



HONORS alternative

University Honors College Newsletter • Fall 2007
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

From the Bell Tower

MTSU's most recent Academic Master Plan, subtitled *Building on the Blueprint*, calls for the Honors College to become a national leader in honors education. By competing with such prestigious programs as those at Arizona State, Central Florida, Michigan State, Ole Miss, Penn State, and others, MTSU will continue to serve its best students effectively while building upon the University's growing reputation as a high-quality institution. Based on benchmarks established by the National Collegiate Honors Council, we already qualify as a "fully developed" honors college, and it is not an exaggeration to say that MTSU is a leader in honors education at the state and regional levels.

While moving toward a position of national leadership is an exciting goal to contemplate, actually reaching it is a challenge that will require continued strong support from the MTSU administration, campus-wide support from depart-

Bell cont. on page 2

COLLAGE WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

On March 17, 2007, *Collage: a Journal of Creative Expression* won a prestigious Silver Crown Award from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA). The award was announced at CSPA's annual College Media Convention at the Roosevelt Hotel in midtown Manhattan.

Collage, the student arts and literary magazine of the University Honors College, was one of 24 college publications receiving the second highest CSPA award from a field of 1,860 eligible members. Only 18 publications received the highest award, the Gold Crown. The Crown Awards, first presented in 1982, are the highest recognition for overall excellence given by the CSPA to student media.

The Award was based on the judges' evaluation of the fall 2005 and spring 2006 issues of *Collage* in December 2006. These same issues also received a Gold Medalist rating from the CSPA earlier in 2006. Suzy Bratton and Jessi Torres were editors-in-chief of the two publications, and Jessica Dinkins Pinson designed both issues.

Pinson recently said, "These awards are so important to *Collage* and to me. It signifies the growth of the magazine and public recognition of what the students are doing and working to achieve."

Collage, an Honors publication since spring 2005, provides experiential learning to student staff members in the field of magazine publishing and also provides an opportunity for MTSU students to have their creative works published in a nationally recognized magazine. MTSU students with at least a 3.0 GPA are eligible to apply for the staff. All MTSU students are encouraged to submit their creative works to the magazine.



Jessica
Dinkins
Pinson



Bell cont. from front page

ments and schools, continued progress toward higher graduation rates, special incentives for honors faculty, the building of a new living-learning center, visionary leadership, and, of course, money! It is reasonable to expect that the University will continue to fund initiatives of the Honors College on a priority basis; however, even this may not be enough. It seems likely that achievement of the goal of national prominence will only be achieved by creating and developing new resources.

Because of our ambition to become a national leader in honors education, it behooves the Honors College to make new friends, renew ties with alumni, and establish an effective development board. The need for a development board is most compelling, and I am happy to report that we have made great progress not only in recruiting members to a Board of Visitors, or development board, for the Honors College but also in drafting the mission and bylaws document under which the board will operate. We look forward to having charter members of the board on campus for a day-long meeting during the 2007–2008 academic year.


When fully operational, the board is expected to energize efforts to enhance academic quality in the Honors College by assuming a leadership role in the college's fundraising efforts. In addition to financial guidance and help, Board members will also offer advice to the dean regarding the means by which the college can best promote its image and achieve its overall mission. Members of the Honors College's Board of Visitors are named in a separate article on page 3.

—Philip M. Mathis, Dean 

INAUGURAL BUCHANAN FELLOWS CLASS

The inaugural class of Buchanan Fellows has arrived at MTSU. The Buchanan Fellows program, named in honor MTSU alumnus Dr. James Buchanan (B.A. 1940; 1986 winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics), admits a maximum of 20 students per year and provides the largest institutional merit-based scholarship available at MTSU. The diverse class of 20 fellows hails from places as nearby as Murfreesboro and as far away as the state of Washington. While the class has very impressive academic credentials (a mean GPA of 3.9 and a mean ACT score of 31.5), students were also chosen based on a number of other qualifications including but not limited to achievement, leadership, and dedication to scholarship.

During their freshmen year, the Buchanan Fellows will take two seminars per semester together. Fall seminars include Astronomy with Dr. Eric Klumpe and Ancient Greek Culture and Literature with Dr. Jill Hague. Dr. Hague, who helped formulate and implement the program, said, "I'm delighted and excited to be working with such a vivacious group who seem eager to learn for the sake of learning." The Buchanan Fellows were recognized at fall convocation in August, which featured Paul Rusesabagina, author of *An Ordinary Man* and inspiration for the film *Hotel Rwanda*. Dr. and

Mrs. McPhee hosted a reception for the Buchanan Fellows at their home on September 11. In October, Dr. James Buchanan himself travelled to MTSU to formally install the first Buchanan Fellows class. 



BOARD OF VISITORS SEATED

It is with a sense of anticipation and excitement that we announce the seating of the Honors College Board of Visitors, a development and advisory board consisting of two distinguished members and seventeen regular members. The board will be chaired by John F. (Jeff) Whorley Jr. of Indianapolis. A graduate of the University of the South (Sewanee), Whorley grew up in Murfreesboro, lived much of his early life in Tennessee, and has many connections to Middle Tennessee State University. More important, he will bring to the board a wealth of relevant knowledge and leadership experience as well as a strong interest in helping the Honors College achieve national prominence by enhancing and maintaining high-quality academic programs.

Dean Phil Mathis noted that the board consists of many individuals who have had uncommon success in business, academics, various professions, and service arenas. In reviewing the list of names on the board, he noted, "It has not escaped my attention that several individuals are graduates of the Honors College." He added, "What excites me most, in thinking about the board, is the opportunity to build a new base of support for the Honors College."

The Board of Visitors will operate under guidelines set forth in its mission and bylaws. The term of appointment for each regular board member is three years, with the possibility for term renewal. The Dean of the Honors College makes all appointments and works with the board chair to facilitate the annual meeting.

Board of Visitors University Honors College

John F. (Jeff) Whorley Jr., chair
Executive Vice President, Debt Management, Sallie Mae Corporation (retired)

Don R. Ash
Circuit Court Judge, 16th Judicial District, Tennessee

James H. Bailey III
Johnson and Bailey Architects, Murfreesboro

Albert Cauz
Headmaster, the Webb School, Bell Buckle

Emily P. Ellis
Vice President for STAR Culture, Gaylord Entertainment

Mark A. Hall
Turnage Professor of Law, Wake Forest University

Emil Hassan
Senior Vice President (retired), Nissan North America

Debra H. Hopkins
Regional Director, National Geographic and Hampton-Brown

H. Lee Martin
Chairman, Abunga.com, Knoxville

Paul W. Martin Jr.
Chief Managing Member, Clarity Resources, Knoxville

Chastity Nicoll
Partner, the Law Office of Nicoll & Nicoll, Manchester

Utpal P. (Paul) Patel
Physician (internal medicine), Murfreesboro

Byron Smith
Chief Marketing Officer (retired), Asurion Corporation, Nashville

Holly Thompson
WSMV Co-anchor, Nashville

James (Jim) Thorpe
Vice President and General Manager, Kentucky/Tennessee, AT&T

Jim D. Tracy
Tennessee State Senator, 16th Congressional District

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

Honorary Members

James M. Buchanan
Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences
Professor Emeritus, Economics, George Mason University

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

Ex Officio Members

William Joseph Bales
Vice President for Development, Middle Tennessee State University

Philip M. Mathis
Dean, University Honors College, Middle Tennessee State University

Update on the Green Power Initiative

Alumnus and Honors College graduate **Brandon Armstrong**

(B.A. December 2005) has seen one of his dreams come true. In February, MTSU began making its first green power purchases. Armstrong was instrumental in leading the crusade to get fellow students involved and out to vote on the Clean Energy Initiative in 2005 during a Student Government Association (SGA) election. The initiative passed with an astonishing 89 percent approval, even though it meant a self-imposed additional fee of \$8 per student per semester to help cover the additional cost of this type of energy. This overwhelming support shows that students are dedicated and taking responsibility for a cleaner environment including using sources of renewable energy.

