



# H O N O R S alternative

University Honors College Newsletter • Fall 2005  
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

## From the Bell Tower

The creation and emergence of numerous honors programs, sometimes housed within honors colleges, is a well-documented recent trend in American higher education. Because of this, a conversation has arisen within the academic community about how honors courses should differ from nonhonors courses. The conversation is broad ranging and difficult to encapsulate; however, it is generally agreed that honors courses should appropriately challenge students but that greater rigor should not be the sole factor that distinguishes an honors course from a non-honors course. Although genuine rigor should be the norm in an honors course, petty requirements that make a course difficult without increasing intellectual demands on the student are clearly inappropriate. The idea of honors courses being accelerated in nature or simply more of the same (30 problems instead of 10, etc.) seems to be an idea that has now been rejected. The consensus

*Bell cont. on page 2*

## PRESIDENTIAL AWARD GIVEN TO HONORS STUDENT

At the second annual President's Celebration of Excellence held on April 16, 2005, Dr. Sidney McPhee presented Honors student Brandon Armstrong the President's Award, the highest student award given by the University. The award recognizes leadership and service, exemplary character, and outstanding scholarly achievements.

Brandon said it came as a surprise, but those who know him are aware that this was a well-deserved award. Brandon is an incredible young man. He is active in many organizations, including Students for Environmental Action at MTSU, a group that has been promoting clean, renewable energy resources on campus. Brandon, who is a German major, has served as an interpreter for German groups throughout the United States. He also plays bass in

an old-time band called the Jake Leg Stompers. In addition, he has attended numerous professional and academic conferences, all while maintaining a GPA of 3.96.

Brandon, a senior from Knoxville, is currently working on his Honors thesis, "A Translation of Heinrich Ulrich's *MusikFarbenSpiel* with Critical Introduction," under the guidance of Drs. Tom Strawman and Sonja Hedgepeth. His theory is that music can be taught more efficiently based on colors rather than through musical notes. The method was developed for mentally retarded children but can also be used in regular elementary schools. The Honors College staff anxiously awaits his thesis defense!



Congratulations, Brandon. 🎓

*Bell* cont. from front page

is that honors courses should be characterized by *learning enrichment* with ample opportunity for students to engage in *critical thought*.

In terms of content, an honors course should provide students with clear insight into how knowledge of a discipline is discovered, evaluated, organized, and applied. Honors courses should present the opportunity for students to explore primary literature in order to gain first-hand knowledge of the base of scholarship that underlies one or more key principles within a discipline. An honors course should emphasize theory, application, and historical perspective and obligate the learner to engage in data analysis and in the synthesis of superordinate concepts. Involvement in research appropriate to the discipline—library, field, laboratory, Web-based, etc.—should be an additional hallmark of honors courses, even at the lower-division level.

In terms of pedagogy, the nature of the course as well as the discipline itself often implies a range of appropriate instructional strategies. Student involvement in reading, writing, debating, journal development, experimentation, and information presentation will likely be important in honors courses. The employment of active learning models, including teaching strategies based on brain research, should not be foreign to the twenty-first century honors course.

In terms of format, many informed discussants agree that honors courses should be small, seminar-type courses with opportunity for active discussion and learning through collaboration. It is further agreed that honors courses should generally be limited to honors students, a practice that should help to promote classroom questions,

*Bell* cont. on page 3

## HONORS FACULTY MEMBER STEPHEN M. WRIGHT

The well-worn saying advises “Be cool, stay in school.” Steve Wright, professor and assistant chair in the Department of Biology, heeded that

advice and spent 15 years in college, including graduate and postgraduate training. Is it just because it takes him longer to learn things? Perhaps, but, as Wright says, “I love learning and took a lot of extra courses just to learn more. Even today, I’m still ‘in school’ and constantly learn new things, often from the students themselves.”

After earning a B.A. in liberal arts, Wright switched gears to a major in natural sciences as a pre-med student. He set his goals on medical school and didn’t waver—until he took his first microbiology class. After that, he was hooked, particularly by research into infectious diseases. As a graduate student in microbiology, Wright also realized that teaching was as much fun as research. In fact, he feels his greatest honor was to receive the Outstanding Teacher Award at MTSU. Wright maintains membership in the American Society for Microbiology, the American Society for Virology, and the National Environmental Health Association and is a member of Project Kaleidoscope: Faculty 21 (an organization of faculty from colleges and universities dedicated to promoting science education). He is also a member of the Tennessee Academy of Science and currently serves as its president.

Wright’s philosophy regarding teaching and research is that the two are intimately linked. “I believe one of the best ways to ‘learn science’ is by being directly involved in ‘doing science’ through hands-on investigation. My current research, with funding from the National Science Foundation, is a collaborative project directed to developing a novel biosensor. In addition, our laboratory is investigating the epidemiology of Lyme disease and Southern Tick-Associated Rash Illness (STARI) in Tennessee. This project is evaluating ticks and avian blood samples for the presence of *Borrelia* spirochetes. Another ongoing project involves screening ticks for evidence of genetic sequences characteristic of a new human enterovirus responsible for aseptic meningitis we found several years ago.” Wright notes that the success of the research projects outlined above is in large part due to the hard work of students, many of them Honors students. “I have been fortunate to work with outstanding students in the Honors program, serving on their thesis research committees, including Eric Freundt, Adam Farmer, Ada Egbuji, Vivak Master, and Katie Onks, who is featured in this newsletter.” Wright (obviously not a poet) has his own saying to students reading this: “Be cool, be part of the Honors Program.” 📣



## HONORS STUDENT KATHERINE RAYE ONKS

Katherine (Katie) Onks was born on November 24 (Thanksgiving Day), 1983, in Smyrna, where she grew up and went to school. At Smyrna High, she was active in drama and served as senior class secretary. Before entering college, she had planned to pursue a program in interior design but was soon drawn to biology, her current major.

Katie is a big outdoor buff who spends as much time as possible fishing, hiking, playing softball, and just being outdoors. After several years, she recently gave up her part-time job as a veterinary assistant to become a server at a local restaurant. At MTSU she is an active member of Tri-Beta (an honor society in biology) and a member of the Dean's Student Advisory Council for the Honors College. Katie has served as secretary/treasurer for the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, as secretary for the Honors Studies Association, and has just been elected as president of the HAS for the 2005–2006 year.

One of the highlights of her MTSU career, she says, has been her involvement with Dr. Stephen Wright and his research. The Biology, Chemistry, and Physics and

Astronomy Departments have been working (with funding from the National Science Foundation) on a research project to create a sensitive and efficient biosensor capable of detecting biomolecules without fluorescence. Since the summer of 2004, Katie has worked with Dr. Wright on the biology portion of that project. Her research involves evaluating fluorescence-based antigen-antibody interactions using laser scanning. Last November, she presented her research findings at the Tennessee Academy of Science meeting, where she won second place for oral presentations. She again presented her research at the spring Undergraduate Research Symposium, sponsored by the College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

Being a member of the Honors College has been an “awesome experience,” she says, “and has definitely had its perks and advantages.” Research related to the MTSU Biosensor Project will also be the basis for her Honors thesis, which she hopes to complete in the spring 2006. So far, she has not decided upon the exact direction her career will take but has definite interests in forensic genetics and medicinal research. After graduation, she hopes to travel abroad before making plans for graduate school.

Katie is the daughter of Jerry Onks (retired veterinarian), and Lauren Onks (retired R.N.). She has one sister, Elizabeth, a student at O'More School of Design in Franklin. 📌



*Bell* cont. from page 2

discussions, and debates that meet high standards. Not only do small classes permit the teacher's attention to be divided among fewer students, they also permit students to challenge and learn from one another. Under the guidance of an expert teacher, these advantages permit the achievement of outcomes that would be more difficult to achieve in larger, nonhonors classes.

At Middle Tennessee State University, all honors courses are exclusively reserved for honors students, classes are purposely kept small (20 or fewer students in lower-division courses; 15 or fewer students in upper-division courses), and the MTSU Honors Faculty must meet high standards for productive scholarship and classroom teaching. The range of pedagogical devices being used among members of the Honors Faculty is truly remarkable. The tried and true methods of teacher lectures and student memorization of material coexist harmoniously alongside modern Web-enhanced instruction, research-rich courses, and classrooms where active learning models are employed.

A good honors course, and by extension a good honors program, demands that teachers and administrators continuously examine and redefine the distinction between honors courses and their non-honors counterparts and that they translate their efforts into meaningful classroom practices for the benefit of students. Honors courses at MTSU seem to be appropriately challenging. At the same time, Honors faculty members seem to have rejected the notion that an honors course is just a more demanding version of a nonhonors course, and that, as the adage goes, is a good thing!

—Philip M. Mathis, Dean 📌

## Fall 2005 Honors

### Lecture Series

U H 3000-001  
M 3:00 to 3:55 p.m.

