

HONORS

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Magazine

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**

STATE UNIVERSITY

SMART GROWTH

A rise in theses reveals
more students are
Honors bound





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A sharp rise in theses reveals more and more students are Honors bound



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Cover illustration:
Daniel Baxter
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HONORS MAGAZINE

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From the Dean's Desk

A Home Away from Home

Most of us have a place we call home. It is a place of friends and fond recollections. It is often a place of pride. An increasing number of students are calling the Honors College home, and we are grateful to see the Honors family continually expanding.

We have been extremely busy over the past year. As this issue of our magazine highlights, a record thirty-five students completed Honors theses this spring! As the number of theses has grown, so has their variety. In addition to traditional research projects, our students are conducting interviews, producing films, and writing plays and novels.

The Honors College continues to be a hub for publication. Our literary magazine, *Collage*, received its first Gold Crown Award (one of only seven in the nation) from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. The second issue of *Scientia et Humanitas: A Journal of Student Research* was recently published. Both the interim associate dean and I have recently published books.

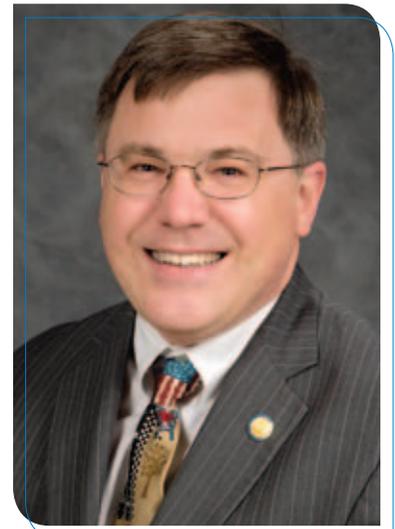
We have another good crop of students entering the University as Buchanan Fellows. To continue attracting *Tennessee's Best*, the Honors College has been part of starting an Honors Transfer Fellowship for fifteen incoming students a year. The program will be open to junior transfers, who will receive \$3,500 of support a semester, participate in a common class on research in their first semester, and commit to writing an Honors thesis. This fellowship will help encourage the development of honors programs at community colleges.

The Honors College is also highly interested in recruiting students who were home-schooled. We brainstormed recently with students who were homeschooled about how to expand our recruitment in this area. In addition to having extremely committed parents, such students value our small classes and are especially good at the kind of independent work required to write theses.

Honors students Katie Bogle, Adam Emerson, and Jake Verhoeff respectively won the coveted President's, Provost's, and LaLance Awards this past year. For the third year, two or more Honors students won Fulbright Scholarships. (Daniel Gouger is doing research in Spain, Anna Yacovone is teaching in Laos, and Adam Emerson is teaching in Russia.) Jordan Dodson snagged a coveted Goldwater Award for scientific study (one of about 275 in the nation). Matthew Hibdon and Jennifer Johnson received two of twenty-one Foundation Awards from Omicron Delta Kappa. The MTSU mock trial team won third place in its division at the National Championship Tournament in Minneapolis.

Home is where the heart is, and as the Bible reminds us, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." We value all of you who have entrusted us with the education of your sons and daughters, who have invested your best teaching into your Honors classes, and who have sent money to support our scholarships and other programs. Your contributions help us continue to make the Honors College a true home away from home.

John R. Vile



Transfer Fellowships: The Honors College Opens Another Door

Of all the programs in the Honors College, probably none has been received with more enthusiasm than the Buchanan Fellowship program, which awards full-tuition fellowships to 20 incoming freshmen each year. Buchanan Fellows participate in common classes in the Honors College and pursue degrees with University Honors. This program has successfully attracted many of *Tennessee's Best* freshmen to MTSU, and a new Honors Transfer Fellowship is designed to attract high-achieving transfer students.

Beginning with the 2013–14 academic year, 15 transfer students will be accepted into a special program that will pay \$3,500 a semester for four semesters for those who pledge to complete a degree with University Honors or an Honors Certificate. (The latter is for those who did not have the option to take honors classes in community college.) Honors Transfer Fellows will take a common class on research methods during the first semester. Students in the program will be able to register early, and the college will give them special consideration for extra money to study abroad and do research.

For many years, former Honors dean Phil Mathis advocated what he called the T-Squared Program. Since Tennessee has adopted legislation rewarding MTSU for transfer students admitted and graduated, this seems to be a good time to put the new program into action. The Honors College received support for the program through Student Affairs and

the Provost's Office and directly from President Sidney A. McPhee.

The Honors Transfer Fellowship is largely patterned after the Buchanan Fellowship and acceptance is limited, consistent with the college's restrictions on enrollment in upper-division classes. Like the Buchanan Fellowship, it will require a special application (due by February 15) that allows students to describe their extracurricular interests and activities and what they intend to do after graduation. The college is especially committed to supporting students who are interested in graduate and professional degrees.

Candidates must submit transcripts and two letters from faculty and administrators. MTSU prefers letters from Honors College teachers and administrators whenever possible. (The Honors College already accepts up to 18 hours of honors credit from students who transfer from community colleges.)

Dean John Vile, who has been an avid supporter of the new program, says that some of the strongest students in the Honors College have been transfer students. Katie Bogle, who transferred to MTSU from Harding University, earned the President's Award this spring for her service to the University. Jacob Verhoeff, who came to MTSU after earning college credits in the military, recently won the Robert LaLance Award for overcoming adversity. Joseph Quarles, who transferred from Motlow, is a gifted writer who received the LaLance Award last year.

Constance Grieves, from Nashville State, was a member of this year's award-winning mock trial team.

Although the new fellowship is open chiefly to those who are transferring with associate degrees, it will also be open to students who transferred to MTSU after a year and who subsequently qualify for junior status. To apply, students must have a minimum 3.5 grade point average.

Dr. Vile notes that this program should increase the number of Honors graduates, which is already at an all-time high. The program should be especially important for students who attended community colleges in their first two years for financial reasons. "This should help equalize the playing field," Vile said. "I can hardly wait to see how many applicants we get! I'd really like to get some friendly competition going between our Honors Transfer Fellows and our Buchanan Fellows!" 



Homeschooled Students—

Diversity, Energy, and Dreams

One of the most successful MTSU Honors students in recent history was Taylor A. Barnes, who was homeschooled exclusively before starting community college at the ripe old age of 13. In 2005, at 15, Taylor transferred to MTSU, where he double-majored in chemistry and physics and graduated in 2009 with Distinction in University Honors.

Taylor completed a total of four undergraduate research projects at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and MTSU, was named to the *USA Today* All-USA College Academic Third Team, and won a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, a Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship, and a National Defense Science and Engineering Fellowship. He was accepted to six prestigious graduate schools and is now completing requirements for his Ph.D. in chemistry at California Institute of Technology.

In part because of his successes, the Honors College has become increasingly aware of MTSU's homeschoolers and the passionate quest for knowledge common to many of them. In early April, in an effort to become better acquainted with some of these students, Honors advisor Laura Clippard and Dean John Vile met with a group of current Honors students who were homeschooled and discussed their academic passions and experiences in both the public education system and as homeschool students.

The discussion initially centered on the diversity of their experiences. Many had transferred back and forth between public schools and home-

schooling, though several students had been entirely homeschooled before college.

Being homeschooled meant different things to different students in the group. Moms and dads taught some students; others had tutors. Others shared resources with other homeschooling families or participated in online group discussions. One factor all the students liked about homeschooling was its flexibility and the freedom it provided to pursue their academic passions.

“Set your own standards for excellence and continually try to exceed them.”

—Lorel Holsinger

Another plus they noted was that good weather days often meant they could study science outside or take field trips to museums.

The students also discussed their hopes and dreams. **Nicodemus Myhre** wants to become an astronaut and pursues a variety of interests, from involvement in MTSU's award-winning Mock Trial program to taking aerospace classes. His advice to incoming homeschool students is to be confident and work hard. **Chelsea Fleet**, who is very active in theater at MTSU, hopes to get into children's theater after graduation.

The ability to work independently, often possessed by homeschooled students, is a definite strength in

college. **Brooke Morris** said, “Just find your own way to study and work with it.” Her dream job is to be a clinical veterinarian and have her own practice. She works on campus for Public Safety as a student patrol officer.

Anna Neal discussed the positive aspects of being homeschooled and said, “Do not be afraid to let people know that you were homeschooled. Your education is nothing shameful. Usually, people will be curious, not hostile.” She wants to be a zoologist and work with large animals.

Megan Rehnberg discussed the importance of nonacademic activities at MTSU. She is involved in Raiders for Christ, International Student Affairs, and the MTSU chapter of International Justice Mission. **Lorel Holsinger** is also interested in international affairs and hopes to work at the United Nations as a diplomat. She advises, “Set your own standards for excellence and continually try to exceed them.” **Emilie Aslinger** hopes to combine traveling with work that will help others. She thinks homeschooled students have more opportunities for a variety of pre-college experiences.

Alicia Washer's recommendation to new students: “Try new things. Stretch your limits.” Alicia is involved in local government. She likes music, art, writing, and working with animals.





Katie Parker's dream is to become a writer, and she is very involved in the award-winning arts and literary magazine *Collage*. She thinks most homeschooled students are in many ways better prepared for college than their classmates.

Whitney Davis said, "Find a healthy balance between schoolwork, making friends, and learning new things about life." She hopes to work with foster children in the future.

Jonathan Herlan dreams of doing scientific research and is considering applying for the

Goldwater Scholarship. He expressed his belief that a homeschool education is excellent preparation for college, saying, "Your hard work will pay off."

The Honors College offers a small and supportive environment for homeschooled students. Those interested in learning more about the Honors College should contact Laura Clippard at Laura.Clippard@mtsu.edu or 898-5464. [H](#)

Honors Students Choose **Variety of Majors**

A survey of students enrolled in Honors classes in spring 2012 found that 150 were studying in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, 86 in the College of Behavioral and Health Science, 34 in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, 30 in the College of Education, 143 in the College of Liberal Arts, 106 in the College of Mass Communication, and 28 in the University College.

A breakdown of the most popular majors by colleges and departments and the corresponding number of students is as follows:

College of Basic and Applied Sciences

Aerospace, 16
 Agribusiness and Agriscience, 16
 Biology, 43
 Chemistry, 38
 Physics and Astronomy, 7
 Computer Science, 12
 Mathematical Sciences, 12

College of Behavioral and Health Sciences

Health and Human Performance, 11
 Human Sciences, 10
 Nursing, 21
 Psychology, 34

Jennings A. Jones College of Business

Economics and Finance, 12
 Management and Marketing, 13

College of Education

Elementary and Special Education, 30

College of Liberal Arts

English, 35
 Political Science, 26
 Global Studies
 (an interdisciplinary major), 9
 Sociology and Anthropology, 11
 Speech and Theatre, 17

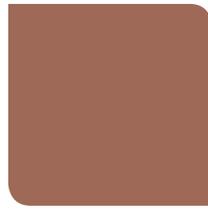
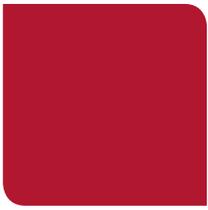
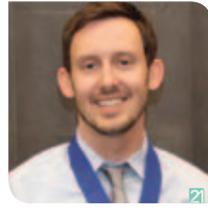
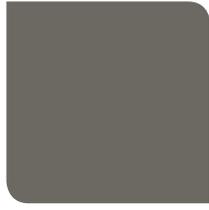
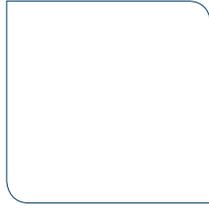
College of Mass Communication

Mass Communication, 62
 Recording Industry, 44

In spring 2012, there were 25 Honors students listed as undeclared. [H](#)



Spring 2012 Theses Defended



Eldridge Alexander¹ *Mass Communication*
"Technology Selection Decisions in Public Schools and Their Considerations of Open Source Software"

David Antonelli² *Chemistry*
"Synthesis of Labeled Mevalonolactone"

Stacey Bates³ *Psychology*
"Child Life Specialist: Perceptions of Training Programs and Practitioners"