Green power is produced by harnessing power from solar panels, wind turbines, and methane gas instead of fossil fuels. In 2006–07, MTSU purchased 8.2 million kilowatt hours of green power, equal to approximately 11 percent of the total electrical power consumed by the campus. An article in the *Tennessean* recently projected that MTSU would become the largest Green Power Switch customer in the state of Tennessee, a prediction that has already become a reality. While some may think MTSU's green power percentage is low, it is actually significant according to Joe Whitefield in Facilities Services. He said, "TVA currently only has the capacity to generate approximately 86 million kilowatt hours of green power a year, and MTSU is

Green cont. on page 5



MY FIRST YEAR AT UTK'S COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

by *Jodie Stowell*

I held the letter in my hands and grinned when I shared the news with my parents. I had been accepted into veterinary school at UT–Knoxville. To begin with, I had to find a place to live, not only for myself but also for my horse, Comet. While most people around me misunderstood and disagreed with this decision, I was determined to take my trusty steed with me to Knoxville. Horses have been a passion of mine for as long as I can remember, and I wanted to have something besides school in my life. Luckily, I discovered a group of students looking for a roommate, one of whom was looking to rent a stall and pasture for a horse—perfect! I moved in early August.

Vet school was more intense than anything I had ever experienced, and while I struggled, I still enjoyed it. I took classes in anatomy, physiology, microscopic anatomy, bacteriology, immunology, physical diagnosis, and ethics. In the middle of the semester, I moved to a more spacious apartment with a better outfitted boarding barn for Comet only a mile away. My apartment was private and cozy, and the boarding barn had a covered, lighted arena, allowing me to ride in the evenings after dark. Despite

the new challenge and my mid-semester move, I'm happy to report that I earned all As and Bs in the fall term.

In my second semester, my class load (which included Anatomy II, Physiology II, Microscopic Anatomy II, Virology, Epidemiology, Clinical Correlations, and Parasitology) increased to 21 credit hours, and I often found myself studying until 2:00 a.m. This intense load greatly cut into my riding time, but I still found time to ride about every other day. Again, I finished the year with all As and Bs. Now that I have survived my first year, I am looking forward to a summer with more than four hours of sleep per night! If you have comments or questions, feel free to call me at (615) 848-4932 or e-mail EventQH@aol.com.

Note: Jodie is an Honors College graduate (B.S. 06S). Her thesis was titled "Correlation between Heart Rate, Heart Rate Recovery Index, and Skin Temperature in Horses of Different Fitness Levels and Horses Ridden by Different Riders" (Dr. Rhonda Hoffman, advisor). 🐾



Jodie rides her horse, Comet, at River Glen Horse Trials near Knoxville in November 2006. How many horses are lucky enough to go to vet school?



The class of 2010! Jodie Stowell and fellow students take time out at the end of the spring semester to celebrate surviving the first year! (Jodie is fourth from the left.)

VET SCHOOL: A JOURNEY OF MANY SORTS

by Jodie Stowell

Among the many students at the Honors College at MTSU, there may be a few who have ambitions to attend veterinary school. This article is especially for those students and anyone else who wonders what life is like beyond the bachelor's degree.

First of all, how does one get one of those coveted spots in vet school? Of 150 Tennesseans who applied to UT-Knoxville in 2005, only 50 were accepted. That's nothing compared to students trying to attend an out-of-state school. Often over 500 out-of-state students apply to the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine (UTCVM), but only 20 were offered a spot in the class of 2010. One successful strategy involves Dr. Kevin Down's "top four" things to focus on: (1) overall GPA, (2) science GPA, (3) GRE score, and (4) veterinary experience. If students work hard during their undergraduate careers, it will pay off—good GPA and GRE scores will add points to an objective score. The top objective scorers are invited to interview with a three-member committee. At the interview, follow the most common tips: (1) relax and be yourself, and (2) don't give a fake answer when you don't know—say you don't know. If this plan is followed, an acceptance letter will more likely than not make its way to your mailbox in late April.

It seems that getting in is the hard part, and in some ways this is true. However, it doesn't get any easier once school starts. If you think undergraduate work is challenging, take a deep breath before starting professional school. Every person has a different typical day, and days will vary depending on upcoming events and exams. School days typically start at 8:00 a.m. and last until 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., depending on lab schedules

and how many classes are taken in the semester. Lecture is usually in the morning, and more lectures and laboratories are typically scheduled for the afternoon. Everyone always gets an hour lunch from noon to 1:00 p.m. During this time, many of UTCVM's clubs meet. Often, guest speakers will discuss a certain topic, or representatives from companies will speak about their products. Usually snacks (occasionally full meals) are involved to lure students away from books for an hour. After labs in the afternoon, everyone usually goes home. This is usually a necessity because a vast majority of vet students have some sort of pet, be it dog, cat, bird, or horse. After the pets are taken care of, it is time to study. Usually there aren't enough hours in the day to get everything done, so priorities have to be set. Which subject needs the most work? Which subject is hardest to absorb? Which subject has a test coming up? Although it is definitely possible to slack off if no exams are looming (I know), it is best not to give in to temptation. Most people average about four hours studying per day. This does not necessarily mean students study four hours a day, seven days a week. For some, it does. Others may spend two hours a day until a test is a week away and then shift focus to the exam subject, spending 10–14 hours a day studying on the weekend before the exam. The latter tactic, although more stressful, is probably more common. Everyone tries, but by the end of the semester almost all students are in survival mode. It isn't pretty, but almost everyone survives. Classmates become family, as do some of the professors. Vet school is not for the faint of heart, but it's a worthwhile pursuit to join a meaningful profession.

Any questions? Please call Jodie Stowell at (615) 848-4932 or e-mail EventQH@aol.com. 📞

Green cont. from page 4

purchasing 9.5 percent of what they can produce on the electrical grid. Considering TVA has thousands of other customers, it is remarkable that we are able to purchase as much as we do."

Armstrong, who was the recipient of the 2005 President's Award, is an active volunteer with the Tennessee Alumni and Students for Sustainable Causes organization. He travels throughout the state attending environmental conferences and visiting college and university campuses to help promote passion for his cause. 📞

Bullington Awarded \$336K for Postgraduate Degrees at Vanderbilt

Matthew Bullington, a recent MTSU and Honors College graduate (B.S. December 2006), has been awarded a full scholarship to attend Vanderbilt University, where he will simultaneously earn a law degree (J.D.) and a Ph.D. in economics. This award covers the \$38,000 per year tuition and fees and an \$18,000 annual stipend. Bullington had several offers from other universities but chose Vanderbilt because it will allow him to earn both degrees in just six years. His goal is to pursue a career teaching at the college level. 📞

Martinelli Library Adds Book Collections

The Honors College Martinelli Library recently added two significant sets of books to its collection: Great Books of the Western World and Collected Works of James M. Buchanan.

The 20-volume series of writings by Murfreesboro native James M. Buchanan contains ten monographs and all of Buchanan's important essays, papers, and journal articles. The 1986 winner of the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, Buchanan is considered an eminent economist and a 20th-century scholar of liberty. He is a 1940 graduate of Middle Tennessee Normal School and is professor emeritus at Virginia Tech University and George Mason.

Dean Phil Mathis recently commented on the addition of Buchanan's collected works to the Martinelli, saying, "In many ways, Dr. James Buchanan's rise to the heights of academia as a Nobel Prize winner mirrors the Honors College's own rise as an academic unit that serves the need of top-level students from Tennessee and beyond. Two years ago we transformed the Buchanan Scholarship Program into the Buchanan Fellows Program, making it both a special curricular program and MTSU's most prestigious scholarship program. Dr. Buchanan has provided support to both Buchanan programs over the years, and it is altogether fitting that the Honors College Library should include his many books and works. We hope our students will examine these materials for the ideas they embody as well as a vicarious way of getting to know Dr. Buchanan."

