lighting console for Third Day's opening acts, Josh Wilson and Colton Dixon (the latter being Murfreesboro's own American Idol contestant).

It was a hectic final semester for Gibson, especially the weekend he graduated.

"The night before graduation we had a show in Louisville, and then one in Huntsville the night of graduation," he recalls. "As we passed through Nashville, I hopped off the bus for lunch with the family, a quick stop at graduation, and then had to drive down to Huntsville to do the show that night. It was an exciting weekend!"

The tour ended in May, and since then Gibson has worked as a freelance lighting and video technician. He still travels for shows, but on a show-by-show basis, so he's able to have more of a home base. His proximity to Nashville holds a world of possibility for him, especially with the growth of the concert support industry as big-time acts test their shows before taking them on the road. But whether the opportunities come through setting up large local venues, or settling down in the tiny living quarters of a tour bus again, Gibson is excited and ready.

"I absolutely love it," he says, "and can't wait to see what the future holds in store." 

THE PRODUCTION Boom

When thinking of entertainment in Tennessee, many think only of the music industry, but EMC professor Bob Gordon thinks also of television production and the tour support industry. According to Gordon, students like Gibson can find ample professional opportunities after graduation in these fields, which have a significant presence in the state.

Three cable networks— CMT, GAC and RFDTV—operate in Nashville, as do noteworthy television and movie production outfits. Knoxville has Scripps Network products, including HGTV and DIY. And while these offer great possibilities for students, Gordon names another growing field that may offer even more.

"The tour industry is based out of Nashville," he says. "There are probably more jobs in tour support than TV right now. Every act that goes out on the road these days takes LED screens, animation and cameras."

The concept of TV production skill sets being transferrable to the tour industry is supported by a May 2013 article in *The Tennessean*, which profiled how important concert support companies are to the Nashville music community. The write-up described Nashville as an "anchor" for the industry because it is home "not only to artists but also to the production crew, who spend months on the road assembling, disassembling and reassembling crucial pieces of a tour, from stage to lighting..."

Gordon sees all of this as a great advantage for MTSU graduates.

"Students may not go the traditional TV route after they graduate, but rather go out on the road with acts like Rascal Flatts. It is still doing TV, just slightly different.

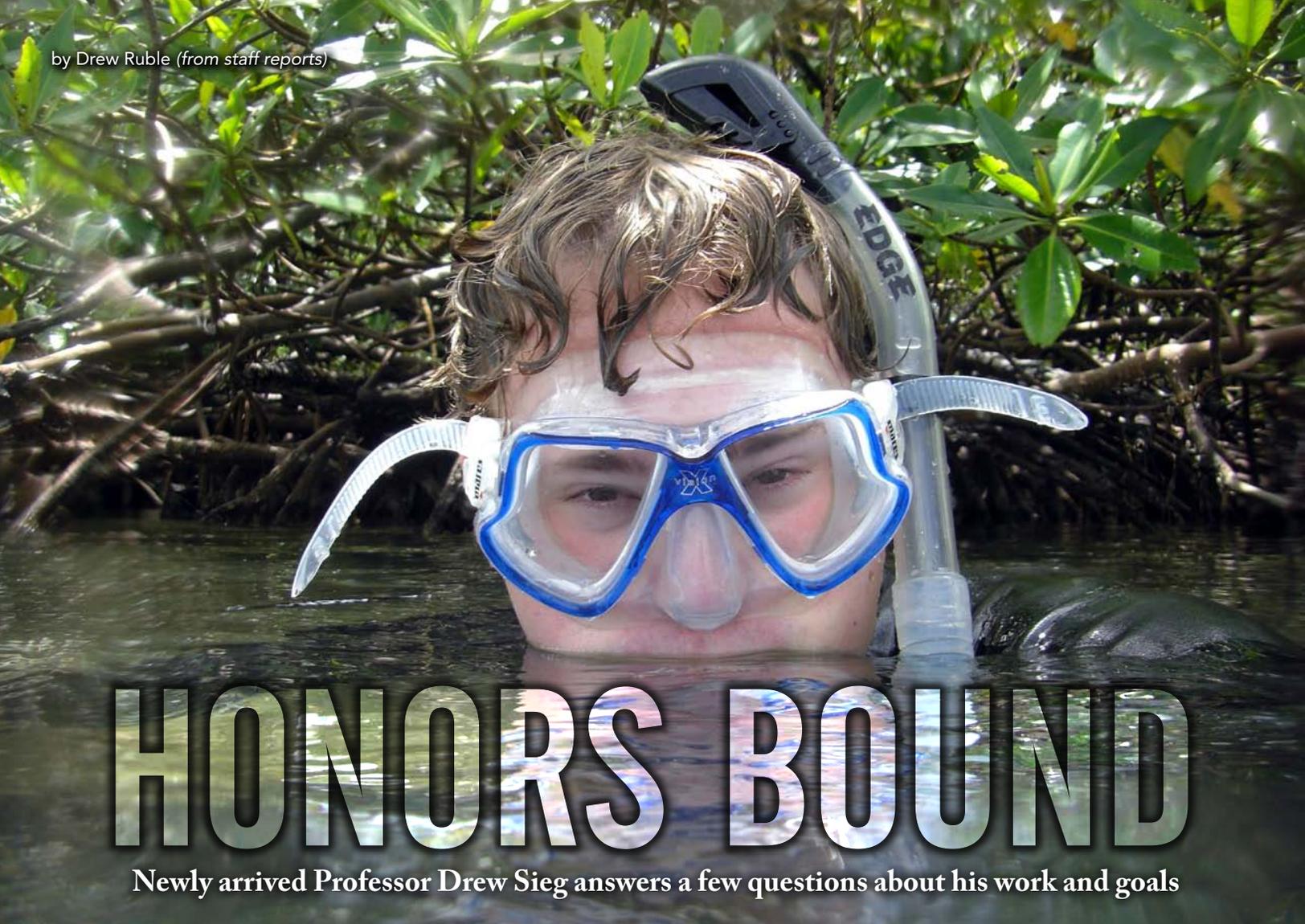


BE

Light

The EMC program sends another graduate into a burgeoning local industry

by Jen Stone



Newly arrived Professor Drew Sieg answers a few questions about his work and goals

When you see Drew Sieg walking through the halls of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors building, consider him solid evidence of the tremendous growth and success of the Honors College. Sieg, who began teaching at MTSU this fall, is the first dedicated faculty member in the University Honors College.

Sieg received his B.S. at the University of Richmond, where he studied microbial symbionts of the red beard sponge, *Clathria prolifera*, found in Chesapeake Bay. He has since attained his Ph.D. at the Georgia Institute of Technology, studying chemically mediated ecological interactions in marine systems.

Sieg recently granted an interview to University Editor Drew Ruble.

Tell me a little about your research.

Drew Sieg: *Karenia brevis* is a species of phytoplankton—a single-celled photosynthetic organism—that can be found in the Gulf of Mexico. When environmental conditions are just right, *K. brevis* exudes a suite of compounds into the water that act as chemical weapons and cause competitor species to grow more slowly, gather resources less efficiently, or simply die. By doing this, *K. brevis* is able to acquire resources without having to compete with other species as intensely. With more resources, *K. brevis* populations quickly grow and eventually form a monospecific “bloom” of thousands to millions of cells per liter of seawater, resulting in a red tide. I worked to identify the types of compounds that *K. brevis* uses to outcompete other species and also how different types of competitors responded to the compounds produced by *K. brevis*.

These red tides are problematic and costly for several reasons. The biggest reason is that *K. brevis* cells can be eaten by larger microbes called “zooplankton,” which build up many neurotoxins in their gut that were initially produced by *K. brevis*. Zooplankton are consumed by fish and shellfish, which in turn are consumed by marine mammals and humans. As these toxins travel up the food chain, they concentrate and poison or kill fish and charismatic species like dolphins. These toxins

can also cause irritation in humans if they consume toxified seafood or breathe in the air near red tides.

Didn't you also conduct some interesting field studies in the coastal salt marshes in Georgia?

DS: We are seeing greater concentrations of snails in Southeastern salt marshes, which leads to more fungal farms. These farms, coupled with environmental stressors such as drought, can transform healthy salt marshes into mudflats in just a few months. The loss of salt marsh vegetation is bad, because they help to buffer coastlines from rising tides, flooding, and hurricane damage. Since many commercially important fish and shellfish grow up in salt marshes, the loss of these habitats can also impact commercial fishermen and the natural flow of the ecosystem. While in graduate school, I was able to isolate and identify specific molecules produced by salt marsh plant *Spartina alterniflora* that limited grazing damage by snails or inhibited growth of multiple species of fungi.

If money were no object and you could devise your dream course and syllabus, what would it be?