Kaitlin Beck⁴ *Economics*
"The Effect of Demographic Factors on Tipping Outcomes"

Troy Berry⁵ *Mass Communication*
"Writing, Filming, Producing, and Directing: The Four Pillars of a One-Man Newscast"

Katie Bogle⁶ *Political Science*
"The Intersection of Policy and Perception: Scapegoat Narrative Theory in Middle Tennessee"

Brandon Cathey⁷ *Physics*
"Coaxial Cable Metamaterial Based on a Sub-Wavelength Loading by Inductor-Capacitor Resonators"

Erica Cathey⁸ *Physics*
"A Study of the Variable Star TAOS 54.00075"

Jered Chua⁹ *Psychology*
"Morphology: A Positive Influence in Reading Outcome Measures in Adults"

Janina Crenshaw¹⁰ *Political Science*
"Jurisdiction Over Non-Nationals: The Possibility of States Prosecuting Heads of Other States for Actions Committed Outside the Forum State"

Holly Cunningham¹¹ *Recording Industry*
"A Comparative Creative Study of How the Recording Industry Has Striven for Higher Sound Quality"

Adam Emerson¹²
Psychology and International Relations
"Tricking Taste Buds: The Search for Taste Confirmation Biases and Predictors of Taste Persuadability"

Kirsten Farrer¹³ *Biology*
"Mutagenesis of Arginyl Aminopeptidase-Like 1 RNPEPL1"

Liz Floyd¹⁴ *Mass Communication*
"Does PR Need to Do PR for PR? A Study of Student Perceptions of Public Relations"

Sarah Gallagher¹⁵ *English*
"The Unveiling"

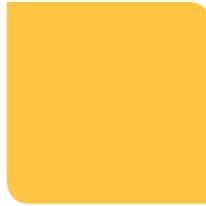
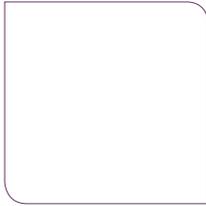
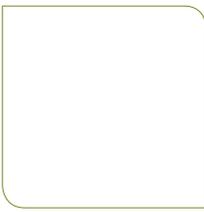
Lindsay Gates¹⁶ *History*
"Dam Dissent: Protest and the Clash of Ideologies in India and the United States"

Adam Gimenez¹⁷ *Music*
"The Production Techniques of Quincy Jones"

Paige Gober¹⁸ *Speech and Theatre*
"Experiments in Theatrical Direction: Devised Theatre and the Birth of Lady Parts"

Amy Goldstein¹⁹ *History and Anthropology*
"An Examination of the Geographic and Temporal Distribution of Blank-Faced Hooded Bottles"

Heather Hamm²⁰ *Speech and Theatre*
"Music-Induced Hearing Loss"



E. J. Hirsch²¹ *Mass Communication*
"Tennessee Poverty: A Documentary
Poverty Gone South"

Hannah Hopkins²² *Speech and Theatre*
"Demystifying the Food of China"

Miguel Hurtado²³ *Chemistry*
"Overcoming the Recalcitrance of
Cellulosic Conversion of Kenaf Pulp
to Valuable Chemicals"

Jana Johnson²⁴ *Sociology and Anthropology*
"Comparing the Practices of Inpatient
and Outpatient Occupational Therapy
for Post-Stroke Patients through Case
Studies of Practicing Therapists"

Jalesa Lowe²⁵ *Mass Communication*
"Nonprofit Marketing: Creating a
Comprehensive Communications
Plan Families Matter Case"

Katie Miller²⁶ *English*
"The Black Athena Movement
and the State of the Academy"

Samuel Mitchell²⁷ *Chemistry*
"Comparison of Fluorescently
Labeled Bovine Serum Albumin
Binding Events on Nonporous and
Mesoporous Silica as an Application
to Biosensors"

Amy Parks²⁸ *Recording Industry*
"Digital Postproduction:
New Industry, Old Tricks"

Rylee Patrick²⁹ *Economics*
"Are Job Market Outcomes Better
for Students Who Have Had the
Opportunity to Study Abroad?"

Haley Pimental³⁰ *Chemistry*
"The Effect of Alternative
Splicing on the DAF-16 Gene
in *Caenorhabditis elegans*"

Joseph Quarles³¹ *English*
"Snow White: A Comprehensive
Literary and Cinematic Study"

Nathan Reale³² *Computer Science and
Mathematics*
"Developing an Online Peer
Collaborative Learning Environment
for Computer Science Students"

James Skelley³³ *Mass Communication*
"The Moon: The Study and
Process of Animated Short Films"

Jordan Timmons³⁴ *Physics*
"Fifty-Year Analysis of Jupiter's
Decametric Radio Sources"

Karen Yates³⁵ *Mass Communication*
"Nonprofit Advocacy:
An Examination of the
Effectiveness of Warning Labels
on Cigarette Packaging" 

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MTSU

MOCK TRIAL

Ranks among Top Teams Nationally

by Randy Weiler

MTSU's mock trial team placed third in its division and in the top six nationally at the American Mock Trial Association's 28th annual National Championship Tournament April 13–15 in Minneapolis.

"Each year, the national championship tournament becomes more and more competitive," University Honors College dean and mock trial coach Dr. John Vile said, adding that of the approximately 600 teams that begin the season, only 48 qualify for the national tournament.

"If mock trial were basketball, placing third (and losing only to the national champion) would be a bit like making the Final Four in the NCAA Tournament," he said. "It really was an extraordinary kind of thing."

What Vile found extraordinary was that MTSU did not qualify for the nationals out of its region, and out of 12 teams considered on the bubble to receive at-large berths to the Opening Round Championship Tournament in Memphis from which it qualified, MTSU ranked eleventh. "This is our Cinderella year," said Vile.

In Minneapolis, MTSU placed third behind champion Duke University and runner-up University of California–Irvine in the Faith L. O'Reilly Division. Both Duke and California–Irvine compiled 7–1 records. Other teams in the top-10 in the division included Northwestern University, Rhodes College, George Washington University, Macalester College, Columbia University, Harvard University, and the University of Pennsylvania.

Division champion Rutgers University compiled a 7–1 record to capture the Hon. Edward Toussaint Jr. Division. Harvard (6–2) and the University of Maryland (5–2–1) were second and third, respectively. Other top-10 teams in the division were Miami University of Ohio, New York University, UCLA, the University of Virginia, Furman University, Howard University, and Washington University in St. Louis.

Divisions were chosen by random draws.

"We gave George Washington its only two losses," Vile said. MTSU dropped both defense ballots to Duke in the second round

and won both prosecution rounds against Michigan State and both defense ballots against the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

"Based on the win/loss record of our opponents, we met one of the strongest fields of any team in the entire tournament," said Vile, who is assisted by local attorneys and mock trial alumni Brandi Snow and Shiva Bozarth.

Cocaptains **Rachel Harmon**, a senior international relations major from Atlanta, and **Samantha Farish**, a junior from Cookeville, with a double major in political science and psychology, led the team to a 6–2 record.

*This is our
Cinderella year.*

Dr. John Vile



photo: Andy Heidt

Spring 2012 Phi Kappa Phi Initiates



Mock trial team members with the National Championship Tournament third-place trophy are (front, L-R) Kaitlin Beck, Brooke Borcharding, Constance Grieves, (back) Margaret Noah, J. D. Thompson, Thomas Palombo, and Samantha Farish.

Constance Grieves, a political science major from Nashville, joined Harmon and Farish in playing attorney roles.

Team members playing witness roles included **Brooke Borcharding**, a political science major from Watertown, Tenn.;

Margaret Noah, a philosophy major from Nashville; **Thomas**

Palombo, a political science major from Pittsburgh, Pa.; **Kaitlin Beck**, an economics and foreign languages (French) major from Murfreesboro; and

J. D. Thompson, a political-science major from Alamo, Tenn.

Most team members were part of a special Honors section of a political science class in courtroom procedures, Vile said.

This year's case was a hypothetical case in which a college student was being prosecuted for DUI and for murder as a result of an accident in which another college student was killed.

The tournament consisted of four rounds of competition, each with two scoring judges. Teams played two rounds on the prosecution side and two on defense.

MTSU teams received financial support from the Department of Political Science, student activity fees, and the

Honors College. **H**

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi initiated five Honors students into its MTSU chapter Thursday, April 5, and recognized four members of the Honors faculty as Influential Faculty named by the initiates.

Linda H. Duong (Biology), **Adam E. Emerson** (Psychology and International Relations), **Jeffrey Goetz** (Biology), **Brandon T. Hazlett** (Psychology), and **Meredith Holt** (Science) are the new Honors members of the society.

Influential Faculty from the Honors College were **Nancy Goldberg** (Foreign Languages and Literatures), **Angela Hague** (English), **Wendell Rawls** (Journalism), and **Laura Clippard** (academic advisor and undergraduate fellowship coordinator in the Honors College).

Chapter president **Wandi Ding**, an Honors faculty member, welcomed initiates and guests to the ceremony in the Tennessee Room, James Union Building. Honors student **Kaela M. Armbrister**, student vice president of the chapter, addressed initiates following the introduction of Influential Faculty members.

Dean **John R. Vile** is fellowship coordinator of the chapter, and **Kathy Davis**, Honors College executive aide, is chapter coordinator.

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

The 2011–2012 Honors College Awards

The University Honors College recognized outstanding students and faculty at its annual awards program April 18 in the amphitheater of Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building.

Roger W. Heinrich (Electronic Media Communication) won the Outstanding Honors Faculty Award, presented by Jan C. Hayes. Dean John R. Vile presented the award for Outstanding Recruiter for Undergraduate Fellowship Office Scholarships to **Preston MacDougall** (Chemistry). Twenty-three students won Honors scholarships, four received Outstanding Student Awards, and fifty were recognized for successfully defending their theses.

Six 2012 national and MTSU award winners were recognized.

Jordan Dodson, (Chemistry), won a Goldwater award. **Daniel Gouger** (Biochemistry and Foreign Languages) and **Anna Yacovone** (Global Studies and Organizational Communication, 2011) won Fulbright awards.

University award winners **Katie Bogle** (Political Science), **Adam Emerson** (Psychology and International Relations) and **Jake Verhoeff** (Social Work) were recognized for receiving the President's Award, the Provost's Award, and the Robert LaLance Achievement Award, respectively.

Jordan Dodson (Chemistry) and **Chris Ranker** (English and Mass Communication) received Bart McCash Scholarships, which were presented by June Hall McCash. Dr. McCash also presented the McCash

Founders Award Scholarship to **Loré Holsinger** (International Relations).

Greg Schmidt presented Ingram-Montgomery Research Scholarships to two students, **Emma G. Fredrick** (Psychology) and **Rachel Nutt** (Foreign Languages and Mass Communication).

Jason Davis (International Relations) and **Shannon Laney** (English) won Hannah/Harris Study Abroad Scholarships, which were announced by Watson Harris. Phil Mathis presented the Marilyn M. and Philip M. Mathis Research Award to **Daniel Gouger** (Biochemistry and Foreign Languages), **Jacob Basham** (Mathematics), **Miguel Hurtado** (Chemistry) and **Samuel Mitchell** (Chemistry).





John R. Vile presented the Michael Martinnelli Memorial Scholarship to **Martin Moran** (Exercise Science), and Laura Clippard presented Academic Achievement Scholarships to **Emma Fredrick** (Psychology), **Paige Gober** (Speech and Theatre) and **Lauren Rigsby** (Physics and Biology).

Phil Mathis awarded eight Paul W. Martin Scholarships. Recipients were **Brenton Andrews** (Aerospace), **Kaela Armbrister** (Mass Communication), **Jacob Basham** (Mathematics), **Kelsi Carter** (Mass Communication), **Anne Elizabeth Gintzig** (Biology), **Eric Guyes** (Physics), **Fernando Ramos** (Mass Communication) and **Juan Zelaya** (Entrepreneurship).

Honors advisor Laura Clippard announced this year's Outstanding Student Awards winners: freshman **Nicodemus J. Myhre** (Aerospace), sophomore **Carly E. Davis** (Nursing), junior **Meredith L. Holt** (Biology) and **Erica Paige Gober** (Speech and Theatre). 