The 60-volume Great Books of the Western World is also a significant addition. The series contains 517 works by 130 authors that span 30 centuries and range from ancient classics to 20th-century masterpieces.

VISITING ARTIST'S SEMINAR, SPRING 2008 SUSTAINABLE PAPERMAKING WITH ALIEN WEEDS

Washington Post illustrator Patterson Clark will teach the Spring 2008 Visiting Artist's Seminar (UH 3200), a one-week, one-credit class open to Honors students with upper-division standing. This year's seminar is Sustainable Papermaking with Alien Weeds.



An award-winning visual journalist and environmental artist, Clark holds a permit to remove invasive plants from National Park Service land and since 2003 has been experimenting with methods of converting exotic weeds into paper, pigment, and other art materials including pens, brushes, charcoal, and printing blocks. Harvesting invasive plants can, he says, yield an abundance of raw materials while relieving native vegetation from the burden of rampant exotic species. Students in his five-day papermaking workshop will collect and process the fibers of selected local invasive plants. Participants will use their resulting sheets of paper for drawing, printing, writing, or sculpture that in some way refers to the process of papermaking with weeds.

This highly interdisciplinary workshop will involve studying and harvesting invasive plants (such as mulberry trees and kudzu), making paper and other art materials from the plants, and creating works of art from the paper. Students will be exposed to a variety of art techniques and will get information about biology and nature.

Students from diverse disciplines—including art, journalism, English, agriculture, biology, philosophy,

chemistry, and environmental science—are encouraged to enroll. Those interested in art and the environment may benefit from and enjoy this course.

The Visiting Artist's Seminar, an interdisciplinary course taught by an established art-

ist, is offered every spring by the Honors College in cooperation with the College of Liberal Arts. While speakers frequently visit campus to speak to students, the Visiting Artist's Seminar couples that inspirational experience with a hands-on component that lasts an entire week and requires intensive student participation. It's taught at an introductory level so students from any field of study can participate. The seminars are limited to 15 students; prerequisites are upper-division standing and a 3.25 GPA.

The 2008 seminar will meet February 4–8, from 3:00 to 5:40 pm. It will culminate with a gallery or studio exhibit and public presentation of the artist's and students' work. The Honors College will host a reception during the exhibit so that the audience may speak informally with the artist and the students about their projects.

The 2008 Visiting Artist's Seminar is supported by the University Honors College, the Distinguished Lectures Committee, the Virginia Peck Trust Fund, the English Department, and the Art Department. For more information, contact program coordinator Claudia Barnett, professor of English at cbarnett@mtsu.edu or (615) 898-2887. 📞

SPECIAL STUDENT AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

The annual Honors College Awards Ceremony was held April 18, 2007. Special guests presented awards again. Paul W. Martin III presented the Paul W. Martin Sr. Scholarships, and Michael Martinelli's son, Kyle, presented the Michael Martinelli Memorial Scholarship.

Scholarship Recipients Academic Achievement Scholarship



From left, Meredith A. Carr, Abbey Easter, and Zachary Hall, who also won this award last year.

Meredith A. Carr: Psychology, Anthropology
Abbey Easter: Plant and Soil Science
Zachary C. Hall: Mass Communication, Radio/TV

Bart McCash Scholarship

Yuliya Melnikova:
Mathematics, Foreign
Languages, Art

Yuliya Melnikova stands to receive her scholarship award.



Ingram-Montgomery Research Scholarship

Peter Colby Sledge: Mass
Communication, Radio/TV,
Spanish

Colby Sledge, right, receives his award from Dr. Kevin Donovan.



Michael Martinelli Memorial Scholarship

Rachel L. Bauer:
Genetics,
Biotechnology

Kyle Martinelli, left, presents the award named in honor of his father, Michael, to Rachel Bauer.



Paul W. Martin Sr. Scholarship



Paul W. Martin III, left, presents scholarships to Will Cade, Jason Gerald, and Hannah Green, who also won this award in 2005. The fourth recipient (not pictured) was James Pruitt, who is studying abroad in Japan this year.

William A. Cade: English, Spanish
Jason N. Gerald: Finance, Business
Administration

Hannah P. Green: Art, Studio Art
J. Robert Pruitt: Mass Communication,
Radio/TV

Outstanding Students

Outstanding Freshman
Honors Student

Chloe E. Robinson: Business
Administration, Economics



Outstanding Sophomore
Honors Student

Heather M. Moulder: Art, Art
Graphics



Outstanding Junior
Honors Student

Katherine E. Vogt:
Recording Industry,
Preproduction



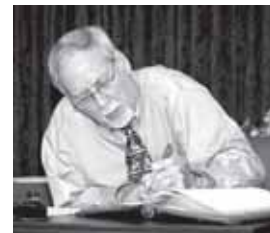
Outstanding Senior
Honors Student

Jennifer E. Carter: English



Students and Faculty signed The Book of Town and Gown.

Dr. Bill
Connelly,
retired, English
(distinguished
service to the
Honors College)



Dr. Cathy
Crooks,
Psychology
(2006-2007
Outstanding
Teacher Award)



Dr. Mireille
Hardy
(guest scholar,
University of Caen
Basse-Normandie)



Matthew
Bullington
(2007 Honors
graduate and
Vanderbilt scholar-
ship recipient)



Dr. June Hall
McCash (found-
ing director of the
honors program)



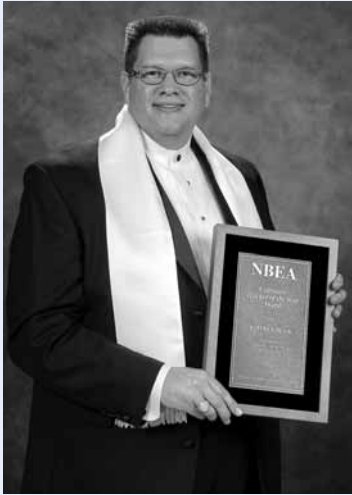
Dr. Ron Messier
(second director
of the honors
program)



Taylor Barnes
(Goldwater
Scholarship winner)



Blair Is Teacher of the Year



Dr. Robert B. Blair (Business Communication and Entrepreneurship) received the 2007 National Business Education Association (NBEA) Collegiate Teacher of the Year Award at the NBEA annual meeting in New York on April 6. He is the first Tennessee recipient of the award since its inception in 1978. Dr. Blair joined the Honors College faculty in 2003 and teaches BCEN 3510H Honors Business Communication in Jennings A. Jones College of Business. 📌

Honors Alternative Credits

Phil Mathis
dean

Scott Carnicom
associate dean

Karen Demonbreum
newsletter editor

Contributors:
Michelle Arnold, Claudia Barnett, Kathy Davis, Marsha Powers, Georgia Dennis, Nancy Goldberg, Preston MacDougall, Shelley Thomas, Joe Whitefield

MTSU Publications and Graphics
copyediting, design, and production

MTSU Photographic Services

HONORS FACULTY PROFILE: NANCY SLOAN GOLDBERG

Walking into BDA 308, you might think you've suddenly been transported to France. From the photograph on the door of the occupant, dressed as a modern sash-draped Marianne to the Quasimodo doll hanging from the ceiling to the postcards, figurines and even the miniature guillotine perched atop the wall of books, everything in this small blue room says "France" but always with a wry smile. Its inhabitant of 20 years, Dr. Nancy Goldberg, decorated the space to balance the demanding study of French with a sense of humor. "When students come to see me," she said, laughing, "I turn on the string of cat lights mounted on the ceiling if their work is exemplary. If not, they have to look at a picture of my former thesis advisor—he frightened generations of graduate students at Vanderbilt!"

