

HONORS
Edition

2010
SPRING

HONOR | COMMITMENT | INTEGRITY | DISCIPLINE | FAITH | CURIOSITY | CHARACTER | CREATIVITY

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Cover photo courtesy of MTSU Alumnus
Titus Bartos. See article page 40.

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From the Dean's Desk

The Honors College is a vibrant place. Depending on the time of semester, any given week is likely to feature an exciting mix of Honors classes, meetings, guest speakers, lecture series, discussions, thesis proposals or defenses, visits by high school students and their parents, students preparing for Mock Trial tournaments or other competitions and completing preregistration, registration, or scholarship applications. Honors faculty and staff, like Honors students, find they must balance a variety of activities and that one task usually begins before others end.

Highlights of the past semester included a reception at President McPhee's house and the inauguration of the third cohort of Buchanan Fellows, which coincided with the ninetieth birthday of Dr. James B. Buchanan; groundbreakings for the new education building and the new student union; a successful meeting of the Board of Visitors and a special banquet to mark the fifth anniversary of the Martin Honors Building; a visit by the national officers of Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honor society; a record five student applicants for Fulbright Scholarships; recruiting trips to LP Field and Hume-Fogg High School in Nashville, to Knoxville and Johnson City, to Chattanooga, and to Memphis and Jackson; a special visit by Judge Alex (Alex Ferrer); attendance and presentations at the National Council of Honors Colleges in Washington, D.C.; the inauguration of a new scholarship for International Baccalaureate Diploma recipients; and many other events that are described in this newsletter.

This semester the college increased its exposure on the Internet during the month preceding the Buchanan Fellowship applications by directing students who typed in "Honors College" or "Honors Scholarship" to the MTSU Web site. The Honors Lecture Series in the fall on the history of MTSU featured many great talks, including an especially relevant talk by Dr. Phil Mathis on the history of the Honors College. This spring, Dr. Scott Carnicom has put together a great series on the Middle East, and in the fall, we will have a similar series on China and the Far East.

We appreciate the many kind compliments we have received on this newsletter. We encourage you to share your continuing achievements with us.

—John Vile, Dean ●

2009 BUCHANAN FELLOWS Inaugurated

Twenty-two freshman Buchanan Fellows were inaugurated Friday, October 2, 2009, in the amphitheater of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building. The inauguration program recognized and challenged the 2009 fellows, a gifted group of students who collectively attained an average high school GPA of 3.9 and a 31 average on the ACT exams.

of Bolton High School in Arlington; **Lucy Estes** from Centennial High School in Franklin; **Chelsea Fleet**, who is from Arlington and attended Fayette Academy in Somerville; **Celia Gendron**, a graduate of Smyrna High School; **Alex Gibson**, a graduate of Cookeville High School; **Courtney Hancock** from Columbia Central High School in Columbia; **David Hull** of Baylor School in Chattanooga; **Emily Kubis** from Morristown Hamblen High School West in Morristown; **Rayne Leonard**, a graduate of Lewis County High School in Hohenwald; **Jackson Mooneyham**, who is from Gallatin and is a graduate of Pope John Paul II High School in Hendersonville; **Elizabeth Pellegrine** from Bell Buckle, a graduate of Cascade High School in Wartrace; **Dylan Phillips** also from Bell Buckle and a graduate of Cascade High School in Wartrace; **Chelsea Shrum**, who is from Mt. Juliet and attended Ezell-Harding Christian School in Antioch; and **Hillary Tyson** from La Vergne High School.



Members of the 2009 class of Buchanan Fellows recite the Honors Creed during their October 2 inauguration.

Former Honors College dean **Dr. Philip Mathis** greets **Mr. Paul W. Martin Jr.** and former Honors Program director **Dr. Ron Messier** before the Buchanan Fellows inauguration.



Three of the new Buchanan Fellows graduated from Siegel High School in Murfreesboro: **Tyler King**, **Lema Sbenaty**, and **Kelsey Wells**.

Four of the 2009 Buchanan Fellows are from out of state. They are **Ellen Goertzen**, who attended Slidell High School in Slidell, Louisiana; **Cody Malone** from South Oldham High School in Crestwood, Kentucky; **Alissa Ruggle**, who is from Manhattan, Kansas, and attended Riley County High School; and **Leland Waite** from Mountain View High School in Meridian, Idaho.

Fifteen graduated from other Tennessee schools: **Anna Caruso**, who is from Cowan and attended Franklin County High School in Winchester; **Evan Craig**, a graduate



Dr. Diane Miller

Dr. June McCash and Dr. Ron Messier, former Honors Program directors, and Mr. Paul W. Martin Jr. attended the inauguration.

Dr. John R. Vile, Honors College dean; Dr. Diane Miller, interim executive vice

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on page 4

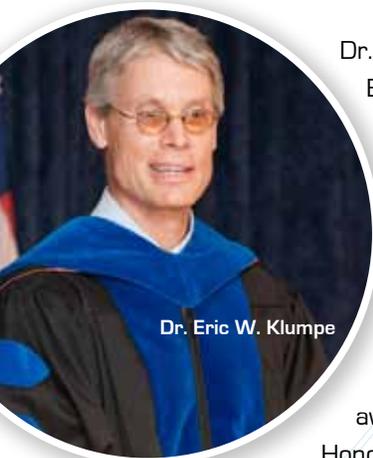
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Inaugurated from page 3

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president and provost; and returning fellows Jessica Taylor and Adam Emerson welcomed the new Buchanan Fellows and a number of their parents to the inauguration program.

Dr. Philip M. Mathis, who retired as Honors dean in June 2008, introduced the *Book of Town and Gown*, a ceremonial volume used to record the signatures of those who have helped shape the University Honors College. Dr. Scott Carnicom, Honors College associate dean, assisted the 22 new fellows as they signed the book. Ms. Laura Clippard, advisor, presented gifts to the students.



Dr. Eric W. Klumpe

Dr. Eric W. Klumpe, a member of the Buchanan faculty, challenged the 2009 Buchanan Fellows, and Dr. Jill Hague led the students in the recitation of the Honors Creed.

The Buchanan Fellowship, named in honor of Dr. James M. Buchanan, accepts approximately 20 applicants each year and is the highest award given to students entering the Honors College at Middle Tennessee State University. The program provides full payment of tuition and fees and a \$1,000 per year book allowance.

Dr. Buchanan was a 1940 graduate of Middle Tennessee State Teacher's College and winner of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 1986. The Buchanan Fellowship was established in 2006 by Dr. Sidney A. McPhee, president of MTSU, to attract superior scholars from across the country. ●

BE IT
RESOLVED:

Happy Birthday Dr. Buchanan



In a resolution dated February 23—facilitated by John Hood, former state representative; sponsored by Jim Tracy, state senator; and signed by Ron Ramsey, speaker of the senate, Kent Williams, speaker of the house, and Governor Phil Bredesen, the Tennessee General Assembly acknowledged the contributions of MTSU alumnus and Nobel laureate James M. Buchanan in 2009, the year of his ninetieth birthday.

In addition to recognizing Dr. Buchanan's numerous scholarly and professional achievements, the resolution notes that Dr. Buchanan earned his B.S. degree from Middle Tennessee Teachers College in 1940 and that "MTSU has named its most prestigious scholarship program in Dr. Buchanan's honor." ●



Sophomore Buchanan Fellow Jessica Taylor addresses freshman initiates at the fall 2009 Buchanan Fellows Inauguration. A banner commemorating Dr. Buchanan's ninetieth birthday was displayed on the wall of the Honors Amphitheater.

Students



My Semester at Sea Experience

by Logan Key | *Logan is a senior Honors student majoring in Chemistry.*

Last summer I had the opportunity to study abroad with Semester at Sea (SAS), a program established in 1964 and operated through the University of Virginia (UVA). The Semester at Sea ship, the *MV Explorer*, makes three educational voyages a year: in the fall, spring, and summer.

The summer 2009 theme was “Ethics and Human Rights in the Mediterranean World,” and the *MV Explorer* sailed with a community comprising over 700 college students and just over 300 faculty, crew, and life-long learners (older, non-college students, who live aboard the ship and take classes with students). The voyage took us to Spain, Italy, Croatia, Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Egypt, and Morocco.

The directors of Semester at Sea invite distinguished faculty members from universities throughout the country to teach on the ship. My voyage included faculty from Harvard, Yale, Cornell, UVA, and many other universities. Semester at Sea offers courses in nearly every major and exposure to some of the world’s most desired destinations.

The summer voyage lasted 67 days; days at sea were class days, and days in port were spent completing faculty-directed practica, taking SAS-sponsored trips, or exploring independently. Each class had several faculty-directed practica that made up 20 percent of the overall grade for the course.

I studied international women’s health under Dr. Andrea Parrot, world-renowned professor of women’s rights and human sexuality issues at Cornell University. Dr. Parrot organized practica that involved a female OB/GYN from Turkey speaking on virginity

testing and hymen reconstruction; a presentation on human trafficking presented by leaders of an NPO and the mayor of Varna, Bulgaria; and trips to hospitals in Bulgaria and Egypt. Because of Dr. Parrot’s class and the personal experience I had with women’s health issues throughout the world, I have now found more direction for my future career as a physician.

More than the courses and incredible sights of Semester at Sea, the opportunities offered were beyond expectation. Distinguished inter-port lecturers boarded the ship for several days during the voyage and made presentations to students and answered questions. Archbishop Desmond Tutu was a guest-lecturer for one voyage a few years ago. Last summer, California congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, the first Hispanic congresswoman, was one of our guest-lecturers.



*The **MV Explorer** is a new passenger ship that functions as both a traveling university and residential home to more than 2,000 Semester at Sea participants each year.*

Key from page 5

Logan Key visits the Colosseum in Rome while studying abroad through the Semester at Sea program.

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Because the *MV Explorer* is home for students, professors, lifelong learners, and visiting guest lecturers, we were able to develop relationships with the shipboard community in a way not possible in any other setting. One morning, somewhere between Spain and Italy, floating on the Mediterranean Sea, I sat in the dining hall enjoying breakfast in my pajamas, discussing world politics with a congresswoman seated next to me; this was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Because of the nearly unlimited access students have to professors, it was possible to find professors at any meal and ask them questions about classes or exams. One afternoon, I lay by the pool with one of



my professors and discussed topics from class for hours while docked in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Semester at Sea is unlike any other study abroad program. From the access students have to professors to the wide selection of courses to the number of countries one can visit, Semester at Sea offers students a passport to the world and education guided by some of the country's top professors. ●

Honors Students Earn Lower-Division Certificates

In September 2009, Karen Demonbreum, Honors College administrative assistant, announced that 15 students with advanced placement Honors credit have completed 20 or more Honors hours and received lower-division certificates of achievement from the Honors College. Demonbreum, who tracks all statistical data for the college, added that 26 students reached the milestone in spring 2009.

The 15 students who earned certificates last fall are listed below.

- David Antonelli**, sophomore, Biology
- Mallory Bowden**, senior, Recording Industry
- William Carlisle**, senior, Aerospace
- Mary Crouse**, senior, Biology
- Robert Fultz**, sophomore, Mass Communication
- Laura Gormsen**, sophomore, Marketing
- Eric Guyes**, sophomore, Aerospace
- Rachael Hall**, sophomore, Chemistry

- Craig Hoffman**, sophomore, Mass Communication
- Cari Jennings**, sophomore, Biology
- Rachel Lytle**, sophomore, Biology
- Nathan Reale**, junior, Computer Science and Mathematics
- Abigail Surles**, sophomore, Chemistry
- Heather Waldron**, sophomore, Interdisciplinary Studies
- William West**, sophomore, Biology ●

Thesis Certificate Is a Great Option for Transfer Students

Starting this spring, there is a new option available to students who wish to participate in the University Honors College.