1) Recipients of the Paul W. Martin Scholarship included (front, L-R) Brenton Andrews, Kaela Armbrister, Jacob Basham, Kelsi Carter, Anne Elizabeth Gintzig, Eric Guyes and Juan Zelaya.

2) Jordan Dodson (top left) received a Bart McCash Scholarship and was recognized for winning a Goldwater award.

3) Laura Clippard (top right) presented the award for Outstanding Recruiter for Undergraduate Fellowship Office Scholarships to Preston MacDougall.

4) Honors dean John Vile presents an Outstanding Student award to Carly Davis.



Cox, Timmons Get Top Test Scores

Two members of the inaugural class of Buchanan Fellows, Jordan M. Cox and Jordan E. Timmons, recently received the highest scores among all Honors students on the General Education test: Cox on the fall 2011 test and Timmons on the spring 2012 test. Both scored in the 99th percentile.

Jordan Cox, who graduated in December 2011 with a B.S. in chemistry and minors in criminal justice administration and music, successfully defended his Honors thesis, "An Examination and Comparison of Static and Dynamic Headspace Sampling as Accelerant Extraction Techniques." He recently said, "My experiences with the Honors College, and particularly the Buchanan Fellowship, were significant factors in my development as both a student and a person. I simply wouldn't be who I am without the other Buchanan Fellows." He also acknowledged Dr. Tammy Melton for getting him involved in chemistry at MTSU and Dr. Anatoliy

Volkov for helping him discover his talents and get where he is today.

Cox is now working with Dr. Philip Coppens at the University of Buffalo, where he is conducting research on using time-resolved x-ray diffraction to study the properties of crystal systems in the excited state. He began graduate coursework this fall toward a doctorate in physical chemistry. His goal is to teach chemistry at the college level.

Jordan Timmons, a physics and psychology major, graduated with Distinction in University Honors in May 2012. Her thesis was "Fifty-Year Analysis of Jupiter's Decametric Radio Sources." She is teaching in Nashville this fall with the goal of becoming an effective teacher in a high-need school and helping to close the achievement gap. She attributes her success in college to many of her professors, her parents, and her fiancé.

Timmons said, "Throughout my time at MTSU I worked closely with several professors who inspired me.

Every professor in the Physics [and Astronomy] Department prepared me for success. I owe a great deal to Dr. Higgins, Dr. Klumpe, and Dr. Montemayor . . . for preparing me for success by pushing my critical thinking skills." She added that Dr. Catherine Crooks of the Psychology Department always inspired her to be her best.

All undergraduate students must take a General Education exam the semester they graduate. MTSU's current exam, the California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST), reflects students' basic knowledge of the content of general education core courses, which are required for all undergraduates and are designed to give students a solid foundation for acquiring higher-level knowledge in their chosen fields of study. The Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Planning, and Research (IEPR) administers the exam. [i](#)

Dan Winter, left, an actor with Actors from the London Stage, coaches Immanuel Chioco during a visit to one of Kaylene Gebert's communication classes in February. Five London actors were on campus to perform Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*.



Amazing Opportunities, Life-changing Experiences

by Hannah Hopkins | Hannah is a spring 2012 Honors graduate with a degree in organizational communication.

Never would I have thought that I would spend part of my winter break in London and Dublin, but that's exactly where I found myself this past winter. All my life I had dreamed of going to Europe, and through MTSU's study abroad program I was able to travel and earn three credit hours toward my major. I was surprised at how easy it was to apply to the program and to get everything together for my trip. I was worried about money and not being able to afford to go, but with the help of an MTSU study abroad scholarship and an Honors College scholarship, I was able to afford this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

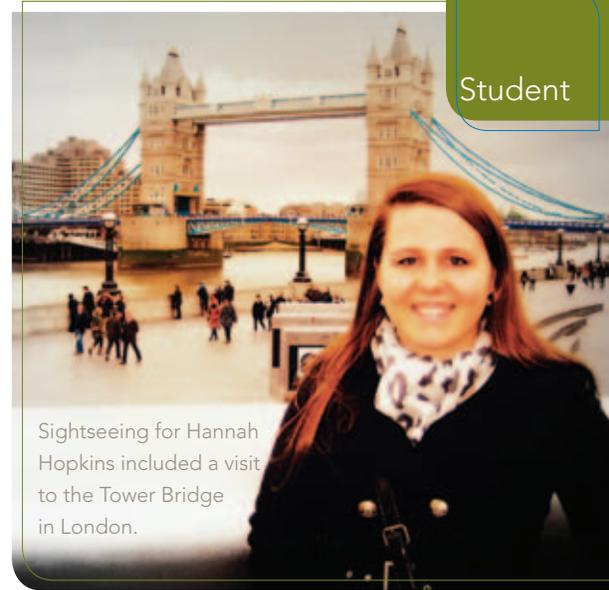
As the time for the trip drew near, I discovered that I was the only MTSU student going to London and Dublin, and I was nervous about not meeting any fellow travelers until the day we left. Fortunately, the professor and the other students, who were from various

colleges, were welcoming and friendly. I never felt uncomfortable or out of place. Even though most of the students in the group were from the same school, most of them did not know each other, so we all started out on equal footing for the most part. After our journey across the Atlantic, our adventure began in London.

Friends who had studied abroad before had advised me to become accustomed to my surroundings quickly so that I would be able to better enjoy my experience. As I fought jet lag the first day, my top priority was to soak up as much of the city as I could. Looking back on my trip now, I would say that the advice was correct and that by trying to become comfortable with the city as soon as I could, I was able to get more out of my time in London. I loved using the underground tube to explore all that the city had to offer. It was amazingly easy to get from one place to another, and I took every opportunity to see as much of the city as possible.

There were many things about England that I enjoyed, but one of my favorite experiences was our group's excursion out of London to Stonehenge and Bath. Bath was gorgeous and unlike any place I had ever been. Its history was interesting and extensive, and the architecture was breathtaking. Another memorable part of our stay in England was seeing *Wicked* our last night. It was the best theatrical performance that I had ever seen.

After eight packed days in England, we headed to Dublin for the



Sightseeing for Hannah Hopkins included a visit to the Tower Bridge in London.

remainder of the trip. Dublin, which was very different from London, had lush and green landscape even though we were there during the winter. We were able to go out and visit Glendalough where movies like *P.S. I Love You*, *Leap Year*, and *Braveheart* were filmed. Because it was so gorgeous there, I hope to go back to Ireland during the summer when plants are in full bloom.

I loved the shopping and overall atmosphere in Dublin. There were wonderful, relatively inexpensive shops, and I was very happy with the lovely items I found to bring back to the States. The people in Dublin were friendly and made us feel welcome, and I enjoyed the opportunity to interact with the locals.

Throughout college I had heard people say that the one thing a student must do while in college is to study abroad. After personally doing so, I completely agree. By visiting another country, one is able to truly experience the culture by being a part of it. It was fun and exciting to be completely immersed with new people, places, cuisine, and more. I learned much about London and Dublin on this trip, but I also learned about myself. I think that every student should study abroad before graduating. It is an amazing opportunity to go see new places, meet new people, and make memories that will last a lifetime. [H](#)



Hannah Hopkins checks out a red telephone box in London.

ODK Holds Spring Initiation

The Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) Circle of MTSU initiated 20 new members Friday, March 30, in the amphitheater of Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building. The circle's new inductees included seven juniors, seven seniors, four graduate students, one alumnus, and one honoris causa initiate.

Matthew Hibdon, president; Jennifer Johnson, vice president; and Kaitlin Beck, secretary, led the ceremony following a welcome by Dean John R. Vile, a challenge to ODK members by Eric Klumpe, and the introduction of circle officers by ODK faculty secretary Georgia Dennis.

New members included June Hall McCash and Paul W. Martin Jr., who were introduced by Dean Vile.

June McCash, an honoris causa initiate, was founding director of the Honors Program and served from 1973 to 1980; she chaired of the Department of Foreign Languages from 1980 to 1992. A professor emerita of French and humanities at MTSU, she has a doctorate in comparative literature from Emory University and has written or edited nine books and numerous articles. She retired in 2004 to become a full-time writer and has since won awards for her fiction and poetry.

Paul W. Martin Jr., director and chief managing member of Clarity Resources in Knoxville, received a degree from MTSU in finance and political science in 1975. He was the first graduate of the Honors Program. He earned a J.D. from Nashville School of Law before beginning his career as an international banking officer with Commerce Union Bank in Nashville. He and his brother, H. Lee Martin, provided more than half of the money required for the construction of the building of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building.

Philip E. Phillips, Honors interim associate dean, introduced the student initiates.

Graduate students inducted were James A. Hamby, Brett A. Hudson, Taras V. Mikhailiuk, and Brock A. Patterson. Senior initiates were Ashley Brooks, Jeffery B. Farmer, Eric N. Guyes, Ashlyn B. Schruoff, Trisha M. Thompson, Andrew D. Trivette, and Lana R. Williams. Juniors were Brett J. Bornhoft, Immanuel V. Chioco, Lucy C. Estes, Samantha J. Farish, Jeffrey J. Goetz, Lauren D. Nolin, and Juan C. Zelaya.

One "circle squire," Sarah E. Adams, a sophomore, was introduced. She will be eligible for full membership in ODK as a junior.

At the close of the ceremony, ODK member Heather Arrington, assistant director of the University College Advising Center, rang the Honors College bells in honor of the new initiates.

Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society founded at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, in 1914, recognizes and honors meritorious leadership and service and encourages campus citizenship. New members must be juniors, seniors, or graduate students; must maintain a 3.5 GPA; and must be involved in leadership and service on campus and in the community. [i](#)



From top:
Eric W. Klumpe
Paul W. Martin Jr.

June Hall McCash and ODK president Matthew Hibdon

Bottom:
Spring ODK Initiates



Adjutant Major
General Terry
"Max" Haston



Members of the Omicron Delta Kappa Circle of MTSU hosted OΔK True Blue Leadership Day Friday, March 23. The day consisted of seven workshop sessions led by University leaders and one special guest. After a welcome from University provost Dr. Brad Bartel, Dusty Doddridge, assistant director of the MTSU Career Development Center, led the first session. He discussed effective strategies for highlighting leadership experiences on resumes and shared valuable information based on his years in the career services field and with transfer students in the honor society Tau Sigma.

The second speaker was Heather Arrington, OΔK member and an assistant director in the University College Advising Center. She stressed the importance of being aware of your leadership needs based on your "true color" personality. She emphasized that effective leaders are aware of their personalities and the personalities of others they work with.

Special guest speaker Adjutant Major General Terry "Max" Haston (MTSU '79) of the Tennessee National Guard told attendees at the third session that leadership is more than holding a position. Haston, a McMinnville native, attributes much of his success to his time at MTSU. He cautioned students that if they do not lead, "the view never

OΔK True Blue Leadership Day

changes." Responsibility, accountability, good listening skills, and passion were characteristics Haston called important for being an excellent leader in all areas of life.

Jackie Victory and her staff from the Office of Leadership and Service employed a student leadership panel during the fourth session. MTSU has over 250 registered student organizations, and Victory's session explained how her office's services complement the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership.

After a lunch break, Dr. Deana Raffo, coordinator and advisor for the Leadership Studies program, presented the first afternoon session. Dr. Raffo helped participants identify their personality types based on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator assessment. She told students about the leadership studies minor offered at MTSU and allowed OΔK members Daniel Gouger and Matthew Hibdon to talk about their experiences in the program.

The sixth speaker was Dr. David Foote, director of the Institute of Leadership Excellence (ILE). Dr. Foote explained that leadership is "not what you think" by examining a range of interpretations about the meaning of leadership. One attendee said, "I really liked Dr. Foote's lecture. I also thought it was a great opportunity to get to hear his points of view about leadership, especially since I will be taking ILE with him this summer."

William Respress from Human Resource Services led the final session, "Leadership Is More than Easy Speech." Respress asserted that honesty and integrity are vital for people who hold leadership positions and that doing the right thing is easier said than done, especially when no one is there to watch. Respress's session was a great conclusion for the day because it addressed both leadership and the values expressed in the True Blue Pledge.