Goldberg came to MTSU in 1988 after completing her Ph.D. Her thesis on French pacifist poets of the First World War was published in book form in 1993. She continued her study of French artists and writers from 1900–1920 with numerous articles in French, English, and Spanish; conference papers; and a monograph on French women writers published by St. Martin's Press



in 1999. Although research is important to Goldberg, teaching has always been at the heart of all of her projects, a fact not surprising for a former high school instructor who spent seven years teaching in Tennessee schools. To her, teaching and research are inseparable, and each one enhances the other. Her courses in French, humanities and women's studies have inspired a number of students to earn the Ph.D. in French and other fields. Goldberg is particularly proud to have directed the Honors thesis of Dr. Leah Tolbert Lyons, now a member of the faculty at MTSU.

Dr. Goldberg represents the University Honors College on the International Education and Exchange Committee and is the director of several study abroad programs between MTSU and Cherbourg, France. Among them is the Invited Professor Program, which is sponsored in part by the Honors College.

Part of a large teaching family, Dr. Goldberg lives in Sewanee with her husband of 38 years (the "other" Dr. Goldberg) and three cats. Their two grown sons and their families live and teach in Knoxville. 📌

ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2007-08

Do you have an idea or suggestion you would like to share with the Honors College administration? Pass it along to a committee member of the 2007–08 Dean's Student Advisory Committee!

Carolyn Crawford, cac4b@mtsu.edu
Jason Gerald, jng2u@mtsu.edu
Hannah Green, hpg2b@mtsu.edu
Megan Imboden, mei2a@mtsu.edu
Gretchen Jenkins, gmj2d@mtsu.edu

HONORS COLLEGE GRADUATES AND THESE TITLES, 2006–2007

Fall 2006

Joshua Ross Alexander

“39963,” a creative project

Matthew Edward Bullington

“Domestic Migration Trends: The Case of Mexico”

Brittany Kathleen Clark

“Environmental Stewardship: A Photographic Journey through Austria’s Sustainable Landscape”

Tiffany Renee Crews

“The Role of Tennessee Women in the 1976 Jimmy Carter Presidential Campaign”

Matthew Ryan Hogan

“Fatigue and Duty Time: The Impact of Flight Schedules on Pilot Performance”

Katherine Raye Onks

“Evaluate Antigen-Antibody Binding through Microarrays with a Confocal Laser Scanner”

Spring 2007

Erin Diane Archer

“The Characterization of a Potentially Pathogenic Bacterium Using *Acanthamoeba polyphage* and Human Macrophages”

Jennifer Elizabeth Carter

“A Merciless Lady: The Nature of Loyalty in *The Once and Future King*”

Kristen LeAnne Chandler

“Historic Costume Design,” a creative project

Christopher Ray Davis

“The Isolation and Identification of a Bacterium Pathogenic for *Acanthamoeba polyphage* from a Water Supply Line”

Zol Alexei Hooper

“Social Mobility in the United States as a Markov Process”

Courtney Elaine Ledford

“Gender Differences in Self-Set Goals and Initial Success as Determined by Salary”

Vivak Mahendra Master

“Antibody-Antigen Binding: Electromagnetic Wave Shift versus Fluorescent Detection”

David Henry Rivenbark

““Creating a Web-Based Visualization Tool to Aid in Learning Selected Topics in Computer Graphics,” a creative project

Adam Charles Shulman

“A Comparative Analysis of Radiation Dose Distribution in a Homogeneous Water Phantom as Described by the Electron Monte Carlo Algorithm and the Experimental Data Obtained Directly from the Linear Accelerator”

Peter Colby Sledge

“When Christ Crosses the Border: The United States’ Evangelical Influence on 21st-Century Mexico”

Sheila Perolina Umayam

“The Increasing Importance of the Nurse Practitioner in the Primary Care Setting”

Summer 2007

Kimberly Diane Cubit

“Coping, Social Support, and Health among African American Familial Alzheimer’s Caregivers”

Michaela Dawn Jackson

“The E. W. Scripps Company and Wall Street: Does the Closing Bell Affect the Final Word?”

Ashley Nicole Tyler

“How Student-Related Affirmative Action Programs Affect the Attitudes and Graduation Rate of African American Students at MTSU” 📌

Martinelli cont. from page 6

Great Books topics include drama, fiction, philosophy, history, poetry, religion, natural science, mathematics, ethics, and economics. Originally published in 54 volumes, a second edition was published in 1990 with updated translations and six additional volumes of material covering the 20th century.

Reading and understanding history’s great books has long been considered by many to be the substance of a liberal education. Dean Mathis recently said, “The Great Books represent some of the best literature that has been published.” He added, “I would defend the Great Books as being of immense importance for contemporary students.” Mathis also said “The Great Books [series] represent[s] the Western viewpoint and intellectual tradition” and as such “may be a bit narrowly focused for the educational consumer of today’s global society.” He hastened to add, “By definition, Americans are mostly Westerners, and we cannot understand others without knowledge of who we are, where we have been, and where we may be going.”

The Great Books project, launched in 1943, began as a series of monthly seminars for successful Chicago professionals and businessmen to fill in gaps in education. The project soon expanded with a proposal by *Encyclopedia Britannica* CEO William Benton to publish a set of great works with the goal of making the Great Books available to middle-class families. In April 1952, when the completed project was presented at a gala dinner at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City, University of Chicago president Robert Hutchins said, “This is more than a set of books, and more than a liberal education. Great Books of the Western World is an act of piety. Here are the sources of our being. Here is our heritage. This is the West. This is its meaning for mankind.” 📌

Spring 2008 Honors College Deadlines

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

PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL (FIRST
DRAFT) FOR INDEPENDENT
RESEARCH for Committee Review
February 15, 2008

FINAL PROPOSAL (SECOND
DRAFT) FOR INDEPENDENT
RESEARCH for Honors Council
approval **March 21, 2008**

Independent Research or Creative Projects to be completed in spring 2008

FINAL COPY FOR
THESIS DEFENSE
One copy due in the
Honors College office to
be graded by committee
March 31, 2008

THESIS DEFENSE
BEFORE COMMITTEE
Date to be announced

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

FINAL PROJECTS
Two copies on cotton paper
with all postdefense correc-
tions made
April 23, 2008

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

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

UH 4600-001 CONTEMPORARY MIDDLE EAST CULTURE: FILM, MUSIC, AND LITERATURE Dr. Sonja Hedgepeth and Dr. Allen Hibbard W 2:40 TO 5:40 HONR 116 (CRN#10243)

Would you like to get beyond the headlines and really understand something about the Middle East? Would you like to know more about customs, values, and traditions of people in such countries as Syria, Morocco, Egypt, and Israel?

In this seminar, we will listen to music from various traditions, view films produced by contemporary Arab and Israeli directors, and read literary work by writers from the region. In our explorations we will discuss issues of language, identity, borders, homeland, and memory. Our acquaintance with this rich, lively, tense, vibrant scene will lead naturally to a deeper, more comprehensive understanding of the Middle East than afforded by news stories reported in the general media.

This course is open to junior and senior Honors students and may count toward credit in the Middle East Studies minor. 📌



Dr. Allen Hibbard, right, with American writer Paul Bowles in Tangier, Morocco.



Dr. Sonja Hedgepeth in Israel.

UH 4600-002 AMERICAN FILM IN THE '70S Dr. Will Brantley W 6:00 TO 9:00 HONR 116 (CRN#10244)

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, including 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, 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 (3) hours upper-division English credit. 📌

UH 4600-003
CREATIVITY AND EXPLORATION
Dr. Marc Barr
MW 12:40 – 2:05 COMM 148 (CRN#10245)

This course is about creativity and the exploration of the creative process. It is also about learning how to communicate and understand the world primarily in a visual manner for those who do not consider themselves artists.