Students who lack the 20 lower-division Honors hours can earn a thesis certificate by receiving prior approval from the Honors College and completing the 11 upper-division hours including the Honors thesis. Students will not graduate from the Honors College, but completing a thesis can help make them more competitive for graduate school.

In order to qualify to complete the thesis certificate, students must have at least three semesters left before graduation and have a 3.5 GPA and must take an Honors-approved class on research/statistics in their major before starting the thesis proposal class (UH 4900).

For more information, students should schedule a meeting with Honors advisor Laura Clippard, at 898-5464 or lclippard@mtsu.edu. ●

Honors and Financial Aid Unveil IB Scholarship

by Randy Weiler | adapted from the *Record*

As many as 20 high school seniors who have earned an International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma and maintained a grade point average of 3.5 or higher will have an opportunity to earn an extra \$1,000 in scholarship awards for MTSU's 2010-11 academic year.

Working with the Office of Financial Aid, the University Honors College has developed a marketing plan targeting nine Tennessee high schools that offer IB programs.

As with most of the major scholarships offered through Financial Aid, the deadline for students to apply and meet eligibility requirements is December 1.

"It's another attempt to get 'Tennessee's Best' students here," Honors dean John Vile said, referring to the University's marketing campaign to recruit the best high-school students to MTSU. He added, "And one of the neat things about it is that you can stack it. If you have a [Hope] Lottery or one of the other scholarships, you can combine it with other scholarships."

The lone exception would be the Honors College's Buchanan Fellowship, which is a four-year, all-inclusive scholarship.

Prospective IB scholarship students could earn up to 31 hours of college credit and up to nine hours of Honors credit, Vile said.

In a June 4, 2009, proposal to Financial Aid director David Hutton and Dr. Bill Badley, interim vice provost for aca-

demical affairs and director of general education, Vile said the program creates the advantage of enhancing diversity, quality, and graduation rates.

"Because this is an international program, we think it would particularly appeal to foreign students," Vile wrote. "IB students have taken a challenging curriculum, have been trained in critical thinking, and have been engaged in school and university service. Under current MTSU policies, students can earn almost 30 college credits through this program, depending on their test scores. Such students are more likely to graduate in three to four years."

International Baccalaureate programs are offered at Cookeville, Franklin, and Germantown high schools; Oakland High in Murfreesboro; Science Hill in Johnson City; Ridgeway in Memphis; and Nashville's Hillsboro, Hillwood, and Hunters Lane high schools.

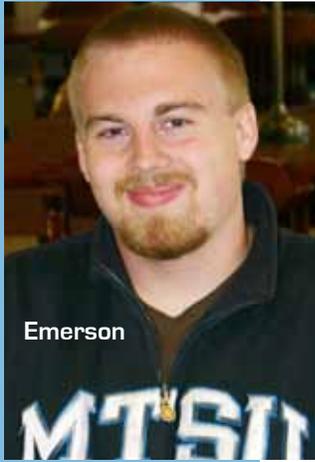
The Honors dean added that he believes MTSU is the lone college or university in the state to recognize IB achievement with a scholarship award. "It's our attempt to encourage them [high schools that offer IB programs] to challenge their students," he said.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents with valid alien registration numbers who will graduate from a U.S. high school. For more information, visit www.mtsu.edu/admissn/scholar_admissn.shtml or www.mtsu.edu/honors.

Laura Clippard, Honors advisor,
with Lindsay Taulbee during an
advising session at Lyon Complex.



Student News



Emerson

Erica Cathey (Physics) was a member of a 2009 summer research team lead by Geosciences professor Dr. Mark Abolins. The team, which included Geosciences major Jordan Graw, conducted research called “Google Earth Update! Using Remote Sensing and Field Investigations to Map Natural, Agricultural, and Built Land in Rutherford County, Tennessee.”

Adam Emerson (Psychology) is engaged in research with Dr. John Pennington on perception of taste in relation to visual information as well as biological responses to visual and auditory stimuli.



Holmes

Samantha Emerson (Psychology) received Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity (URECA) scholar funding for spring 2010. Her research project is “The Relationship between Musical Aptitude and Second Language Learning,” and her mentor is Dr. Cyrille Magne.

Nathaniel Greene (Political Science and Economics) received a legislative internship working for the Board of Regents for summer 2010. He will be monitoring all legislation that could affect the TBR.

Merranda Holmes (Biology) has been accepted to UT–Memphis Medical School, ETSU Quillan School of Medicine, and the University of Alabama–Birmingham Medical School.

Grace Johnson (Political Science) received a Washington Center internship scholarship and will be working and learning in Washington, D.C., this summer for academic credit.

Logan Key (Biology and Chemistry) spent summer 2009 on a cruise ship visiting eight countries in Europe and Africa and taking courses in philosophy, international women’s health, and global studies.



Murphy

Shannon Murphy (Biology) won second place among graduate and undergraduate students in the Health and Medical Sciences division at the annual meeting of the Tennessee Academy of Science in Knoxville October 30. Her poster was called “A Label-Free Method for Detection and Differentiation of *Bacillus* spp. Endospores.” Shannon also has been accepted to UT–Memphis Medical School, ETSU Quillan School of Medicine, and the University of Alabama–Birmingham Medical School; and was chosen to present research to state legislators at Posters at the Capitol in Nashville. ●

Honors advisor Laura Clippard, left, and Nancy James, director of MTSU’s Child Care Lab, with games, puzzles, books, and toys collected by members of the MTSU Leaders Circle. Nathaniel Greene, Leaders Circle president, organized the drive to collect items for the lab. The Leaders Circle is a leadership group seeking to become a chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honor society.





Representatives of Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honor society, with members of MTSU's Leaders Circle, an organization that hopes to become a chapter of ODK. Pictured, from left, are Nathaniel Greene; Amanda Alexander; Matthew Hibdon; Thomas Goodale, executive director of ODK; Andristine Robinson, vice president for extension; Kenneth Taylor, associate executive director; and Matthew Hopper, ODK fellow.

MTSU WELCOMES National ODK Reps

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Four representatives of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK), the national leadership honor society, visited MTSU October 21 to verify MTSU's application for a charter.

The representatives, Thomas Goodale, executive director; Kenneth Taylor, associate executive director; Andristine Robinson, vice president for extension; and Matthew Hopper, ODK fellow, met with President Sidney A. McPhee, toured campus, and visited with interested faculty and students.

Friday, April 30, MTSU will again welcome national ODK representatives to campus. At 6 p.m. in the Tom H. Jackson Building, an ODK charter will be granted, and members will be initiated into the new ODK Circle at MTSU in a formal ceremony. President Sidney A. McPhee will be initiated as a charter member along with dozens of students who have earned the privilege through excellence in academics and leadership.

The new ODK circle grew out of the MTSU Leaders Circle, a group of approximately 20 students formed from the Honors Student Association, who organized last year with the intention of applying for an ODK charter. The group held organizational meetings, elected officers, organized a food drive and a campus clean-up day for Earth Day, and collected books and toys for MTSU's Child Care Lab. The Leaders Circle team also won the 2009 University Quiz Bowl.

Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honor society, was founded December 3, 1914, at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. The purpose of the organization is "to give recognition and honor for meritorious leadership and service in extracurricular activities and to encourage development of general campus citizenship." ●

Graduate Studies, Honors Sponsor GRE Test Prep Sessions

Each semester, the College of Graduate Studies and the University Honors College partner to sponsor a free Graduate Record Exam (GRE) test prep information session. The 90-minute programs, taught by Graduate Studies associate dean Peter Cunningham, give students valuable hints, resources, and sample questions and the latest information about the GRE.

Approximately 35 students took advantage of the fall 2009 session Wednesday, September 9, in Honors 106. Gina Logue, an August 2009 MTSU graduate, attended the session and commented, "Dr. Cunningham's entertaining yet comprehensive approach did a great deal to alleviate possible test anxiety. He made it clear that familiarizing ourselves with the methodology of the test in advance will save us a lot of grief when we take it."

Students attending the September 9 session also learned about the College of Graduate Studies weekend GRE Preparation Workshop held each semes-



Psychology students, left, Tayna Luffman and Emily Bailey, talk with Dr. Peter Cunningham about taking the GRE. Cunningham, associate dean of Graduate Studies, leads a free GRE test prep information session in the Martin Honors Building each semester, giving students valuable test-taking tips, sample questions, resources, and the latest test information.

ter. This intensive weekend program is taught by expert instructors and includes pre- and post-tests, ScoreItNow Analytical Writing, a GRE test preparation book, multiple handouts, lunch on Saturday, test-taking strategies, and instruction in verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, and analytical writing.

The College of Graduate Studies provides the workshops for a nominal cost of \$145, just enough to cover their expenses. For details, contact Graduate Studies at (615) 898-2840 or visit their Web site, www.mtsu.edu/graduate. ●

Fall 2010 Honors Lecture Series Focuses on China

In conjunction with the opening of the Confucius Institute at MTSU, the Honors College Lecture Series for fall 2010 will examine China and the Far East. Founded in 2004, the Confucius Institute promotes the study of Chinese language and culture at partner institutions in over 50 countries. Over 40 universities in the U.S. host Confucius Institutes, including the University of Memphis.

The lectures will be held in the amphitheater of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building each Monday from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. The lectures are free and open to the public, and Honors students can register

for and take the series for credit (UH 3000, CRN #84105).

"This spring, we have over 30 students registered for our lecture series examining the Middle East, and I think we'll have similar interest for fall 2010," said Scott Carnicom, associate dean. He added, "We are excited to partner with Academic Affairs and the Confucius Institute to host an entire series examining China. I think that this will not only be an engaging opportunity for our students but also the University, the community, and our alumni and friends." ●



Study Abroad: The Delights of a New World

by Jonathan Siler | *Siler, a junior Buchanan Fellow, is a Global Studies major who is studying abroad in Northern Ireland.*

“Myths, magic, and legends are just an hour or so down the road,”

I read from a sign as I stepped off the plane in Northern Ireland. It is truly a wider, greener country than I’ve ever seen, one in which a great deal more is offered than simple calendar pictures for the next year. And as I sit in my Gaelic class earnestly attempting to grasp a language that would be the equivalent of English under the Chaucerian spelling system but accompanied by Shakespearean pronunciation, I lean back in awe of Ireland’s preservation of ancient history.

It is very much a history of hidden depth, of going beyond the shallow surface of how things may originally seem. It requires an open mind and a second glance, that pursuit of the absurd thought that, “Maybe I did see something there that wasn’t there before,” and soon the even more absurd thoughts of fairies and mythical creatures will pass through your mind. No, it’s not madness, but it is a very real notion that something is here that gave the ancient Celts a reason for their stories, something that tantalized their tales with an astounding delight that almost felt as though it were teasing you, enticing you, *enchanted* you. There is truly something magical here just below the Irish fields of greenest grass that inspires me to sprint across the plains as fast as I can in satisfaction, yet also keeps me rooted in quiet respect, something that very easily borders on (dare I use the word?) sacred.

I highly doubt that “sacred” will be the word most international students use to describe their respective experiences, however if you should take one notion from reading this splurge of romanticism while you’re on the plane to study abroad, take this: delight. Yes, lectures will have to be endured, essays must be writ-

ten, projects completed, but be warned: whenever the *urgent* holds your attention over what is the *essential* in life, I think you will look back on your time abroad and wonder, “Why didn’t I enjoy it when I had the chance?”