OΔK True Blue Leadership Day was created by Matthew Hibdon, OΔK Circle president, and Georgia Dennis, the circle's faculty secretary. The MTSU Circle applied for a Maurice A. Clay Leadership Development Initiative Grant from Omicron Delta Kappa in order to fund the event. Out of twenty-two circles that applied, MTSU was one of only six to receive the \$500 grant in 2011. The OΔK Circle of MTSU would like to thank the University Honors College, the Office of Marketing and Communications, the Office of the Provost, and the Office of the President for their support of the organization and this event. [\[i\]](#)



Kelly Jezierski (right), a national OΔK Fellow, visits with members of MTSU's Circle (from left): Georgia Dennis, Laurence Tumpag, Matthew Hibdon, Jennifer Johnson, John R. Vile, and Leland Waite.

Thirty-three Complete 2012 Institute of Leadership Excellence

by David A. Foote



From top:

Dr. Brad Bartel

Dr. Sidney A. McPhee

Immanuel Chio and Juan Zelaya

2012 ILE graduates

Thirty-three of MTSU's most promising students representing 20 different academic majors completed MTSU's Institute of Leadership Excellence (ILE) in May 2012. This one-of-a-kind experience on MTSU's campus is an interdisciplinary, for-credit course offering intensive study in leadership for undergraduate students from across the University. Since its beginning in 2006, ILE has graduated 160 students from 50 major areas of study.

ILE is a heavily discussion-based experience that requires students to feel comfortable sharing their opinions, ideas and questions. It's also an intensive and compact course, allowing very little time to break down barriers and learn to interact in effective ways. In order to accomplish the critical relationship building, we spend time on the low ropes course at the Campus Recreation Center on the first day, getting to know each other.

During the weeklong course, students benefit from a wide range of perspectives on leadership, including those from the outside speakers we bring in each day. Just as we consider diversity a primary goal in creating each class of students, we also strive to present a diverse slate of speakers, each of whom has achieved noteworthy success in his or her own career and who offers an inspiring story of leadership. Our speakers this year included Casper Cromwell, FBI cybercrime agent; James Crumlin Jr., employment and entertainment lawyer of Bone McAllester Norton PLLC; Bruce Lund, MTSU Ph.D. student; Scott Couch, FoxNews17 news anchor; Deborah Thompson, State Farm Insurance vice president of agency; Cristina Allen, entrepreneur and diversity advocate; Maggi Vaughn, Tennessee poet laureate; and Dirk Halstead, MD, emergency room director.

All of our speakers come to us without the prospect of an honorarium, simply because they believe in our students and in the mission of ILE. We were especially pleased to have MTSU president Sidney A. McPhee with us this year to share his thoughts on leadership, as well as Brad Bartel, University provost, to talk about leadership in higher education. As a special treat, Kathleen Clark, one of our inaugural class ('06) graduates, returned to share her experiences working to improve the lives of migrant workers in Hong Kong this past year. Always a favorite, Deana Raffo, coordinator of the leadership studies minor at MTSU and a faculty member in the Management and Marketing Department, joined us again this year to provide students with important insights into the impact of personalities and personality differences in leadership situations.

Students completing ILE 2012 had some comments on the class. Immanuel Chico said, "This is one of the best courses that I've taken at MTSU. There was a very wide range of diversity, which led to lots of ideas,

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Music as Witness: The 2012 Visiting Artist's Seminar

By Cody Behel



I didn't know what to expect when I registered for the 2012 Visiting Artist's Seminar, but I got more from the class than I could have ever imagined. The seminar was a weeklong class with a songwriter named Nathan Bell. Nathan was not only an impressive songwriter but also an excellent teacher. Throughout the week, he taught us much about songwriting, often without even talking about music.

The first day of class was mostly a day to break the ice. Nathan asked us about our current favorite musicians and whether we had had any experience with songwriting. There proved to be a great deal of diversity in our group, in spite of the fact that, other than me, it consisted only of women. After much conversation, we left Tucker Theater to watch Nathan perform at the Jackson Building. Nathan's songs showed that he was more than qualified to teach the seminar. His songs had vivid

narratives and were able to create an atmosphere extremely well. A special treat of the performance was getting to hear Nathan's father, Marvin Bell, read poetry. This first day of class made me excited about the rest of the week.

Tuesday we spent the class discussing subjects such as what we wanted to get from the class, what our greatest fears were, what we would do first if elected governor of the state, and what our least favorite songs were. These questions elicited very interesting responses from the class. I think the discussion we had that day brought us together as a group more than any of us realized it could, including Nathan. That night, Nathan finally gave us a songwriting assignment: three verses with no chorus about something we see in the world. It was a very broad topic.

For the next two days, we worked on the songs we had written. Wednesday we sat in a circle and

discussed what we thought of all the songs. We helped each other develop our songs until each student had a work that was ready to be heard by the public.

Friday in Tucker Theater we performed the songs we had worked on throughout the week. Some students were nervous, some were excited, others were just ready, but we were all sad that the class was coming to an end. The show went off without a hitch. Every single participant's performance was spot on. The feeling of being on stage was a rush. As a former rap artist, I had missed taking the stage and was happy to return to it. It was bittersweet, however, since the performance marked the end of the class.

I gained a lot from this class. I learned new ways to approach songwriting and had a great time doing it. Most of all, I gained 10 new friends from this class, all of whom I was blessed to have met. [H](#)



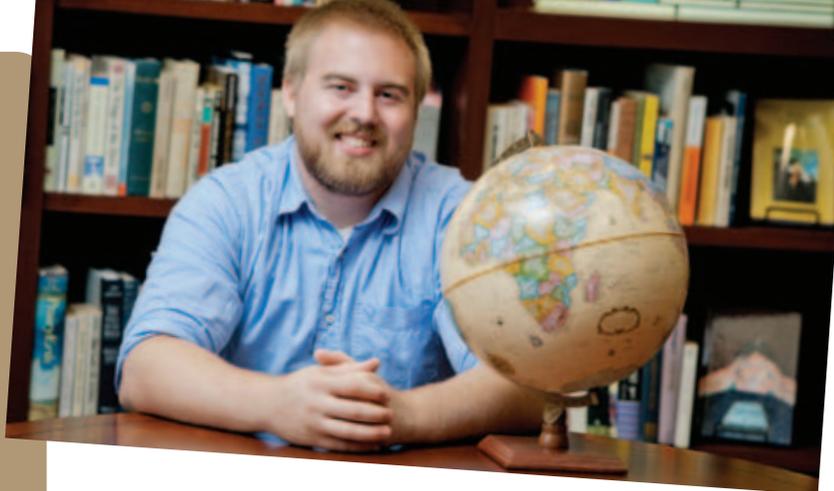
Honors Students Strive for Excellence, Win National Awards

by Gina Logue

President John F. Kennedy defined true happiness as “the full use of your powers along lines of excellence in a life affording scope.”

By that criterion, MTSU’s winners of national scholarships, grants, and awards have every right to be happy that their intelligence, talent, and hard work win for them the nation’s most prestigious academic awards.

For the third year in a row, MTSU has produced winners of Fulbright scholarships. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, these awards give the country’s most talented scholars a chance to promote understanding between the U.S. and other countries while they expand their own experiences.



Adam Emerson of Liberty, Tenn., graduated in spring 2012 with a double major in psychology and international relations. He is using his Fulbright to teach English in Russia this academic year. He says learning English is something young Russians can do to set themselves apart and get ahead. “Russia is one of those places where they’re definitely establishing more ties in the technology industry, which is one of the United States’ most profitable sectors,” he says.

Emerson studied in Moscow in summer 2010 and in Prague in summer 2011. After his Fulbright work, he intends to pursue his doctorate in international relations (with a concentration in political psychology) at Washington State University.



Daniel Gouger

of Whiteside, Tenn., is applying his Fulbright to scientific exploration in molecular dynamics and modeling at the Institute for Research in Biomedicine in Barcelona, Spain. Specifically, he analyzed the effects of potential synthetic drugs on the stability and conformation of DNA and chromatin structure.

Gouger finds inspiration in one of his mentors, Nuria Novella (Foreign Languages and Literatures). Novella instilled

an appreciation of Spanish language and culture in Gouger, and her battle against cancer bolstered his desire to pursue his dreams. (Novella has been cancer-free for five years.) “I hope to one day impart to my future patients the same care and leadership that she’s been able to give me,” Gouger says.



Jennifer Johnson of Louisville, Tenn., a charter member of MTSU’s ODK chapter, won an ODK scholarship. In addition Johnson worked a four-week term as a teaching assistant for the Kosciuszko Foundation Teaching English in Poland Program in July. Johnson graduated *magna cum laude* with a degree in psychology and minors in French and art. She was also editor in chief of the fall 2011 and spring 2012 issues of *Collage*, the University’s journal of creative expression.



Like Emerson, **Anna Yacovone** is an experienced world traveler. With study abroad excursions in Italy and Thailand under her belt, the Sevierville, Tenn., native is teaching English in Laos under her Fulbright grant.

Yacovone, who is a postgraduate advisor in the Office of Education Abroad, obtained a taste of Laotian culture while studying in Thailand with funds from another national award, the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. She took a detour to a remote village in central Laos, where she and other students taught English for a couple of days. "My international experience and on-campus involvement played a role in me receiving a Fulbright to Laos for the 2012–13 year," Yacovone says. "I avidly want to learn more about the world while serving others and fostering cultural awareness and tolerance."



MTSU's other ODK award winner, history major **Matthew Hibdon** of McMinnville, Tenn., created a five-panel exhibit called *McMinnville in the Civil War: Life under Occupation as Observed by L. Virginia French*. It's on permanent display in his hometown.

Hibdon's study abroad courses reflect his interest in history and theatre. With Richard Hansen (Speech and Theatre), Hibdon examined theatre history in London. With Derek Frisby (History), he visited a variety of World War II battle sites in Europe.

One glance at Hibdon's academic career reveals why he minored in leadership studies. While excelling as an Honors student, he also worked on the Student Government Association's Homecoming committee and Court of Traffic Appeals and attended the ODK Campus Leaders Today, Community Leaders Tomorrow program at the University of Richmond. He also held down jobs in five different MTSU offices during his college career.

Individually, each of these scholars has different motivations and different personal aspirations. Collectively, they are proof that the University Honors College is fully engaged in preparing great young minds for an intellectually challenging world.

"Our students' success in winning prestigious national and international scholarships attests to the talents and achievements of students the Honors College attracts; the high quality of the instruction that they receive from their professors in small, student-centered classes; and the



Student

Murfreesboro's **Jordan Dodson**

received a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship as a sophomore. A federally endowed agency named for the late U.S. senator from Arizona, the Goldwater Foundation encourages undergraduates to pursue careers in math, engineering and the natural sciences.

A double major in professional chemistry and advanced mathematics, Dodson says he studies an average of nine hours a day and performs research at home. "I look forward to a lifetime of learning about and researching the universe around me," he says. "I am fascinated by the way that the physical world works and want to study it through computational physical chemistry research."

Preston MacDougall (Chemistry) is one of the many mentors impressed with Dodson's intellectual intensity. "When his curiosity leads him to hypotheses that cannot be conveniently tested with conventional resources, Jordan seeks out other research methods to accomplish the same goal," MacDougall says.

unparalleled support that they enjoy from our Undergraduate Fellowship Office," says Philip Phillips, interim associate dean of the Honors College and English professor.

Students get targeted help from Laura Clippard, director of the fellowship office, who works with them to make sure they submit the strongest applications possible. Phillips says, "Her dedication to helping students attain their goals often gives them that extra edge that makes winning these prestigious fellowships possible." 

Dance Festival— Two Weeks of Nonstop Dancing

by Fernando A. Ramos-Cintron |

Fernando is a junior Honors student majoring in mass communication.