There are many ways to do this. One approach is to describe how others have created works of art. A second way is to see how the creative process is used in a variety of different content areas. A third way is to ask the student to be creative.

In the study of the visual arts, there is a tradition of introducing art students to the intellectual challenges of art teaching in a university by having them take a basic course or group of courses. In such courses, aspiring art students are assigned projects that introduce them to a wide variety of ways of dealing with line, form, space, color, and image creation. Students solve problems using tools and methods that simultaneously encourage rigor and creativity. Such courses can be of value to non-art students, as well. The primary advantage in this case is introducing those without much experience in art to the discipline of thinking in a mode that has a visual rather than a verbal orientation.

This course will offer Honors students an opportunity to see the interrelation of knowledge beyond the artificial boundaries of departmental structure. Developing creativity and an understanding of the importance of taking risks, good design, and visual communication skills will carry through to all subject areas.

This course will not be open to Art majors. Interested students should contact Professor Marc Barr in Electronic Media Communication at (615) 898-5118 or at mjbarr@mtsu.edu. 📍

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 proposal, 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 2008 must be submitted to the Honors College by October 31, 2007.**

For an application form and instructions, please visit <http://honors.web.mtsu.edu/h-option.htm> 📍

Spring 2007 Honors
Upper-Division Classes

Any student with a 3.25 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 13, 2006. For the latest up-to-date course offerings, please visit www.mtsu.edu/~records/sbooks.htm.

Upper-Division
Honors Courses,
Spring 2008

Check the current catalog for prerequisite information.

BIOL 3160 Social Issues and Genetic Technology
MWF 11:30–12:25

EMC 3120 Sight, Sound, and Motion
MWF 11:30–12:25

EMC/JOUR 3510 Mass Media and American Culture
TR 11:20–12:45

EMC/JOUR 4250 Mass Media Law
TR 1:00–2:25

EMC/JOUR 4790 Global News and World Media Culture
TR 9:40–11:05

GRAF 3010 Media Design and Visual Language
TR 1:00–2:25

PSY 4650 Health Psychology
TR 2:40–4:05

PSY 4720 Multicultural Perspectives in Psychology and Education
W 6:00–9:00

RIM 3010 Audio for Media
MW 2:20–3:45

UH 3000 Honors Lecture Series: The Digital Age (see page 15)
M 3:00–3:55

UH 3200 Visiting Artist's Seminar (see page 6)
MTWRF Feb. 4–8, 2008 📍

Honors College Academic Advisor Wins Scholarship

Michelle Arnold, Honors College academic advisor and program coordinator of the Undergraduate Fellowships Office, recently won a prestigious National Academic



Advising Association (NACADA) scholarship. She was selected as part of the 2007 National Awards Program for Academic Advising. Arnold is working toward a doctorate in education-leadership and professional practice at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville in her spare time.

This award is presented to selected NACADA members who are pursuing graduate education at either the master's or Ph.D. level. The program supports a primary goal of the organization, which is to promote professional training of advisors.

Arnold will be honored and presented with the award in Baltimore during the annual NACADA national conference in October.

We congratulate Michelle on this accomplishment! 📌

Did You Know . . .

We now have a brand new Student Handbook and a comprehensive Thesis Advisement Guide online. You may access them at http://honors.web.mtsu.edu/Current_Students.htm (fourth choice down) or <http://honors.web.mtsu.edu/thesis.htm> (at the bottom of the Web page) 📌

WHERE IN THE WORLD!?!

In our ever-shrinking international community, understanding diverse viewpoints, languages, and cultures is becoming a vital component not only of a broad education but also of global citizenship. In this new, reoccurring feature, we hope to highlight the travels of everyone associated with the Honors College, illustrating that knowledge and understanding are lifelong virtues to be shared and celebrated.

If you've traveled someplace, we'd love for you to share your experience with the rest of the Honors community. Please contact Karen Demonbreum at (615) 904-8431 or karend@mtsu.edu.

Preston MacDougall's Trip to Germany

A man's *schloss* is his castle. Since "castle" is the English translation of the German word *schloss*, there is no hidden meaning in this otherwise homey expression.

The German town of Marburg is where Dr. MacDougall spent a few weeks as a visiting scientist earlier this summer. Marburg is a university town, and the university there is well-represented in the history of chemistry. For most tourists, streets with names such as Bunsenstrasse should rekindle memories of chemistry labs. With a name familiar to those who took organic chemistry, Hans-Meerwein-Strasse is located in the hills on the outskirts of town. No tourists, today's students in Marburg are busy learning to become masters of the atomic domain.

Reading signs, listening to radio, and constantly eavesdropping helped build MacDougall's German vocabulary. For instance, Germany had just finished hosting the G8 meeting when he arrived in Frankfurt, and on

the train to Marburg there were many Germans reading newspapers and discussing their contents. MacDougall says that from what he could gather, *dummkopf* is the German word for "president."

China Looks to MTSU for New Ways of Teaching Languages



Dr. Shelley Thomas (Foreign Languages and Literatures) was invited to be a keynote speaker on brain research and language acquisition for the Fifth Annual ACAMIS Conference in Beijing this summer. This is an international conference hosted by the Chinese Language Teacher Network and ACAMIS, the Association for Chinese and Mongolia International Schools, an organization under EARCOS, the East Asia Regional Council of Overseas Schools. Attendees are teachers of the Chinese language and culture from international schools in Southeast Asia, North America and Europe. The conference was hosted by the prestigious Western Academy of Beijing, a nonprofit, English-language, independent international school serving the expatriate community in Beijing for grades K-12. "The facilities at this school were like those at the best private universities in the states," said Thomas. "The school serves over 1,450 students and is a leader in the integration of information communication technology (ICT) within the curriculum. Faculty members represent 14 nationalities,

HONORS FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Drs. Robert B. Blair and **Vincent W. Smith** (Business Communication and Entrepreneurship) presented “Communication Learning Goal Assessment in an AACSB Accredited College of Business” at the Association for Business Communication–Southeast USA conference in Nashville this spring. Blair also presented “Business Etiquette and Image Management” in April at the National Business Education Association Conference in New York City.

Dr. William Canak (Sociology and Anthropology), chair of the Chapter Advisory Committee of the Labor and Employment Relations Association, participated in the association’s seventh biannual National Policy Forum this summer in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Scott Carnicom (Honors College) and his wife, Marla, traveled to Paris and Amsterdam in March 2007. Carnicom cited the Louvre and Orsay Museums as the highlights of the trip.

Dr. Kevin Donovan (English) received a short-term fellowship from the Folger Shakespeare Library for work on the New Variorum *King Lear*. The fellowship will allow him to be a resident there for the month of August. He has also recently published an article on *King Lear*: “Lear’s Awakening (IV.vii): Texts and Contexts” in *Renaissance Papers* 2006.

Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross (Chemistry) was recently recognized by the Nashville Section of the American Chemical Society with a “Salute to Excellence” for “Outstanding Service as Chair of the Nashville Section for 2005, for service as chair of the Women’s Chemist Committee, and

many volunteer hours serving the section on committees and outreach activities.”

Dr. Yang Soo Kim (Speech and Theatre) had an article, “Communication Experiences of Korean Expatriates in the U.S.: A Study of Cross-Cultural Adaptation,” accepted for a 2007 issue of *Human Communication*.

Dr. Phil Mathis (Honors College) attended the March 2007 annual meeting of the Southern Regional Honors Council in Charlotte, N.C.

Dr. Preston MacDougall (Chemistry) gave the keynote address, “Communicating Science to a Lay Audience” at the 2007 National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Biomedical Career Fair in Triangle Park, N.C. on April 27.