It may be found in that new, spicy curry that you found so delicious in India; that hilltop you finally climbed in order to see the fantastic sights of New Zealand; that Arab couple that gave you the most hospitable cup of tea you’ve ever tasted; or perhaps the sound of Irish, Scottish, English, and American accents all conversing and cheering drinks around one table. It could be you standing in the Roman Colosseum, imagining what those epic gladiatorial fights must have been like or even that particular brand of Swiss chocolate that really hit the spot. Wherever you are in your study abroad, let the delights of a new world fill your life, and then when you find it’s time to go, bring it back home to share with the rest of us in whatever way you like: pictures, stories, videos—but more preferably, that Swiss chocolate. ●



Built precariously close to the Northern Irish cliff edge, Dunluce Castle remains standing after 800 years. In the 16th century, the castle’s kitchen section fell into the sea, after which the castle was abandoned. Today, visitors can still walk through and touch the ancient ruins.

AP Credit Applicable as Honors Credit

The University Honors College allows Honors credit in cases where a student demonstrates high competence in a subject based on Advanced Placement/ CEEB exam scores. For years, MTSU has allowed credit obtained through Advanced Placement (AP) examination to count toward the 120 semester hours required for graduation, provided that the AP exam score was three or higher on a five-point scale.

The Honors AP policy allows students to gain up to nine semester hours of Honors credit by AP examination, provided that the AP exam score is four or higher. The policy is similar to those in place at other honors colleges for some time. For details regarding the policy, faculty and students may consult the Honors College Web site (www.mtsu.edu/honors) or contact Laura Clippard, Honors advisor at lclippard@mtsu.edu or 898-5464. ●

H-Option Revised and Renamed!

In an effort to streamline the H-Option process and eliminate bureaucracy, the Honors Council has approved revisions in procedures. The option has been renamed the **Honors Contract**, and students may now apply for Honors credit in upper-division courses in their majors at the beginning of the same semester in which the course is being taught. The window of opportunity will be up until the day to drop a course without a grade. The dean or associate dean will determine Honors credit approval. In some instances, administrators may seek input from an Honors faculty member in a specific discipline.

To get the form, visit the Honors College Web site, click "Current Students" in the sidebar, click "FORMS" on the next page, then click "Honors Contract." There is also a link to the Honors Contract application at <http://honors.web.mtsu.edu/h-option.htm>. ●

Honors Students, Faculty Recognized by

Phi Kappa Phi

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi initiated seven Honors students into its MTSU chapter Thursday, December 3, and recognized three current members of the Honors faculty as influential faculty designated by the student initiates.

Junior Honors students initiated were **Scott Baskette**, a Recording Industry major; **Michael Boggs**, a Mass Communication major; History major **Sara Gideon**; **Caitlin Orman**, a Psychology major; and Economics major **Evan Totty**. Junior initiates must rank in the top 7.5 percent of their class.

Phi Kappa Phi also initiated senior Honors student **Austin Purvis**, a Political Science major. Seniors must rank in the top 10 percent of their class.

Honors faculty members recognized as influential faculty were **Dr. Thomas Brinthaup** (Psychology),

Dr. Gloria Hamilton (Psychology), and **Dr. John R. Vile** (Political Science).

Dr. Bill Badley, MTSU Phi Kappa Phi president, welcomed students and introduced influential faculty. Dr. Diane Miller, interim executive vice president and provost, and Mr. Robert J. Lyons, city manager of Murfreesboro, who were introduced as honorary initiates, addressed the chapter and its new members.

The honor society initiated a total of 53 students and recognized 16 influential faculty members during the initiation ceremony, which was held in the Tennessee Room of James Union Building.

Phi Kappa Phi encourages and recognizes superior scholarship in all academic disciplines.

Interdisciplinary Seminars FALL 2010

UH 3500-001

Revisiting and Re-Visioning the Hometown

MW 12:40 to 2:05 | HONR 116 | CRN#: TBA

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

Students will engage in a project-based relationship with their peers, instructor, and community while creating a portfolio containing written, visual, and multimedia forms of communication. Each assignment will have an impact on the whole, finished product, including a major project each student will undertake following consultation with the instructor. The course's project-based nature demands that each student synthesize what he or she has learned in other classes to create a suitable and effective approach to the chosen topic. This course will have a significant workshop element that will enable participants to continually share their work with their peers.

Students registering for this course will also register for the UH 3001 Service Learning Practicum and devise and implement a community-based project after consulting with the instructor. This course should particularly interest those who plan to complete an Honors thesis.

Interested students are strongly encouraged to contact Dr. Ron Kates in the English Department at (615) 898-2595 or rkates@mtsu.edu, or drop by his office, Peck Hall 342, before enrolling in the class. He has materials related to the class and will sit down with prospective students to discuss assignments and expectations in more detail.

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

(in the Writing, Language, and Pedagogy group; see page 190 of the undergraduate catalog) and also toward a Writing minor.

UH 3500-002

The Holocaust and After: Protesting Prejudice and Preventing Genocide

TR 11:20 to 12:45 | HONR 117 | CRN#: TBA

What about human rights and the dignity of each human being? Collectively, we may be quick to agree that these are important values to uphold, yet it seems that we continue to live in a world where human life is often devalued and individuals can do nothing to make things better. Instead of being frightened by the enormity of injustice in the world, study and discussion of prejudice and intolerance can help move us closer to finding better ways to coexist.

In this seminar, we will study the history of the Holocaust, tracing the rise of Nazism, and we will examine the institutionalization of genocide. What does the fact of the Holocaust tell us about humanity? Does knowledge about the Holocaust cause us to despair, or can we learn from this horrific event in order to protest intolerance and prevent genocide today? This seminar is intended to empower the students and professor through the study of texts, films, writing, and discussion.

After a thorough study of the Holocaust, we will explore reactions of survivors, historians, scientists, politicians, writers, and artists as well as everyday citizens after World War II, and we will consider if there are still lessons of the Holocaust for us to learn.

This course is open to students with a 3.25 GPA and junior-level standing.

For more information, contact Dr. Sonja Hedgepeth, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, at shedgepe@mtsu.edu.

Collage Staff Members, Contributor Lead THSPA Workshop Sessions

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Three *Collage* staff members and one frequent contributor to *Collage* led two sessions at the fall 2009 Tennessee High School Press Association Student Media Workshop October 16 at Lipscomb University in Nashville.

Collage editors **Jasmine Gray** and **Hannah Green** and designer **Danny McClain** presented “MTSU’s *Collage* Publication: An Inside Look, the Digital Age, and Your Future in the Press.” This workshop session detailed the process of producing an arts and literary magazine with emphasis on design, typography, and online technology. The presentation included a discussion of the transition from high school to college press, different avenues available for college students, and steps that high school students can take to prepare for college press and future careers.

Published author and frequent *Collage* contributor **Taffeta Chime**, a junior Buchanan scholar majoring in English, presented “Pursuing Passions.” Chime explained how students can pursue and realize their passion to publish and how she became a published author during her high school career. She described



MTSU students Jasmine Gray, Danny McClain, and Taffeta Chime and MTSU graduate Hannah Green take a lunch break between workshop sessions at the Tennessee High School Press Association Student Media Workshop at Lipscomb University.

her book *Stoodie* and talked about how college has helped with her second book, *The Last*.

Fall 2009 and spring 2010 *Collage* editor in chief Jasmine Gray commented, “The workshop was a great opportunity to tell high school students about the ins and outs of *Collage* as a college publication and hopefully persuade some potential MTSU students to join our staff when the time comes. There were so many engaging sessions going on. I’m glad we could be a part of encouraging and inspiring those teens.”

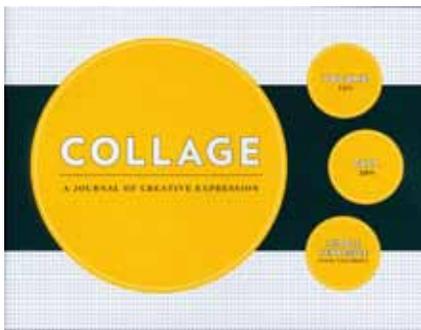
The students were accompanied by *Collage* advisor Marsha Powers who said, “Our students had a wealth of information to share about the process of publishing and about getting published . . . They were an inspiration to those who attended the sessions.” ●



Members of the fall 2009 *Collage* staff take a break from their October 31 editing meeting. L–R, front: Victoria Ogle, Beth Rich, Jennifer Johnson, and Jenna Puckett. L–R, center: Rachel Nutt, Heather Duensing, Caitlin Orman, and Jasmine Gray. L–R, back: Merranda Holmes, Eldridge Alexander, Tommy Talmage, Danny McClain, and Marcus Laxton. Not pictured: Elizabeth Henegar, Enitan Aladejana, and Tamela Harris. *Collage* had a record number of submissions for the fall issue and is now accepting online submissions for the next issue. Online forms are available from the *Collage* Web site, www.mtsu.edu/~collage.

Honors Updates, Improves Publications

The Honors College continues to update and improve its publications, *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression* and *Honors Edition*, in an effort to better showcase the accomplishments of MTSU students, faculty, alumni, and friends. In addition, the college is in the process of assuming oversight of MTSU's online journal *Scientia*.



Collage, the arts and literary magazine of the Honors College, recently received its highest score, 988 points out of 1000, from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association for the fall 2008 and spring 2009 issues. The magazine, which accepts literary and visual creative work from all MTSU students, began accepting alumni work last spring and began accepting online submissions in fall 2009.

Collage submissions topped 300 for the first time in the fall after the online submission process was added. The abundance of excellent submissions made grading and selection for the magazine more difficult than in the past, but the increase in competitiveness should make acceptance into the magazine more prestigious.

The addition of the Martha Hixon Creative Expression Award in fall 2007 and the Leon Nuell Creative Expression Award in fall 2008 (\$50 awards given to top-scoring literary and visual submissions each semester) has helped encourage students to submit their best work. Beginning this semester, these awards will be chosen entirely by the *Collage* Faculty Advisory Board from among all pieces selected for publication. The switch to faculty selection should also make these awards more prestigious than they were under the former system, in which board members chose from a small pool of submissions selected by the student staff.

The journal has published outstanding photography and art from several talented MTSU alumni, including Nephi Niven and Brett Warren. Niven is a former Honors student and a 2006 graduate who has worked as a professional photographer in Paris and New York. His work can be viewed at www.nephiniven.net. Warren, a 2009 graduate with a degree in art (graphic design concentration), has been a regular contributor to *Collage* since fall 2007 and recently interned in New York with photographer Annie Leibovitz.



Warren is a former Honors student and a 2006 graduate who has worked as a professional photographer in Paris and New York. His work can be viewed at www.nephiniven.net. Warren, a 2009 graduate with a degree in art (graphic design concentration), has been a regular contributor to *Collage* since fall 2007 and recently interned in New York with photographer Annie Leibovitz.

Warren, a 2009 graduate with a degree in art (graphic design concentration), has been a regular contributor to *Collage* since fall 2007 and recently interned in New York with photographer Annie Leibovitz.

The Honors newsletter underwent a minor redesign in fall 2008 when its name was changed from *Honors Alternative* to *Honors Edition*. This semester brings yet another redesign by Sherry Wiser George of Publications and Graphics, whose goal was to create a format that will better accommodate the many achievements of faculty, students, alumni, and friends of the Honors College.