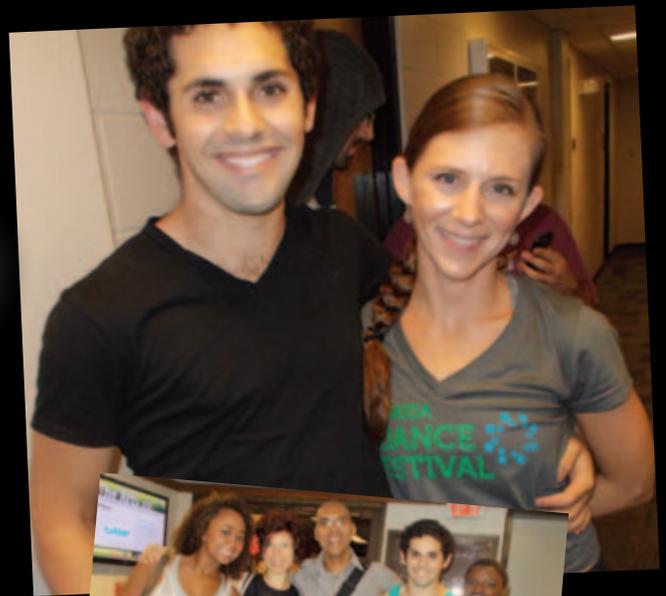
The Florida Dance Festival held at the University of South Florida June 12–23 was one of the most amazing experiences of my life. Bill Doolin, festival director, put together a great amalgam of dance styles and dance educators to enrich those of us who participated. I came out of the festival with a broader knowledge of dance and with a greater passion for it.

Thanks to the support of the Honors College and the Florida Dance Association, I was able to be part of this great festival and learn from dancers from New York, Seattle, and many other parts of the country. My personal itinerary included daily classes of modern, contact improvisation and repertory classes in modern, ballet, and Afro-Brazilian styles of dancing.

These repertory classes required each student to learn a piece in the two-week span of the festival and perform it at the end of the festival. Taking dance classes from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day was exhausting but also very rewarding, enriching me with knowledge and appreciation. The festival faculty presented the material in an ingenious way, making the experience fun.

In just two weeks, I felt myself grow as a person, a scholar, and a dancer. As a dancer, not only was my body challenged but my mind was also challenged to remember movement, phrasing, and the muscles that had to be engaged in every exercise or step I executed. It was tedious, but it was rewarding to feel my body becoming better and stronger as I progressed through the festival. The first few days I was extremely sore, but by the second week my body felt almost invincible. Because the classes were a good size and not overcrowded, it was easier to interact with the faculty and ask for feedback about what to work on for the next class.

The festival also provided perks like getting to view professional companies such as the Kate Weare Company and Brazz Dance Theater, as well as other professional dancers. This kind of exposure enriched us as spectators of dance. We also had the opportunity to attend a teaching methods workshop where one of our teachers, Jennifer Salk, gave a brief preview of the basics needed for teaching dance. Though it was short, the workshop was very informative, and attendees walked out not only with a greater perspective on what it means to be a teacher but also knowing how to be a smarter student and dancer. The knowledge I accumulated in two weeks will stay with me for years and will make me a better student and dancer. I cannot wait to see how my career unfolds. 



In just two weeks,
**I felt myself
grow** as a
person, a scholar,
and a dancer.



Student Research Showcased in *Scientia et Humanitas*, Volume 2

This spring, the University Honors College published the second volume of *Scientia et Humanitas: A Journal of Student Research* with articles from the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences by eight current and former MTSU students.

The printed journal, formerly an online publication called *Scientia* founded by Phil Mathis (an emeritus professor of biology and former dean of the Honors College), was renamed in 2010 to reflect its wider scope. John Vile, dean of the Honors College, noted that the new journal accepts submissions from all academic disciplines and is another way for undergraduate and graduate students and recent graduates to publish their research.

Students **Jake Verhoeff**, managing editor, and **Chris Ranker**, copy-editor, produced the latest issue of the journal, which was overseen by a student editorial board of **Jamie Fuston, Adam Emerson, Bonnie McCabe, Cari Jennings, Sam Mitchell, Marcelle Albert, Lindsay Gates, Caitlin Orman, Matt Bennett, Amy Cook, and Ruben Tavakalov**. Sherry Wiser George, Marsha Powers, and John Vile made up the staff advisory board. Georgia Dennis of the Honors College designed and maintains the website. The journal was supervised by Marsha Powers, who directs other publications for the college, including the award-winning arts and literary journal *Collage* and the *Honors Magazine*.

Contributors from the social sciences included **Linda Purkey**

(B.S., Liberal Studies, 2011), who looked at the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine and autism crisis; **Anna Yacovone** (B.A., Global Studies; B.S., Organizational Communication, 2011), who examined interfaith dialogues as a method of promoting peace in southern Thailand; **Amber L. Hulseley** (B.S., Aerospace, 2011) who cowrote an article with **C. Daniel Prather** (Aerospace faculty) on safety management systems at Tennessee airports; and **Brian Criswell** (B.S., Sociology), whose paper illustrated how hip hop music can be used to reach multiple audiences and encourage critical thought. **Richard Bautista** (Forensic Science undergraduate) represented the natural sciences with his analysis of biological factors in determining postmortem interval (time since death). Humanities papers were produced by **Matthew Hibdon** (B.A., History, 2012), who wrote about the longstanding MTSU support of National History Day; **Mike Smith** (English major), who examined Augustine's life as described in his *Confessions*; and **Lindsay Gates** (B.A., History, 2012), who outlined the peaceful efforts of India's Narmada River Valley dwellers to save the river from the construction of a dam.

Two contributors, **Linda Purkey** and **Richard Bautista**, won awards for best social sciences paper and best natural sciences paper, respectively.

The Honors College publishes *Scientia et Humanitas* yearly and has already begun accepting submissions for volume three. Students interested in contributing can get further information at www.mtsu.edu/~scientia.



Although the journal does not accept articles that have been published elsewhere, it does allow contributors to retain copyright so they may submit their work to other journals. *Scientia et Humanitas* is modeled in part on the successful *McNair Research Review*, an MTSU research journal that highlights research of students in the McNair Program. Dean Vile says that for the increasing number of students who are applying to graduate and professional schools, having a publication in hand can be an important credential. Also, students who join the journal staff have a chance to get experience in reviewing, editing, and formatting articles.

This year's publication was made possible in part by a contribution from Paul W. Martin Jr., Honors alumnus and member of the Honors board of visitors. [H](#)

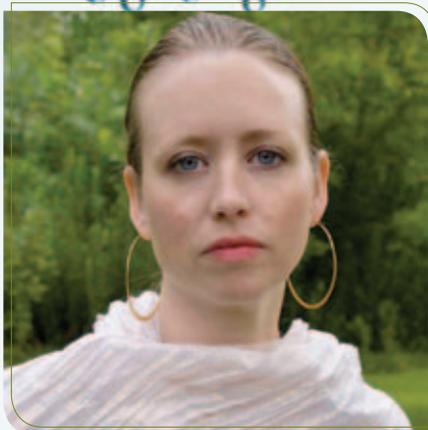
Spring 2013 Visiting Artist's Seminar

The Blazing Thing: Magical Realism in the Short Story with Laura van den Berg

"Some people dream of being chased by Bigfoot." The first line of Laura van den Berg's collection of short stories, *What the World Will Look Like When All the Water Leaves Us* (Dzanc 2009), leads into a series of worlds inhabited by monsters—both literal and metaphorical. Set in Scotland, Madagascar, Paris, Congo, and Chicago, these tales invite readers on journeys of discovery. Now MTSU students are invited to create their own worlds, their own exotic tales, when studying fiction writing with Van den Berg in the spring 2013 Visiting Artist's Seminar (UH 3200), *The Blazing Thing: Magical Realism in the Short Story*.

Speaking of several pioneering magical realists, a critic wrote, "Meticulous craftsmen all, one finds in them the same preoccupation with style and also the same transformation of the common and the everyday into the awesome and the unreal. . . . It is predominantly an art of surprises." [Flores, Angel. 1955. "Magical Realism in Spanish American Fiction." *Hispania* 38 (2): 187–92]. This surrealistic style tends to be elegantly crafted, poetic, and fantastic. It appeals to many readers and writers. Students will study the style of magical realism by reading stories written by contemporary masters including Kelly Link, Angela Carter, Haruki Murakami, and Etgar Keret. Writing exercises and assignments will encourage students to experiment with new narrative techniques, expand their imaginative horizons, and explore, in the words of author Steven Millhauser, "the blazing thing that deserves the name of reality."

What the World Will Look Like was a Barnes & Noble "Discover Great New



Writers" selection, was long-listed for the Story Prize, and was short-listed for the Frank O'Connor International Award. Van den Berg's stories have appeared in *Ploughshares*, *One Story*, *American*

{ predominantly an
art of
surprises }

Short Fiction, *Conjunctions*, the *Southern Review*, *Best American Nonrequired Reading 2008*, *Best New American Voices 2010*, and *Pushcart Prize XXIV*. She earned an M.F.A. at Emerson College and received the Emerging Writer Lectureship from Gettysburg College, the Tickner Fellowship from the Gilman School, and the Mary Wood Fellowship from Washington College. She has taught at George Washington University, Johns Hopkins University, Salem College, and Goucher College. She lives in Baltimore, where she is at work on a second collection of stories and a novel.

The Visiting Artist's Seminar will meet February 18–22, 2013 (MTWRF, 3–5:40 pm). The class is open to students

from all majors who have earned GPAs of 3.25 or higher. Registration is through Pipeline. (Students with a time conflict should contact the conflicting class's professor, get written permission to miss class, and forward that permission, along with M# and request, to Kathy Davis, executive aide in the Honors College, Kathy.Davis@mtsu.edu.)

The course will include two public events: a reading by Van den Berg on Tuesday, February 19, at 4:30 p.m. (place TBA) and readings by students on Friday, February 22, at 4:00 p.m. in the Honors Amphitheater. A reception and book signing will follow the Friday readings.

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

Laura van den Berg's visit to MTSU is made possible by the generosity of the Distinguished Lectures Fund, the Virginia Peck Trust Fund, the University Honors College, and the English Department.

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



A panel of students from several Tennessee colleges answers questions from area high school students about what to expect in college at Youth Leadership Rutherford Education Day, which was held March 9 in the Honors amphitheater. The high school students also toured the MTSU aviation facilities at Murfreesboro Airport, listened to a presentation by Honors dean John Vile, and had lunch at the Martin Honors Building.

Institute of Leadership Excellence

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communication, and growth.” Brittany Halstead said, “This class has made me grow as a person. It was a mental challenge more than an academic challenge. This class expanded my mind and ideas.” Shanyka Brooks said, “I absolutely love this course; if I could continue in it, I would I love the atmosphere and people.”

ILE is a permission-only course, and students who meet the requirements must apply for admission. To be eligible, students must have completed a minimum of 45 credit hours before the start of ILE in the year for which they are applying. Additionally, students must either (1) have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher or (2) have been nominated by a faculty or staff member or ILE alumnus. Faculty, staff, and ILE alums nominated 130 students for this year’s class.

Nominated students receive invitations to apply for ILE in mid-November. Applications are due by December 15 and carefully reviewed during the winter break. Admitted students are notified January 15, allowing them plenty of time to plan their other summer courses, work, or other activities. Registration takes place during the normal registration period for summer and fall courses. Generally, students pay the same tuition as any other three-credit-hour summer course; however, partial tuition assistance has historically been available for some students.

As always, we are grateful to several people for helping us make ILE a reality. Susan Taylor, executive director of Leadership Middle Tennessee, works hard to help us line up speakers every year. We owe many thanks to John R. Vile, dean

of the University Honors College, Jim Burton, dean of the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, and Brad Bartel, University provost, for their continued financial support. Perhaps most of all, we are deeply indebted to the many faculty and staff members who see greatness in their students and make the effort to nominate them for ILE. Without question, those students are the best part of ILE. Earl Thomas, faculty coordinator of ILE, and I are continually amazed at their passion for learning, their love of life, and their potential for leadership. The students who attend ILE are our future—a future filled with promise. Each time we offer ILE, we do our best to make it a rewarding experience for them, and each year getting to know these students is the most rewarding experience we have. [H](#)



Meet the Freshman BUCHANAN FELLOWS

This fall, 20 freshmen joined the elite group of students accepted into the Buchanan Fellowship, the highest academic honor bestowed on entering freshmen at MTSU. Collectively, they represent four states and nine cities in Tennessee and have an average score of 31.1 on their ACT exams and an average high school GPA of 3.915.