#### Athletics in American Society: The Psychological, Economic, and Social Impact

(first lecture series to be named by an Honors student—in this case, Nathan Cougill)

September 12

#### Sports and Higher Education

Dr. Sidney McPhee, MTSU President

September 19

#### Why We Cheer, Why We Obsess, Why We Care: The Inescapable Influence of Sports on Our Lives

Dr. Ron Kates, English

September 26

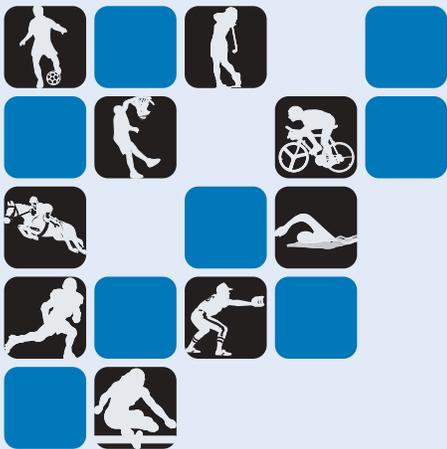
#### Global Sport Sponsorship: Toward a Strategic Understanding

Dr. Don Roy, Management and Marketing

October 3

#### Women in Sport: The Influence of Title IX

Dr. Kathy Davis, Health and Human Performance



Lecture Series cont. on page 5

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2004–2005

The 2004–2005 academic year was a highly successful one for the University Honors College. New growth was experienced (fall 2004 headcount enrollment reached 1,182, an 11 percent increase), a record 150 students completed the Honors lower-division requirements, and a near-record twelve (12) students graduated with University Honors. Some of our graduates are choosing to continue their education at prestigious graduate schools (e.g., Vanderbilt, Yale, and MTSU) and are thereby contributing to a tradition that has seen recent graduates continue their education at Harvard, LSU, Oxford (U.K.), Ohio State, and the College of William and Mary.

In fall 2004, a record number of National Merit Finalists (five) enrolled as freshmen in Honors, including Brent Newberry of Lilburn, Georgia, who made a perfect 36 composite score on the ACT. Through actions of the Honors Council, a new mission statement has been adopted and the way for a new curricular track has been cleared.

Recommendations also have been made for modification of the ratio of upper-division to lower-division courses required to graduate with University Honors and for a change in admission standards to a minimum of 3.5 GPA and an ACT composite score of 25.

Other accomplishments included

- Receipt of a \$100,000 TAF grant to transform the computer lab into an advanced technology classroom

- Receipt of approval for an administrative staff position of coordinator for publications and special projects
- Creation of an Honors Scholarship Display in HONR Room 203B
- Administrative approval of a faculty excellence program (funding pending)
- Establishment of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors College Lectureship (funded by Dr. H. Lee Martin at \$20,000 per year)
- Establishment of *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression* as an Honors College publication
- Cataloguing of some 1,800 volumes in the Martinelli Memorial Library (HONR 203)
- Acquisition and display of original art and decorative accessories in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building
- Sponsorship of more than 20 cultural and entertainment events for Honors students, including the award-winning Native American Festival
- Sponsorship of four colloquia and fireside chats
- Appointment and utilization of a Dean's Student Advisory Council
- Revitalization of the Honors Studies Association (HSA)

Key Accomplishments cont. on page 10

## DANIEL (WOMACK) RETURNS TO CLASSROOM

Lara Womack Daniel, professor of business law (Department of Accounting) relinquished her post as interim associate dean of the University Honors College effective, August 1, 2005. Dean Phil Mathis noted that Lara was unusually successful during her year in Honors administration and that she was respected by students, colleagues, and the entire Honors staff. He praised her as a key participant in many initiatives undertaken in the Honors College during the 2004–2005 academic year and noted that she had been the key person in charge of curriculum development and class scheduling. “Lara will be missed,” he said. “Her

perspective on problems and her grin-inducing peals of laughter cannot be replaced!” The entire Honors community—students, staff, and members of the Honors Council—will miss Lara in her role as associate dean but are thankful that she will continue to teach Honors courses and play an active role in Honors College affairs. 📣



## MTSU CAMPAIGN PROMOTES TENNESSEE’S BEST

Two distinguished alumni from the Honors College, Kimberly Myers and Eric Freundt, were together with other MTSU alumni recently to promote recruitment of “Tennessee’s Best” students. 📣



Join The Leaders — Outstanding alumni join the effort to recruit “Tennessee’s Best” students to attend MTSU. Displaying the new publicity campaign banner outside Walker Library are, left to right, Kim Myers, a 1999 MTSU biology grad and Harvard University doctoral candidate; Allison Hatcher, 2000 broadcast journalism graduate and WKRN Channel 2 reporter; Eric Freundt, 2003 biology graduate and Oxford University doctoral candidate; Ashley Eicher, 2002 recording industry graduate, Miss Tennessee 2004 and MTSU master’s candidate; and Kenny Green, 2005 business management graduate and nationally recognized golfer.

October 10  
**Martin Lectureship**  
featuring **Dr. Myles Brand,**  
**President of the NCAA**

October 24  
**Psychology of Sports**  
Dr. Terry Whiteside, Psychology

October 31  
**The Coach and Athlete Relationship**  
Dr. Colby Jubenville, Health and Human Performance

November 7  
**The Olympic Tradition**  
Dr. Dean Hayes, Health and Human Performance

November 14  
**Drugs in Sport: Why Athletes Are Literally Dying to Win and What to Do About It**  
Dr. Mark Anshel, Health and Human Performance

November 21  
**This Suddenly Disturbing Presence: Gays in Sports, Especially as Examined by Richard Greenberg’s Take Me Out**  
Dr. Crosby Hunt, Developmental Studies

November 28  
**A Commercial Critique of Football**  
Dr. Richard Hannah, Economics and Finance

December 5  
**Thesis Presentations** 📣

## Honors College Hosts Spectrum Students

On April 15, the University Honors College hosted more than 80 students from Rutherford County High Schools. All were participants in the Spectrum program, which is designed to fulfill the academic needs of gifted students that are not ordinarily met in the regular classroom curriculum. In the amphitheater of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building, students attended an orientation session during which they heard from the Honors College dean, Dr. Phil Mathis; the academic advisor, Michelle G. Arnold; and a representative of the MTSU Admissions Office, Jay Stallings. Afterward, they toured both the Honors Building and the Honors Living and Learning Center. According to the Spectrum facilitator, the students may not have appreciated how much a “hometown” university has to offer before the visit. The Honors College hopes to make this an annual event. 📢

## Honors Alternative Credits

Phil Mathis  
dean

Angela Hague  
interim associate dean

Karen Demonbreum  
newsletter editor

MTSU Publications and Graphics  
copy editing, design, and production

MTSU Printing Services

MTSU Photographic Services

## KEEP THE NIGHT TRAIN ROLLING MURAL UNVEILED

The Honors Service Learning Project, *Keep the Night Train Rolling*, a year-long collaboration between Middle Tennessee State University; Watkins College of Art and Design; and Riverdale, Oakland, and Stratford high schools came to fruition on August 12, when the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum unveiled the mural inspired by the museum’s *Night Train to Nashville: Music City Rhythm and Blues, 1945–1970* exhibition.

The mural comprises six 6’ by 8’ panels and three 3’ by 3’ canvases. For the large panels, an oversized map of Nashville (circa 1940) featuring the Jefferson Street area serves as backdrop for the collage of 34 acrylic-on-canvas paintings.

Spearheaded by Dr. Ron Kates, associate professor of English, the mural project was originally conceived as a service learning initiative attached to his Honors interdisciplinary seminar *Re-visiting and Re-visioning the Hometown*. Says Kates, “In this class, students take a close look at their hometowns with the goal of understanding how they are defined by their roots. As part of the course, they participate in a public service project. With *Night Train to Nashville*, the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum took a closer look at our hometown, so to speak, offering a deeper understanding of how Nashville

became Music City, so a public art project celebrating both the exhibit and Nashville’s R&B music and culture seemed a natural.”

As the project evolved, however, Kates came to see the mural as a larger opportunity to bring together young artists throughout Nashville and Murfreesboro. MTSU’s Art Department partnered with Watkins College of Art and Design, the previously mentioned high schools, and more than three dozen artists and art instructors. Before brushes were laid to canvas, students toured the *Night Train* exhibit and immersed themselves in the music.

“Student artists were encouraged to *learn* as they painted,” said Kates. “This learning involved not only artistic techniques, but also an understanding that Nashville’s ‘Music City’ moniker refers to the untold histories of those who performed in and patronized venues like Club Del Morocco or the

Bijou. It’s a story that interweaves many subjects—music, civil rights, urban renewal, and more.”