Gina Fann, editor of the *Record* and long-time supporter of Honors publications, recently took note of the expanding newsletter and e-mailed a commendation. She wrote, "Have I told you lately how much I enjoy reading the *Honors Edition*? No? I am such a slacker. But I really do enjoy it. And all your hard work shows. The fall '09 edition is a plethora of good news. Signed, an Honors kid who remembers giggling in Peck 106 or whatever number that southeast corner room was." *Honors Edition* editor Marsha Powers said that comments such as this by Fann and oth-

ers are an encouragement to the Honors College, whose goal is to highlight MTSU's many outstanding students, faculty, and alumni with University Honors College ties.

Scientia, founded in 1997 by Dr. Phil Mathis (Biology) and Dr. Judy Hankins (Computer Science), was the first electronic journal of its kind among Tennessee colleges and universities. Originally, the journal published student research from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, but in 2003 it began to accept research with a scientific perspective from the entire University community.

A faculty advisor, Dr. John DuBois (Biology), has guided *Scientia's* student editorial board and faculty representative board since the journal's inception in 1997. Oversight of the journal will shift to the Honors College this year. ●

Buchanan Fellowship Applications Continue to Increase

The Honors College received a record 275 applications for its prestigious Buchanan Fellowships for 2010. Dean Vile notes that this number is the latest in a continuing trend: there were 165 in 2006, 198 in 2007, and 242 last year. The percentage of students with ACT scores of 30 or higher has increased from 2006 to the present, from 31.3 to 38.4 percent. Said the dean, "The news about the Buchanan Fellowships is clearly getting out to Tennessee's best." ●

Global Tensions: Focus on the Middle east

Spring 2010 Honors Lecture Series

March 29 | "They Were Young once: a n examination of a merica's Gen Y War Veterans"

Leon Hligood, Journalism

April 5 | "Words into s words: Frightening a ttempts to Misuse the Holocaust Today"

sonja Hedgepeth, Foreign l anguages and l iteratures

April 12 | "When o nly Women Will Work: Gender and social Change in the Gulf"

sean Foley, History

April 19/April 26 | student Thesis Presentations

All lectures are free and open to the public.

Lecture topics are subject to change.

Mondays, 3:00-3:55 p.m.,

Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building, Room 106



Collage Experience Develops Skills

By Rachel Nutt | *Rachel is a junior Honors student majoring in Journalism and Spanish.*

Serving as a member of the *Collage* staff was a learning experience from the application process to the final publication of the fall 2009 issue. I had to overcome some of my own inhibitions just to apply, but after I was on the staff, I learned truly to appreciate the purpose of the magazine. I was encouraged by how seriously the staff members take their jobs, and I found an outlet for my infinite love of grammar. The entire experience helped me develop skills that I will be able to use later in life.

Applying for a position on the staff of *Collage* proved to be one of the best decisions I have made in college. In the past, I have often kept myself from seizing opportunities like this. Just having to ask my favorite teachers for letters of reference was almost enough to stop me from applying, but I discovered that my teachers were glad to recommend me. When I finished the application process, I felt as though I had conquered some barrier that had been holding me back for years.

Before attending any staff meetings, I knew *Collage* was a magazine that represents MTSU students' talent in literature and art. This is true, of course, but I didn't realize just how fairly submissions are judged. I spent days grading (in detail) hundreds of literature submissions myself, and then reviewed all of my grades with others at a literature editorial review meeting. The submitted works came from a wide range of students. The writers had different styles and messages and drastically different ages, but we considered each submission carefully and graded them all accordingly. Observing just how fairly the submissions are graded encouraged me to submit sometime in the future.

The *Collage* staff members I worked with all excelled in their own areas, from graphic design to English. Each person I met had different interests and styles but shared fervor for *Collage* and considered each other's opinions thoroughly. The passion and intelligence of each individual contributed to a welcoming atmosphere. Instead of giving flimsy opinions, people tended to have done their research and could offer intriguing insight. Anyone who did not know much about the topic being discussed might throw in a witty remark to make the rest of us laugh. Any insecurity I had was wiped away at the first meeting, where I was able to enjoy meeting new people who have passions similar to mine. I must admit that if it were not for the intelligence and humor of fellow staff members, I might have left feeling discouraged. Besides, without appreciation for wit, I doubt that anyone would be a good judge of literature and art.

But more than mere wit is required to be an adept judge of the work of others. From a young age, I have always been a bit obsessed with grammar, and I found that many other staff members shared my obsession. This obsession was exemplified at our Halloween day meeting, which lasted five hours. The entire staff attended this meeting, doing the final editing together. On this particular day, I was feeling very ill; I was not sure at first if I would be able to stay for the entire time. However, I soon forgot about being sick and instead became enveloped in the editing process.

Even though I technically had one of the "lowest" jobs on the staff (I was a member of the literature editorial review staff), what I had to say was still important. My suggestions were appreciated, and I also valued input from my fellow staff members. I realized that, since I did not constantly have to defend my suggestions, I

Mock Trial Teams Start Strong



Two MTSU Mock Trial teams led by Honors students **Austin Purvis** and **Daniel Vaughan** distinguished themselves in the year's first competition, held October 9–11 at St. Louis University.

Out of a field of 34 teams from eight states, the team led by Purvis, a senior Political Science major from Memphis, shared the winning record of seven wins and a tie with a team from Washington University in St. Louis. The team led by Vaughan, a senior from Mt. Juliet and a Political Science major concentrating in Pre-law, came in third with a record of six wins, one loss, and a tie.

Honors student **Kaitlin Beck**, a sophomore Political Science major from Murfreesboro, played the role of an attorney on Purvis's team. Honors student **Nathaniel Green**, a senior Political Science and Economics major from La Vergne, was a witness on Vaughan's team.

In addition to team awards, MTSU students won the highest number of individual awards at the tournament. Purvis earned a perfect score and received the top Outstanding Attorney Award.

Dean John R. Vile, MTSU Mock Trial coach, registers teams for a Mock Trial tournament at MTSU November 13. Sixty-four teams from twelve states participated in the tournament. MTSU's top two teams placed third and sixth in their divisions.

"This is MTSU's strongest start in recent years," said John Vile, dean of the University Honors College and the team's co-coach. "We have a great mix of new and returning students in our Mock Trial program this year and hope this is only the first of many future wins."

The MTSU teams added to their accomplishments in November, when they posted records of 7–1 and 6–2 at the Mid-South Invitational Tournament held at MTSU. This spring, the teams will be participating at invitational tournaments at Vanderbilt and Georgia Tech as well as at regional tournaments at Bellarmine University and Samford University, where they hope to qualify for national tournaments at Furman University and Memphis. ●

Continued Experience from page 17

was free to think more deeply. Everyone already understood the basics of grammar, so we could discuss more meaningful issues, such as when it is okay to break rules of grammar for poetic appeal.

Of course, the often-heard phrase "It'll look good on your résumé!" applies to my experience at *Collage*, as well. With so little time for extracurricular activities,

this was the perfect experience for me. Those scheduling meetings worked to make sure everyone would be able to attend. Now, I will be able honestly to put the experience on my résumé next to other college clubs and programs of which I have been a part. But I must admit that *Collage* was not only my favorite of these—it was also the most beneficial. ●

Five Win *Collage* Awards

Four students and one alumnus won creative expression awards for their outstanding contributions to the fall 2009 issue of *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression*. Winners were **Matthew Naylor, Anthony Adewumi, Jenna Winstead, Danielle Wilbert, and Brett Warren.**

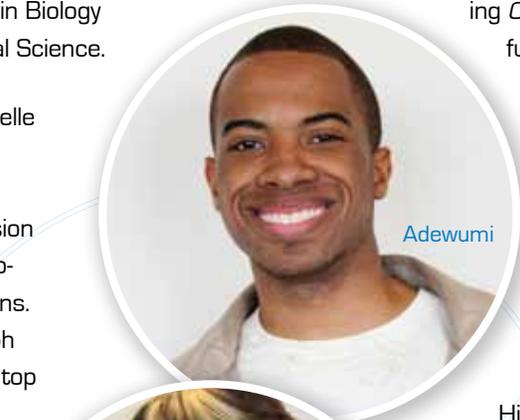


Naylor

Matthew Naylor and Anthony Adewumi received Martha Hixon Creative Expression Awards for their top-scoring literary contributions. Naylor won in the prose category for his play *Winning*. He is a senior English major minoring in Writing.

Adewumi won in the poetry category for his poem "D.O.F. (Death of Fresh)." He is a junior and is majoring in Biology with a minor in Political Science.

Jenna Winstead, Danielle Wilbert, and Brett Warren received Lon Nuell Creative Expression Awards for their exceptional visual submissions. Winstead's photograph "Colorado Truck" took top honors in the photography category. She is a senior Mass Communication major with a concentration in Photography and a minor in Entertainment Arts Design.



Adewumi



Winstead



Wilbert

Danielle Wilbert had the highest scoring art submission and received a creative expression award for *Metal Rat*. She is a senior Art major with a concentration in Studio Art.



Warren

Brett Warren, a May 2009 graduate of MTSU, won in the alumni category for his photograph, "The Future." Warren majored in Art with a concentration in Graphic Design and recently interned in New York with photographer Annie Leibovitz.

The Martha Hixon Creative Expression Award is named in honor of Dr. Martha Hixon, an MTSU English professor, who was an early supporter of bringing *Collage* to the Honors College when University funding was cut. She has served on the *Collage* Faculty Advisory Board since 2004. Martha Hixon Creative Expression Awards are given for the prose and poetry submissions that are ranked highest by the Faculty Advisory Board.

The Leon Nuell Creative Expression Award is named in memory of Dr. Nuell, a long-time, much-respected professor of art at MTSU.

His widow, Christie Nuell, is also an art professor and served as an art consultant for the Honors College in 2005 when the college was selecting art for the Martin Honors Building. Leon Nuell Creative Expression Awards are reserved for top-ranked art and photography submissions.

All creative expression award winners receive a \$50 gift card. ●



Dr. Sidney A. McPhee, MTSU president, speaks at the Friday, November 6, groundbreaking ceremony for the new Student Union.

MTSU Breaks Ground for New Buildings

On Friday, October 30, MTSU broke ground for a new College of Education building, and one week later, on November 6, broke ground for a new Student Union. MTSU administrators, Tennessee Board of Regents officials, and Tennessee lawmakers celebrated the occasions along with University faculty, staff, and students on the grounds of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building.

Dean John R. Vile said, "The Honors College will definitely benefit from its close proximity to both of these buildings. We will be much more visible to many more students."

The \$32.7 million education building project is scheduled to be completed before the spring 2012 semester and will provide approximately 1,000 classroom seats; a 100-seat auditorium; 87 faculty offices; and other gathering areas, conference rooms, and labs.



Architectural firm representatives and others join Dr. Sidney A. McPhee and Dr. Deb Sells at the November 6 groundbreaking for the new Student Union.

Lawmakers approved funds for the construction of the education building two years ago before the current economic recession. The project will be funded by state bonds and cash appropriations.

The 197,180-square-foot Student Union is expected to be completed in early 2012 and will include a food court, copy center, bookstore, game room, ballroom, video theater, computer center, parliamentary room, conference rooms, student lounges, and meeting rooms. Offices for the SGA, Student Unions and Programming, and Student Involvement and Leadership will also be in the new building.