Emily Annette Ball is from Christiana, Tennessee, and graduated from Riverdale High School, where she was a member of the National Honor Society and earned several academic awards. Emily also received the United States Achievement Academy International World Languages Award. Emily is an accounting major.

Keaton Alexander Davis graduated from Siegel High School in Murfreesboro. A 2011 Governor's School for the Arts participant, Keaton was a member of the All Mid-State Band and was selected Best Percussionist in 2011 and Best Overall Freshman Band Member in 2009. He is majoring in construction management.

Jacob Charles Goza is a graduate of Walker Valley High School in Cleveland, Tennessee, where he was Student Body secretary and first-chair saxophone in the wind ensemble. He was also chosen to represent his school in Cleveland's Chamber of Commerce Leadership Club. Jacob is majoring in political science with a pre-law concentration.

Chelsea Rebecca Harmon is from Johnson City, Tennessee, and attended University School, where she received an AP Scholar Award and three Scholarship Awards. She was named Most Outstanding Student and also received the James E. Francis Award. Chelsea is majoring in science with a pre-med concentration.

Morgan Gregory Hunlen graduated from Chamblee Charter High School in Chamblee, Georgia. A member of the National Honor Society and an AP Scholar, he was recognized as a National Achievement Outstanding Scholar and received an award for contributions to his school band. Morgan is an aerospace major.

Zachary Kent Hutcherson, a graduate of Greenville High School in Greenville, Tennessee, was team captain of the 2011 Greenville High Air Force JROTC Academic Team. He was named Top Mock Trial Attorney in regional competition and won the General George C. Marshall National Academic Award. He is majoring in aerospace.

Michele Kelley is a graduate of Siegel High School in Murfreesboro. She was a member of Beta Club, the National Honor Society, and Mu Alpha Theta. She

was drum major for the band and was selected for Mid-State Band, Mid-State Choir, and All-State Choir. She also attended the Governor's School for the Arts.

Evan Michael Lester attended Hampshire High School in Hampshire, Tennessee. A member of the Interact Club and a math tutor, he was selected as a 2010 Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Delegate and a 2011 Youth Leadership Maury Delegate. He was a 2011 Wendy's High School Heisman School winner. Evan is majoring in aerospace.

Chloe McKenzie Madigan, an English major, graduated from Siegel High School in Murfreesboro where she received an AP Scholar Award and was in Beta Club and the National Honor Society. Chloe participated in Freshman Honor Choir, Mid-State Choir, and All-State Choir. She received the Chamber Choir Leadership Award in 2011.

Kailey Dawn McDonald is a graduate of Siegel High School in Murfreesboro, where she was a member of the National Honor Society. A mathematics major, Kailey was selected Most Outstanding Algebra I Student in 2009 and Most Outstanding Algebra II Student



The Buchanan Fellowship is named in honor of Dr. James M. Buchanan, MTSU alumnus and Nobel Prizewinner. The new Buchanan Fellows are briefly introduced below.

in 2011. She won first place at the 2011 Regional Mathematics Competition in Algebra II.

Yusra Fatima Mohammed attended Siegel High School in Murfreesboro and was chair of Siegel's Invisible Children organization. She participated in Youth Leadership Rutherford and started a science and math club at Mitchell-Neilson Primary School. Yusra participated in Meharry Medical College's mentorship program. She is a science (pre-med) major.

Erin Grace Paul, an early childhood education major, graduated from Smyrna High School in Smyrna, Tennessee, where she was a member of the National Honor Society, the Rotary Interact Club, and the International Thespian Society. She received the English II Award and was elected Most Intellectual.

Linton Gene Prieskorn III, who is from Lobelville, Tennessee, is a graduate of Heritage Covenant High School. As a member of the Civil Air Patrol, he received the Billy Mitchell Award. He won the Air Force Association Award for Outstanding Achievement and Exceptional Leadership and received a scholarship to attend Freedom Academy I in Estes Park, Colorado.

Matthew Thomas Pyles is from Mills Creek, Washington and graduated from Henry M. Jackson High School where he was director of the Jazz I Choir and earned the Lionel Hampton Jazz Award for leadership. He was elected speaker of the house for the Washington State Youth and Government program and was a Commended Scholar in the 2012 National Merit program. Matthew is majoring in music.

Mason Trent Riley attended Riverdale High School in Murfreesboro, where he won a Biology I Award and an Anatomy and Physiology Award. He also was named Student of the Week. He is an Eagle Scout and a Son of the American Revolution. Mason is a science (pre-med) major.

Trevor Dillon Smith, a forensic science major, is a graduate of McKenzie High School in McKenzie, Tennessee. He won Student Scholar Awards of Merit in 2009, 2010, and 2011. He was inducted into the National Beta Club in 2009 and was a 2011 Tennessee American Legion Boys State Delegate and Governor's Cabinet Member.

Nathan Scott Tilton, an aerospace major, is a graduate of Hinkson Christian Academy. His family is from Brookhaven,

Mississippi, but has been living in Moscow, Russia. Nathan earned a National Merit Letter of Commendation Award, a Presidential Volunteer Service Award, and a Brian Greensill Service and Leadership Award.

Logan Johnson Whites is from Bristol, Tennessee, where he attended Tennessee High School. A biology major, he was a member of the National Honor Society and the Beta Club. He was also design editor for Tennessee's oldest scholastic newspaper, *Maroon & White*.

Trevor James Wiemann graduated from Riverdale High School in Murfreesboro, where he was a member of the National Honor Society and winner of the Black History Quiz Bowl in 2011. He held officer positions in DECA, Student Council, and Virtual Enterprise. He won a DECA State Event Award. Trevor is a finance major.

Larissa C. Wolf, a biology major, is a graduate of Blackman High School in Murfreesboro, where she won the Honors Biology I Award. She volunteered with the Junior Red Cross in Ft. Knox, Kentucky, making cards for deployed soldiers, wrapping gifts, helping with fundraisers, and distributing flyers for the soup kitchen. [H](#)





Supporters Celebrate **Collage Gold Crown Award**

Supporters of *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression* gathered April 19 in the Honors Building amphitheater to celebrate the arts and literary journal's first-ever Gold Crown Award. The award was one of seven in the nation presented in December 2011 by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) for top college magazines.

Gold Crown Awards are the highest recognition given by the CSPA to a student print or online medium for overall excellence. A panel of judges made up of professional journalists, experienced former advisors to student media, and professionals such as photographers and illustrators met at Columbia University to examine entries and select winners.

The fall 2010 and spring 2011 issues of *Collage*, designed by Emily Collins and overseen by editor in chief Caitlin Orman, received the coveted award. Judges specifically praised the design, layout, and typography of the two issues saying, "Supporting typefaces and generous uses of white space entice readers from the onset of these volumes" and "The positioning of body text and artwork throughout this volume proves to be more than a flexible—and useful—layout tool."

The judges added, "The standout feature of each work of art, photography, prose, and poetry is its pairing of seemingly divergent issues in one piece. In 'Paper Products' [by Jolene Barto], the excitement of adolescence is coupled with the family alcoholism; 'The Mrs.' [by Taffeta Chime] pairs romantic phobias with comedy; while in 'A Newtonian Romance' [by Kaitlin Jones] science explains romance; and there's even a commentary on

media and death, 'The (Not So) Final Eulogy of Print, Beloved by Many,' [by Abigail Stroupe]. This twist on standard themes demonstrates a strategic use of technique."

Student submitters, *Collage* staff members and representatives of the *Collage* faculty advisory board participated in the April celebration. Jennifer Johnson, 2011–2012 editor in chief recognized Creative Expression Awards winners for the fall and spring issues: Abigail Stroupe, Nova Ford, Shalynn Ford-Womack, Nhu Duong, Brian Hutsebout, Kaitlyn Hawkins, Casey Gaddis, Davion Baxter, and Della Wheeler. Seven student contributors—Laura Frizzell, Jessica Paulsen, Ashley Blankenship, Ari Constantine, Joseph Lampley, Charles Spencer, and Abigail Stroupe—read their literary submissions, and a display of photography and art from the winning issues lined the reception room.

O'Charley's, Just Love Coffee Roasters, JoZoara Coffee Shop, Gigi's Cupcakes, Mellow Mushroom Pizza Bakers, McAlister's Deli, and Jason's Deli provided door prizes, which were distributed to attendees by 2012–2013 editor in chief Courtney Hunter. [H](#)





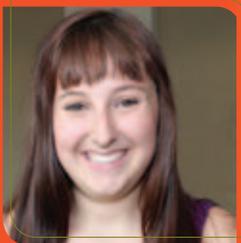
Hawkins, a sophomore English major, won the Hixon Award for her poem "My Porcelain Doll."



Gaddis, a spring 2011 Honors graduate, won her award for the story "Ghostly Road." Casey was an anthropology major.



Baxter, a senior art major, won the Nuell Award for his photograph *Witchy Personalities*.



Wheeler, a sophomore art student, won the Nuell Award for her digital art *Perfect Space*.

Collage Creative Expression Award Winners

Three MTSU students and a recent graduate won the spring 2012 *Collage Creative Expression Awards*. *Kaitlyn Hawkins* and *Casey Gaddis* won Martha Hixon Creative Expression Awards for best literature submissions. *Davion Baxter* and *Della Wheeler* won Lon Nuell Creative Expression Awards for best visual submissions.

Each semester, the *Collage* staff conducts a blind grading process to select approximately 50 pieces for publication from around 300 submissions. The faculty advisory board selects outstanding submissions for the awards from each of four areas: prose, poetry, art, and photography. [U](#)



The spring 2012 *Collage* staff included (front, L-R) Chris Ranker, Sheila Smotherman, Katie Parker, Kaela Armbrister, Emma Fredrick, Jason Ptacek, Taylor Hixson, Annise Blanchard, Sean Pietzsch, Biven Alexander, Stephanie Walsh, Katie Uselton, (back) Bethany Wilson, Tatiana Silvas, Emily West, Kelsi Carter, Jennifer Johnson, Darby Campbell, and Courtney Hunter.

“Success builds upon success,”

says MTSU’s John Vile, dean of the University Honors College. Look no further than the “college within a college” for proof of that.

When the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building was dedicated in 2004, there were just seven undergraduate theses by Honors students. Eight years later, in the 2011–12 academic year, the number of students working on theses had grown to 55.

That near eight-fold increase in eight years bodes well for MTSU’s continued status as the top destination for Tennessee’s Best and brightest students.

Such growth is attributable to a number of initiatives, most notably the Buchanan Fellowship, instituted in fall 2007. The fellowship—the most prestigious scholarship MTSU offers—is provided to 20 incoming freshmen each year who have a high school GPA of at least 3.5 and an ACT score of at least 29. The fellowship provides money for students to take up to 16 credit hours per semester, cover maintenance fees, and buy books. Buchanan Fellows can renew the award for up to four years as long as they maintain a 3.25 GPA, complete fellowship seminars, and fulfill all requirements to graduate with University Honors, including writing a thesis.