Dr. Yuri Melnikov (Mathematical Sciences) presented “Recent Advances in the Green’s Function Method” last spring at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

Dr. Lynn Nelson (History) recently published *Pharsalia: An Environmental Biography of a Southern Plantation, 1780–1880*, with the University of Georgia Press.

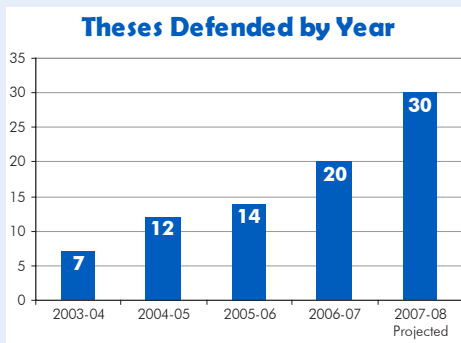
Dr. Carl Ostrowski (English) is the recent winner of the Eliza Atkins Gleason Book Award for *Books, Maps, and Politics: A Cultural History of the Library of Congress, 1783–1861*. The award, sponsored by the Library History Round Table of the American Library Association, recognizes the best book written in English in the field of library history.

Dr. Philip Edward Phillips (English) presented a paper, “The English *Consolation of Philosophy*: Translation and Reception,” at

the Annual Conference on Christian Philosophy: Boethius at the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Steubenville, Ohio, April 13–14, 2007.

Dr. Shelley Thomas (Foreign Languages and Literatures) was awarded a \$40,000 Synergy Grant from the Faculty Research and Creative Activity Committee along with colleagues Dr. Will Langston (Psychology) and Dr. Rebecca Watts (Educational Leadership). Langston, who specializes in educational research, will test and analyze data from the classrooms and laboratories of teachers trained by Thomas in Total Physical Response (TPR) and Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS). Thomas recently returned from India and China (see China story on page 12), where she spent three months training teachers and giving professionals presentations on TPR and TPRS. The MTSU Summer Language Institute, which she normally coordinates in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building during June, was held at University School of Nashville while Thomas was in India. The enthusiastic reception of the language institute was documented in the September issue of *Parent* magazine and featured in an article in the *Tennessean*.

Dr. Gary Wulfsberg (Chemistry) was elected chair of the International Steering Committee for Nuclear Quadrupole Interactions at the XVIII International Symposium on Nuclear Quadrupole Interactions in Foz do Iguacu (Iguassu Falls), Brazil, on August 6, 2007. He was then elected to the Executive Committee of the International Conference on Hyperfine Interactions at its meeting in Foz do Iguacu (Iguassu Falls), Brazil, on August 9. At this joint conference, Dr. Wulfsberg gave an oral presentation, “Silver Dichloroacetate: A Compound with an Extraordinary Range of NQR Frequencies.” Wulfsberg also gave a poster presentation, “³⁵Cl Nuclear Quadruple Resonance Studies of the Chlorinated Weakly Coordinating Anions, TRISPHAT and Tristibate: A Progress Report.” 📌



NUMBER OF THESIS WRITERS UP

Over a five-year period, the Honors College has experienced steady growth in the number of theses completed. In 2003–04, seven students successfully defended theses, and in 2006–07, 20 students completed theses. Currently, 30 students are on track to successfully defend their theses during 2007–08. This represents a four-fold increase in the number of completed theses (and students graduated). Increased thesis production and associated graduation rates represent something that has emerged through planned action and attention to student needs. Changes that have contributed to the increased numbers include revision of the upper-division/lower-division mix of required Honors courses, improved advising, and implementation of pre-thesis workshops. The new Buchanan Fellows program, which requires every fellow to proceed toward graduation with University Honors, is expected to further boost thesis production and graduation numbers in 2011 and beyond. Dean Phil Mathis noted that both he and associate dean Scott Carnicom are committed not only to

a required thesis experience but also to standards of quality in the thesis product. “Our Honors College has long been known to turn out a small but extremely talented group of scholars. Going forward, the goal is to maintain or even enhance standards for quality at the same time we experience growth in the number of thesis writers,” said Mathis.

The Honors Program dates back to 1973; since then, dozens if not hundreds of universities have added honors programs, but most do not require a thesis. There is little doubt that the number of Honors graduates could be increased by removing the thesis as a graduation requirement, but the thesis will remain the capstone experience for students in the University Honors College for the foreseeable future. Recent Honors College alumnus Josh Alexander (fall 2006) said, “I’m very excited to see the college successfully increasing its graduation rate with no diminution in quality.” Indeed, quality endures even as graduation rates and the number of thesis writers trend upward. 📌

Student News And Accomplishments

Erin Meaker, who expects to graduate this fall, was a 2007 recipient of the June S. Anderson Foundation Scholarship. This is an annual award to female nontraditional students at MTSU who are pursuing careers typically dominated by males.

We are delighted to report that two Honors students participated in the eighth annual McNair Program Research Symposium.

Leonela Carriedo, mentored by Dr. Sandra Johnson (Biology), presented a poster titled “Invasive Growth Characteristics of Kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*)” in July. Carriedo is also doing her Honors thesis on this subject. **Kimberly Cubit** (B.S. 2007) presented her research titled “Coping, Social Support, and Health among African American Familial Alzheimer’s Caregivers,” which she completed under the tutelage of Dr. Linda Wilson (Nursing).

The Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Committee recently announced scholarship recipients for summer and fall 2007. Honors students named as assistants or scholars were **Hannah Green, Taylor Barnes, Megan Imboden, Joshua Parker, Matthew Schmidt, Leonela Carriedo,** and **Mallory Faulkner**. Congratulations to all of you! 📌

World cont. from page 10

with most coming from the U.S., Canada, the U.K., Australia, and New Zealand. They treated not only the guest speakers royally but also all 200 conferees. One evening, we were all guests at an elegant restaurant that seats 3,000. Among small running streams, delicate bridges and partitions, and the natural flora and fauna of the region that are characteristic of the Chinese décor, we tasted some 10 to 15 different dishes.”

During the conference, Dr. Thomas gave a three-hour workshop to participants on two methods she uses in her Honors classes as well as at the

MTSU Summer Language Institute: called TPR (Total Physical Response) and TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling).

Dr. Susan Zhang, founder of ACAMIS, has been coming to MTSU for the past four years to teach at the Summer Language Institute. Zhang was trained in the states in TPR and TPRS in 2003 and went on to create textbooks on the Chinese language and writing system which have been published by Beijing University Press and Beijing Language Publishing House. 📌

FALL 2007 HONORS LECTURE SERIES



The Digital Age

All lectures are free and open to the public.

Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building,
Room 106
Mondays, 3:00 to 3:55 p.m.

September 10

"Scientists Return to the CAVE in the Digital Age"

Dr. Preston MacDougall, Chemistry

September 17

"Technology and Cosmology: Future Innovations for Peering into the Past"

Dr. Eric Klumpe, Physics and Astronomy

September 24

"Ethical Issues of New Technologies" Dr. Tim Greer, Computer Information Systems

October 1

"Integrating Digital Tools with Traditional Studio Art Processes"

Professor Marc Barr, Electronic Media Communication

October 8

"The Economic Impact of Digital Innovations in Aerospace Safety"

Dr. Paul Craig, Aerospace

October 22

"Digital Applications in Military Science"

Lt. Col. Mike Walsh, Military Science

October 29

"The Digital Age of Agriculture"

Dr. Tony Johnson and Dr. Jessica Carter, Agribusiness and Agriscience

November 5

"Presidential Campaigning in the Internet Age"

Dr. Patrick Chinnery, Political Science

November 12

"Life Science in the Digital Age"

Dr. Steve Howard, Biology

November 19

You Are NOT Special (a digital film project)

Mr. Jonathan Parris, Honors graduate, Electronic Media Communication


November 26

Thesis Presentations

Three Honors students

December 3

Thesis Presentations

Three Honors students 


Stogner Moves to France

Former Honors student Nephi Stogner (B.A. August 2006), son of Horace and Catherine Stogner, recently had his photography showcased by the Office of Tourism in Deauville, France.