DS: If I were to aim big, I think that a field-based course in tropical ecology and conservation would be really appealing to students. The class could travel between research stations studying tropical rainforests, coral reefs, estuaries, and highlands, while taking in a bit of culture and learning about local environmental policies at the same time. During my graduate studies, I spent over a month conducting research on coral reefs on an island in Panama, and I was able to explore many of the diverse ecosystems within that country. Given the abundance of Smithsonian field research stations in Panama, it could be a great place to run such a course.

On a more modest budget, I hope to offer a course in chemical ecology during my time at MTSU. Most organisms lack the sophisticated means of oral and visual communication that humans have, and instead rely on chemical cues to grow, find a mate, locate food, or defend against pathogens or predators. These types of interactions are ubiquitous in nature, and chemical ecology research can lead to new medicines and novel conservation strategies and even enhance our understanding of human behavior.

Describe your teaching style and philosophy. Give me an example that demonstrates it.

DS: Advances in technology have made information more easily accessible than ever before, which can be seen as both a blessing and a curse. As much as it may hurt to admit, Google can answer questions faster than any college professor. However, the sheer quantity of available data often overwhelms most students, which may lead them toward familiar but less academically acceptable sources of information. While websites like Wikipedia can be a useful starting point, university students are typically expected to formulate original thoughts based on analysis of peer-reviewed publications instead of websites and blogs. The process of finding and interpreting primary literature can be challenging; therefore, I believe that the role of the professor is shifting from being a fount of all knowledge to that of a guide who mentors students as they learn how to become critical thinkers.

As an example of my teaching philosophy in action, students in an ecology course I instructed held a debate to delve into the ethical issues involved in restoring sustainable fish populations in Lake Victoria. Students were tasked with representing commercial fishermen, artisans, or conservationists, all of whom differed in their vision for the economic

and ecological future of the lake. Prior to the debate, students worked in their assigned groups to develop their solution to the problem, which required a thorough understanding of ecological theory as well as environmental policy to substantiate their arguments. Following a lengthy debate, all groups used their collective knowledge to come to a consensus regarding the future of the lake that was amenable to all invested parties, which was then summarized as a written prospectus.

Why did you choose to come to work at MTSU?

DS: When I read the mission statement of the Honors College and saw that I would teach courses at a large state school using a small, liberal-arts-school mentality, I was intrigued. Given the small class sizes and close-knit vibe of the Honors College, I will be able to really get to know and interact with my students in a way that is difficult to achieve in 150-plus student classrooms. Being a member of an Honors College as opposed to a single discipline like biology is also exciting, as it provides the chance to work with faculty members from disciplines that I normally wouldn't be as exposed to, which could also open up the opportunity to create new interdisciplinary courses.

I was also drawn to the advising aspect of being a dedicated Honors College faculty member because I have a genuine interest in helping students determine what they want to do after graduation. Last, the new science building is going to be a wonderful resource for students and should also expand opportunities for students to get involved in undergraduate research.

I'm honored—no pun intended—to be the first dedicated faculty member for the Honors College and hope that my vision for the future of undergraduate education connects with incoming students and plays a small part in the success of MTSU as a whole. 

Lyons Brings PR, Events Background to Coordinator Role

“Absolutely perfect for me,” is how Susan Lyons describes her new position as coordinator of events at the University Honors College. With her background in public relations and special events, she brings a fresh, creative spirit to her new role.

Graduating from Florida State University with a degree in media communications and public relations led Susan to many interesting and diverse jobs. She spent two years at Florida Power & Light Company as a presentation specialist during the company’s successful pursuit of the prestigious Deming Prize for Quality Improvement. She then spent six years as a communications officer for the Industrial and Systems Engineering Department at Virginia Tech, where she realized her passion for work in a university setting.

Also at Virginia Tech, she had the opportunity to work for a named professor and help with his graduate classes in management systems engineering. “It was fascinating to participate in classes that taught engineers how to be managers and learn to communicate their ideas effectively,” she says. Susan also handled public relations and communications for the management system laboratories and organized their on-campus training workshops and publications. “It was a wonderful experience to be on a university campus every day and interact with a diverse group of students,” she says.



In 1997, her husband’s career brought them to Murfreesboro, in part because of MTSU. “Our goal was to raise our children in a university town due to all the educational opportunities that come with a campus,” she says. The family has grown to include three children: Matthew (18), Sean (14), and Lily Grace (9), who was adopted from China.

Susan has spent the past 17 years in a number of rewarding volunteer endeavors, including chartering the PTA at the Discovery School and serving as its first president, handling public relations for Murfreesboro’s JazzFest, serving as president of the Friends of Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital Rutherford County Chapter, singing in her church choir, and cheering on her children in baseball and soccer. She also spent many years as director of public relations and special events for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Rutherford County, where she cofounded the annual HolidayFest fundraising event.

“I would say one of the most interesting parts of my life has been working with the Teachers of Critical Languages program through the U.S. State Department and hosting a Chinese teacher in my home for a year. It was a wonderful learning experience for our family and an invaluable cultural experience for my



Susan Lyons with her children (L-R) Matthew, Lily Grace, and Sean

daughter,” she says. Through this program, Susan has become involved with the Confucius Institute at MTSU and has enjoyed many of the special programs it provides, including musical presentations and Chinese language school.

“I love traveling all over the U.S. and abroad and have most recently spent time in China and Japan,” she says. “I enjoy learning history and studying different cultures. I’m excited about working in the University Honors College and supporting its mission through creative events for students and faculty.” 

Spring 2013 Honors Lecture Series: Innovation and Design

Cosponsored by the University Honors College and the Department of Human Sciences, the Spring 2013 Honors College Lecture Series encompassed multisector perspectives on the role of innovation and design in the process of identifying and solving real-world problems. Because creative initiative intersects with past, present, and future technologies in diverse cultural milieus, critical or “design” thinking was investigated as the pivotal component of success.

The Honors Lecture Series (UH 3000) is a series of weekly one-hour lectures designed to stimulate thought and broaden student knowledge in a variety of disciplines. Honors students are required to earn at least one hour of UH 3000 credit to graduate with University Honors, and the course may be repeated for up to three hours of credit.

Philip Phillips, interim associate dean, with the assistance of Janis Brickey, associate professor (Human Sciences), invited a diverse group of distinguished speakers to share their ideas and expertise through the following lectures: **Deana Raffo** (Management and Marketing), “Discovering Your Leadership Strengths”; **Harry Lee Poe** (Religion, Union University), “Edgar Allan Poe and the Universe”; **Eric Klumpe** (Physics and Astronomy), “Multiverses and the Grand Design”; **H. Lee Martin** (Engineering Entrepreneurship, University of Tennessee–Knoxville), “The Impact of Innovation on Society: A Historical Perspective”; **Cliff Ricketts** (Agribusiness and Agriscience), “Running Engines off Sun and Water: Science or Science Fiction?”; **George Elvin** (Gone Studio), “Post-Petroleum Design”; **Janis Brickey** (Human Sciences), “The Creative Process and Individuals”; **Jonathan Metzl** (Center for Medicine, Health, and Society, Vanderbilt

University), “The Politics of Health: How Cultural Analysis Helps Us Better Understand the Cultures of Medicine”; **Pete Barile** (Daniel Paul Chairs LLC), “The Importance of Innovation in a Global Economy”; and **Kaylene Gebert** (Speech and Theatre), “Roundtable Discussion on Innovation and Robotics.”

The series also featured a presentation by **Laura Clippard** (Honors advisor and coordinator of the University Fellowship Office): “Fellowships, Scholarships, and Grants.” There were also thesis presentations by selected Honors students: **Rachel “Pearl” Howell** (History), “Well-Behaved Women: The Women of Middle Tennessee after the Civil War” (thesis director, Lorne McWatters, History); **Kaitlyn Newman** (Philosophy and International Relations), “Postmodern Conceptions of Political Authority: Reading Plato in Light of Nietzsche and Derrida” (thesis director, Robb McDaniel, Political Science); **Dylan Phillips** (Recording Industry), “Holy Verses: How Christians Use Hip-Hop as Evangelism” (thesis director, Kaylene Gebert, Speech and Theatre); and **Kelsey Wells** (Visual Communication), “Old Bunch of Keys: African Influences in Traditional Fiddle Tunes of Southern Appalachia” (thesis director, Jette Halladay, Speech and Theatre).

Links to full-length videos of the lectures are available at www.mtsu.edu/honors/Spring_Lecture_Series.php.

The topic for the Fall 2013 Honors Lecture Series is Beauty. For more information, contact Dr. Phillips or visit www.mtsu.edu/honors/fall_lecture_series.php. [i](#)

From top left: Deana Raffo, Harry Lee Poe, Eric Klumpe, Lee Martin, Cliff Ricketts

From top right: George Elvin, Janis Brickey, Jonathan Metzl, Pete Barile. Kaylene Gebert





Over 100 Participants Learn New Languages by Telling Stories

Teens and adults of all ages were able to jumpstart their understanding of new languages this summer during the University's 11th annual Summer Language Institute.