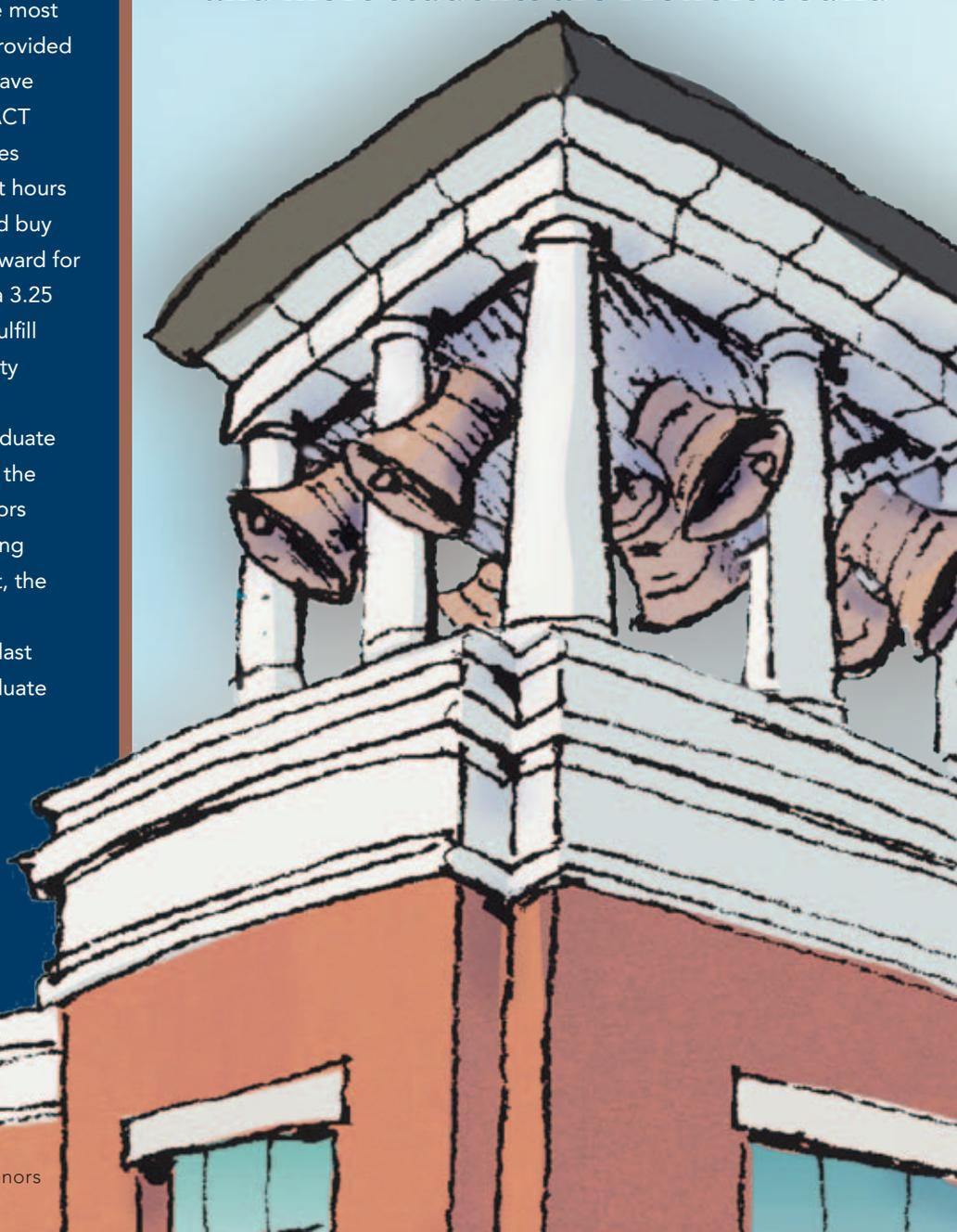
Laura Clippard, coordinator of undergraduate fellowships, points to an added benefit of the Buchanan Fellowship program: more Honors students are expressing interest in exploring national scholarships such as the Fulbright, the Truman, the Marshall and the Goldwater.

“Over 40 workshop sessions were held last year to cover GRE preparation, undergraduate fellowships, Fulbright, study abroad, and research opportunities,” Clippard says. She adds, “The Honors College also participated in 18 recruitment events last year to publicize our many opportunities. Advising numbers have increased, and the academic culture supports creativity and academic research.”

BRINGING THE *Be*

by Jennifer Stone

A sharp rise in theses reveals that more and more students are Honors bound



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Exploring Options

At MTSU, the University Honors College fosters the same sense of community one may find at small, private colleges for high-ability scholars. Current enrollment includes dozens of high school valedictorians and several National Merit Finalists. In fall 2011, **416** entering freshmen enrolled in the University Honors College. Their collective high school grade point average was **3.816**, and their average ACT score was **28.04**. The Buchanan Fellows constituted an elite within this elite. In 2011, the average entering Buchanan Fellow had a **3.9** grade point average and an average ACT of **31**. Most of these students also have a long list of awards and extracurricular activities, and students come from a wide range of backgrounds. (Minority enrollment tops 10 percent.) All students benefit from the intensive academic and social interaction with faculty members that characterizes the Honors College environment.

Choosing a college or university is one of the most important decisions a student—especially a high-achieving student—can make. Equally important is that a university continues to offer

programs and courses that will appeal to students as they make their academic choices. In recent years, the MTSU faculty has helped a growing culture of Honors students enroll in and benefit from various programs designed to help them succeed.

Vile believes those options are encouraging more students to consider the Honors College and is a primary reason for the college's growth.

“One of our top goals over the last several years has been to increase these numbers without compromising academic quality, and I think we are succeeding,” he says. “We believe this is attributable in part to the Buchanan Fellowships, to the increase in H-option classes that allow students to find upper-division classes within their major, to increased recruiting, and simply to the fact that the more students complete theses, the clearer it becomes to other students that this is an option for them.” (The H-option allows students to earn Honors credits in non-Honors courses.)

There are also increasing opportunities available for transfer students interested in the Honors College. Students continuing their education after a community college or transferring from another college or university can take Honors classes as part of their regular course load, become an Honors Associate with 11 hours of upper-division Honors courses, or graduate with University Honors. Beginning in fall 2013, there will also be a scholarship available specifically for transfer students. The Honors Transfer Fellowship will be awarded to 15 transfer students, provide \$3,500 per semester and access to early registration, and offer the chance for money to study abroad and for research programs.

Beyond the Printed Page

The encouragement to be creative when it comes to the Honors thesis has also helped contribute to the increased interest in Honors College programs.

“We continue to emphasize that while every thesis has a written component, students may incorporate creative projects as part of the mix,” Vile says. “As a consequence, we’ve had students who have written novels and plays and who have recorded videos.”

Those theses are becoming increasingly varied. Vile says one of his favorite thesis projects described, filmed, and modeled aircraft maneuvers in 3D to help train student-pilots in safety. Another thesis focused on tipping patterns at a local restaurant. Clippard pointed to a project in which a pre-dental student researched the affect of fish oil supplements on cavity risk, based on personal experience.

There are also extracurricular opportunities for Honors students. They can get involved with Omicron Delta Kappa, the national college honor society. They can work on *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression*, a long-standing MTSU publication now overseen by the Honors College. Students involved in science and the humanities can contribute to *Scientia et Humanitas*, also published through the Honors College.

With such a broad scope of options available to Honors students, the Honors College staff is confident that more interest will be generated in the years ahead. And while it's true that MTSU's Honors College has experienced significant growth in both student population and theses defended in recent years, the best is no doubt still ahead for the University's “college within a college.” 

THE SOUND

As a drummer in a garage band, Jonathan Herlan made a lot of sounds. Now, with a 10-meter length of PVC pipe, cotton balls, and an off-the-shelf Dell laptop, the Honors physics student is participating in research intended to make sound better.

The project holds the promise of yielding valuable applications for defense, medicine, and daily life. Ultrasound imaging, the test that tells parents whether it's a boy or a girl or reveals whether an artery is blocked, could be used to see smaller and smaller objects. Navy submarines could disappear beneath the waves and be invisible to enemy sonar. Homeowners wouldn't have to listen to booming car stereos outside their doors.

"It's like the Romulan cloaking device on *Star Trek*. It makes it appear something is not there," explains Herlan from the Wiser-Patton Science Hall lab where he and student research partner Sean LePard are working with physics professor William Robertson.

Herlan steps across the lab and connects the PVC pipe to a "loop filter," which he agrees looks like a sink trap. When the ping, ping, ping of sound from the laptop reaches the loop filter, the sound waves split, some taking a longer path to the other side, some a shorter route. When they recombine on the other side, they demonstrate "phase differences." The sound waves no longer line up with one another as they did before. A phenomenon called destructive interference makes some frequencies disappear.

Placing cotton balls in different locations inside the loop filter does not just muffle the sound; it changes the way the sound waves recombine, which Herlan says was a bit of a surprise.

"There have been quite a few of those moments," he says. "That's when we know interesting things are happening."

The research could demonstrate how objects made of substances known as acoustic metamaterials might bend sound around themselves. Commercial applications could range from stealth ships to very quiet houses. The loop filter is a highly economical way of researching that effect, especially since the lab has a supply of PVC pipe that a plumber might envy.

"Dr. Robertson is known as the 'PVC pipe king,'" Herlan says.

A rising junior, Herlan doesn't regularly play drums right now. He got busy in high school and "split the band," and besides, drums and a



For Honors College
Jonathan Herlan
waves is just the b

OF SCIENCE

by Bill Lewis

dorm room aren't a good fit. But he's putting his experience in making sound to good use.

His fascination with sound led him to MTSU as a recording industry major. He already had ample practice manipulating his alternative rock band's music using his Mac and a program called, appropriately, GarageBand.

"I originally wanted to record artists. I enjoyed looking at wave forms and taking out the things that messed up the sound," he says.

He switched to physics in the summer of 2011 after recalling a chance conversation with an instructor at the community college where he took a class while still in high school.

"One day after class—I usually finished lab last—we were just talking. My professor asked, 'Have you ever thought about physics?'" he says.

Like many creative people with multiple talents, Herlan considered a number of possible academic paths and careers before deciding on a future in acoustic physics. Before coming to MTSU, he explored a career as a computer animation artist.

Then there was the notion of studying alternative energy. Herlan believed bass vibrations from a powerful stereo could be harnessed to help power a car. Instead of miles per gallon, a car's range might be measured in miles per decibel. The answer was yes, but with a caveat.

"It turns out it's terribly inefficient," he says.

Having settled into the Honors College with a major in physics and a minor in mathematics, Herlan is considering his next steps. First will come graduate school and a Ph.D., then time in a research lab.

Herlan, who's been to Sao Paulo, Brazil, on two mission trips, has a goal of returning to that country as a student or as a researcher.

So if you happen to be walking on campus and hear someone teaching himself Portuguese, stop and introduce yourself. It's probably Herlan, who already speaks French but wants to be able to communicate in Brazil's native tongue.

If one language won't do, why not learn another? He brings that same flexible approach to his research and to life.

"You start in one direction, find out that won't work, and go in another direction." 

ge student
, making
beginning

Don't count MTSU Honors professor Michael Hammock among the stuffy types unwilling to think outside the box in order to make a lesson stick. The 30-something Hammock is as likely to use an episode of cult cartoon *Beavis and Butt-head* as he is a classic Dr. Seuss tale to teach students the relevance of economics in their daily lives.

The Forest or the Trees?

Hammock's use of Seuss's *The Lorax* to explore policy insights on environmental economics was first described in the *Journal of Private Enterprise*. The coauthored work drew national attention earlier this year when the Lorax tale reached the big screen in a full-length movie adaptation animated by Universal Pictures.

In the Seuss story, a character called the Once-ler cuts down all the trees to make "Thneeds." The Lorax—a creature who speaks for the trees—warns the Once-ler of the consequences but to no avail. Before long, the once-beautiful land is barren, and the Once-ler is unable to make any more Thneeds and must close his factory.

The tale is supposed to be a warning that people should take care of the environment "lest we find ourselves impoverished," Hammock says. But as Hammock explains to students, the story of the Lorax is in fact not a very useful environmental warning.

"Unlike Once-ler, most businesses are not keen on driving themselves out of business. They don't like large losses or suddenly finding themselves suffering huge negative profits. It doesn't really make a lot of sense that they'll destroy the only thing making them lots of money, at least not something they own," Hammock explains.

photo: J. Intintoli

One MTSU professor employs an uncommon curriculum in the teaching of economics

“What businesses usually try to do if they own something is take care of it and maximize its profitability. Businesses that manage large stocks of resources like forests, they try to maintain it, and plant new trees after they cut trees down. So the lesson we can glean here is that resources, when they are privately owned, tend not to be destroyed.”

move and become yours. In other words, there’s no way to protect my air from your pollution. Solutions could be a carbon tax or pollution tax. If you want to produce pollution, okay, but you have to pay something for it, and that becomes a disincentive to pollute.”