The following artists, art instructors, and project coordinators from MTSU collaborated on *Keep the Night Train Rolling*: Frank Baugh, Jessica Colley, Anna Fitzgerald, Chris Greer, Tobi Hancock, Nadine Hawke, Ron Kates, Sarah Medley, Katie Mirgliotta, Maureen Mullens, Erin Russell, Abbey Rutherford, and Debrah Sickler-Voigt. 📢





Mural images from  
Keep the Night Train  
Rolling collaboration.

## Honors College and McNair Program Orientation

On March 21, 2005, the University Honors College and the McNair Scholars Program sponsored a joint orientation. Approximately 40 students attended. To be eligible to participate, students must have at least a 3.0 grade point average and be a first-generation college student or a part of an underrepresented group.

The orientation consisted of an overview of the Honors College and the McNair Scholars Program. Lara Daniel (interim associate dean) and Michelle G. Arnold (academic advisor) provided an overview of the Honors College, and two current Honors students (Joshua Alexander and KaShawna Patton) spoke about their experiences in the Honors College. Diane Miller (director of the McNair Program) then talked about the McNair Program, and a current McNair student (Karin Hooks) spoke about her experiences in the program.

Many positive responses were received from students who attended the program, and we are hopeful that similar events can be arranged in the future. 📌

## FIGHTING TERRORISM WILL REQUIRE NEW STRATEGY

The inaugural lecture of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Lecture Series, funded by Dr. H. Lee Martin, was kicked off April 13 by the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Henry H. (Hugh) Shelton. Approximately 150 people crowded into the State Farm Lecture Hall to hear the general speak. He began by saying that our traditional idea of who and what a terrorist is, is no longer accurate. He said the United States must use different techniques to deal with the new terrorist. "Fighting terrorism is more akin to fighting organized crime than to fighting a war," he noted. The Middle East is the biggest threat to America, he told the crowd, and "unless we use our whole kit" of foreign policy tools, including diplomatic, economic, intelligence, military, and political savvy, "you're not playing the full game."

Shelton went on to say that the U.S. military may be stretched too thin in Iraq and Afghanistan. "We cannot sustain the current operation in the Middle East," he said. The troubling fact is that military recruitment

goals are not being met and, in fact, have not been met for the past several months. This may be due to the well-publicized suffering of military families, including the need for soldiers to accept multiple deployments over short spans of time. Still, Shelton concluded, the eventual success of the U.S. in Iraq and Afghanistan is nearly certain. 📌



## ONE OF TENNESSEE'S BEST

On April 7, sophomore Brittney Carroll, an Honors student majoring in music-related business, was ceremoniously recognized for her gift to the Project HELP program. Ms. Carroll produced a concert in March that raised more than \$3,000. All proceeds were donated to Project HELP director Debbie Bauder via a giant check at the ceremony! When reporting the event, Tom Tozer summed it up by saying that Brittany's contribution "is a fine example of student-centeredness, experiential learning, and 'Tennessee's Best' all rolled into one—and deserves a pat on the back." We add the congratulations of the Honors family to Brittney for her outstanding efforts! 📌

## COLLAGE RESCUED!

Last fall, *Collage* got a new lease on life. MTSU's biannual literary and arts magazine, published since 1968, had been relegated to the history books along with the yearbook, *Midlander*. Both were victims of budget cuts, but *Collage* was rescued and resurrected by Honors dean Phil Mathis, Dr. Martha Hixon (English), and many others. With the support of MTSU's administration, *Collage* now has a permanent home in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building and is staffed by a qualified team of student volunteers.

The first edition of the new *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression* was published in April and was welcomed to the Honors College community with a reception honoring the faculty, staff, and contributors who made it possible. The spring magazine reflects Mathis' commitment to providing a quality journal for "showcasing the talents of our creative artists and writers." Comments regarding the first edition have been positive: the journal has been called "first rate and engaging," "splendid," and "a fine project."

Much credit for the inaugural edition goes to Editor-in-Chief Amy Foster. Foster's leadership skills, technical knowledge, sense of purpose, and high expectations led her staff to produce a high-quality magazine and laid a good foundation for the future, according to Mathis. "Putting together the book with the *Collage* staff has truly been a once in a lifetime honor," Foster said. "I am really grateful to Dr. Mathis and the Honors College for going out on a limb and adopting the magazine."

Suzi Bratton, editor-in-chief for 2005–2006, has been charged by Mathis and staff advisor Marsha Powers with the task of helping *Collage* establish a tradition of consistent excellence. Bratton served as literature arts editor for the spring 2005 issue and was on the *Collage* reception planning committee. "I am honored to be a part of *Collage*, and I know our staff will work diligently to produce another magazine of the same quality as the spring issue," Bratton said. "I am lucky to have had Amy Foster and the Honors College staff guiding me during the past months, and I look forward to working with them and our staff throughout the coming year."

The new *Collage* is governed by guidelines established last fall by an ad hoc advisory committee and operates under the oversight of a faculty advisory board created by the Honors College. The *Collage* Advisory Board is committed to the production of a quality magazine and is available to guide and assist the staff. In accordance with established guidelines, submissions to the magazine are selected for publication "on the basis of recognized artistic quality of the piece, not on the identity of the person submitting the item." Every submission is assigned a number and evaluated by each member of the staff. Contributor's identities remain anonymous until final selections are made. Any MTSU student, except members of the *Collage* staff, may submit up to three items per semester for possible publication. 📌

## The Honors H-Option

The H-Option proposal is a request for Honors credit for a non-Honors upper-division class. In order to submit an H-Option, students must have completed at least nine hours of lower-division Honors coursework. Honors College students may use the H-Option for a total of nine credit hours. **Proposals for spring 2006 must be submitted to the Honors College by November 7, 2005.**

**Did you know . . . you have options!**

**H-Options approved by the Honors Council in the recent past:**

ABAS 4460	Anne Brzezicki
ANTH 4940	Richard Pace
BIOL 3020	Brian Miller
BIOL 4110	Amy Jetton
BIOL 4120	Kurt Blum
BIOL 4450	John Zamora
BIOL 4460	Rebecca Seipelt
CHEM 4400	Gary Wulfsberg
CSCI 4700	Medha Sarkar
ELED 4010	Nancy Bertrand
ELED 4020	Nancy Bertrand
ENGL 3010	Rhonda McDaniel
FREN 4040	Shelley Thomas
HIST 4780	Jan Leone
HIST 4830	Jerry Brookshire
PHYS 3160	Victor Montemayor
PHYS 3500	Ronald Henderson
PSY 4040	Stuart Bernstein or Steve Schmidt
PSY 4140	Stuart Bernstein or Steve Schmidt
P S 3370	John Vile
RIM 4700	Loren Mulraine
P S 3400	Sekou Franklin
STAT 4190	Lisa Bloomer
WMST 3500	Kristine McCusker



# Undergraduate Fellowships Office Opens

The Honors College is pleased to announce the opening of an Undergraduate Fellowships Office (UFO) to identify the University's most deserving scholars and to promote them for special honors and recognitions at the national and international levels. The UFO promotes student interest in a range of undergraduate and post-graduate fellowship and scholarship opportunities. Examples include the Rhodes, Marshall, Rotary International, Fulbright, Jack Kent Cooke, Goldwater, Morris Udall, McNair, and many other prestigious fellowships and recognitions. A secondary objective of the new office is to promote student awareness of and interest in national and international honor societies such as Phi Kappa Phi, Golden Key International, Gamma Beta Phi, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

Most services of the UFO will be available to honors and non-honors students alike. Graduate students and faculty interested in competing for prestigious national and international fellowships will not be served by the UFO and are referred to the College of Graduate Studies and the Office of the Provost, respectively. The UFO is housed in the Paul W. Martin, Sr. Honors Building. The primary contact person is Michelle G. Arnold (HONR 227; Ph: 614-898-5464; Email: marnold@mtsu.edu). 📌

## SKOBIC RECEIVES MTSU DEGREE!

In the Honors community, many know Petar Skobic as an indispensable student worker in the Honors Living and Learning Center (Wood-Felder Halls) and were justifiably proud when he received his B.B.A. degree at the May 2005 commencement ceremony.

What started out as a high school exchange program adventure five years ago has become a life-altering event. A native of Croatia, Petar came to Murfreesboro in 1999 to attend Oakland High School as an exchange student. After graduating in 2001, he enrolled at MTSU to pursue an undergraduate degree. The journey has certainly not been an easy one.

International students such as Petar face stringent rules and problems not ordinarily encountered by local students. Being ineligible for financial aid, most scholarships, and student loans—in addition to work limitations—were among the challenges that Petar faced. Petar's

hopes of finishing his college education began to look dim when both of his parents were fired from their jobs in Croatia and were no longer able to pay for his tuition and living expenses.