Led by Dr. Shelley Thomas, an associate professor of foreign languages and literatures and founder of MTSU's Center for Accelerated Language Acquisition (CALA), students received weeklong courses in Arabic, Spanish, and French taught

successfully tested out of two to three semesters of Spanish. MTSU employee Tammie Dye, a grandmother who went to South America after the classes, said about her experience, "I am at a loss for words to express how much I enjoyed the class and how pleased I am with the results. I am still amazed that I can understand so much Spanish!"

"People want language learning to be fun, stress-free, and hands-on,

out. We use the simple vocabulary they learn through movement to create a story together as students are acting it out," said Thomas. "We don't use any words that they don't actually experience in class, so that it goes into long-term memory. We've had people take level one and come back a year later for level two, and they say they are able to pick right back up where they left off. We start reading a simple novel on the fifth

We start reading a simple novel on the fifth day, and when **students realize they are understanding comfortably, they are amazed.**"

by using intensive, brain-friendly language acquisition methods: TPR (Total Physical Response) and TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling).

Beginning language learners were able to grasp and use new vocabulary in five days, thanks to methods designed to teach students a second language the same way they learned their first—learning new vocabulary through movement and storytelling.

Participants with no previous Spanish training took placement tests after the classes in June and

and that's what our classes are," said Thomas. In traditional classes, students might be asked to memorize large vocabulary lists and repeat verb charts. Thomas said she found research on how movement affects learning, and it motivated her to change how she taught. In CALA classes, there's direct experience with new vocabulary first, then personal interaction and games to the experience, and finally a question/answer time to ask about the language.

"We take about 200–300 words that students can touch, see, and act

Language institute participants (L–R) Eddie Phillips, Steven Neusse, and Maya Campbell work on a group project day, and when students realize they are understanding comfortably, they are amazed."

Thomas says that CALA's five-day immersion classes are the result of a Special Projects Grant she was awarded in 2003. Blaine Ray, inventor of TPRStorytelling, published test results from that summer in the fourth edition of *Fluency through TPR-Storytelling*. Since 2003, CALA has gained international recognition, and Thomas has been invited to





Dr. Thomas leads a June CALA Summer Language Institute class



CALA Summer Language Institute spanish teacher Brian Roberts

coordinate numerous language classes and teacher workshops at various locations in Tennessee and also in India. She has been invited to give keynotes and present workshops at international, national, and regional conferences. At MTSU, she has been providing 12 hours of training for Chinese teachers from the Central South University of Forestry and Technology, hosted by MTSU's Confucius Institute.

CALA has become a resource that provides volunteer teachers, free materials, and workshops to the Murfreesboro Hispanic Family Center and Rutherford County and Murfreesboro City School ESL teachers.

The recommendation of Adam Emerson, a Fulbright scholar to Russia who participated in CALA Summer Language Institute 2012, convinced Laura Clippard, coordinator for the Undergraduate Fellowships Office, to push CALA training for Fulbright recipients who will be teaching English abroad. Says Emerson, "I acquired not only an extensive French vocabulary but also an understanding

of the ways in which we acquire language, best practices for ensuring my students' comprehension of important concepts, and effective classroom management techniques."

Brian Roberts and Ahmad Jeddeeni taught this summer's Spanish and Arabic classes, respectively. Roberts graduated from MTSU with degrees in psychology, philosophy, and Spanish and later earned an M.A. in teaching foreign languages after living and traveling in Spain and France. He has worked as a language specialist for the Tennessee Center for Child Welfare, teaching Spanish to employees of the Department of Children's Services throughout Tennessee, and although he is now pursuing a nursing degree, he continues to teach for CALA each summer.

Jeddeeni, a native of Syria, earned his bachelor's in English literature in 2006 from the University of Damascus. He came to MTSU as a graduate student after receiving a Fulbright FLTA (Foreign Language Teaching Assistant) award in 2009 and taught Arabic classes for two semesters. In

July 2012, Ahmad began teaching Arabic for CALA at MTSU, where he has been awarded a graduate teaching assistantship at MTSU for the next two years.

Walker Purcell assisted with the business side of the language institute. He has worked for the past year managing the CALA registration page and website, videotaping, doing public relations, and developing materials for teachers.

The Summer Language Institute also offered training in methodology. Both Rutherford Schools and Murfreesboro City Schools have sent teachers to the institute. It has helped foreign language teachers and teachers of students learning English as a foreign or second language.

"None of this would have been possible without the support of many people, including the past three deans of the Honors College, the past three chairs of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, and the past two deans of Liberal Arts and the Graduate School," Thomas said. [H](#)

Phillips, Fans Celebrate in “The Tell-Tale Heart of Poe Country”

Edgar Allan Poe’s 204th birthday was toasted in east coast cities and other places around the world January 19, but “nowhere more appropriately than in Boston, ‘the tell-tale heart’ of Poe country.” More than 100 Poe aficionados gathered at Boston Public Library (BPL) for the occasion.

The celebration introduced the Poe Foundation’s first annual lecture on Poe and Boston. It featured **Philip Edward Phillips**, interim associate dean of the University Honors College, professor of English, a noted Poe scholar, and former fellow of the Boston Athenaeum.

In the inaugural lecture, “Poe and Boston,” which cited much evidence addressing stubborn misunderstandings on the subject, Phillips described Poe’s controversial appearance for a poetry reading at the Boston Lyceum in 1845. That occasion, said Phillips, “brought to the surface some of Poe’s most conflicting and

deeply personal feelings about the city of his birth. Rather than confirming Poe’s animosity toward the city of Boston, especially its authors and institutions, the event more importantly reveals Poe’s desire to return . . . not to reject Boston but to reclaim a birth-right that had its origins on the Boston stage (of his maternal grandmother and his parents). What he most desired on that occasion was to be accepted and lauded in the city of his birth by an audience of Bostonians.”

Paul Lewis, a Boston College English professor and chair of the Poe Foundation of Boston, has been working with the Boston Art Commission—with the blessing of Mayor Tom Menino—since the Poe bicentennial celebration in 2009 to organize support for a public art project permanently to commemorate the influential writer in the city. Poe was born there in 1809, and his parents were Boston actors for three years.

Organizers have targeted May 2014 for unveiling a \$175,000 sculpture in Poe Square, a plaza opposite the entrance to Boston Common. The project is being funded in part by small donations from the public, primarily through the nonprofit organization’s website, www.bostonpoe.org.

New York-based sculptor Stefanie Rocknak and the woodcut model for her proposed life-size bronze sculpture, *Poe Returning to Boston*, were on hand for the library affair along with several program contributors who read from Poe’s work’s, including “The Tell-Tale Heart.”

The Edgar Allan Poe Foundation of Boston is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation organized exclusively for the charitable educational purpose of honoring Poe in the city where he was born. For more information, visit www.bostonpoe.org. 



Poe proponents at the Boston Public Library on January 19, 2013: (L-R) Dan Currie, Philip Phillips, Stefanie Rocknak, Rob Velella, Paul Lewis, and Katherine Kim with a preliminary model and enlarged image of Rocknak’s proposed sculpture *Poe Returning to Boston*

Phillips Participates in the 2013 Harvard Management Development Program



Philip Phillips with his Harvard MDP small group (L-R) Jan Thomas, Marilyn Hart, Peter Cahn, Brian Clark, Glendali Rodriguez, Wanda Hurren, James Grantham, Wail Mousa, and Molly Frankl

Philip Phillips, interim associate dean of the Honors College, was one of 112 higher education administrators from 36 states and 16 countries to participate in the Management Development Program (MDP) at Harvard University Graduate School of Education June 2–14.

The program prepares participants to become more effective leaders at their institutions and more valuable contributors to broader goals. Large- and small-group discussions and interactive presentations by Harvard

faculty and distinguished visiting speakers are included. The varied backgrounds and experiences of the attendees and the range of mid-level administrative roles they represent contribute to the program's richness and lasting value.

The MDP, one of the most prestigious programs in the country for the development of academic administrators, explores current topics in academic leadership, team effectiveness, crisis management, diversity, institutional advancement,

human resource management, ethics, strategic planning, financial management, and professional development.

John Omachonu (vice provost for Academic Affairs) and Scott Carnicom (Provost's Office) are also Harvard MDP alumni.

Dr. Phillips received a partial tuition scholarship from Harvard University and support from the University Honors College and the College of Liberal Arts to participate in the program. [H](#)

Former Honors Director Leads Moroccan Odysseys

Ron Messier, professor emeritus and former director of the Honors program, is one of three National Geographic experts who accompany 11-day Moroccan Odyssey expeditions in North Africa.

Messier shares insights and rare behind-the-scenes perspectives for those taking the journey to places such as Casablanca, Marrakech, Fez, and the Atlas Mountains. He accompanied an April 19–29 expedition this year and is scheduled for a March 21–31 trip in 2014.

A historian and archaeologist, Messier is a former adjunct professor and senior lecturer at Vanderbilt University, where he taught Islamic history and historical archaeology. He has received three National Geographic research grants to direct excavation of the ancient city of Sijilmasa in Morocco. He is now director of an archaeology project at Aghmat, near Marrakech and is president of both the Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic

Studies Seminar and the advisory board for the Society of Universal Dialogue.