While at MTSU Stogner majored in Foreign Languages and Literatures, concentrating in French and Spanish, and graduated summa cum laude. Although Nephi focused on more traditional studies, his passion has always been photography.


It was during a year-long study abroad in France in 2003 that Nephi fell in love with the countryside and the people. After earning his degree here, he returned to France in September 2006, where he is a professor of English at a primary school in Deauville.

In his spare time, Nephi photographs the city from every angle. He particularly likes to shoot in black and white, which emphasizes and lends the most beautiful light to his photographs.

Visit Nephi's Web site at nephiniven.com to see examples of his work. 

Honors Scholarships

Honors scholarships are available to students who have successfully completed one or more Honors courses. Details about the scholarships and the applications are available in the Honors College Office (HONR 205), or on our Web site at <http://honors.web.mtsu.edu/Scholarships.htm>

All scholarships are for returning students and will be applied to fall 2008 accounts. These scholarship dollars are added to any other scholarships the students may have already received. Award winners will be recognized at the annual Awards Reception in April 2008. Check with the Honors Office early in spring 2008 for deadline dates. 

MTSU to Host Statewide Honors Conference

In February 2007, Scott Carnicom (associate dean), Jolene Barto, Talia Cunetto, and Josh Alexander attended the annual conference of the Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council (TCHC) at the University of Tennessee–Knoxville. TCHC, as the name implies, is the organization of all honors colleges and programs, private and public, throughout Tennessee. Barto and Cunetto presented *Collage*, our award-winning literary and arts magazine, and Alexander presented his senior thesis, “39963,” an examination of the life, crimes, and execution of Rutherford County native Albert DuBoise (1910–1947). MTSU was chosen as the site of next year’s meeting, which will take place February 15–16, 2008. Carnicom, the newly elected president of TCHC, said, “Friday’s events will consist of the evening banquet in the Tennessee Room of the James Union, while Saturday’s events will consist of numerous faculty and student presentations spread throughout all of the classrooms in the Martin Honors Building.” Approximately 150 faculty and students are expected to attend the conference. MTSU students and faculty are highly encouraged to attend. See www.mtsu.edu/learn/honors for more details. 📌



Building For Your FUTURE

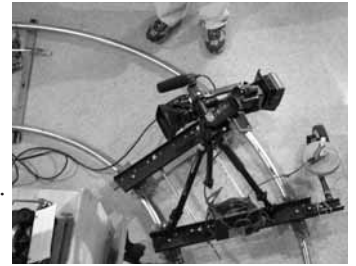
Contact our academic advisor, Michelle Arnold, to find out how you can graduate from the University Honors College. She can be reached at (615) 898-5464. Call for an appointment today! 📌

HONORS STUDENT FEATURED

Jonathan Parris, a mass communication major studying video production and minoring in Entertainment Arts Design, is a very talented young man. He recently completed and defended his Honors creative project, “An Experiment in Low-Budget Digital Film Making Using Motion Control Camera Techniques.” His film, *You Are NOT Special* (see page 19), features a writer attempting to write a screenplay and how five emotions keep interfering in the process. The film was also submitted to the spring MTSU Student Film Festival. And what a project it was!

From start to finish, there were obstacles along the way: searching for and choosing the right script; getting permission to use the script; modifying it from a theatrical setting to the screen; determining costumes for each emotion; trying to figure out how to make it appear that there was more than one character on screen at the same time played by the same actor; identifying what special effects to use; finding the right location; and finding an actor. Once he identified a possible motion-control camera for the project, Parris discovered quickly that, at a minimum of \$2,300 a day to rent such equipment, it was not an option. Light kits, a camera, and camera dolly all cost too much to rent on a student’s budget. Thankfully, due to several contacts and connections he had developed while at MTSU, he was able to secure the use of two high-definition video cameras

and lighting and sound equipment that he would need. But for the dolly and the motion-control rig, he was on his own. He decided he would build what he needed and it could also be used for future projects as well.



He began looking for ways to possibly combine the motion-control system with the capabilities of a dolly. Both are similar in many respects. Both can ride smoothly on a track. Both have a jib-arm, which allows the camera to move up and down. And both must be sturdy enough to carry all the camera equipment necessary and still allow a camera operator (videographer) to ride on it. So Jonathan went to the drawing board and sketched out what he thought would work.

He worked on the dolly for two months. He made it out of galvanized steel, bolting it together in most places, welding it in others. It was his first attempt at welding, but after a learning curve, he got the hang of it. While welding in his grandfather’s basement shop, he kept thinking about what he could use as a steering device for the dolly. He settled on his grandfather’s old riding lawnmower and cut the front steering assembly out for use in the dolly. New axles had to be turned on a lathe in order for them to fit on the wheels he had bought.

The next piece Parris built was the jib-arm. He installed a “lazy susan” bearing plate inside the dolly so the arm could pivot. The arm was made of galvanized pipe attached to a

HONORS STUDENT FEATURED CONT.

mounting plate for the camera tripod head on one end and a system of counterweights on the other. The arm was built with a self-leveling feature so that no matter how the camera moves, it always stays level.

Next he needed skate wheels, which resemble roller skate wheels. If purchased, they would cost \$120, which was not in his budget. Again, he sought alter-



natives. And once again, his grandfather's connections came through. In younger days, his grandfather had worked at a dry cleaner shop. The clothes hangers in the shop rode on metal tracks with small wheels with bearings in them. Thinking that those bearings would eventually wear out, his grandfather had ordered another box of the wheels as replacements, but they were never needed. What luck! They fit perfectly on the dolly track. Jonathan made sure the dolly would fit on standard, Hollywood-style dolly track. Because track is actually cheaper to rent than it is to make, he needed his dolly to be able to fit on standard track.

The next step was to make his dolly actually move. After consulting a professional mechanical engineer he had known for years, they arrived at a plan. Parris needed to build a mechanism to attach the drive wheel to the skate wheels, and he also had to build a power supply. To make the dolly versatile for this and future projects, he gave it the capability of running on either 12-volt AC power, or a 12-volt battery.

After shooting video, many hours went into postproduction editing, but the film finally came together. Jonathan was very pleased with his project and says he wouldn't change the experience for anything.

NOTE: Jonathan will be presenting his film and talking about the creation of the equipment and how it was used at the Honors Lecture Series on Monday, November 19, at 3:00 p.m. in HONR 106. 📍



GOLDWATER WINNER!

On March 23, 2007, the college was delighted to learn that **Taylor Arnold Barnes**—a junior Chemistry/Physics major and Honors College student from Jackson, Mississippi—was named a winner of a prestigious Goldwater Scholarship for 2007. This award is the first major success for the Honors College Undergraduate Fellowships Office (UFO). Goldwater Scholarships are awarded to the nation's top students in science, mathematics, and engineering. In addition to invaluable national recognition, the award provides \$15,000 to further the recipient's education. While the Goldwater is an incredible award in itself, it also often serves as a stepping stone to additional awards such as the Marshall and Rhodes Scholarships. Key information on the Goldwater Scholarship can be found at www.act.org/goldwater. Since Goldwater Scholars are listed on the Web site by home state, Barnes is listed under Mississippi. Inspection of the Web site will show just how competitive the award is: Tennessee had only three winners this year and Mississippi had only four. Some states had none.