But help soon came his way. Karen Case (coordinator, College of Basic and Applied Sciences) and Dean Jim Burton (Jones College of Business) teamed up and got to work on a solution. Through their efforts, more than \$13,000 was raised from the local community. Petar has not had the opportunity to meet many of the people who donated money to his cause but acknowledges that without their help he would have been forced to go back to Croatia and join the military. He extends humble appreciation to everyone who helped him realize his dream of graduating from MTSU. With the help of a graduate assistantship, Petar is now working toward his M.B.A. degree. 📌

### Key Accomplishments *cont. from page 4*

- Enhancement of student participation in University-wide events, such as Homecoming
- Revision of the Honors Web site to enhance student-centeredness
- Establishment of a snack kiosk with *free coffee*
- Establishment of a nomination process for prestigious international and national scholarships and awards (Rhodes, Gates, Goldwater, etc.)
- Enhancement of student recruitment efforts through off-campus visits and on-campus tours for groups
- Formation of partnerships with the Center for Popular Music, the Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra, Watkins College of Art and Design, area community colleges, and many individuals and institutions 📌

## ALUMNI CORNER

### WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

#### RANIN KAZEMY-BAHNAMIRY

##### Spring 2002

Ranin will soon complete his master's degree in history at Ohio State University, and we are excited to report that he has been accepted into the Ph.D. history program (specializing in modern Iranian history) at Yale University! Following is a paragraph that he sent to his two MTSU mentors, Drs. Allen Hibbard and recently retired Ron Messier:

I am writing to you to thank you once again for all that you have done toward my education. I have a letter of acceptance from the Yale University Department of History. If I decide to go to Yale, I will be funded for at least five years in order to acquire my Ph.D. in the history of modern Iran. I shall be studying with Professor Abbas Amanat, who is considered to be an important figure in the field. In any case, I thought about everything that you did for me while I attended MTSU and your letters of recommendation that helped me get into OSU. These indeed were essential in enabling me to be admitted to Yale, and I am indeed very grateful for all that Drs. Hibbard and Messier have done. Had I not attended MTSU, had I not done a thesis with you, and finally had I not taken the classes I took with you and learned, through them, how to do my work, I could not have even imagined going to Yale. Thank you, indeed. Thank you.

#### ANDREW GELVIN "BURLEY" GRIMES

##### Fall 2002

Honors College graduate Burley Grimes completed his M.A. in English with a concentration in linguistics this spring at North Carolina State University. His thesis was titled "In Search of Ethnic Cues: The Status of /ae/ and /E/ and Their Implications for Linguistic Profiling."

While at MTSU, Burley double majored in anthropology and French with minors in music and Latin American studies. His Honors thesis was titled "Phonological Quality Markers Perceived in Southern States English." One of his mentors, Dr. Kevin Smith, said of him, "He is one of our finest anthropology students ever and one of our first linguistics studies students from MTSU. I'm pleased, but not surprised, to hear of his achievement."

#### AMANDA K. COTTON

##### Spring 2004



Amanda reports that things are going well with her work in the quantitative psychology program at MTSU. This summer, she completed a practicum in Nashville with a child advocacy group where she worked with several departments in a company on a variety of projects including grant proposals and reports. She says it has been exciting to be out in "the real world," although strange to come home at night and not have homework or readings to catch up on (but strange in the best way).

She is also beginning her master's thesis, something she feels fully prepared for after completing her Honors thesis. Amanda expects to graduate from the master's quantitative program in May 2006 and then

move out-of-state to begin her career as a social sciences statistician. Her daughter, Maleigha, has started third grade and is also doing well. She loves to read, play the violin, and skateboard.

#### SIBYL DUNCAN

##### Spring 2005

Former Honors student Sibyl Duncan has been accepted into the Howard University Medical School in Washington, D.C.

#### KATRINA ANDERSON

##### Spring 2005

Katrina, an Honors College graduate, has been accepted into the master's degree program in creative writing at Belmont University. Great news! We wish her well.

#### STACY L. ARNOLD

##### Spring 2005

Honors College graduate Stacy Arnold returned to MTSU this fall to pursue a master's degree in English.

#### DANIEL K. DUGGIN

##### Spring 2005

Dan has been accepted into the MTSU's M.S. degree program in mathematical sciences. Dan's Honors thesis advisor, Dr. Valery A. Kholodnyi, feels that his thesis will be the basis for a book that the two of them hope to coauthor. We look forward to the impact that Dan's research will have in selected areas of applied mathematics. (See photo on page 23.)

#### LYNNE C. NAPATALUNG

##### Spring 2005

Lynne has been accepted into the economics Ph.D. program at Ohio State University and began this semester. Not only is Lynne an Honors College graduate, she also graduated summa cum laude. Congratulations, best wishes, and thanks for all your service to the University Honors College. 📌

## Spring 2006 Deadlines to Remember

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

PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL  
for Committee Review  
February 15, 2006

FINAL PROPOSAL  
for Honors Council Approval  
March 20, 2006

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

FINAL COPY FOR THESIS  
DEFENSE  
One copy due in Honors  
Office to be graded by  
committee.  
March 31, 2006

THESIS DEFENSE  
BEFORE COMMITTEE  
Date to be announced.

PUBLIC DEFENSE  
BEFORE HONORS  
LECTURE SERIES  
April 24, 2006

FINAL PROJECTS DUE  
All post-defense  
corrections must be made.  
Submit two copies on  
cotton paper.  
April 26, 2006



## UH 3500-H01 FOLKTALE AND LITERATURE

TR 9:40 TO 11:05 A.M. CALL NUMBER 16247

For thousands of years, storytellers have spun tales of heroes and villains, magic and trickery, good rewarded and evil punished. How have these stories twisted and turned over the centuries, and how have they defined our expectations of narrative structure and the elements of “a good story”? Why do these stories endure, anyway—in what ways do their themes and archetypes speak to audiences today?

This seminar is a study of the interrelationship between traditional folktale and contemporary literature. Students in the course will discuss the various cultural contexts of what is commonly referred to as “traditional literature” or folk narrative—folktales, fairytales, myths, and legends—and the embedded themes and motifs that mark these tales and give them life. Contemporary fiction and film versions of some of the traditional stories will be examined, and consideration will be given to possible reasons why literary storytellers continue to build new narratives out of old ones.

This course is open to students who have completed their English general studies requirement and may count as three hours of upper-division English credit.

For more information, please contact Dr. Martha Hixon at [mhixon@mtsu.edu](mailto:mhixon@mtsu.edu).

## U H 4600-H02 Gothic Culture

W 2:40 TO 5:40 P.M. CALL NUMBER 16249

From Satanic cults to psychotic serial killers to Goth nightclubs, contemporary Western culture is haunted by Gothic iconographies and myths. They inform and are informed by popular psychology, science, ethics, academic theory, and a culture of violence and trauma that often seems to live out our myths. With this context in mind, we will study Gothic culture from an interdisciplinary perspective, beginning with a brief historical overview from the late eighteenth-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), *Beloved* (1987), and *American Psycho* (1990), we will study 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. We will screen up to six films and a number of clips.

This course is open to students who have fulfilled their general studies requirements and will count three hours credit toward an English major or minor.

For more information, contact Dr. Linda Badley at [lbadley@mtsu.edu](mailto:lbadley@mtsu.edu) or at (615) 898-2597.



# U H 4600-H01 AMERICAN FILM IN THE '70S

T 2:40 TO 5:40 P.M. CALL NUMBER 16248

In *Born to Be Wild: Hollywood and the Sixties Generation* (1984), Seth Cagin and Philip Dray call attention to "the brief but very golden age of the late sixties and early seventies, when a new generation of filmmakers cultivated and claimed a privileged relationship with a new generation of filmgoers." Robert Altman, Martin Scorsese, Francis Ford Coppola, and other filmmakers responded in passionate but diverse ways to the defining events of a highly charged political era that included Vietnam, Watergate, the emergence of global corporatism, and the continued threat of nuclear holocaust. It was a period when the American film industry eagerly absorbed the values of the counterculture, which, in turn, had deeply questioned the seemingly sacred foundations of American society.

This seminar focuses on a series of films that provide a cultural critique of the seventies, often through explicit statement but more often through the use of metaphor. The course explores some of the ways in which significant directors, screenwriters, actors, and cinematographers made sense of the so-called "me" decade. Screenings include *Cabaret*, *Carrie*, *The Conversation*, *The Deer Hunter*, *Five Easy Pieces*, *The Last Picture Show*, *Nashville*, and *Taxi Driver*. Readings include selections by Peter Biskind, Cagin and Dray, Ryan Gilbey, Pauline Kael, Robert Kolker, Peter Lev, and Robin Wood.

This course is open to students who have completed the English general studies requirement and may count as three hours upper-division English credit.

For more information, contact Dr. William Brantley, (615) 898-2593, or [wbrantle@mtsu.edu](mailto:wbrantle@mtsu.edu).