The \$77.13 million Student Union is being funded by student fees and will serve primarily as a gathering place for students. ●

Dates to Remember

Martin Lecture

1 p.m., March 23
Honors 106

Honors Awards

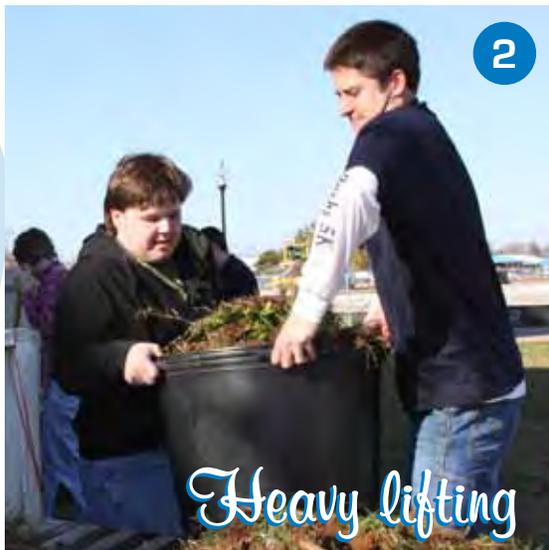
April 14

Collage Recognition

April 15



Students Plant Bulbs Outside Martin Honors Building



1 Sheila Smotherman, Rachael Hall, Lauren Rigsby, Kelsey Wells, Nathaniel Greene, Courtney Hancock, David Hull, Laura Clippard, Daniel Vaughan, John R. Vile, and Larry Sizemore

2 Daniel Vaughan and Nathaniel Greene

3 Kaitlin Beck

4 Lauren Rigsby, Chelsea Fleet, Larry Sizemore, and Kaitlin Beck



LACEY BUCHANAN (Political Science)

**"The Impact of Lobbyists on Legislative Behavior:
An Examination of the Tennessee General Assembly"**

From left, Lacey Buchanan with her thesis committee:
Dr. Earl Thomas; Dr. David Carleton, advisor; Ms. Buchanan;
and Dr. John R. Vile.



MEGAN CHILDERS (Psychology)

**"Economic Dependency and Perceived
Control in Domestic Violence Victims"**

From left, Megan Childers with her thesis committee: Dr. Gloria
Hamilton, advisor; Ms. Childers; and Dr. Scott Carnicom.

2009 Fall Theses



ALYSE GILLMAN (English)

**"The Unattainable Human Quest for Knowledge
of the Supernatural World in Poe's Tales"**

From left, Alyse Gillman with her thesis committee:
Dr. John R. Vile; Ms. Gillman; and Dr. Philip E. Phillips, advisor.



JASMINE GRAY (Journalism)

**"Contrasting Color: Juxtaposing Black Identity
and Media Portrayal in America, Ghana, and England"**

From left, Jasmine Gray with her thesis committee: Dr. John R.
Vile; Ms. Gray; Dr. Jennifer Woodard, advisor; and Dr. Earl Thomas.



JAKE HALL (Biology)

“Sequencing the Mitochondrial Genome of *Crotalus horridus* (Timber Rattlesnake)”

From left, Jake Hall with his thesis committee: Dr. Rebecca Seipelt; Mr. Hall; Dr. Bruce Cahoon, advisor; and Dr. Phil Mathis.



MERRANDA HOLMES (Biology)

“The Production, Quantification, and Fluorescent Detection of *Bacillus anthracis*-simulating Endospores”

From left, Merranda Holmes with her thesis committee: Dr. Rebecca Seipelt; Dr. Stephen Wright, advisor; Ms. Holmes; Dr. John R. Vile.

ses Defended



CASSANDRA KNORR (Electronic Media Communication)

“Foursquare Frequency: Aimee Simple McPherson, Radio, and Religion”

From left, Cassandra Knorr with her thesis committee: Dr. John R. Vile; Ms. Knorr; Dr. Jan Leone, advisor; and Dr. Rich Barnett.



DANIEL VAUGHAN (Political Science)

“First Amendment Religious Freedom: An Examination of the Opinions and Writings of Michael W. McConnell”

From left, Daniel Vaughan with his thesis committee: Dr. David Foote; Dr. John R. Vile, advisor; Mr. Vaughn; and Dr. Scott Carnicom. ●

Honors student Chloe Robinson assists with HIV testing sign-up. Nashville Cares and Chloe's Psychology 4600 class sponsored free HIV testing for students November 18 at the KUC. The test used a simple mouth swab, and results were ready within 20 minutes.



Three Honors University Seminar 1010 Sections Offered

The Honors College will offer three sections of Honors University Seminar 1010 this fall, two taught by Dr. Hilary Stallings, manager of recruitment and resources for the College of Liberal Arts, and one taught by Dr. Michelle Arnold, associate director of Admissions and former Honors academic advisor. This will be the first semester that more than one section has been offered.

Dr. Scott Carnicom, associate dean of the Honors College, said, "University 1010 is a valuable course for all freshmen at MTSU. The Honors sections are designed to prepare students for the extra demands of the Honors curriculum, undergraduate research, fellowships, and grad and professional school applications. Adding additional Honors sections of this course can only benefit our excellent students."

At the end of fall 2009, Kelsey Moody, a student from Dr. Stallings's Honors University Seminar 1010 class, wrote a poem touting the benefits of the class. ●

*A new girl has emerged at this semester's end,
From freshman to sophomore to making new friends.
Throughout these months I've learned many a thing:
Life, college subjects, can't wait until spring!*

*No longer overwhelmed because now I know
how University 1010 has helped me so.
The hour break found on the first day of class
Is no longer leisurely but used for studying fast.*

*Coming in with no clue, I've narrowed it down to two:
Communication Disorders or RIM, it's true.
Fifteen has been gained but it's under control,
Studying and eating really took its toll!*

*Oh, rec center—mere strides from that bell
Of the Honors Building I know so well.
Studying and A's are no longer my fame,
"I do have a paper, but . . . we can still hang!"*

*The college life: balancing work and play.
Which one will I choose today?
Loneliness has been kicked out the door,
I've gotten involved; I want to do more!*

*Necessary to me is MPAC Dance,
Gladly, I finally gave it a chance.
Winter is here, the semester is done,
And now I am proud to say, "I'm One!"*

Fall Welcome Back Reception



1 Cody Malone, Leland Waite, and Alex Gibson **2** Fall Honors Open House
3 Daniel Gouger **4** Samantha Southard and Matthew Hibdon
5 Kaylene Gebert, Jamie Taylor, and Lena Manning

Homecoming Tailgate

26



Rylee Patrick, Austin Thomas, Jessica Taylor, Ellen Goertzen, Shannon Pelynio, Lyndsay Taulbee, Jessica Tucker, and Dr. Phil Mathis



Merranda Holmes



Dr. Phil Mathis, Liz McPhee, and Laura Clippard



Paige Gober and Kelsey Quiambao

Online Forms Now Available

Need to complete an Honors form? We have great news! We now have a link on our Web site where students can find all forms in one location. In addition, we have revised some forms that do not require an official signature so they can be e-mailed directly to the appropriate person in our office. What could be easier? Just visit www.mtsu.edu/honors/Forms.shtml

The following forms can be e-mailed directly:

Advisor's Midterm Report (for thesis advisors)

Collage Submission Form

Exit Survey for thesis writers

Intent to Graduate (Honors, not the University's)

Priority Registration

Scholarship Application Form

Student's Midterm Report (for thesis writers)

Survey Form

UFO Interest Form

Dr. and Mrs. Sidney A. McPhee, Dr. Diane Miller, Dr. John R. Vile, Dr. Scott Carnicom, and Ms. Laura Clippard with the **2009 Buchanan Fellows** at the president's home.

Dr. and Mrs. McPhee hosted a reception for the new Buchanan Fellows on September 30.



Honors Students



Anna Yacovone picks up donations for Rotaract's **Soles4Souls** shoe drive. The organization collected approximately 80 pairs of shoes. Joshua Fryer is the group's president, and Dr. Karen Petersen is faculty advisor.

Laura Clippard, Honors advisor (center left), welcomes new Honors students, from left, Jessica Wright, Brittney Bird, and Brad Hornick. Clippard held new student orientation sessions September 9-10.



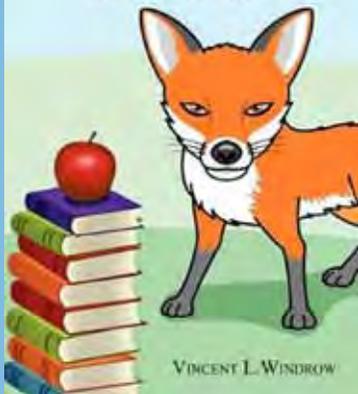
Bridget Snell, a sophomore Honors student and Lyon Hall Living and Learning Community R.A., with nine-year-old Elizabeth Clippard, daughter of Honors College advisor Laura Clippard. The two participated in the **Lyon Hall fall kickoff**, playing *Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?* and eating pizza.



Contact our academic advisor, **Laura Clippard**, 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!

THE FOX TRAPS FOR TEACHERS

TIPS FOR EVERYDAY LIFE
IN THE CLASSROOM



28

Windrow's New Book Offers Help for Teachers

Vincent Windrow, a former member of the University Honors College Board of Visitors, recently completed *The Fox Traps for Teachers*, a book for P-12 teachers who want to improve their classroom effectiveness and hone their craft.

Windrow and his wife, Stacy, are supporters of the Honors College and have previously donated books to the Martinelli Memorial Library and, more recently, have established a fund to help purchase books for Honors students. Windrow is also director of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs and the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership at MTSU and is an established educational consultant.

According to www.thefoxtrap.com, "The book articulates potentially derailing situations that teachers may be susceptible to if they are not careful. It offers excellent examples of how teachers can transform their mindsets and practices to better meet the needs of all students through context-rich vignettes, thought-provoking self-assessments, and practical tools for improvement."

Foxes that sometimes diminished ancient Middle Eastern grape crops inspire the book's title. Because of their small size and stealthy nature, the foxes were able to breach security measures, resulting in crop loss.

Windrow's book was written to help educators become aware of small things that can cause big trouble for students and teachers. The book focuses primarily on the classroom and on the skills and mindset required to create a learning environment where students can flourish.

Windrow is an alumnus of Middle Tennessee State University and American Baptist College and is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He has been featured in local and regional papers and magazines and in *USA Today*. He is regularly sought after for seminars, conferences, and retreats. ●



LaRae Collins, admission counselor for the Appalachian School of Law, shares tips for law school admission with students attending the Honors College Law School Forum. The forum was offered on Career Fair Day, October 7, and provided students with information about applications, admissions, letters of recommendation, and the LSAT. Other schools that sent representatives included the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, the University of Memphis, and the Nashville School of Law.

BOARD OF Visitors Meets

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The Honors College Board of Visitors met on Friday, October 16, at the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building.

Dean Vile updated board members on progress in the Honors College, while a panel of students from diverse majors related their positive experiences with the Honors College. Students included Kaitlin Beck (Political Science with a Pre-law emphasis), Adam Emerson (Psychology and International Relations), Sonia Qureshi (International Relations), Shannon Murphy (pre-med Biology), Merranda Holmes (pre-med Biology), and Grace Johnson (Political Science).

Dr. Scott Carnicom, Honors associate dean; Dr. David Foote, codirector of MTSU's Leadership Institute; and Dr. Kaylene Gebert, former executive vice president and provost, all of whom are based in the Martin Honors Building, also related their positive experiences teaching Honors students in small classroom settings.