A winner of the CASE Tennessee Professor of the Year Award, he has written or edited three books on North Africa and the Middle East and has published more than two dozen articles.

For more information on Messier and his Moroccan journeys, go to www.nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/experts/ronald-messier/detail#sthash.zqWozJAY.dpuf. [H](#)



Chinese teachers (front, L–R) Min He, Shuoshi Zhang, Haibing Tang, (back) Lei Lei, Yi Chai, and Yi Li, participating in a four-week Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

program, with Joan McRae (Foreign Languages and Literatures chair), left, Shelley Thomas (Foreign Languages and Literatures), and Guanping Zheng (Confucius Institute)



STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE

The University Honors College fosters academic excellence and the nurturing environment of a small, liberal arts college within the setting of a comprehensive university. Support from alumni and friends helps us to provide the most exceptional experience for our students through scholarships, academic and creative publications, travel, research, and the pursuit of esteemed prizes including the Fulbright Award.

Visit www.mtsu.edu/supporthonors to make your online gift or contact Nick Perlick at nick.perlick@mtsu.edu or (615) 898-2502 for more information.

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY



Dean John R. Vile presents a personalized gavel to 2012–2013 Honors Council chair Kaylene Gebert.



Students, faculty, and staff gathered May 31 in the Honors College conference room to say goodbye to coordinator Georgia Dennis, who worked at MTSU for over 35 years in several positions. She served in Student Programming for many years and began working as Honors College event coordinator in 2004. She also served as the Omicron Delta Kappa circle's faculty secretary for three years.

New Scholarship Puts Top Law School Within Reach

by Constance Grieves | Constance graduated in May 2013 from the University Honors College with distinction. She majored in political science with a pre-law concentration. She received a full-tuition three-year scholarship to attend the University of Chicago Law School.

In retrospect, I may have applied to too many law schools. Thanks to a decent LSAT score and a high GPA, I received dozens of application fee waivers and decided to take advantage of sixteen of them. I wanted to keep my law school options as open as possible so I applied to three tiers of schools: accepted without question, probably accepted, and probably not accepted but worth a shot.

As I expected, I started receiving full-ride offers from my “accepted without question” and “probably accepted” schools fairly quickly. Also as I expected, the top 10 “probably not accepted but worth a shot” schools were less swift in their responses. They were also less generous with their financial aid packages. The process of narrowing down the pool of possibilities was incredibly anxiety inducing.

I was aware of the good fortune that brought me to the position of choosing between the full-ride and the prestigious top 10 law schools, but I was not feeling very fortunate as I struggled with the decision. I had fairly generous offers from Vanderbilt, Georgetown, and UVA and was delighted at being accepted to such venerable institutions. The jury was still out on Harvard and UPenn, and I had less-than-generous offers from Michigan and the University of Chicago.

Of course, I would be lucky to attend any of these schools, but I was particularly excited about the prospect of going to Chicago. After hours of researching law schools, I knew that Chicago was where I wanted to be. I just wasn’t sure that I was willing to rack up \$200,000 in debt in order to make that happen. The clock was ticking with Vanderbilt, Georgetown, and UVA. I had to accept the scholarship and submit my intent to enroll or the money would be offered to another student. As I struggled with this decision, I went to Chicago for the Admitted Students Weekend, hoping that I would leave with my mind made up one way or the other.

Although I left with an even stronger sense that Chicago was the obvious choice, I could not quell the anxiety of taking on so much debt when I had three top law schools offering me significantly more money. While attending a financial aid seminar, I learned that Chicago offers a one-time financial aid package review for students who want to attend and have scholarship offers from comparable schools. It was my only hope, so I requested a review and sent in my other scholarship offers with my fingers crossed. I knew that if Chicago would match even the lowest scholarship, I was bound for Hyde Park. I had no reason to believe that this would happen, however.



When I got the email letting me know that my financial aid review had been processed I was afraid to open it. I took a few deep breaths, reminded myself that I had other great options, and opened the email. I was absolutely speechless as I read that I had been selected to receive the Debra A. Cafaro Scholarship, which covers all tuition for all three years. I must have read the email ten times before I believed that it was real. In fact, I’m still not completely convinced that it is real. Never would I have imagined that I would be accepted to the University of Chicago Law School, much less offered a full ride. As I prepare for the exciting journey ahead, I am thrilled by the thought of representing Middle Tennessee State University in a setting that I never thought possible. Thanks to Ms. Cafaro, an alumna of Chicago, I have the opportunity to do so. I will be forever grateful for that opportunity. [H](#)

Debra A. Cafaro, chair and chief executive officer of Ventas Inc. and a 1982 graduate of the University of Chicago Law School, made a \$4 million gift to provide full-tuition, three-year scholarships to 22 students with significant financial need to obtain a legal education with no debt. Constance Grieves received one of the first four of these scholarships.



Harwell Named Distinguished Friend of Honors

by Randy Weiler

Tennessee House Speaker Beth Harwell took a few moments before receiving a special award from MTSU on March 21 to share stories of other women who blazed trails across Tennessee.



Above: Speaker Beth Harwell speaks on the topic of women in leadership.

At right: Dr. Sidney A. McPhee greets Speaker Harwell before the March 21 award presentation.

Harwell, a Pennsylvania native who is in her 12th year of representing the 56th District, which includes part of Davidson County and Nashville, discussed the historical importance of Charlotte Robertson and Sarah Polk; the influence of former Rep. Harry Burns’s mother in the passage of the 19th amendment, which gave women the right to vote; three-time Olympic gold medalist Wilma Rudolph, who overcame polio as a child; and the University of Tennessee’s Hall of Fame basketball coach Pat Summitt.

President Sidney A. McPhee then presented Harwell with the second-ever Distinguished Friend of the University Honors College Award for Distinguished Service to the State of Tennessee. The event was held in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building.

“We could not have a better candidate for this award,” McPhee said.

He added that he had worked closely with Harwell and other legislators in the last couple of years, particularly with regard to the \$147 million science building currently under construction on the south side of campus.

Harwell, the first female speaker of the House of Representatives in Tennessee and in the Southeast, invited the audience to her legislative office, where she said the award “will be permanently on display.”

Harwell signed the Honors College’s Book of Town and Gown at the request of her friend and former student

Philip Phillips, interim associate Honors dean, and said at the post-ceremony reception that the recognition “came at a very nice time. It’s an honor to be here during (National) Women’s History Month.”

“This university has done so much to promote women, to make sure young women are educated and in the workforce, to employ a lot of women faculty members and administrators, so it’s an honor to be recognized by a university I hold in such high esteem. You’re not only growing in quantity, you’re also growing in quality. I’m just so impressed.”

The first recipient of the college’s Distinguished Friend Award was Turkish entrepreneur and humanitarian Celal “Uncle Celal” Afsar, who was honored in 2011.

The University Honors College was formally established in 1998 after 25 years of success as an honors program. Its purpose is to provide exceptional undergraduate education to a small but diverse student population.

Dean John Vile said the program “began under the auspices of another trailblazing woman, Dr. June Hall McCash, in 1973.”

Harwell was commencement speaker at MTSU’s fall 2012 morning ceremony. She holds degrees from Lipscomb, Vanderbilt, and George Peabody College, and she is an advocate for K–12 and higher education. [H](#)



Beth Harwell receives the Distinguished Friend of the University Honors College Award from President Sidney A. McPhee, Dean John R. Vile (left), and Philip E. Phillips, interim associate dean.

Fulbright Recipient Returns Bearing a Gift

by Marsha Powers



For a young man who **“never expected to go abroad for any reason other than a short vacation,”** Adam Emerson has gotten more than he bargained for.

Last year, Adam was awarded a nine-month Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Russia, and though he “had no idea what to expect,” he rose

to the challenges he encountered, achieved his personal goals, met some amazing people along the way, and hand-delivered a gift to the Honors College upon his return.

“When I arrived in Izhevsk,” Adam said, “I was confronted with an entirely new world. The language, culture, and even the weather were entirely foreign to me. I faced all kinds of challenges, [that] would have been absolutely overwhelming, if not for one thing: the amazing people.”

“First, there was Olga, the young teacher of English who had experience as an international teacher and knew how to help me adjust to a new educational climate. Then there was Svetlana, who took me snowboarding outside the city just when I was getting tired of life within the city. Oksana saved me anytime I had trouble arranging travel within the country.”

“In the end,” Adam said, “there was Mikhail [Abram], an artist whose hospitality and generosity is evident in the donated painting now on display in the Honors College.”

The painting given to him by Abram, a rising Russian artist, depicts a Sicilian beggar in the square of Catania. Instead of using his hands or hat to beg, he holds a tea strainer, and in his gaze, there is contempt for the world.