## SPRING 2006 HONORS CLASS SCHEDULE

Any student with a 3.0 GPA may enroll in any Honors course as long as he/she meets the prerequisite(s) and the class has space available.

**Priority Registration Begins November 14, 2005.** For the latest up-to-date course offerings, please visit [www.mtsu.edu/~records/sbooks.htm](http://www.mtsu.edu/~records/sbooks.htm).

### Honors Upper-Division Courses, Spring 2006

Check current catalog for prerequisite information.

- BIOL 3160** Social Issues and Genetic Technology
- BLAW 3400** Legal Environment of Business
- BMOM 3510** Business Communication
- ELED 3050** Creating Learning Environments K-6
- ELED 3330** Instructional Design and Technology in the Middle Grades, 5-8
- EMC 3120** Sight, Sound, and Motion
- EMC/JOUR 4250** Mass Media Law
- EMC/JOUR 4790** Global News and World Media Cultures
- ENGL 4880** War and Literature
- PSY 3020-H01** Basic Statistics for Behavioral Science
- PSY 4120** Psychology of Criminal Behavior
- RIM 3010** Audio for Media
- RIM 3600** Survey of the Recording Industry
- U H 3000-H01** Honors Lecture Series; Topic to be announced
- U H 3200-H01** Visiting Artist Seminar; Playwright and performer Rinne Groff
- U H 3500-H01** Folktale and Literature
- U H 4600-H01** American Film in the '70s
- U H 4600-H02** Gothic Culture

## Dean's Student Advisory Council

Five students agreed this spring to serve on the newly created Dean's Student Advisory Council for the University Honors College. Two, Ty Fox (criminal justice major), and Katie Onks (biology major), were chosen from the membership of the Honors Studies Association (HSA). Emily Radke (communication disorders major) and Laura Whitson (chemistry major) represent the Honors College Residential Society (HCRS), and Jon Miller (accounting major) and Brandon Palma (recording industry major) are "at large" members. The group includes three seniors, two juniors, and one freshman. Their respective majors represent choices from all five undergraduate colleges.

The council met twice during the spring 2005 semester, discussing issues such as curriculum, student services, study abroad, and special events. They have provided valuable input and are also serving as a means of improved communication with members of Honors organizations.

Since each of these students will be enrolled for the fall semester, the membership of the council will remain intact until December. In the spring, three seniors will rotate off, and new representatives of the HSA and HCRS will be needed. Interested students should speak to the officers of their organizations or with academic advisor Michelle G. Arnold or event coordinator, Georgia Dennis. 📍

## HAGUE NAMED INTERIM ASSOCIATE DEAN

Dr. Angela (Jill) Hague, professor of English, has been appointed interim associate dean of the University Honors College for the 2005–2006 academic year. A search for a full-time and permanent associate dean will begin this fall. In announcing Dr. Hague's appointment, Dean Phil Mathis noted that she is unusually well qualified to assume her new role in Honors administration. She holds the Honors B.A. from Florida State University, where she was named to that institution's chapter of Phi Beta Kappa and graduated cum laude. After receiving her M.A. at the University of Florida, she returned to Florida State, where she earned her Ph.D. in 1979. She also earned a postdoctoral master's degree from the University of Sussex (U.K.) in 1981, after which she joined the MTSU English faculty.

Hague was named to the Honors Faculty in 1983 and to the Graduate Faculty in 1984 and was granted doctoral status as a Graduate Faculty member in 2002. A productive scholar, she has authored or edited four books and numerous book chapters, reviews, and articles. Her several honors and distinctions include being a *four-*

*time* winner of the Outstanding Honors Teaching Award. In the past, she has served as director of Graduate Studies in English and as departmental liaison to the Honors College. Other contributions to the Honors College include service on the Honors Council, the Buchanan Scholarship Committee, the Spring Honors Awards Committee, the Freshman Scholarship Committee, and the University Honors Planning Committee. Special Honors seminars she has taught include Greek Culture and Literature, Approaches to Mythology, Literature and the Paranormal, the UFO Debate, and Mythology and Film.

Dr. Hague's appointment is to full-time administration; however, she will continue to teach and to direct doctoral dissertations in English on a limited basis. Colleagues, friends, and students congratulate Dr. Hague and wish her success in her new role. 📍



### HONORS COUNCIL 2005-2006

Dan Braswell  
Accounting Department

Larry Burris  
School of Journalism

**Vice Chair**  
Bill Connelly  
English Department

Teresa Davis  
Psychology Department

Paul Fischer  
Recording Industry

**Chair**  
David Foote  
Management and  
Marketing Department

Clay Harris  
Geography and Geology  
Department

Amy Jetton  
Biology Department

Preston MacDougall  
Chemistry Department

Terry Whiteside  
Psychology Department

Matthew Bullington  
Student Representative,  
Economics and  
Mathematics major

Erin Weber  
Student Representative,  
English major

## HONORS FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Dr. Sharon Smith** (Speech and Theatre) and MTSU Debate Coach Greg Simerly developed a unit on debate for Honors COMM 2200 Fundamentals of Communication. This is an enrichment unit and is not offered in the regular COMM 2200 sections.

At the Tennessee Communication Association's annual conference in September 2005, Mr. Simerly and Dr. Smith gave a presentation on the inclusion of debate in the Honors speech class.

**Assistant Professor Marilyn Wood** (Recording Industry) recently finished producing a second CD for the Nashville Children's Choir that was released in April. She was also asked to present a three-day workshop in Alaska for music teachers as part of her public service work.

**Dr. William Shulman** (Criminal Justice) and a colleague recently wrote an article about mandatory videotaping of interrogations by the police that was published by the *University of Tennessee College of Law Journal of Law and Policy*. Dr. Shulman also presented the paper at a national conference in March.

**Dr. Claudia Barnett** (English) studied the manuscripts of playwright Adrienne Kennedy at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center in 2002 (thanks to an NIA and a fellowship from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation). A long article based on that research has now been accepted for publication in the *Drama Review*.

Her review of the world premiere of Naomi Wallace's *Things of Dry*

*Hours* at the Pittsburgh Public Theatre appeared in the December 2004 issue of *Theatre Journal*.

Barnett's own play, *Feather*, won the 2004 Brick Playhouse Award for New Plays and was produced in Philadelphia in July.

Dr. Barnett has also been named a 2004–05 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellow.

**Dr. Rebecca Seipelt** (Biology) and Honors student Rodney Kincaid helped coauthor a paper published in April, with the following citation:

J. D. Leblond, J. L. Dahmen, R. L. Seipelt, M. J. Elrod-Erickson, A. B. Cahoon, R. Kincaid, T. J. Evens, and P. J. Chaoman, 2005. Lipid composition of Chlorarachniophytes (Chlorarachniophyceae) from the genera *Bigelowiella*, *Gymnochlora*, and *Lotharella*. *Journal of Phycology* (in press).

Dr. Seipelt and Dean Phil Mathis are also coauthors, with Michael Rutledge, of an article in *Bioscene: The Journal of College Biology Teaching* (in press). The article is titled "Making Quantitative Genetics Relevant: A Laboratory Investigation that Links Scientific Research, Commercial Applications, and Legal Issues."

**Dr. Philip Phillips** (English) is publishing a book, *New Directions in Boethian Studies*, coedited with Noel Harold Kaylor Jr. It is scheduled for release as part of the Studies in Medieval Culture Series (Kalamazoo: Medieval Institute Publications, 2005).

Dr. Phillips has an article forthcoming titled "Boethius's De Consolatione Philosophiae 3 m 9 and the Classical Hymn," in *Festschrift* for Young-Bae Park, edited by Jacek Fisiak and Hye-Kyung Kang, 2005. He also has four articles in the works for the *Milton Encyclopedia* titled "Elegy," "Hymn," "King Arthur," and "Muses," edited by Thomas N. Corns (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005)

He has also organized two sessions for the International Boethius Society, "Boethius and the Middle Ages" and "Boethius and the Liberal Arts," for inclusion in the 40th International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University, May 2005. He will be delivering a paper, "Boethius and the Quadrivium and the Order of the Universe" in the second session of the conference.

Dr. Phillips wrote a book review of *Speaking Grief in English Literary Culture: Shakespeare to Milton* (Margo Swiss and David A. Kent, editors) for *Early Modern Literary Studies* 10.3 (January 2005): 13.1–8.

And last but not least, he received a Faculty Development Grant from MTSU for travel to Chicago to participate in the Newberry Library Milton Seminar in May 2005.

**Dr. George Riordan** (Music) performances for 2005 include the following:

January 22 – Atlanta, Georgia  
**Atlanta Baroque Orchestra** – Oglethorpe University

## Academic Advisor Receives Special Appointment

Honors College Academic Advisor Michelle Gadson Arnold was recently asked to serve a two-year appointment on the Whirlpool Foundation Sons and Daughters Scholarship Program Committee. The committee is responsible for reviewing applications and interviewing each candidate. Through the Sons and Daughters Scholarship Program, Whirlpool Foundation encourages children of employees to pursue a college education.