This year's meeting featured a luncheon on the second floor to celebrate five years of occupying the building. President McPhee described how the building and the development of the college and its many programs represented the collective dreams of many people. Dr. Phil Mathis thanked those who matched the \$5,000 that he and his wife contributed last year to support student participation in conferences and announced that they were making a similar gift this year. Guests included Don and Carolyn Midgett, Paul Martin,

Murray Martin, Jeff Whorley, and others who contributed to the building.

Nick Perlick, director of development, spoke to board members about important short-term and long-term projects that need outside funding. He is encouraging members of the board to become members of the Foundation Society (gifts of \$1,000 a year or more).

Two meetings led by Jeff Whorley focused on what the college can do to market itself to outstanding students and on the possibility of constructing a new living-learning center adjacent to the Honors Building. Board members, now serving the last year of three-year terms, were asked to consider serving for another term. ●



Dr. McPhee addresses the University Honors College Board of Visitors.



Honors students who made presentations to the board. From left, Adam Emerson, Sonia Qureshi, Grace Johnson, Kaitlin Beck, Merranda Holmes, and Shannon Murphy.

Honors student Grace Johnson speaks to Board of Visitors members.



Dean John R. Vile, Associate Dean Scott Carnicom, and Board of Visitors members discuss business in the Honors conference room.





In Memoriam: Clay Morris Chandler

Dr. Clay Morris Chandler passed away on November 17, 2009. He was 82. A professor emeritus of biology, Dr. Chandler was employed at MTSU from September 1, 1970, until his retirement on December 31, 1992.

Honors Program founding director Dr. June McCash said of Chandler, "He was a much-beloved Honors professor under my watch."

Former Honors dean Phil Mathis said, "I was saddened to learn of the passing of a long-time friend and colleague, Clay M. Chandler. Dr. Chandler developed the general biology sequence in Honors and taught it for many years. He will be remembered as a caring teacher whose courses were characterized by 'old school' rigor. He approached his students as individuals and had a rare ability of knowing when to scold the slacker and when to comfort the discouraged."

Dr. J. P. Montgomery, the first dean of the University Honors College and one of the speakers at Dr.

Chandler's retirement, noted that Dr. Chandler was "very well thought of" even though he was a "demanding teacher." He participated actively in Honors events, including the old "firesides." Dr. Montgomery recalled how Dr. Chandler often drove around campus on a bicycle and enjoyed ringing the bell.

Chandler was a Civil War buff who worked for a time at Stones River National Battlefield. He also had a great sense of humor, according to Montgomery, who said that Chandler could be tenacious in committee meetings and would often smile after beating back an idea that he thought was the result of weak thinking.

Dr. Chandler, a resident of Milan, Tennessee, was married to the late Mimmie Cary Chandler of Milan and is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Morris Lee Chandler and Cyndy Green Chandler of Milan and David Wesley Chandler and Carri Bostian Chandler of Park Hills, Kentucky.

Services were held at Milan First Methodist Church on Saturday, November 21. Memorials may be made to the Milan First Methodist Church General Fund, the Milan Mustard Seed, or the American Cancer Society. ●

ACT Lab Gets a Facelift

During the spring 2010 semester, Honors 218, otherwise known as the Advanced Classroom Technology Laboratory, received a \$120K renovation.

"The lab has served us well these past few years," said Dr. Scott Carnicom, associate dean. "In Honors, we like to be at the cutting edge of innovation, both pedagogically and technologically. The lab, as its name indicates, has served as a space where the combination of new teaching styles and supporting computing

equipment can be tested." As a result of that testing, the lab was expanded to accommodate additional students.

Additionally, the lab was outfitted with new Macintosh laptop computers, a Web conferencing system, and an instructor workstation. Dean John Vile commented, "We are extremely appreciative of the time, effort, and support we have received from our colleagues across the University." ●



Honors Faculty Profile: Karen Petersen

Dr. Karen Petersen developed a passion for international relations as an undergraduate student at MTSU and went on to earn an M.A. and Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University. She joined the Department of Political Science at MTSU in 2005 and began teaching for the Buchanan Fellows program in 2008.

Dr. Petersen has written several articles on international conflict for peer-reviewed publication including “Revisiting Downs’s Issue-Attention Cycle: International Terrorism and U.S. Public Opinion” in *Journal of Strategic Security* and “There Is More to the Story than ‘Us-versus-Them’: Expanding the Study of Interstate Conflict and Regime Type beyond a Dichotomy” in *Peace Economics, Peace Science and Public Policy*. Her coauthored book *Prospects for Political Stability in a Democratic Iraq*, with Stephen Saunders, examines the potential for conflict between democracies and their autocratic neighbors (Edwin Mellen 2009).

During her time at MTSU, Dr. Petersen has travelled to Israel and Peru to study conflict and governance. She continues an active research agenda and encourages undergraduate research through the McNair Program, URSCA, and independent research projects with students. Additionally, Dr. Petersen supervises the MTSU Model United Nations program and serves as a faculty advisor to the MTSU chapter of Rotaract.

Dr. Petersen encourages and supports study abroad and international travel for her students and helps them secure internal and external funding for

international educational opportunities. Within the past two years, her students have secured funding totaling more than \$145,000 for conference travel, training, and study in Dubai, India, Kenya, and Costa Rica (among others). In recognition for her mentoring efforts, Dr. Petersen received an Outstanding Advisor Award for the College of Liberal Arts in 2009.

Teaching courses in international relations and comparative politics allows Dr. Petersen the opportunity to share her passion with students at MTSU. She is also an enthusiastic teacher and was nominated for an Outstanding Teacher Award in her first year of eligibility. Dr. Petersen is a participant in the EXL program at MTSU and has developed simulation-based activities and courses for studying issues such as religion and conflict, nationalism, territorial conflict, negotiation, and nuclear deterrence.

Dr. Petersen was a speaker at the Honors Lecture Series this spring, and she also gives lectures to off-campus groups, such as the Nashville chapter of the United Nations Association, in an effort to engage the community in discussions about international issues ranging from Israeli politics to America’s role in a post-9/11 world.

Dr. Petersen lives in Murfreesboro with her husband and their son. She enjoys spending time on the greenway and competed in the Middle Half Marathon in October 2009. Dr. Petersen is an enthusiastic supporter of MTSU and the Murfreesboro community. She is involved in serving the community through World Outreach Church and other organizations. ●

StudentAid.com Names Whorley President

Honors Board of Visitors president John F. “Jeff” Whorley has been named president of StudentAid.com, a college planning and student aid advisory service. Whorley retired from SLM Corporation (Sallie Mae) as executive vice president in January 2007.

Craig V. Carroll, StudentAid.com’s founder and chief executive officer, said Whorley’s “passion for helping college-bound students and their families” makes him ideal for his new role. Carroll added, “Jeff’s track record of growing businesses is a tremendous advantage as StudentAid.com expands the products and services we offer universities and prospective college students.”

Whorley recently said, “Wise decisions about going to college begin with prospective students and their families getting accurate, comparative information, especially about their true net cost of college. The StudentAid.com team has built the best technology available for providing that crucial insight and information.”

Whorley is currently coauthoring *Getting College Right* with Claudia Deane, a former *Washington Post* reporter. He also serves on three university-related boards, including the MTSU Honors College Board of Visitors.

A native of Tennessee, Whorley attended MTSU’s Campus School, graduated from the Webb School in Bell Buckle, earned a B.A. in history from the University of the South (Sewanee), and obtained an M.B.A. from the University of Indianapolis. ●

Carnicom Leads Panel Discussion in Washington, D.C.

This past October, the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) hosted its 44th annual convention in Washington, D.C. Dr. Scott Carnicom, associate dean, who serves on the publications board of NCHC and also chairs the research committee, organized and led a panel discussion on the controversial topic of higher education assessment. The session, “Honors Assessment: A Valid Exercise?” included four other panelists with diverse perspectives and opinions on this thorny issue.



Carnicom said, “We had a packed and lively room, with folks spilling out into the hallway. We generated a very good debate on this subject and hopefully stimulated even deeper thinking. While it is very important for educators to gauge the effectiveness of their programs, tapping into a complex cognitive process such as learning with any validity is difficult at best . . . if we rush into this, we run the risk of distilling or oversimplifying learning, which is the antithesis of honors.”

Carnicom is also a member of the editorial board of the peer-reviewed journal *Honors in Practice*. ●

History professor Jan Leone speaks at the Honors Lecture Series. Leone’s September 14 lecture was titled “The Founding of MTSU” and was the first in the Blue Raider Milestones: Approaching the Centennial series.



Faculty News

Dr. Sanjay Asthana (Journalism) received tenure and a promotion.

Professor Marc Barr (Electronic Media Communication) is one of six western artists featured in the Taiwanese magazine *Ceramic Art* (Issue 64, pp. 64–67). A photo of a computer-designed tea set by Barr accompanies his article, “The Comparison of the East and West Ceramic Teapots.”

Dr. Robert B. Blair (Business Communication and Entrepreneurship) received a promotion.

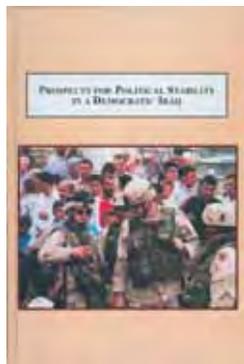
Dr. Ronald H. Henderson and **Dr. Eric W. Klumpe** (Physics and Astronomy) received promotions.

Dr. Martha P. Hixon and **Dr. Carl M. Ostrowski** (English) received promotions.

Dr. Jane Marcellus (Journalism) received two awards in October from the American Journalism Historians Association during its 2009 meeting in Birmingham, Alabama. Her paper, “Dear D: Sophie Treadwell’s 1915 Reporting from the ‘Big War Theatre,’” won the David Sloan Award for Outstanding Faculty Paper and the Maurine Beasley Award for Outstanding Paper in Women’s History.

Dr. Nuria M. Novella (Foreign Languages and Literatures) received a promotion.

Dr. Karen Petersen (Political Science) published a book in 2009 cowritten with Steve Saunders: *Prospects for Political Stability in a Democratic Iraq: A Study of the Clusters of Conflict*.



Dr. Philip Edward Phillips (English) attended the Third International Edgar Allan Poe Conference: The Bicentennial (October 8–11, 2009) held at the Hyatt Regency, Penn’s Landing, in Philadelphia. He delivered a lecture called “Poe and Boston: The 1845 Boston Lyceum Incident Reconsidered.” Phillips published “Adaptations of Dante’s *Commedia* in Popular American Fiction and Film,” in *Medieval and Early Modern English Studies*, 17.2 (2009): 197–212.

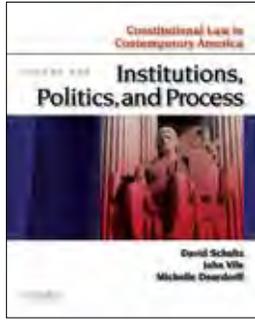
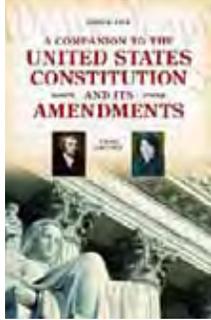


The Consolation of Queen Elizabeth I: The Queen’s Translation of Boethius’s De Consolatione Philosophiae (Tempe: ACMRS, 2009), edited by Noel Harold Kaylor Jr. (Troy) and Dr. Phillips, received a notice under “Literature” in the review section (p. B22) of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, November 6, 2009. Phillips also received a promotion last year.