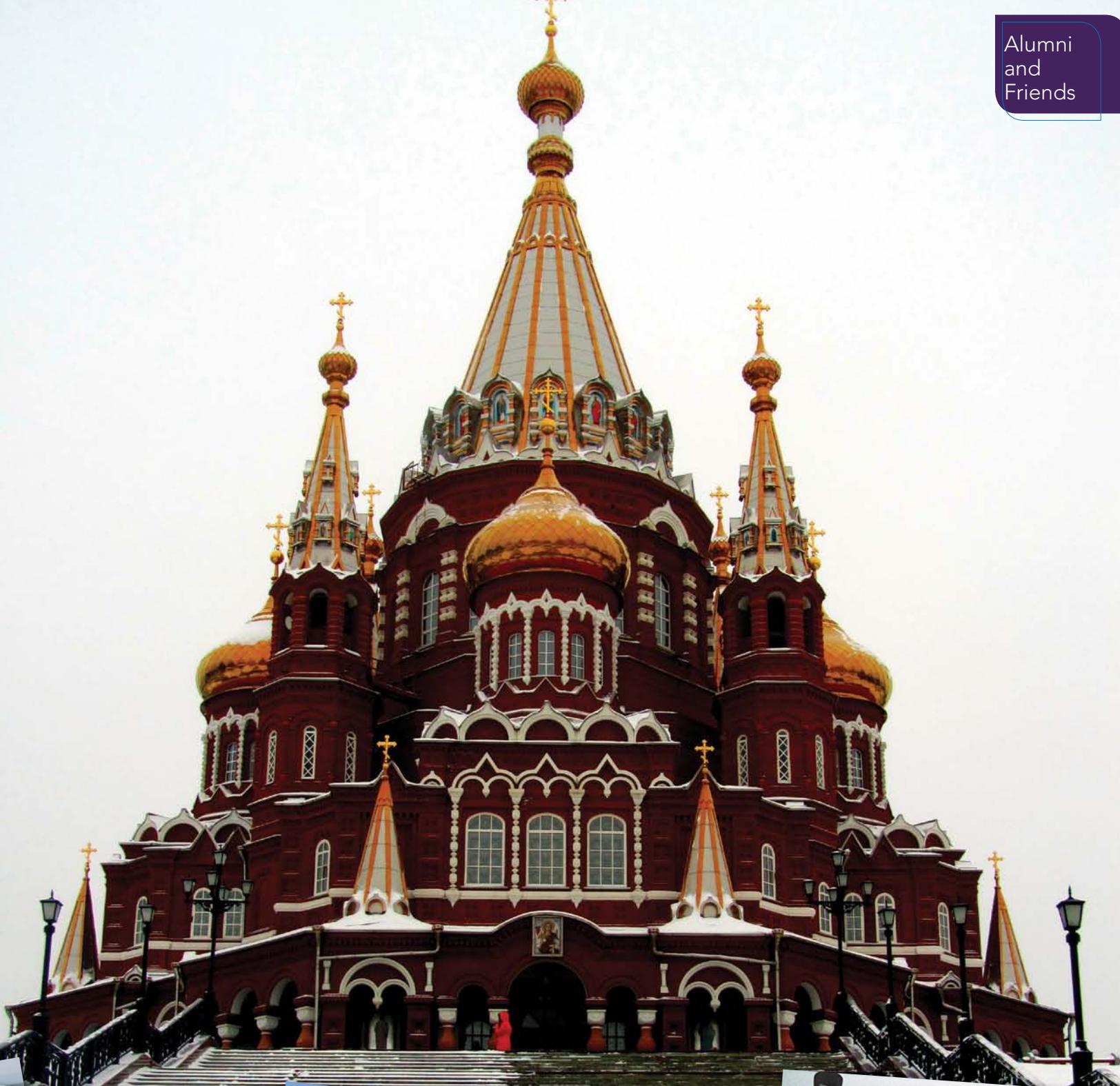
The 48-year-old Abram’s work has been featured in several of St. Petersburg’s most famous contemporary art galleries, though the Voronezh native did not begin painting until he was 40. He never studied painting and describes his ability as a divine gift.

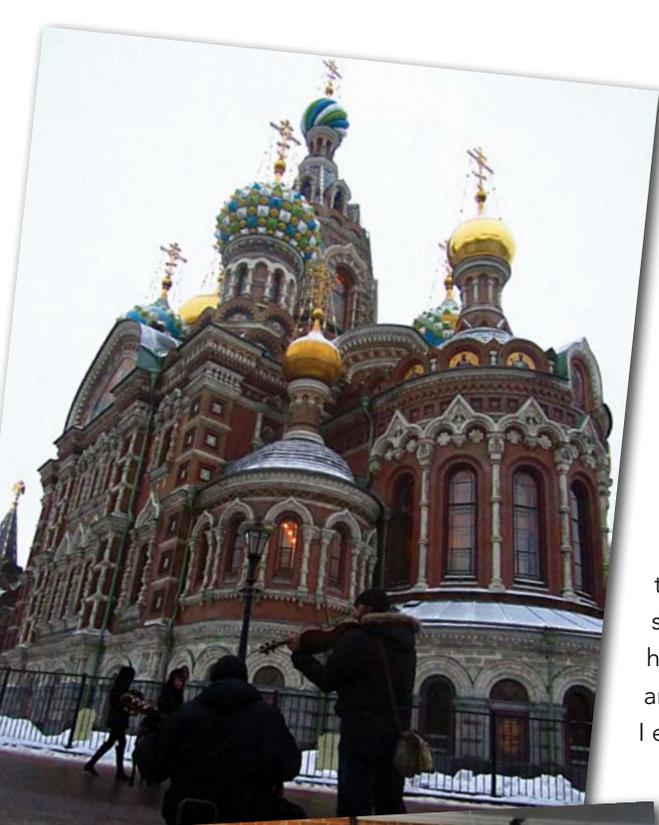
“God lead me from painting to painting and taught me how and what to do,” Abram said. “This may sound like pathos, but it is true. From the moment that I took this gift and became an artist, everything in my life has changed. My lifestyle and the people around me have changed. I stopped getting annoyed by the unimportant. I create, and this is the meaning of my life.”

Abram calls his style of painting Emotionalism and says any work of art should evoke positive emotions from the viewer. “The most important of our emotions is love,”

continued on page 66







continued from page 64

he said. "The world is created from love. Love is a positive emotion, and all art must serve this emotion. I'm not trying to surprise, shock, or scare my viewers; I am trying to convey to them the beauty and love of this world through this divine gift."

Abram has traveled the world but now lives in St. Petersburg, where he takes part in exhibitions and sells his paintings to galleries and private collectors. He and others have made Adam Emerson's life richer.

Adam said, "By the end of my nine months, I had accomplished all of the goals I had set, including traveling throughout the western half of Russia, improving my skills as a teacher, and (hopefully) making a lasting impact on the community in which I lived. Had it not been for the love and compassion I experienced from the people I met, including some special people who are now as close to me as family, I would never have traveled so far and achieved so much. The experience wasn't easy and wasn't always fun, but in the end, the people I met and the things I experienced made it all worthwhile."

Adam's positive experience in Russia was not surprising to Laura Clippard, Undergraduate Fellowships Office coordinator. "Adam has some key personality qualities—an extreme work ethic and intelligence—that have helped him to be successful," she said.

"Adam has both academic and emotional intelligence. He is able to relate well to many different kinds of people and has a warm, caring, helpful personality. I think he brought those strengths to his Fulbright experience."

The Honors College received a valuable painting from Adam's Fulbright experience, but perhaps Adam received the most valuable gift—the friendship of the people he met.

To see more of Mikhail Abram's paintings, visit his website (www.abram-art.com). [H](#)



Highlights from Campus Events

Josh Gibson, a 2010 graduate with a B.S. in Speech and Theatre, returned to MTSU March 21 for Liberal Arts Alumni Day. Gibson, communications coordinator for the Tennessee Housing Development Agency, is pictured with (L-R) Kaylene Gebert, Devin Lee Hawthorne, and his wife, Carrie.



Belmont University professor of history Daniel Schafer presented "Why Turkey Is the Country to Watch" March 28. Schafer, center, is pictured with Ron Messier, left, and Ismail Fidan, a professor at Tennessee Tech.



Donald Joseph Boudreaux, professor of economics at George Mason University, presented "The Life and Contributions of James M. Buchanan" in the State Farm Room of the Business and Aerospace Building April 22.

Class Notes {students}

Jacob H. Basham (Chemistry) won first place at the Tennessee Academy of Science chemistry student poster presentation in November 2012. He also participated in Posters at the Capitol February 13 in Nashville.

Jordan Dodson (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics) did research for a National Science Foundation–funded program at Harvard University this summer. He also represented MTSU at Posters at the Capitol in Nashville in February.

Anna Gray (Social Work) was selected as an MTSU Student Ambassador for 2013–2014.

Jonathan Herlan (Physics) participated in the NASA Langley Aerospace Research Student Scholars program in Hampton, Virginia this summer. His project involved the investigation of elastic and acoustic metamaterials for applications in reducing the noise generated outside and inside aerospace vehicles.