On a more personal note, we would like to congratulate Michelle on receiving her Ed.S. degree (May 7, 2005) majoring in higher education administration! 📌



Contact our academic advisor, Ms. Michelle Arnold, to find out how you can graduate from the University Honors College. She can be reached at (615) 898-5464. Your future depends on it! 📌

## MARTINELLI LIBRARY FUNCTIONS EXPAND

Honors students have more reasons than ever to spend time in the Martinelli Library this fall. No longer just a cozy place to read or study, the Honors College Martinelli Memorial Library now features a study abroad display and a postgraduate information center.

The study abroad section includes travel guides for many countries represented through MTSU's Study Abroad program including England, France, Mexico, Australia, and China. The guides may be checked out by Honors students and faculty members by signing the borrower's card in the back of the book and leaving the card in the library checkout box. The Martinelli Library also now features a display of brochures and booklets about the many study abroad opportunities offered through the Kentucky Institute for International Studies (KIIS) and the Cooperative Center for Study Abroad (CCSA).

Also new to the Martinelli Library this fall is a postgraduate information center, which includes study guides for graduate school admission tests and a specially dedicated computer. The computer is equipped with graduate school admission test study software and numerous desktop shortcuts to Web sites of interest to students seeking graduate school admission. The Web sites include information about prestigious scholarships, honor societies, and graduate school admission and test preparation materials.

The Honors College established the study abroad and postgraduate

aspects of the Martinelli Library to encourage students to make the most of their educational opportunities. Plans are being formulated to further increase student awareness and participation by offering periodic special programs and workshops. A limited number of scholarships for the *Princeton Review's* online GRE test preparation course will be available to qualified Honors students planning to attend graduate school. Applications may be picked up in the Honors Administrative Suite, Room 205.

In addition to the new postgraduate and study abroad centers, the Martinelli Library still houses a collection of donated books and features a growing scholarship display of published works by Honors faculty members, alumni, and students. 📌

## Special HONORS STUDENT

Taylor Arnold Barnes of Jackson, Mississippi, started attending MTSU this fall with 52 hours of transfer and advanced placement credits, all with a 4.0 GPA. Why is he special? He is only 15 years old. Mr. Barnes is pursuing a degree in chemistry and is the grandson of Dr. David Arnold, professor emeritus, Speech and Theatre.

## HONORS FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

*Accomplishments cont. from page 15*

January 23 – Atlanta, Georgia

**Atlanta Baroque Orchestra** –  
Peachtree Road Methodist Church Soloist  
Albinoni: Concerto for Two Oboes in F  
Major, Op. 9, No. 3  
Telemann: Tafelmusik III in B-flat Major  
Lully: Suite from *LeBourgeois Gentilhomme*  
(Baroque oboe)

February 11 – Tallahassee, Florida

**Kaleidoscope Faculty Chamber  
Music Series** – Opperman Music  
Hall, FSU

**Baroque Southeast**

J. C. Bach: Quintet in D Major, Op. 22,  
No. 1 (Classical oboe)

May 7 – Atlanta, Georgia

**Atlanta Baroque Orchestra** –  
Peachtree Road Methodist Church  
Handel: *Water Music* (complete)  
Telemann: Music for the Admiralty Jubilee  
of 1723 (Suite in C Major, "Water Music")  
(Baroque oboe)

**Dr. Richard Barnet** (Recording Industry and Honors College Resident Scholar) received a contract for a book to be coauthored with Jake Berry, production manager for the Rolling Stones, U2, and Janet Jackson. *This Business of Concert Promotion and Touring* will be published by Billboard Books, with a projected completion date of January 2006. Dr. Barnet is also president of the Association for Concert Industry Education (ACIE) this year.



And the accolades just keep coming! Dr. Barnet released a book in 2004, *The Story Behind the Song: 150*

*Songs that Chronicle the 20th Century*, that continues to be on the Greenwood Press top 20 best-selling books list. Reviewer Paul Walberg gives it two thumbs up. He "highly recommends this book." He is "using it as a core curriculum item for grades 6 through 8. The book is extremely well-written, researched, and referenced in a way that makes it very easy to teach with a cross-curriculum focus." The reviewer goes on to say, "this is a groundbreaking resource! Well done!"

**Dr. Angela Hague** (English) was nominated for the James Russell Lowell Prize for Literary Criticism, 2005.

**Dr. David Lavery** (English) is coeditor of the book *Slayage: The Online International Journal of Buffy Studies*. 📌

## Honors Faculty Win Foundation Awards

At the Fall General Faculty Meeting held August 26, 2005, four of our distinguished Honors faculty members received Foundation Awards.

**Nuria Novella**

Foreign Languages and Literatures

**Jackie Eller**

Sociology and Anthropology

**Allen Hibbard**

English

**Rebecca Seipelt**

Biology

These faculty members have received recognition and won many other awards during their tenures at MTSU, and the Honors College congratulates them on yet more outstanding accomplishments. 📌

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

## HONORS COLLEGE RESIDENTIAL SOCIETY

2005–2006 Officers

**President – Candice Nunley**

**Vice President – Robert Hickman**

**Secretary – Katie Powell**

**Treasurer – Kendra Creekmore**

**HCRS Administrative**

**Sponsor – Michelle Arnold**

HCRS membership includes unique parties, academic support, community service programs, and access to the Honors faculty outside the classroom. Join HCRS at anytime! For a one-time membership fee of \$15, members also receive a t-shirt and water bottle.

## Honors Studies Association

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

Membership is available to all students, staff and faculty members, and alumni involved or interested in the University Honors College (conditional upon payment of association dues of \$5 per year, due and payable every September).

For more information about the HSA, please contact the Honors College academic advisor, Michelle Arnold, at 898-5464, stop by the office in HONR 226, or visit the Web site at [mtsu.edu/~hsa](http://mtsu.edu/~hsa). The application may also be downloaded at [mtsu.edu/~hsa/information.htm](http://mtsu.edu/~hsa/information.htm). 📌

## Honors Scholarships

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

All scholarships are for returning students and will be applied to fall 2006 accounts. Award recipients will be recognized at the annual Awards Reception in April. Check with our office early in the spring 2006 semester for deadline dates. 📌

## SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS FOR THE HONORS COLLEGE

By Laura Beth Jackson

Financial contributors to MTSU are always appreciated, but there is something special about those from within the University itself.

This year, four of MTSU's Honors faculty members have extended such contributions to the University by collectively endowing over \$20,000 for scholarships and teacher awards for the Honors College. The benefactors include Dr. Elaine Royal, psychology; Dr. K. Watson Hannah, office of the executive vice president and provost; Dr. Richard Hannah, economics and finance; and Dr. Janice Hayes, educational leadership.

"It is relatively a new thing to have faculty members giving to the Honors College," said Dean Phil Mathis. "We are certainly excited about it."

Royal established the Lawrence R. Good Memorial Scholarship Fund this year in recognition of Good's work in the MTSU Psychology

Department from 1971 until 1976. Royal indirectly received money from Good's estate after his death and used that money to establish the scholarship. Good and Royal were colleagues and co-workers on several research projects at Purdue University and at MTSU. The annual scholarship will go to support psychology students in the Honors College.

The K. Watson Hannah and Richard L. Hannah scholarship will go to an Honors student desiring to study abroad. This will be the first endowed scholarship at MTSU to support a study-abroad student exclusively. Both of the Hannahs have worked extensively with overseas programs. Watson worked with the Executive MBA Program at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga and led students on weekend travels to Japan and China. Richard has been involved with the Kentucky Institute of International Studies (through MTSU) and has guest-lectured in both China and France.

*Scholarships cont. on page 22*



*ENSURING THE FUTURE*- Dean Philip Mathis, left, joins Jan Hayes and the Hannahs in celebrating their collective endowment of more than \$20,000 in scholarships for Honors students. Dr. Elaine Royal, who also contributed to the Honors scholarship endowment, is not pictured. Photo by Ken Robinson

## MACDOUGALL TRAVELS TO AUSTRALIA



Dr. Preston MacDougall (associate professor of Chemistry and Honors College resident faculty member) spent two weeks “down under” this spring in the School of Biomedical and Chemical Sciences at the University of Western Australia in Perth. His visit was under the auspices of the Jack Phillips Bequest, which provides for furthering research in theoretical chemistry at UWA. During his visit, Dr. MacDougall gave two seminars titled “Molecular Visualization Research: From Sorting Out Quantum Shells to Fleshing out Pharmacophores,” and “Electron Densities in Wonderland: A Down-Under Look at the Less Familiar Face of the Electron Density.”