Dr. Wayne C. Rosing (Biology) had an article published in 2009, “Corticulous Myxomycetes of Singapore,” in the *Gardens’ Bulletin Singapore*, volume 61 (1): 151–157.

Dr. Linda Seward (Speech and Theatre) had two publications in 2009, an article and a book review. The article, “Computer-Mediated Communication that Brings Learning into the Present: Gender Differences in Status Differentials and Self-Disclosure in Online Peer Teaching” was coauthored by Vickie Harvey and Joseph Carranza and was published in the *International Journal of Information Communication and Technology Education (IJICTE)*, April–June 2009, Issue 18, (vol. 5, no. 2). Seward reviewed *Not Born a Refugee Woman: Contesting Identities, Rethinking Practices*, which was edited by M. Hajkukowski-

Ahmed, N. Khanlou, and H. Moussa in *Women and Language*, spring 2009, pp. 114–115. In 2008, Seward took a study tour of Turkey and taught in Cherbourg, France, for the study abroad program.



Dr. John R. Vile (Honors) has two new books. Praeger has published the fifth edition of Vile's *Companion to the United States Constitution and Its Amendments*, which is widely used as a supplement in American government and constitutional law classes. Oxford University Press is publishing *Institutions, Politics, and Process*, the first volume of *Constitutional Law for Contemporary America* that Vile is coauthoring with David Schultz and Michelle Deardorff. ●

Hannah Researches Buchanan Writings

Dr. Richard Hannah, of the MTSU Honors Faculty, has received a grant for a noninstructional assignment for the fall of 2010 so that he can do further research on the writings of Dr. James M. Buchanan. In addition to surveying the 20 volumes of Buchanan's collected works, Dr. Hannah will visit George Mason University to examine his subsequent publications.

Dr. Hannah has already begun integrating case studies and essays from the Buchanan corpus into the introductory macroeconomics class that he offers to Buchanan Fellows. He is especially interested in maintaining the humanistic elements of the discipline in his teaching and has found Dr. Buchanan's essays to be a good way to do this. ●

Chinese Delegation



Dean John Vile, right, gives a tour of the Honors building to Qu Zhenyuan, left, professor and chair of University Council at China Agricultural University (CAU), and Li Zhaohu, professor and dean of the CAU College of Agronomy and Biotechnology.



Dr. Diane Miller greets Qu Zhenyuan, professor and chair of University Council at China Agricultural University (CAU). Dr. Sidney A. McPhee hosted a luncheon for a delegation from CAU at the Martin Honors Building on November 6.



Foote Returns to BAS

Dr. David Foote, resident Honors faculty member from the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, has returned to the College of Business as assistant dean for assessment, a position College of Business dean Dr. James Burton offered him in the fall of 2009. Dr. Foote was a resident faculty member from May 2008 through December 2009. Foote also serves as chair of the Honors Council through May 2010 and plans to continue his close association with and involvement in the Honors College.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my residency in the Honors Building," says Dr. Foote. "The staff there and the other resident faculty are wonderful. It was a pleasure and an honor to work there, and I will always count my time at the Honors College as a very special time of my career."

In his new role, Dr. Foote's immediate focus involves coordinating efforts within the College of Business in preparation for its reaccreditation visit by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) in March 2011 as well as ensuring the college's compliance with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) direc-

tives regarding assessment and preparing input for the SACS Fifth-year Interim Report due in 2012.

In the longer term, Foote will work toward reframing assessment as a continuous improvement process rather than an oversight activity. Foote said, "Education, by its very nature, demands that we constantly work to improve student learning, and faculty who genuinely care about their roles as educators continuously work at upgrading their course content and teaching methods on an ongoing basis. That process of constant improvement is the essence of assessment, and the better we understand what our students need to know and whether they actually learn those things, the better we will have fulfilled our responsibilities as educators."

"When I agreed to take the assessment job, some colleagues jokingly offered me their condolences," Foote said. "My view is that taking on the responsibility for assessment in the Jones College of Business is certainly a challenging assignment, and though I miss the people and environment in the Honors Building, I am excited about our potential to further enhance both teaching and learning in the Jones College of Business." ●

Dr. Preston MacDougall, left, and Dr. John Sanders, a chemist from Eastman Chemical Company in Kingsport, meet with Tennessee state senator Jim Tracy, center. MacDougall and Sanders, both members of the American Chemical Society Tennessee Government Affairs Committee, discussed forming a Tennessee Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education caucus with Tracy. They skyped with James Brown and Kathryn Verona at the Washington, D.C., headquarters of the American Chemical Society.



Confucius Institute Agreement Provides Cross-cultural Opportunities

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MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee hosted a ceremonial signing of the Confucius Institute agreement with Hangzhou Normal University President Ye Gaoxiang and his delegation December 1, 2009, in Peck Hall. The launch of the institute is expected this spring.

The signing, done in both English and Mandarin, officially marked the beginning of a partnership between the two schools to open an institute for Chinese study at MTSU. The institute, also known as CIMTSU, will seek to increase cross-cultural cooperation and education between the two countries, according to McPhee. This goal fits well into plans to enhance the concept of globalism at MTSU, McPhee said.

Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Dr. Diane Miller, who was instrumental in the development of MTSU's proposal for the Confucius Institute, was among those who joined McPhee in welcoming the delegation, which was on campus November 30 through December 2.

Dean John R. Vile said he hopes that more Honors students will study abroad as a result of the partnership. The Honors College is planning an upcoming lecture series focused on China in support of CIMTSU and welcomed a delegation from China Agricultural University in November. The group toured the Martin Honors Building and attended a luncheon hosted by Dr. Sidney A. McPhee in the Honors conference room.

With the signing of the agreement, Middle Tennessee State University has joined a distinguished group of American universities approved to host Confucius Institutes. The United States is home to 80 of the nearly

300 Confucius Institutes and classrooms that have been established in 88 countries.

McPhee said that MTSU will receive \$500,000 over the course of five years from the Chinese government in order to support CIMTSU. The dean of the school will be Yang Xiaohong, a professor in the school of foreign language at Hangzhou Normal University. The director of the institute for MTSU will be Guanping Zheng, associate professor in the Department of Electronic Media Communication in the College of Mass Communication.

Founded in 2004, the Confucius Institute is a nonprofit organization established to strengthen educational cooperation between China and other countries. The programs supported by the institute are designed to enhance the understanding of Chinese language and culture, deepen friendly relations between China and other nations, and promote the development of multiculturalism and global harmony.

Gaoxiang said one of the key purposes of CIMTSU is to do research on how to raise efficiency in the learning and teaching of the Chinese language. He also said he looks forward to future endeavors between the two schools, such as cosponsorship of majors or master's programs in shared interests such as music and philosophy.

Hangzhou Normal University is in the city of Hangzhou in the province of Zhejiang. McPhee said Hangzhou is a vibrant city and a major business city in China. It was a major point of interest for Gov. Phil Bredesen during his October trip to China, which was meant to improve trade relations between the country and Tennessee. ●



Honors Advisor Laura Clippard and interim McNair Program director Steve Saunders before the November 11 McNair/Honors event in the Honors Amphitheater. Saunders explained the McNair Program to students, and Clippard, coordinator of the Undergraduate Fellowships Office, presented "Becoming Competitive for National Scholarships."



Stanford Chemistry Professor Visits MTSU

Dr. Richard N. Zare, the Marguerite Blake Wilbur Professor of Natural Science and chair of the Department of Chemistry at Stanford, was on campus December 1–2 for “A Gathering with Dick Zare.” Dr. Preston MacDougall and Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross led efforts to bring Zare to MTSU.

The event’s name alludes to Dr. Zare’s membership on the committee that wrote the U.S. Congress-sponsored report “Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future.”

Dr. Zare, whose research is in analytical and physical chemistry, participated in a locally televised panel discussion, “WISE Women and Careers in Chemistry,” along with members of the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) group at MTSU on December 1. He also gave a public lecture called “How to Be Successful,” which explored problem-solving skills that are used in science but are applicable to most of life’s ventures.

On December 2, Dr. Zare was a guest lecturer in Dr. MacDougall’s Honors chemistry class, where, according to MacDougall, he clearly conveyed the

fun and excitement of doing chemical research and fielded excellent questions about science and public policy from the students. Later, he gave a lecture in the Honors Auditorium called “The Joys of Chemical



Dr. Richard Zare addresses Dr. Preston MacDougall’s Honors chemistry class. Zare visited MTSU December 1–2.

Discovery,” during which he explained for non-chemists how basic molecular research done by his group has led to new technologies involving lasers, nuclear isotopes, and nanoparticles that have exciting applications in medicine and environmental science.

On January 6 during a White House ceremony, Zare was one of 22 nationwide recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring.

“Fortunately for MTSU Honors students, Professor Zare’s encouraging words and ways extend beyond Stanford’s campus,” Dr. MacDougall said. ●

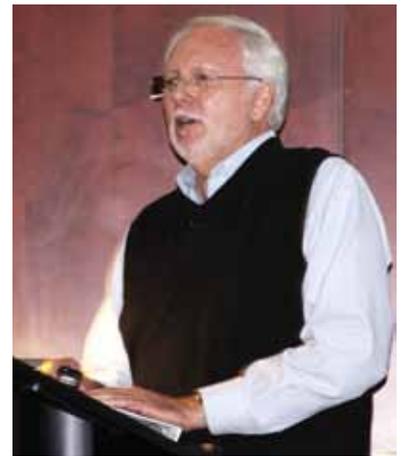


FirstBank of Murfreesboro presented “Secrets of a Real Entrepreneur: Going from Ordinary to Extraordinary in Life and in Business” on October 13 in the Honors Amphitheater. Participants included, from left, Chuck Lewis, city president of FirstBank; Dr. David Foote, Jones College of Business assistant dean for assessment; Micheal Burt, CEO of Maximum Success Management Consulting Services; and Jim Ayers, chair of FirstBank. Nathaniel Greene, Sam Mitchell, Jessica Taylor, Jasmine Gray, and Daniel Vaughan—members of the MTSU Leaders Circle—assisted with the event.



Catalin Pavel delivers "The Secrets of the Lower City of Troy." Pavel, a Ph.D. candidate in Bucharest and Oxford, lectured September 23 in the Honors Amphitheater. He has excavated at sites in France, Morocco, Germany, Romania, the United Kingdom, and Turkey.

Dr. Phil Mathis, professor emeritus and former dean of the University Honors College, presents "History of the Honors College." Dr. June McCash, founding director of the Honors Program, was among the special guests in attendance for the November 2 presentation.



Events at Honors



Honors Fish Tank Loses Two

The Honors College regrets to report that one of its two severum fish (a large yellow one) lost a battle for life. The Bala shark had a happier fate. Its increasing size and friskiness (it had jumped out of the tank on several occasions) led the college to move it to a much larger tank at Mike's Catfish Restaurant, where it seems much more content. Dr. Vile said that he hated to lose such a good role model for pre-law students and business entrepreneurs but hoped he might find a barracuda or piranha to replace it. In the interim, students might keep an eye out for Mr. Pleco, the bottom-feeding plecostomus who tends to hide during daylight hours.