Tandra Martin (International Relations) is serving as an MTSU Student Ambassador for 2013–2014.

Denise “Nissi” Monsegue (International Relations) received a legislative internship for the spring 2013 semester and was assigned to Republican representative Pat Marsh, District 62.

Peter D. Schwartz (Physics) received a summer Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internship at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Lab July 23–August 24 at Stanford University.

Kelsey Wells (Mass Communication) performed on NBC’s *Today* show in May. Sharon Hatcher, owner of Hatcher Family Dairy in Williamson County, won *Today*’s “Wake Up with AI” contest, and weatherman Al Roker visited her farm and profiled it on the show. The Hatcher family invited Brandon Whitt, Kelsey, and other musicians to perform for the broadcast.



Philip Phillips and Timothy Edgemon
Marian Clark Scholarship, Alpha Kappa Delta initiate, McCash Founders Award



Adam Sisk and John Vile
Outstanding Sophomore Award in English

Class Notes {student awards and scholarships}

Honors College Awards

Brenton Andrews (Aerospace)
Academic Achievement Scholarship

Brett Bornhoft (Aerospace)
Ingram-Montgomery Research Scholarship, Research Resources Scholarship, and Paul W. Martin Scholarship

Nicole Braunwalder (Psychology)
Hannah/Harris Study Abroad Scholarship

Kelsi Carter (Mass Communication)
Academic Achievement Scholarship

Timothy Edgemon (Sociology)
McCash Founders Award

Emma Fredrick (Psychology)
Ingram-Montgomery Research Scholarship

Chelsea Harmon (Chemistry)
Outstanding Freshman Award

Pearl Howell (History)
Ingram-Montgomery Research Scholarship

Evan M. Lester (Aerospace)
Outstanding Freshman Award

Martin Moran (Exercise Science)
Paul W. Martin Scholarship

Anna Neal (Biology)
Paul W. Martin Scholarship

Robert A. O'Connor (Biology and Philosophy)
Outstanding Junior Award

Cheyenne Plot
(Foreign Languages and Organizational Communication)
Paul W. Martin Scholarship

Fernando Ramos-Cintrón (Mass Communication)
Ingram-Montgomery Research Scholarship and Paul W. Martin Scholarship

Michael Ripley (Political Science and Criminal Justice)
Lawrence R. Good Scholarship

Kelsey Rogers (Art Education)
Michael Martinelli Memorial Scholarship

Tatiana Silvas (English)
Bart McCash Scholarship

Adam M. Sisk (English)
Outstanding Sophomore Award

Joanne Tan (Biology)
Paul W. Martin Scholarship

Melissa Watts (Nursing)
Academic Achievement Scholarship

Kelsey L. Wells (Mass Communication)
Outstanding Senior Award

Tyler A. Whitaker (Anthropology)
Marilyn M. and Philip M. Mathis Research Award

Juan Zelaya (Entrepreneurship)
Paul W. Martin Scholarship

Watson Harris and Nicole Braunwalder
Hannah/Harris Study Abroad Scholarship



College Awards and Scholarships

COLLEGE OF MASS COMMUNICATION

Matthew Binford (Mass Communication)
Outstanding Student MT10 HF Student TV Station and
EMC Productions Outstanding Achievement Award

Kelsi Carter (Mass Communication)
Kappa Tau Alpha Honor Society inductee

Parker Deal (Recording Industry)
Andy White Memorial Scholarship

Amanda F. Gambill (Mass Communication)
2012–2013 John Seigenthaler Scholar

Emily P. Kubis (Mass Communication)
John Seigenthaler Journalism Scholarship
and 2012–2013 John Seigenthaler Scholar

Christopher G. Merchant (Mass Communication)
Herman Eskew Journalism Award
and 2012–2013 John Seigenthaler Scholar

Fernando Ramos-Cintrón (Mass Communication)
School of Journalism Diversity Scholarship

Chris Ranker (Mass Communication)
Outstanding Student MTSU Film Guild

Emily R. West (Mass Communication)
Journalism Internship Scholarship and second place,
Douglas E. Stults Memorial Scholarship

JENNINGS A. JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Garrett R. Ewers (Accounting, History)
W. Wallace Robertson Accounting Scholarship

Jordan R. Holloway (Accounting)
Experiential Learning Program
Outstanding Student Award

Juan C. Zelaya (Entrepreneurship)
Entrepreneurship Award and the
Charles E. Hodge II Scholarship

COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Lucy Estes (Speech and Theatre)
Communication Disorders Outstanding Major Award

Martin J. Moran (Health and Human Performance)
Nancy Hill Robertson Scholarship

Chelsea Morrison (Psychology)
Larry W. Morris Outstanding Senior in Psychology

Michael Ripley
(Criminal Justice Administration and Political Science)
R. B. J. Campbell Jr. Scholarship

Mary Catherine Robinson
(Family and Consumer Studies)
Outstanding Senior in Child Development
and Family Studies



Greg Schmidt and
Fernando Ramos Cintron

COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Brenton Andrews (Aerospace)
Tiara Foundation Chair Award of Excellence

Joe S. Ballard (Mathematics)
Jim and Lucinda Lea Mathematics Scholarship

Jacob H. Basham (Chemistry)
Hypercube Scholarship and Miss Tommie
Reynolds Mathematics Scholarship

Brett Bornhoft (Aerospace)

Colonel Jean Jack Aerospace Scholarship
and Excellence in Aviation Scholarship

Jordan G. Dodson (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics)

Thomas Forrest Abstract Algebra Award

Bryan Donaphon (Chemistry)

Dan D. Scott Chemistry Scholarship and Faculty
Achievement Award in Chemistry (Outstanding Senior)

Linda Duong (Biology)

C. W. Wiser Medical/Allied Health Award and Scholarship

Rachael B. Gillaspie (Mathematics)

Diane and Jim Miller Teaching Mathematics Scholarship

Chelsea Harmon (Chemistry)

Jubran and Judy Wakim Chemistry Scholarship
and CRC Freshman Award

Mary Hayden (Biology)

Peter I. Karl Outstanding Senior Award

Evan Lester (Aerospace)

Excellence in Aviation Scholarship

Kailey McDonald (Mathematics)

Charles F. and Ethel E. Lewis Scholarship Award

Alexander G. Murphy (Mathematics)

Jesse L. Smith Mathematics Scholarship

Nicodemus Myhre (Aerospace and Physics)

Physics and Astronomy Faculty Scholarship

William Shelton (Chemistry)

Albert L. and Ethel C. Smith Pre-Medical Scholarship

Katelyn Stringer (Physics)

Theoretical Physics Award for Excellence and
Physics and Astronomy Department Service Award

Peter Schwartz (Physics)

Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Achievement Award

Nathan Tilton (Aerospace)

John and Barbara Ellington Scholarship

Bret Reid Wiggins (Computer Science and Mathematics)

Frances Stubblefield Calculus II Award

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Clifton Barnett (Political Science)

John W. Burgess Award

Kaitlin Beck (Economics)

William J. Connelly Award for Upper-Division
Writing and Meritorious Service Award

Timothy Edgemon (Sociology)

Marian Clark Scholarship and Alpha Kappa Delta initiate

Paige Gober (Speech and Theatre)

Robert Aden Memorial Scholarship
and Clayton Hawes Memorial Scholarship

Constance Grieves (Political Science)

C. C. Sims Award

Heather Haggard (Political Science)

Meritorious Service Award

Joseph Huckleberry (Political Science)

Norman L. Parks Award and Outstanding
Debate Leadership Award

Tyler King (International Relations)

June Hall McCash Excellence in French Award

John R. Meese (Economics and Foreign Languages)

Outstanding Student in Spanish Award

Kaitlyn Newman (International Relations and Philosophy)

Meritorious Service Award

Courtney Rodman

(Global Studies and Organizational Communication)
Pi Gamma Mu initiate

William T. Wilson (Philosophy and Sociology)

Clayton James Scholarship and Marian Clark Scholarship

Patrick Woodruff (English and Philosophy)

Homer Pittard Creative Writing Award

Victoria Worrell (Geoscience)

Outstanding Geology Student Award

STUDENTS, FACULTY, ALUMNI
AND FRIENDS, WE WANT YOUR
Class Notes updates!

Recognitions and awards • Special achievements
Graduate or professional school • New job or title
Internships • Research • Publications • Presentations

E-mail Class Notes updates to hcnews@mtsu.edu
or to marsha.powers@mtsu.edu.