While in Australia, Dr. MacDougall wrote four *Chemical Eye* articles, one of which can be found below. What you ask, is a *Chemical Eye* article? We had Dr. MacDougall explain it to us:

In addition to a student’s chemistry textbook, nonfiction books by noted authors Primo Levi and Oliver Sacks are required reading in Preston MacDougall’s Honors Chemistry class. Not only that, but students are required to submit monthly creative writings of their own, touching on chemistry somehow. Other than that, there are no guidelines. Still, every semester, at least one student will ask (as if this were an oxymoron), “What do you mean by ‘write creatively about chemistry?’”

As one would expect, based on the quality of students in the Honors College, many of the submissions, called *ChemWorld Reports*, have been truly outstanding. Formats have ranged from poems to short mysteries. Eventually, Dr. MacDougall decided to get in on the fun. The jazz-format NPR station WMOT, which broadcasts from the MTSU campus, was interested in airing the first commentary in late October 2004. After all, it was elec-

tion season and it was titled “Chemical Eye for the Political Guy (or Gal).” The News and Public Affairs staff at MTSU thought others would be interested as well, so they sent it to a news service. It was picked up by online publishers, including YubaNet.com, which is based in the northern Sierra Nevada region of California. Subsequently, in addition to amusing WMOT listeners, other pieces in the weekly series have caught the attention of additional publishers, such as Stories in the News ([www.sitnews.org](http://www.sitnews.org)) in Ketchikan, Alaska. Local papers, such as the *Tennessean* and the *Daily News Journal* will occasionally run these commentaries as well.

Dr. MacDougall serves as the public relations chair of the Nashville Section of the American Chemical Society, so in addition to scratching a creative itch, these commentaries fulfill a public service role. At least that’s his story, and he says he’s sticking to it.

### Chemical Eye on the Didgeridoo

by Preston MacDougall

When the absolutely impossible is unmistakably right before your eyes, you can be sure that the ongoing learning experience will be a memorable one.

That’s why great chemistry demonstrations are an indispensable teaching tool and also why they are designed to have a sizeable “Wow!” factor, much to the occasional frustration of local fire departments. (Sorry guys, but everything really was under control.)

This pedagogical truth is also why I simply had to purchase the didgeridoo that a lovely free-spirit was demonstrating for me at a craft booth here in Perth, Australia.

She was blowing into the narrow end of the long and tapered wooden instrument but not straight-on, as a trumpet player would. Nor over the top, as a flautist does. She seemed to be directing her exhalations down the inner wall, all the

while buzzing her lips and thus making a most incredible resonating sound.

I said *exhalations*, but the truly amazing thing was that it was really only one, long *exhalation*. It lasted about a minute, but I have since seen Australian Aborigines play the didgeridoo continuously for several minutes. I am told that in some rituals, they can play for an hour or more.

*My Funny Valentine*, the double CD live recording, is one of the most listened-to items in my jazz collection. As Aussies would say, it is totally flash. So I know it is possible to play a horn for over one hour. But even Miles Davis stops to take breaths.

If I hadn’t seen it, I certainly wouldn’t believe it, but to play the didgeridoo you breathe in and out at the same time. In through the nose, and out through the mouth. They call it circular breathing, and, to say the least, it takes some practice. I turned kind of blue in my failed attempts.

When an expert plays, the inhalations seem to be periodic, but the exhalation never ceases. From their puffed out cheeks, it seems that they build up pressure in their mouth so that they can still blow out while their retracting diaphragm sucks air in through the nose. At least that’s my guess. Bagpipers use their airbag for the same purpose.

Among other things, Aborigines use the didgeridoo to tell musical stories about the Dreamtime, their mythical time of cre-

*Australia* cont. on back page

# Honors College Hosts Summer Language Institute



The Third Annual MTSU Summer Language Institute took place in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building June 20–24, offering Spanish, French, Mandarin, and Russian five hours daily. Institute teachers were all trained in a new methodology called TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling), and some hailed from as far away as China, Russia, and Brazil. Participants ranged in ages from 11 to 68 and included students, educators, and professionals.

Gloria Tapp, a project manager at Procter and Gamble in Ohio, was a participant in this summer's Spanish class. She is responsible for instructional technology projects worldwide with a focus in Latin America yet had never studied a language. In her evaluation of the institute, she stated:

*Months ago, I decided that speaking and understanding Spanish would help me do my job better. My sister is a language teacher, so I asked her what would be the fastest and easiest way for me to learn. She recommended the Fluency Fast class at MTSU. The class was a lot of fun but it was also extremely beneficial. In only one week, I have learned enough so that I can read and understand an amazing amount of Spanish. I am inspired to continue study on my own by reading Spanish books. I would also like to come back to MTSU again next year to learn more.*

Language cont. on page 21

## SPECIAL FACULTY AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The annual Honors College Awards Ceremony was held on April 20, 2005. Below are the recipients of the 2004–2005 Outstanding Honors Faculty Award (we had a tie) who were recognized during the event. Dr. Jan Hayes presented both awards.

### Will Brantley, English

Dr. Will Brantley is a native of Atlanta, where he attended Georgia State University and earned a B.A. and M.A. in English. His Ph.D. is also in English (with a film studies concentration) from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He has taught at Georgia Tech, the University of California at Santa Barbara, and at MTSU since 1992. Dr. Brantley's courses have included professional writing at the junior/senior level and modern American and Southern literature at the graduate level. For the Honors College he teaches Literature and Film and an interdisciplinary seminar on American Film in the 1970s. His publications include *Feminine Sense in Southern Memoir* and articles in many professional journals. In 1996, he edited *Conversations with Pauline Kael*, a collection of interviews with the *New Yorker's* legendary film critic. Of late, he has been collecting material for a new book about Kael's criticism and cultural influence.

On a personal note, he says he's obsessive-compulsive with many passions including travel, music, politics, and exceptionally bright stu-

dents, many of whom he's had the pleasure of getting to know through the Honors College.

### Jan Quarles, Electronic Media

Dr. Jan Quarles is a professor in the EMC department of Mass Communication. She's been at MTSU since 1994 and has served



as chair of the Department of Journalism, associate dean, and assistant dean. She teaches international communication, new media, and graduate courses. A former Fulbright scholar to Australia in 1988 and to

Cambodia in 2003, she is also a Salzburg Fellow and an AEJMC Journalism Leadership in Diversity Fellow. She is the author of a public relations text used in Australia and Southeast Asia. Dr. Quarles is currently writing on cultural industries and world trade after returning from a research trip for UNESCO. She has lectured and traveled widely in Asia and Europe. She is a graduate of the University of Tennessee twice (B.A. and Ph.D.) and also attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Congratulations to two exemplars of outstanding teaching!

Other Honors faculty members and colleagues were recognized for their outstanding service to the Honors College during 2004–2005. Each was presented with a padded, black leather portfolio engraved with the Honors College seal. Special acknowledgments went to

Faculty cont. on page 23

# SPECIAL STUDENT AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The annual Honors College Awards Ceremony was held on April 20, 2005, before a standing-room-only crowd of students, faculty members, and parents. For the first time, we were delighted to have two very special presenters. Michael Martinelli's mother, Ms. Judy Hiza, introduced Kasey Talbott as this year's recipient of the Michael Martinelli Memorial Scholarship, and Michael's 10-yr. old son, Kyle, presented the award. We were also excited to have Paul W. Martin III in attendance to present Paul W. Martin Sr. scholarships to six recipients. For more pictures of the awards ceremony, please visit [www.mtsu.edu/~hcevents/awards05.htm](http://www.mtsu.edu/~hcevents/awards05.htm).



Outstanding Freshman Honors Student  
**James R. Pruitt**

Outstanding Sophomore Honors Student  
**Zachary C. Hall**

Outstanding Junior Honors Student  
**Nephi N. Stogner**

Outstanding Senior Honors Student  
**Megan R. Parker**

Congratulations to all! 📣

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Ingram-Montgomery Research Scholarship  
**Brandon M. Armstrong**

Bart McCash Scholarship  
**Erin E. Weber**

Michael Martinelli Memorial Scholarship  
**James "Kasey" Talbott**

Academic Achievement Scholarships  
**Brandon M. Armstrong**  
**Kristen L. Chandler**  
**Nephi N. Stogner**

Paul Martin Scholarships  
**Jacqueline "Suzi" Bratton**  
**Matthew E. Bullington**  
**Chasity L. George**  
**Hannah P. Green**  
**Emily E. Radke**  
**David H. Rivenbark**



Summer Language Institute Class

*Language cont. from page 20*

Another participant, Laura Zuchovicki, is a former Spanish teacher and the current director at Conversa Inc., a company that provides after-school classes in Spanish in public and private schools (K-8) in southern California. Her goal was to become better acquainted with the TPRS methodology by putting herself in the role of a student and taking French, a language to which she had no previous exposure. After scoring far beyond the national average on a standardized test for students who have completed one year of French, she said, "This is a milestone for someone who hasn't taken a class of French in her life! Thank you for your support, and I hope that you keep such an outstanding program at MTSU."