Fulbright Committee, Fall 2009

The Undergraduate Fellowships Office in the Honors Building oversees student competition for the Fulbright Program, the U.S. government's flagship educational and cultural exchange program. The following faculty and staff members served on the fall 2009 Fulbright Committee that reviewed applications and interviewed students: Ms. Michelle Blackwell (Transfer Student Services), Ms. Laura Clippard (Honors), Dr. Scott Carnicom (Psychology and Honors), Dr. Allen Hibbard (English), Dr. Andrei Korobkov (Political Science), Dr. Preston MacDougall (Chemistry), Dr. Richard Pace (Sociology and Anthropology), Dr. Karen Petersen (Political Science), Dr. Mary Phillips (Accounting), Dr. Michael Rice (Foreign Languages and Literatures), Dr. Jan Quarles (Electronic Media Communication), Dr. John R. Vile (Honors), and Ms. Rhonda Waller (MT Abroad).



TV's "Judge Alex" Ferrer presents a lecture in the Honors Amphitheater. Ferrer's October 5 talk stressed the necessity of drive, perseverance, and education to achieve success.

Thank You!

Special thanks to all who contributed to this issue of Honors Edition; to the Honors College staff, John Vile, Scott Carnicom, Karen Demonbreum, Laura Clippard, Kathy Davis, Georgia Dennis, and Philip Mathis; to Preston MacDougall and all who submitted articles and information; to Sherry Wiser George and others at Publications and Graphics; and to MTSU Photographic Services.

—Marsha Powers, editor

Alumni and Friends News

Leonela Carriedo (Biology, 2009) is one of six domestic students out of a cohort of ten in the University of California–Davis plant biology Ph.D. program. She was selected from a pool of 150 applicants. Other members are from China, Costa Rica, Thailand, and Chile.

Cathy Crabtree (History, 2005) is pursuing a Master of Arts in the history of textiles with a quilting emphasis from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, the home of the International Quilt Museum. Recently, during the Sam Davis Home Quilt Show, Crabtree gave lectures on quilt history, conservation, preservation, and restoration. She also teaches quilting classes at Oaklands Historic House Museum.

Rachel Green (Psychology, 2008) is working with a start-up company in Seattle that specializes in market and user research. Her Honors thesis, “The Role of Information Valence in Person Perception Accuracy,” was based on data from the company’s social psychology lab Web site, www.youjustgetme.com.

Kasey Brown Gregory (Sociology, 2006) and her husband, Josh, welcomed a son, Brennan Tyler, November 23 at 1:50 p.m. He was 22 inches long and weighed 9 pounds, 14 ounces. He is the grandson of Honors executive secretary Karen Demonbreum.

Garrett Harper (Spanish 1982) serves as research director for the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, a position he has held since 1990. He has also served as research director for the Nashville Convention and Visitors Bureau and for Heartland Alliance in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Harper is past president of the American Chamber of

Commerce Researchers Association, and he is a certified community researcher. He is active in a variety of academic and practitioner organizations relating to demographics, business research, regional science, geography, immigration, and economic and international development. Dr. Harper is an adjunct instructor in geography and business at Middle Tennessee State University and other area institutions. Harper’s Honors thesis was “The Historical Reinterpretation Technique of Marco Denevi.” Dr. Harper holds the following degrees: B.A., MTSU, 1982; M.B.A., Kennesaw State University, 1988; M.P.H., University of Tennessee, 1990; J.D., Nashville School of Law, 1995; Ph.D., University of Southern Mississippi, 2004; and M.T.S., Lipscomb University, 2009.

Brad W. Hornsby (Political Science, 1978) is a local attorney with Bullock, Fly & Hornsby. His twin boys are now seniors in high school.

Gina Logue (Political Science, 2009) published an article, “Nursing Her Way to Service,” in the winter 2009 issue of *Phi Kappa Phi Forum*. The article is about Phi Kappa Phi Emerging Scholar Miriam Mahfoud, who is a nursing major at California State University–Fresno and a scholar in the Smittcamp Family Honors College.

Candace B. Moonshower (English, 1996) received a Master of Arts degree in English from MTSU in May 2009.

Brian Pack (Chemistry, 2007) is in graduate school at Belmont University Pharmacy School and is a pharmacy intern at HCA Skyline Medical Center.

MTSU Alumnus Makes Beautiful Music and Photographs

MTSU alumnus **Titus Bartos**, a part-time music faculty member at MTSU and a full-time photographer, is always on the lookout for striking sunrises and sunsets. In November 2009, he captured an especially unusual and beautiful sunset over the Martin Honors Building, which he generously provided for this publication's cover.

He described the process of photographing the image on his Web site.

Titus and his wife, Laura, a 2007 graduate of MTSU, have a photography studio and gallery called Made in Murfreesboro downtown. The studio at 123 East Main Street offers individual and family portraits; wedding photography; business headshots; commercial photography; and photography classes, workshops, and lessons.

Although Titus does all types of photography, his main focus is on nature and landscape work. (He also teaches digital photography classes at Made in Murfreesboro.) He regularly posts his work online at theobviousphoto.com. The Bartos's studio Web site is madeinmurfreesboro.com.

Titus received his M.A. in Music (Piano Performance) from MTSU in 2007. Laura studied voice and received her B.S. in Liberal Studies with a minor in Music in December 2007. ●

After chasing sunsets for over two years now, I got to the point where I can approximate how the sunset is going to look—whether it's going to be pretty, or if the clouds are going to completely cover the sun, or if they are going to disappear before the magic light comes on . . . I couldn't have been happier that I had my camera with me at MTSU, where I teach part time, two afternoons a week. As soon as my class was over, I ran to my car, drove a couple of blocks, and took a couple of photos, a series of which made it into this panorama shot. When I see something strange happening weather-wise, I sometimes tend to panic because I don't know where to go and take the photo. I try to stay away from taking photos from the same location all the time . . . it's hard to come up with new places every time. When I left my class yesterday, I knew I didn't have time to go anywhere off campus, so I decided to try capturing the sunset with a landmark of MTSU in the background. And if you are familiar with the MTSU campus, you will immediately recognize the Honors Building tower. In terms of post-processing, I spent quite a few hours trying to get the perfect perspective. The shot is a composite of 6 different vertical shots, taken at 18mm, f/5.6, somewhere around 1/30s, stitched in Photoshop CS4, using the cylindrical panorama feature. As far as color goes, I only added two contrast curves in the sky, and adjusted the vibration in a couple of clouds. The rest was pretty much as shot. I wish I [had] had my 11mm lens with me, but I don't like to carry too much equipment with me everywhere I go . . . it tends to get in the way of shooting.

Titus Bartos

THE Martin Family

Friends of the Honors College and MTSU

The history of Middle Tennessee State University and the history of the Martin family are interwoven threads of the larger, and still emerging, fabric of Tennessee history. Paul W. Martin Sr. was born in Memphis to German immigrant parents in the very year of the University's founding, 1911. Steeled by upbringing and the Great Depression, Martin rose from humble beginnings to become a professional engineer and area superintendent with the Tennessee Valley Authority. The Great Depression cut his studies at the University of Tennessee short, leaving him with a deep appreciation for the enduring importance of education. Speaking of it, he often observed: "No one can take that away."

Paul and his wife, Kathleen Martin, moved to Murfreesboro before World War II. They learned to love Murfreesboro and to value the influence of what was then Middle Tennessee State Teachers College, and they passed this attitude on to their sons, Paul W. Martin Jr. and H. Lee Martin. The older son, Paul Jr., matriculated at MTSU and became the first graduate of the then-fledgling Honors Program, graduating with Distinction in University Honors in 1975. His Honors thesis was titled "An Analysis of Federal Reserve Membership Trends, 1960-1973." Paul later attended law school, earned a J.D. degree, and became a successful business leader and entrepreneur. Like Paul, Lee took his father's advice on education to heart. He earned three degrees in mechanical engineering, including a Ph.D., from the University of Tennessee. He is an author, lecturer,

Roy Martin, brother of the late Paul W. Martin Sr. for whom the Martin Honors Building is named, during a recent visit to the building.



teacher, business leader, and inventor whose intellectual property includes more than 20 patents authorized by the U.S. Patent Office.

The success and generosity of Lee, Paul Jr., and their families have enabled the MTSU Honors College to serve the educational aspirations of many Tennesseans and others. The Martin legacy of support for education at MTSU and its Honors College spans decades and involves many persons. In the 1970s, during President M. G. Scarlett's administration, Lee and Paul Jr. became involved in University affairs through the MTSU Foundation. During the 1980s, they established the Paul W. Martin Sr. Scholarship Program to honor their father. The program's substantial endowment now permits the Honors College to award Martin Scholarships to several of its most outstanding students annually.

During the millennial year of 2000, Paul W. Martin Jr. and his wife, Phyllis Burke (Murray) Martin, joined H. Lee Martin and his wife, Carla L. Martin, to give two million dollars to the MTSU Foundation for the purpose of constructing a building to house the

CONTINUED

Martin from page 41

University Honors College. The gift provided the challenge and leverage needed to enable MTSU officials to raise an additional two million dollars, and by New Year's Day 2004, the spectacular Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building was a reality, and MTSU became the first public university in the state to have its own honors college building!

The Martin family's support continues. In 2004, the generosity of Lee and Carla Martin led to the establishment of two additional programs in the Honors College: the Martin Lectureship, which brings renowned speakers to the Honors College and to Murfreesboro, and the Institute of Leadership Excellence, which provides campus-wide student opportunities for leadership development.

In 2007, both Lee and Paul Jr. became charter members of the Honors College Board of Visitors, a group that advises and works cooperatively with the college dean. In spring 2009, Dr. Martin offered an Honors interdisciplinary upper-division class called Techonomics, based on a book he wrote of the same name.

Phyllis (Murray) Martin, an MTSU alumna, is increasingly active in University affairs. She participates in Honors-related events and assists the Department of Speech and Theatre in various ways, including fund-raising. As president-elect of the MTSU Foundation,



Three generations of the Martin family during a recent visit to the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building. Paul W. Martin III, left; Roy Martin, brother of Paul W. Martin Sr.; and Paul W. Martin Jr. in front of a plaque of Martin Sr.

she will undoubtedly remain involved in MTSU affairs for the foreseeable future.

The thread that connects the Martin Family to MTSU and the Honors College grows longer. Paul W. Martin III—son of Murray and Paul—recently joined MTSU as a design engineer and often participates in Honors-related events and ceremonies, extending the Martin family's legacy into a third generation.

Thanks to the inspiration provided by Paul W. Martin Sr. and his wife and the generous contributions of their offspring, generations of students continue to gain an education that "No one can take away." ●

CONTINUED

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Steve Sibley (Finance, 2008) is working toward an M.B.A. at Purdue University, where he has a triple concentration in finance; technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship; and analytical consulting. He is working on a business plan for a social business aimed at sourcing products from rural Bangladesh, selling them in the American marketplace, and using the profits to fund schools in Bangladesh. Upon graduation, he hopes to start such a business, work for a similar organization, or enroll in a Ph.D. program to become a professor/researcher. In 2008, Sibley was the first recipient of the Kawahito

Scholarship for Experiential World Poverty Studies and interned for ten weeks in Dhaka, Bangladesh, with the Grameen Bank, which was founded by Dr. Muhammad Yunus, a Nobel Peace Prize-winner and former MTSU professor.

Josh Vegors (Recording Industry, 2003) started his own music and audio consultation company in July 2008. He also works as a music minister and is married to Lisa Clark Vegors. They have two sons, Clark Vegors, born in January 2007, and Elijah Vegors, born in May 2009. ●

ConTRibu To R Honor Roll

The calendar year 2009 saw a record number of donors to the Honors College. Donors over the past year (with women listed first for couples) include the following:

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The college deeply appreciates every gift given. We especially appreciate the matching gift of Phil and Marilyn Mathis to support student presentations and James M. Buchanan's continuing support of the Buchanan Fellows.

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