SCHOLARS DAY AWARDS

Eric Guyes (Physics)

First Place, College of Basic and Applied Sciences
(three-way tie)

Victoria Harrison (Animal Science and Biochemistry)

First Place, College of Basic and Applied Sciences
(three-way tie)

Lauren Rigbsby (Physics)

First Place, College of Basic and Applied Sciences
(three-way tie)

Juan Zelaya (Entrepreneurship)

Second Place, College of Business

2012–2013 URECA AWARDS

Jordan Dodson (Chemistry, Mathematics, and Biology)

Eric Guyes (Physics)

Victoria Harrison (Animal Science)

Rachel N. Hart (Biology)

Cody Malone (Aerospace)

Joseph Meyer (Global Studies and International Relations)

Daniel Murphy (Physics)

Joy Oduor (Biology)

Fernando Ramos-Cintrón (Mass Communication)

Ryan Rehnborg (Mass Communication)

Pedro Reyes (Computer Science)

Peter Schwartz (Physics)

Lauren Whaley (Biology)



Paul Martin III, Martin Moran and Joanne Tan
Paul W. Martin Scholarship



Philip Phillips and Tatiana Silvas
Bart McCash Scholarship

Class Notes {faculty and staff}

Claudia Barnett (English)

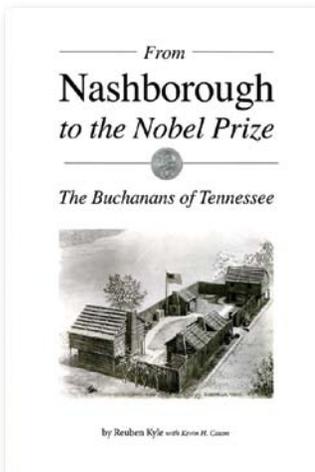
received the Outstanding Honors Faculty Award at the spring Honors College awards program.

Marc Barr

(Electronic Media Communication) has secured a National Science Foundation grant of \$5,100 for the funding of the SIGGRAPH Pioneer Mentoring Program for high school students. The program's mission is to attract primarily underserved and minority students to computer graphics-related fields.

Laura Clippard (Honors) led a panel presentation titled "Learning to Juggle—Best Time Management Practices for Accomplishing Key Goals" at the National Association of Fellowship Advisors 7th biennial conference in Atlanta in July.

Judith Iriarte Gross (Chemistry) received the President's Silver Column Award February 4 for her dedication to students and for promoting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics as career options for girls and young women. Dr. Gross has been a passionate advocate of science as a career possibility for girls and young women.



Nobel Prize in economics. All proceeds from the sale of the book go to the Buchanan Fellows scholarship fund.



Claudia Barnett and John Vile

Jane Marcellus

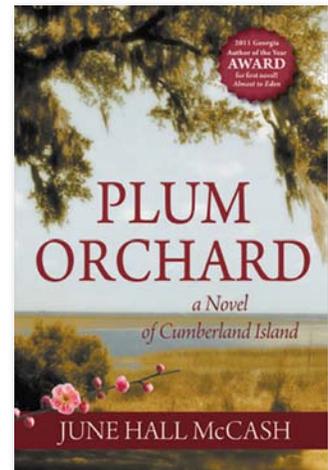
(Journalism) presented "Independent Woman: A Feminist Voice between the 'Waves' of the Women's Movement" at the College of Mass Communication Scholars Week faculty showcase April 4.

June McCash

(former Honors Program director, Foreign Languages) and her son,

Brenden Martin

(History), coauthored *The Jekyll Island Club Hotel*. McCash's novel *Plum Orchard* won the 2013 Georgia Author of the Year Award for best novel.



L. Diane Miller (Mathematical Sciences) has made five presentations with Brandon Banes, an MTSU doctoral student and instructor at Lipscomb University in Nashville: "Using Problem-Based Learning (PBL) Activities to Teach Mathematics," a paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics in Denver, April 2013; "Teaching Mathematics to Pre-Service Elementary Teachers through Problem-Based Learning," a paper presented at the sixth East Asia Regional Conference on Mathematics Education (EARCOME-6) in Phuket, Thailand, March 2013; "Getting Pre-Service Elementary Teachers Involved through Problem-Based Learning (PBL) Activities," a paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators in Orlando, Florida, January 2013; "Teaching Pre-Service Elementary

continued on page 74

continued from page 73

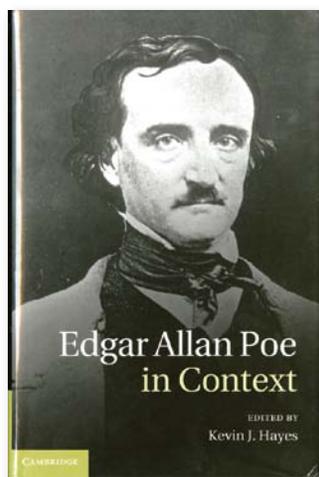
Teachers Number Concepts through Problem-Based Learning," a paper presented at the annual meeting of the School Science and Mathematics Association in Birmingham, Alabama, November 2012; and "Teaching Pre-Service Elementary Teachers Mathematics through Problem-Based Learning and Problem Solving," a paper presented at the Twelfth International Congress on Mathematics Education (ICME-12) in Seoul, Korea, July 2012.



John Vile and
Dennis Mullen

Dennis M. Mullen (Biology) received the Honors College Exemplary Service Award this spring.

Philip Phillips (Honors College interim associate dean) participated in the Management Development Program at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education, June 2-14. Phillips also participated in the SACS-COC Institute on Quality Enhancement and Accreditation in Daytona Beach, Florida, July 21-24. A member-at-large of the Poe Studies Association executive committee, Phillips organized and chaired the session "Poe and Place" at the 22nd Annual Conference of the American Literature

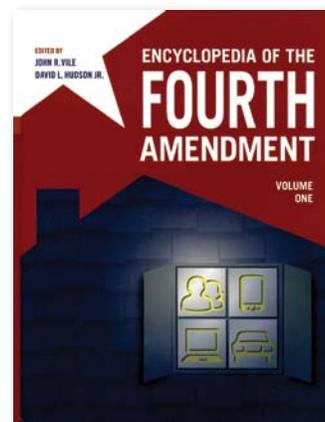


Association in Boston (May 2013), and he delivered "Yankee Neal and Edgar Poe: A Literary Friendship," at the Positively Poe Conference held at the University of Virginia (June 2013). The July 2013 *Boston Athenæum* online newsletter cited Phillips's contribution to *Edgar Allan Poe in Context*, published in October 2012, as an example of collaboration among scholars. The newsletter reported that Phillips conducted research at the Athenæum in 2008 on Poe's relationship with Boston. While at the Athenæum, Phillips met Kevin J. Hayes, who was editing the collection of essays on Poe and asked Phillips to contribute to the book.

Bob Pondillo (*Electronic Media Communication*) and **Mary Nichols** produced a new film, *Happy New Year, Mr. Kates!*, that received Best Short Screenplay 2012 at the American International Film Festival in Chicago.

John R. Vile

(Honors College) is the editor of *Encyclopedia of the Fourth Amendment*. The two-volume reference work was published by CQ Press in January 2013 and features a series of essays that examine the historical background of the Fourth Amendment. The fifth edition of Vile's *Pleasing the Court: A Mock Trial Handbook* was published in January.



Carroll Van West (History) was appointed state historian by Tennessee governor Bill Haslam in July. West has taught history at MTSU since 1985 and has served as director of the Center for Historic Preservation and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area since 2002. He also serves as a cochair of the Tennessee Civil War sesquicentennial Commission and as a Tennessee representative on the National Board of Advisors of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Class Notes {alumni and friends}

Taylor A. Barnes (Chemistry and Physics, 2009) coauthored "Accurate basis set truncation for wavefunction embedding," which was recently published in the *Journal of Chemical Physics*, the most highly cited journal in atomic, molecular, and chemical physics. In the same journal, Barnes was second author on "Density functional theory embedding for correlated wavefunctions: Improved methods for open-shell systems and transition metal complexes" in 2012 and "Embedded density functional theory for covalently bonded and strongly interacting subsystems" in 2011.

Jacob Basham (Professional Mathematics) is attending the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine in Memphis this fall in the M.D./Ph.D. program.

Kaitlin Beck (Economics and French, 2012) is interning at the Shelby County District Attorney's office in Memphis.

Katie Bogle (Political Science, 2012) has been accepted to the University of Virginia School of Law.

Kelsey Crews (Organizational Communication and Spanish, 2012) is presenting her thesis research, "Human Sex Trafficking: A Thematic Analysis of the New York Times," at the National Communication Association Convention in Washington, D.C., in November. Kelsey is attending graduate school at MTSU, studying industrial/organizational psychology this fall.

Linda Duong (Biology, 2013) is attending the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, studying medical technology.

Lucy Estes (Communication Disorders, 2013) is attending graduate school at East Tennessee State University where she is studying speech/language pathology.

Kirsten Farrer (Biology, 2012) works in a research lab at Vanderbilt University using next-generation DNA and RNA sequencing to better understand the characteristics of triple negative breast cancer.

Emma Fredrick (Psychology, 2012) is in the East Tennessee State University Ph.D. program in experimental psychology with a focus in social work.