Dr. Shelley Thomas, the institute coordinator and a member of the MTSU Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, said that requests have already been made for ESL (English as a Second Language), Japanese, and Italian to be taught next year. "I am grateful for the encouragement I have received from grant committees; deans John McDaniel, Abdul Rao, and Phil Mathis; and our depart-

ment chair, Dr. Deborah Mistrion. MTSU is already recognized nationally as a leader in language acquisition methodology and teacher training thanks to their continued financial support." 📣

## Visiting Artist Seminar Back by Popular Demand for Spring 2006

The next Visiting Artists Seminar, UH 3200-001 (call #16167), will be taught in spring 2006 by Rinne



Groff, a playwright and performer. Her plays, including *The Ruby Sunrise*, *Molière Impromptu*, *Of a White*

*Christmas*, *Jimmy Carter Was a Democrat*, *Orange Lemon Egg Canary*, *Inky*, *The Five Hysterical Girls Theorem*, and *Seven Supermans*, have been produced and developed by Actors Theatre of Louisville, Trinity Rep, the Public Theater, Playwrights Horizons, PS122, HERE, Soho Rep, and the Women's Project. She has received commissions and residencies from the New York State Council for the Arts, Playwrights Horizons, Trinity Rep, and the Sundance Institute Theatre Laboratory. She is a full-time instructor in NYU's Department of Dramatic Writing.

The Visiting Artists Seminar offers students the chance to work intensively with a successful, professional artist. The one-week, one-credit, pass-fail class is open to upper-division students who have earned a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. The seminar is taught at a beginner level and has no prerequisite courses, and it is limited to 15 students who register on a first-come, first-served basis (and do not need special permission).

*Visiting Artist* cont. on page 23

## SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS FOR THE HONORS COLLEGE CONT.

*Scholarships* cont. from page 18

The Hannahs expressed their belief in the benefits of studying abroad while acknowledging the practical need to fund such trips. They encourage others to advance the endowment in order to provide a greater benefit to deserving students. "We both came to an understanding of how international experiences can change the lives of students," Richard said, "not only in terms of opportunities available to them, but in their intellectual development and an appreciation and tolerance of other cultures."

While scholarships give hard-working students a pat on the back, Hayes wanted the Honors College to be able to also honor its outstanding teachers. The Jan Hayes Award for Outstanding Faculty in the University Honors College provides several hundred dollars per

year to the teacher who receives the highest student evaluation while teaching one or more Honors courses.

Hayes, herself a recipient of many distinguished teaching awards, says that building up and encouraging other teachers is a matter that she takes to heart. "I am passionate about faculty being good teachers," she says. "We need to let people know that we have outstanding faculty at MTSU."

The Hayes award was presented at the Honors Awards Reception on April 20 (see page 20 for details about this year's winners). The Good scholarship and the Hannah scholarship are tentatively scheduled to be awarded next year. Additional contributions to the funds are welcome. 📌

## BLUE CREEK RAMBLERS



One of the many events featured during the Spring 2005 Honors R and R program was a performance by the popular Delmer Holland and the Blue Creek Ramblers. Members

of this award-winning old-time string band include Delmer Holland (fiddle), Leland Holland (rhythm guitar), Dennis Baumgardner (lead guitar), Rebekah Weiler (banjo), and William Moore (upright bass). Rebekah Weiler is the

2004 State of Tennessee Old-Time Banjo Champion and the daughter of Randy Weiler of MTSU News and Public Affairs. 📌

## THESIS DEFINED SPRING 2005



### Katrina Lucia Auden Anderson

"The Weaver"

Dr. Allen Hibbard, major advisor  
(photo L-R Dr. Allen Hibbard, Ms. Anderson, Dr. Richard Hansen, and Dean Philip Mathis)

### Stacy Lyn Arnold

"Anne Rice and the Great Goddess"

Dr. Linda Badley, major advisor



### Daniel Keith Duggin

"Theoretical and Numerical Analysis of the Kholodnyi Model for

American Options on Power with Spikes"

Dr. Valery Kholodnyi, major advisor

### Victoria L. Kyes

"Gender Perspectives in the Music Industry: More or Less Opportunity for Women?"

Dr. Paul Allen, major advisor

### Alicia Joy Pickett

"Factors in Teaching Can Negatively Affect Job Satisfaction"

Dr. Gloria Hamilton, major advisor



### Erica Jane Rodefer

"Oblivion: Why Young People Don't Buy the News"

Dr. David Ryfe, major advisor

### Desira Nicole Stover

"Methods of Revision for Computer Data Encryption Algorithms"

Dr. Chrisila Pettey, major advisor 📧

## UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE GRADUATES 2004–2005



### Fall 2004

Ada Obiageli Egbuji  
Kim Iscah Malone

### Spring 2005

Katrina Lucia Auden Anderson  
Stacy Lyn Arnold  
Daniel Keith Duggin

Andrey V. Koval  
Victoria L. Kyes  
Lynne Carroll Napatalung  
Alicia Joy Pickett  
Erica Jane Rodefer  
Brandon Michael Schexnayder  
Desira Nicole Stover 📧

*Visiting artist cont. from page 22*

Past offerings have included Performance Composition with Deb Margolin (2002), Poetry Writing with David Kirby (2003), and the Literary Book as a Work of Art with Peter and Donna Thomas (2004).

Rinne Groff's seminar in playwriting will meet five consecutive afternoons (MTWRF, 3:00–6:00, with specific dates to be announced), culminating with a public performance event and reception in the Honors College auditorium.

The Spring 2006 Visiting Artists Seminar is made possible thanks to the support of the Distinguished Lectures Committee and the Virginia Peck Trust Fund Committee. For more information, contact Dr. Claudia Barnett, 898-2887, cbarnett@mtsu.edu. 📧

*Faculty cont. from page 20*

Honors Council Chair  
**Dr. Terry Whiteside**, Psychology

Collage Advisory Committee Chair  
**Dr. Martha Hixon**, English

Collage Advisory Board Committee Chair  
**Dr. David Foote**, Management and Marketing

Study Abroad Advisory Committee Chair  
**Dr. Richard Hansen**, Speech and Theatre

Computer Lab Advisory Committee Chair  
**Vice President Lucinda Lea**

*Australia* from page 19

ation. Listening to a story involving a kangaroo, the beautiful resonating and undulating sound reminded me of a Chuck Jones-style sound effect for a bounding Pepe La Pew, deliriously in love.

Simply amazing too was the simulated call of the kookaburra, who in the story is not laughing but alerting the roo, in a playful way, of the lurking saltwater crocodile. The sound for the croc's meandering approach was weird and menacing, not unlike some of the sound effects used for the sentinels in *The Matrix*. All from blowing into a hollowed-out piece of wood!

In Tennessee, after my own dream-time, the day occasionally begins with a cock-a-doodle-doo that can be faintly heard in our subdivision. The nearest farm is out of crowing distance, but roosters sometimes wander.

From the bedroom in my Perth apartment, I have learned that kookaburras are earlier risers than roosters. One must live in a tree nearby because each day begins with a hearty laugh, and it's not coming from me or my neighbors.

Though it isn't long before I am laughing too, as the morning TV show *Sunrise*, featuring Kochie and Mel, fills me in with what is *still* happening yes-

terday in the U.S., with heaps of good clean fun thrown in the mix. Well, I guess it's not *always* so clean, but it is fun. Australians are a hearty bunch.

With my ear tuned to novel sounds, shortly after my natural wake-up call I discovered that the sound made by my toothbrush when scrubbing my lower molars back and forth makes a sound very much like a kookaburra when my mouth is only slightly open. (Writing this, it strikes me that living alone in an apartment in a city halfway around the world and knowing only a few people allows one's mind to wander.)

My mind also wanders back to one of the most memorable demonstrations that one of my freshman chemistry professors, Dr. John Yarwood, did for his class at McMaster University. There was a long glass tube, over ten feet long, and open at both ends. It was several inches in diameter. He filled it with a combustible gas (kids don't try this at home), and lit one end.

A yellow-orange ball of flame immediately formed, and raced to the other end. It took a few seconds to make the

run, but along the way there was a very loud, eerie WHOOSH. We were amazed, and after taking it in, applauded Dr. Yarwood, and asked him to do it again. Instead, he started the lecture, but he had our attention, and perhaps a few extra chemistry majors.

*Preston MacDougall is a chemistry professor at Middle Tennessee State University. His "Chemical Eye" commentaries are featured in the Arts and Public Affairs portion of the Murfreesboro/Nashville NPR station WMOT ([www.wmot.org](http://www.wmot.org)).* 📌



*Photo by Aurora MacDougall*

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**University Honors College**  
MTSU P.O. Box 267  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