Barnes came to MTSU and the Honors College two years ago as a 15-year-old student and has since established a sparkling record in chemistry and physics. His key research advisors and mentors are Drs. Preston MacDougall and Gary Wulfsberg of the Chemistry Department. Barnes was recently in Chicago presenting a poster paper on his research at the meetings of the American Chemical Society. His e-mail address is tab3n@mtsu.edu. For further information, contact Michelle Arnold at marnold@mtsu.edu or (615) 898-5464. 📍

HONORS COUNCIL 2007-08

Catherine Stogner,
chair
Human Sciences

Rich Barnett
Recording Industry

David Foote
Management and
Marketing

Gloria Hamilton
Psychology

Richard Hansen
Speech and Theatre

Allen Hibbard
English

Preston MacDougall
Chemistry

Jan Quarles
vice chair

Electronic Media
Communication

Rebecca Seipelt
Biology

Earl Thomas
Management and
Marketing

Jeremy Davis
Student
Representative

Kyle Williams
Student Representative

Ice Cream Social

On the afternoon of September 13, the Honors College hosted an ice cream social to welcome students, faculty, and staff from across the University back to campus. Honors students scooped the ice cream, and guests helped themselves to a multitude of toppings. Entertainment was provided by former MTSU students and rising stars the Karg Boys (www.kargboys.com). Brothers Rich and Andy Karg, who have been featured nationally on Garrison's Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*, entertained the crowd with their guitar duo, signature mix of rock and oldies with a sprinkling of country. Scott Carnicom, associate dean of the Honors College said, "This event was a great success and attracted nearly 150 people. It really demonstrates the ever-growing community here in the Honors College." The college will next host a Homecoming tailgate party November 10. 📍



Nellery Marty (left) and Danielle Rutherford pose while serving ice cream.



Nellery serves Dr. Spires.



The Karg Boys

ALUMNI NEWS

Erin Archer (B.S. May 2007) was accepted and began the master's in public health at George Washington University.

Matthew Bullington (B.S. December 2006) was among an elite group of MTSU students to receive an award from Phi Kappa Phi honor society for his academic excellence. He was the only Tennessean to receive \$5,000 for the 2007–2008 academic year.

Jennifer Carter (B.A. May 2007) was accepted and began the master's of English program at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

Amanda Cotton (B.S. May 2004, M.A. August 2006) is now living and working in northern California. She is working as a benefits representative in the HR department at Cache Creek Casino Resort helping employees with their health insurance and retirement plans. What has taken some adjustment is that the casino is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. There are no holidays. Fortunately for Amanda, she has a 9-to-5 job Monday through Friday. She says it's a good job and she is working with great people. And she says, "I get to live in rural northern California surrounded by mountains, creeks, and almond orchards! I love it so much." Congratulations are in order for Amanda, who married Bradley Ferrer, who works with county child support services, July 23 on South Padre Island, Texas. They live in California.

Adam Farmer (B.S. May 2004) is now in the Ph.D. physics program at Vanderbilt University.

Zol Hooper (B.S. August 2007) has been accepted into a master's program in actuarial science at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. Congratulations to Zol on his marriage in July to Chang Xiaozheng. She is pursuing a master's degree in actuarial science at MTSU.

Christa Jensen (B.A. and B.S. May 2006) is pursuing a Ph.D. in economics at West Virginia University. She expects to graduate in 2010. She accepted a tuition waiver plus a two-year fellowship from the Regional Research Institute on campus, which will be followed by a departmental research assistantship for two years. Christa is especially interested in urban and regional economics and the history of economic thought. She is considering careers in economic research and biographical literature.

Courtney Ledford (B.S. May 2007) began the master's industrial/organizational psychology program at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

Adam Shulman (B.S. May 2007) was among six students from MTSU chosen to participate in the second annual Posters at the State Capitol during the spring semester. This event helps raise awareness about undergraduate research. Adam, then a Physics major from Bell Buckle, shared his poster titled "Stretching of an Equine Red Blood Cell Using Optical Tweezers." Dr. Daniel Erenso was his mentor at MTSU. Adam also began the master's medical physics program in the College of Medicine at Vanderbilt. This is the terminal degree in this field.

THESES DEFENDED, SPRING 2007

Erin Archer

"The Characterization of a Potentially Pathogenic Bacterium Using *Acanthamoeba polyphage* and Human Macrophages"



Chris Davis

"The Isolation and Identification of a Bacterium Pathogenic for *Acanthamoeba polyphage* from a Water Supply Line"



Davis, left, with his thesis advisor, Tony Farone.

Vivak Master

"Antibody-Antigen Binding: Electromagnetic Wave Shift versus Fluorescent Detection"



Master with his committee. From left: Philip Mathis, Master, Stephen Wright, and Amy Jetton.

William Cade

"The Research Paper and the Real World: How Academic Writing Prepares Students for Professional Writing"



Cade with project advisor Will Brantley after he successfully defended his thesis.

Zol Hooper

"Social Mobility in the United States as a Markov Process"



Hooper with his thesis committee. From left: Scott Carnicom, Hooper, project advisor Tony Eff, and Honors Council representative Earl Thomas.

Erin Meaker

"The Brainwash of Self-Denial: Cult Indoctrination and Anorexia"



Meaker and her committee. From left: Scott Carnicom, Meaker, thesis advisor Mary Magada-Ward, and Bill Connelly.

Jennifer Carter

"A Merciless Lady: The Nature of Loyalty in *The Once and Future King*"



Bill Connelly with Jennifer Carter after her thesis defense and celebration.

Joshua Hughes

"Isolation and Characterization of a Potentially Novel Bacterium"



Thesis advisor Mary Farone, left, with Hughes, showing his Honors medallion after defending his thesis.

Jonathan Parris

You Are Not Special, a short film creative project

Parris with Bob Pondillo after the showing of his film (see article on page 16).



Kimberly Cubit

"Coping, Social Support, and Health among African American Familial Alzheimer's Caregivers"



Cubit with her thesis committee. From left: Scott Carnicom, Teresa Davis, Cubit, and project advisor Linda Covington.

Michaela Jackson

"The E. W. Scripps Company and Wall Street: Does the Closing Bell Affect the Final Word?"

Mentor Ed Kimbrell gives Michaela a hug on thesis defense day.



David Rivenbark

"Creating a Web-Based Visualization Tool to Aid in Learning Selected Topics in Computer Graphics," a creative project



Rivenbark with his thesis committee. From left: Philip Mathis, Rivenbark, Judy Hankins, and Bill Connelly.

THESES DEFENDED, SPRING 2007 cont.

Adam Shulman

"A Comparative Analysis of Radiation Dose Distribution in a Homogeneous Water Phantom as Described by the Electron Monte Carlo Algorithm and the Experimental Data Obtained Directly from the Linear Accelerator"

Shulman with his project advisor, Vic Montemayor.



Colby Sledge

"When Christ Crosses the Border: The United States' Evangelical Influence on 21st-Century Mexico"



Sledge and project advisor Oscar Diaz after a successful defense and bell tolling.

Ashley Tyler

"How Student-Related Affirmative Action Programs Affect the Attitudes and Graduation Rate of African American Students at MTSU"

Perseverance finally paid off for Tyler, shown with Jackie Gilbert on thesis defense day.



HONORS HOMECOMING: NOVEMBER 10, 2007

Save the date of November 10, 2007, on your calendars because it's Homecoming weekend here at MTSU. The Blue Raiders will face the Ragin' Cajuns of Louisiana-Lafayette in an exciting Sun Belt Conference contest at 2:30. However, the fun begins in the morning with the annual parade and Homecoming tailgate party in Walnut Grove between Peck and Cope. Building on earlier success, the Honors College will host two tents this

year. One unmanned tent will be set up next to tents from other colleges and will feature information about the Honors College along with archival photographs. The second tent, festooned with Honors College banners, will be set up on the student side of the festival and will feature free food and drinks plus the fabulous company of current and former Honors students, staff, and faculty. All are welcome: hope to see you there. Please contact



Georgia Dennis at (615) 898-5645 or gdennis@mtsu.edu if you have any questions.

graphic by Georgia Dennis 

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY

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