Casey Gaddis (Anthropology, 2012) married David Muirhead May 5 in Brentwood. The couple lives in Colorado Springs, where Casey is an information services specialist for Pikes Peak Library District.

Sara Beth Gideon (History, 2011) received an M.A. in history from MTSU in May and has been named executive director of Rock Castle historic house museum in Hendersonville. Rock Castle is a late 18th-century house built by early Tennessee leader Daniel Smith, and the property is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Ellen Goertzen (Animal Science, 2013) received a graduate teaching assistantship at North Carolina State University, where she will be studying equine nutrition and exercise physiology.

Daniel Gouger (Biochemistry and Spanish, 2012) is attending East Tennessee State University's Quillen College of Medicine.

Jasmine Gray (Mass Communication, 2010) is working as an executive assistant at Paramount Pictures in Los Angeles.

Nathaniel Greene (Political Science and Economics, 2011) married **Amanda Alexander** (Political Science, 2010) in July 2011. Nathaniel and Amanda were charter members of MTSU's circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, and Nathaniel was the first president. He is a third-year law student at the University of Tennessee College of Law. He is research editor for *Transactions: The University of Tennessee Journal of Business Law* and an articles editor for the *Tennessee Law Review*. He has had two case synopses published in *Transactions*, one on securities law and one on bankruptcy law. He worked for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Knoxville in summer 2012 and in two Nashville firms in summer 2013.

Jacob Hall (Biology, 2010) is in his fourth year at Vanderbilt University, where he is studying statistics and human genetics.

Merranda Holmes (Biology, 2010) is serving at Kapsowar Mission Hospital in Kenya this fall through African Inland Missions. She is working in obstetrics and gynecology

continued on page 76

continued from page 75

(delivering babies and assisting in surgeries), family medicine, general surgery, and pediatrics. Merranda is a student at East Tennessee State University's James H. Quillen College of Medicine. Last March, she was one of only four students inducted into the Quillen Delta chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha, a medical honor society.

Kaitlen Howell (Biology and German, 2010) is attending Harvard Medical School.

Courtney Hunter (Art, 2013) is working as a designer for the corporate office of Tractor Supply Company in Brentwood, Tennessee. Courtney was the designer for the fall 2011 and spring 2012 issues of *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression* and was editor-in-chief for the 2012–2013 academic year.

Jennifer Isenberg (Global Studies, 2013) moved to Corinth, Greece, in August in order to become certified in TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language). After receiving her certification, she plans to teach English in France for a year before beginning graduate school.

Cari Jennings (Biology, 2012) is working as a research assistant at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Jennifer Johnson (Psychology, 2012) is attending Vanderbilt University's Peabody College of Education and Human Development.

Emily Kubis (Journalism, 2013) is working as a crime and courts reporter for the *City Paper* in Nashville.

Cody Malone (Aerospace, 2013) married Alexandra Gaitley in July.

Paul W. Martin Jr. (Finance, 1975) received the Jennings A. Jones College of Business Exemplar Award at the college's spring awards reception.

Hannah Maulden (English, 2013) is pursuing a master's degree in popular culture at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Samuel Mitchell (Chemistry, 2012) married Allie Duty in June. He has been accepted to Lincoln Memorial University DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine in Harrogate, Tennessee.

Patrick Morrison (International Relations, 2012) has been awarded scholarships from the Middle Tennessee Community Foundation and the Alpha Tau Omega Foundation to attend the University of Tennessee College of Law.



Shannon Murphy and her brother Patrick, a mass communication major

Shannon Murphy (Biology, 2010) is in her fourth year of medical school at the Quillen College of Medicine at ETSU in Johnson City and is planning to go into pediatrics when she graduates. Shannon is engaged to **Jeremy Crook** (Chemistry, 2010), who is also in his fourth year and plans to go into emergency medicine.

Lindsay Gates Paturalski (History, 2012) is attending Boston College this fall. She received a teaching assistantship and is assisting in the Asia in the World class.

Lauren Qualls (Psychology, 2013) is attending graduate school at MTSU studying clinical psychology.

Lauren Rigsby (Physics, 2013) has been accepted to the Professional Doctorate in Medical Physics program at Vanderbilt School of Medicine.

Madeleine Sheinfeld (Anthropology, 2013) is tutoring middle and high school students for AmeriCorps in the Federal Way, Washington, public school system.

Jake Verhoeff (Social Work, 2012) is attending the University of Michigan School of Social Work.

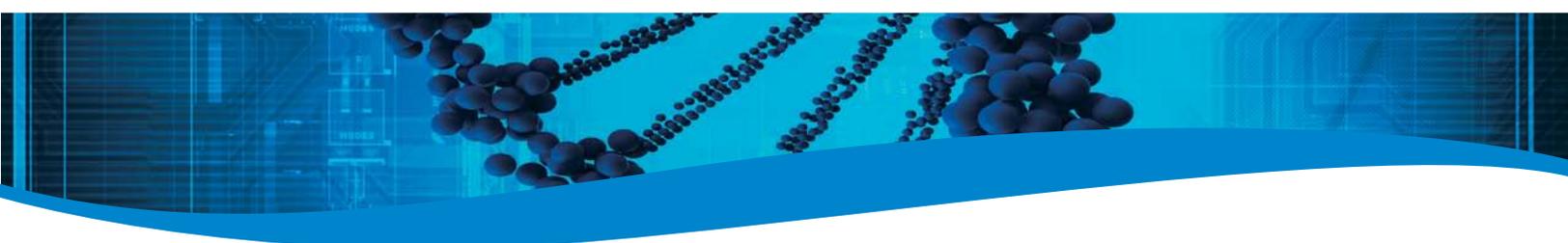
Philip Voorhees (Mass Communication, 1998), adaptive technology coordinator in the Austin Peay State University Office of Disability Services, was awarded the 2013 Dona Sparger Professional Service Award in April 2013 during the annual Tennessee Association on Higher Education and Disability (TNAHEAD) conference held at Tennessee Tech

University. This is the highest honor awarded to a disability service provider; it recognizes exemplary professional service in the disability services field. Voorhees, who is president of TNAHEAD, was honored for his outstanding work across the state and country regarding assistive technology and general access for persons with disabilities.

Leland Waite (Aerospace, 2103) is pursuing an M.S. in aviation safety and security at MTSU and is a graduate teaching assistant in the Flight Operations Center Unified Simulation Lab.

Kelsey Wells (Mass Communication, 2013) traveled abroad with Jette Halladay to Norway and Denmark this summer to teach elementary school students about Appalachian/Scandinavian folklore through theater and music. Kelsey also attended Ethno, a folk music camp in Denmark.

Kimberly Yarborough (International Relations and Spanish, 2011) was one of fewer than 100 students out of over 800 applicants selected for admission to the Master of Science in Foreign Service program at Georgetown University this fall. Kimberly previously received a Fulbright Scholarship to teach in Spain in 2011–2012.



DO YOU HAVE THE **HEART** OF A SCIENTIST AND A **MIND** FOR BUSINESS?

Consider pursuing a **Master of Science in Professional Science** (MS-PS) at MTSU. This is a groundbreaking professional science master's degree in the sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines that equips students for work in public and private business enterprises and in academia. Concentrations include actuarial sciences, biostatistics, biotechnology, engineering management, geosciences, and health care informatics.

(615) 494-7618

www.mtsu.edu/msps

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY

2012 CONTRIBUTOR Honor Roll

The Honors College deeply appreciates all the friends who have contributed to its success in countless ways. Philanthropic support has been integral to the college's history, most notably through the construction of our beautiful building. We are honored to recognize those who have made giving to the college a priority in 2012.

Dennis L. Aslinger
Keta J. and J. Steven Barnes
Mary Lee and Terry W. Barnes
Philip D. Bowles
James M. Buchanan
Karen and James Crytzer
Katherine A. Crytzer
Nancy and Bobby Cummins
Shellie and Randall Davis
Susan and Elliott P. Dawson
Rebecca and David A. Foote
Kaylene Gebert
Mark A. Hall
Raiko and John Henderson
George N. Hester
James D. Ingram
Jennifer J. and Terry Jordan-Henley
Veronica P. and Glenn King
Rebecca M. and Scott T. Malone
Paul W. Martin Jr.
Daphne and Terry Martin
Gloria D. Kharibian and Mike Martinelli
June Hall McCash
Ronald Messier

Carolyn and Don C. Midgett
Paulette and Tracey C. Nash
Sharmila J. Patel and
Philip E. Phillips
Janice N. Prieskorn
Katherine Elaine Royal
Elizabeth and Clayton A. Sanders
Steven E. Sibley
Katherine E. Tuter
Linda K. and John R. Vile
Edith and Bruce Waite
Hanna and Donald Witherspoon
Pro2Serve Professional
Project Services/Barry Goss

MIDDLE TENNESSEE

STATE UNIVERSITY

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 169
Murfreesboro, TN

Honors Magazine

University Honors College
MTSU Box 267
1301 East Main Street
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

The Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building



photo by Andy Heidt