Though admittedly his animation is not museum-quality art (much of it employs stick figures), Hammock’s work does introduce action and motion into his presentations.

“It breaks up classroom monotony a bit,” he says, “and gets a little humor in there as well.”

ILLUSTRATING *His Points*

by Drew Ruble

Hammock, then, uses the story to stress the need for environmental policy that gives big companies incentives to be greener in their operations in cases where private property ownership is not an option.

“For instance, it is impossible to allocate property rights for the air. You can’t say this block of air is mine because it can

An Animated Classroom

Given Hammock’s willingness to use children’s literature to illustrate economics concepts, it should come as no surprise that he also employs animation—his own—in his coursework.

Hammock taught his first Honors Buchanan Fellows class in the spring of 2012. He says he enjoyed it immensely. “Students are just of the highest caliber. They like talking about subjects outside of class. They like to do additional reading if it strikes their fancy. They’re just great fun to teach.” 

Biography Lesson

Hammock first discovered that he enjoyed teaching economics in 1995 as an undergrad at Berry College while helping one of his professors teach a course to M.B.A. students. He went on to receive a master’s in economics from Texas A&M University in 1998, and after taking a year off from school to work in a computer store and get married, he and his wife enrolled in Ph.D. programs at Emory University—she studied neuroscience, and he studied economics.

In 2006, Hammock began teaching at Rhodes College in Memphis, where he spent the next three years. After Rhodes, the couple moved to Nashville and became foster parents.

(They eventually adopted a child, Shelby.) Hammock began teaching part time at MTSU in 2010. Last year, Economics and Finance chair Dr. Charles Baum offered Hammock a full-time temporary position.

At MTSU, Hammock received a grant to fund economics speakers for undergraduate audiences. So far, he has secured big hitters such as Bryan Caplan (economist and adjunct scholar at the Cato Institute) and David Figlio (with the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University). Hammock is working on bringing in similarly high-profile speakers for the 2012–2013 school year.

Hammock’s research has been in several different areas but mostly in the young field of information security economics (the application of economics to protecting data) and in the teaching of economics. In the past few years, he has published papers on consumer willingness to pay more to shop websites that offer greater security and privacy and on environmental economics and law and economics. He is now working on a video series for introductory economics classes, a textbook on using the Maxima computer algebra system for economics and teaching, and a large literature review on the economics of information security.



★ ★ ★ ★ A ★ ★ ★ ★ “James” Dean

by Allison Gorman

John Vile seems an unlikely James Madison impersonator. With his infectious laugh and outsized personality, it's hard to believe he regularly channels the bookish, introverted man Washington Irving once described as “a withered little apple-John.” It's also hard to believe that there is a market for James Madison impersonators. But for the past several years, Vile has enjoyed steady work donning tights and a wig and addressing academic groups as America's fourth president.

Granted, he hasn't quit his day job. In fact, as dean of the Honors College since 2008 (and chair of the Department of Political Science before that), Dr. John Vile puts in a notoriously long day. He shows up early, stays late, and takes work home with him at night. And somehow, in the midst of “deaning,” as he puts it, he writes—copiously. He's built an international reputation as a constitutional scholar; he's written and edited more than two dozen books on the subject (including a thousand-page, two-volume encyclopedia).

Some books have taken him five years to complete, but his latest, *The Writing and Ratification of the U.S. Constitution: Practical Virtue in Action*, was finished in just a few months. (He happened to be working on two other books at the same time.)

“I just can't keep from writing because I love it so much,” Vile says. “It's an extension of my teaching. I grew up in a big family with lots of noise, and I can work around other things. So a lot of times, I'm working on a book here, but I'm building it around meetings and interviews.”

In that respect, Vile is very much like the president he portrays—an agile, prolific writer and a famously hard worker.

Vile reminds audiences that Madison not only drafted George Washington's first address to the U.S. House of Representatives but also wrote the House's official response to Washington . . . and Washington's response to the House. And his legacy as “the father of the Constitution” is largely the result of his diligence: unlike the other 54 delegates to the Constitutional Convention, he showed up early, ideas in hand. What evolved into the U.S. Constitution began with his working document, the Virginia Plan.

Vile is very much like the president he portrays—an agile, prolific writer and a famously hard worker.

“Madison was very influential because he worked as hard as anybody there,” Vile says.

Vile’s latest book is, in large part, a narrative account of that 1787 event, which was intended to strengthen and refine the role of the federal government. Vile calls the Constitutional Convention “a pivot point not just in the history of America but in the history of the world,” when 55 men, each with his own world view and parochial prejudices, hammered out a document that would stand a fighting chance of ratification by a loose confederation of states. “You just don’t get that many examples of people deliberating together in a reasoned fashion and coming up with a product that everybody recognized was flawed but that most recognized was a significant improvement over what they had—and it [has] lasted 225 years,” he says.

True to form, Vile worked hard to ensure that his book would be published by the convention’s 225th anniversary in September. But the book is timely for other reasons, too. It offers a model of something Americans say they want: political pragmatism and cooperation. It also explains the practical underpinnings of a document that has become both romanticized and polarizing. Once, the Constitution was just another high school reading assignment; suddenly, in light of controversial legislation and Supreme Court decisions, it has new life outside the classroom as everyday Americans parse its words.

Vile rejects Thomas Jefferson’s sweeping characterization of the framers of the Constitution as “an assembly of demigods”—some, like Madison, were brilliant, while others decidedly were not—and he warns against idealizing the Constitution outside its historical context.

“I don’t see the Constitution so much as the product of grand political theory—although it did embody some of that too—but of practical solutions to issues that most of the delegates recognized,” he says. “I don’t think we should idolize the Founders, but I also don’t think it’s fair to dismiss their work because they didn’t recognize all the rights we recognize today. Had the convention been convened to eliminate slavery, give women the right to vote, or create

a system of perfect democracy, it would obviously be regarded as a failure, but this was not its main purpose, and that purpose was settled in a wise fashion.”

Vile says that Americans who argue over the Constitution (or gripe about politicians who do the same) might be surprised by the degree to which conflict is built into the document—thanks in great part to Madison’s design. “We’re always complaining about the lack of consensus and conflict,” Vile says, “but Madison might have been much more pleased with that than we might think. He might say, ‘Yes, what you find so worrisome is, in fact, what helps preserve your liberties.’”

So while Madison has never captured the popular imagination as, say, Washington and Jefferson have, he’s made a big comeback in academia. “There have probably been more biographies of Madison in the last five years than there have been of any Founding Father,” says Vile. “Not to classify myself as an intellectual, but he tends to appeal to those of us who dwell more on ideas than on personalities.”

For now, Vile will continue to bring those ideas to life on stage—although he still hasn’t found a decent wig. During one speech under particularly hot lights, he says, “I started out looking like Madison, and I ended up looking like Einstein.” And then there is the challenge of portraying a cerebral man whose message defies sound bites. (Historians agree that Madison would now be considered unelectable.) After one extemporaneous, 45-minute presentation, Vile says, the next day’s write-up included just one (off-message) quote: “These tights are really tight.”

“I said it,” he admits, laughing. “I just didn’t expect to be quoted.”

For Dr. John Vile, just another occupational hazard—and all in a day’s work. [H](#)



AN ACE IN THE HOLE

by Drew Ruble

Nicknamed “Baby Dean” for his boyish looks and longtime status as associate dean of the University Honors College, Scott Carnicom might better be described as “Baby President.” That’s because Carnicom, a rising star in the administrative ranks and a member of the Psychology Department faculty, recently spent a year participating in one of the marquee national professional development organizations for higher education.

For the last five decades, the American Council on Education (ACE), a public-interest lobbying group for higher education located in the nation’s capital, has been grooming emerging leaders through its ACE Fellow program. Professionals nominated by their presidents and selected by ACE are relocated to other colleges, where they get an intense view of another university’s best practices before bringing those lessons home to their own place of work. Carnicom, part of a select class of 50 from around the world chosen to participate in ACE last year, spent his time at Kenyon College, a small liberal arts college in Ohio.

The ACE program—known to accelerate the careers of its attendees—is by no means Carnicom’s first résumé highlight. The new administrative fellow in the MTSU Provost’s Office has completed fellowships at Harvard and Vanderbilt, is credited with building the Honors program at Marymount University in Virginia, and has an academic background in biopsychology and neuroscience research, hunting cures for diseases like Parkinson’s.

Carnicom recently sat down with *Honors Magazine* to discuss his recent ACE Fellow experience and other pertinent Honors College issues.

You’ve moved increasingly away from the classroom and toward administrative roles. Do any of the lessons of the classroom apply in this new setting?

What I find is that good leadership is teaching. It’s service to others. We live in a culture where you don’t lead hierarchically. We don’t just bark orders. We build consensus in an environment of ideas where we want the best ideas to float to the top. So as an academic leader, you are a teacher and you are sharing and discussing your ideas. The way I try to work, I’m not issuing orders but rather treating the office like a seminar table. I want to gather people around, discuss ideas, and then act on those ideas.

So you’ve carried your teaching tool kit into the administrative ranks. Is your background in psychology helping you navigate the administrative world of higher education as well?

My background is in learning and memory, biopsychology, and neuroscience. I completed my Ph.D. work at Stony Brook, where MRIs were invented. The brain likes novelty, it likes change, and we tend to pay attention to new things. So if you are doing the same thing over and over in the classroom or a meeting, people tune out and stop paying attention.

Tell me all about the Kenyon experience.

Kenyon is a small, highly selective liberal arts college. I wanted to go there because in Honors we say we are providing the experience of a small liberal arts college within the footprint of Tennessee’s largest undergraduate university.

Kenyon has 1,600 students in the small village of Gambier, Ohio, with a population of 1,000 people who are all associated with the college. It’s in the middle of nowhere on a gorgeous campus founded in 1824. The original buildings are still there. They’re collegiate gothic. It looks like Hogwarts. Kenyon has amazing alums like former U.S. president Rutherford B. Hayes. Edwin Stanton was a Kenyon alum. It’s an amazing place that really hasn’t changed a lot in the last 188 years, and it has a ravenous alumni base. While I was there, Kenyon completed a \$240 million capital campaign where 85 percent of living alumni donated. People are in love with the place. It’s a combination of factors, but most importantly it is the kind of education that people get there. They have never strayed from small classes with faculty who love to teach. That’s what we try to do here at MTSU Honors, so it has been using the approach we try to use and has been doing it for nearly 200 years.

The other striking thing about Kenyon was the laser focus. It was striking how everybody was on the same page and had a laser sharp focus on the primary mission for the place. It permeated everywhere. You could stop anybody in the street and ask

why Kenyon exists—it could be a grounds member—and they would say it’s the experience students have with professors in the classroom. People haven’t forgotten that. You don’t fall through the cracks at Kenyon.

How will that experience translate at MTSU?

I saw the bridge between academic affairs and student affairs and how they were educating students 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It was this massive team approach to educating students. The leaders I met this year asked their students and staff what they could do to help. They were helpful servant leaders, and I hope to emulate that.

Specifically at MTSU this year, I’m working with the entire academic affairs team on taking another look at how we retain our students at MTSU. Every school could do a better job. It’s interesting at a place like Kenyon where their graduation rate is above 90 percent and people assume it is all about input—meaning you bring in great students and of course they graduate. But that’s not it. The research suggests that you have to have good support services in place [and] strong academics in place and that retention is not just the responsibility of one person—it is something that needs to pervade the campus and culture.

Another focus of yours is “anti-intellectualism,” specifically unflattering portraits of intelligence in popular culture. What are your findings there and how do you apply them in an Honors College environment where students are considered above average in intelligence?

There was a journalist several years ago named Alfred Lubrano who wrote a book called *Limbo* about the experience of first-generation college students. I’m the first person in my immediate family to complete college. *Limbo* describes how

A brief discussion with one of the University’s administrative superstars

continued on page 51

photo: Andy Heidt

Honors Worthy {student achievement}

Spring 2013 Interdisciplinary Seminars

The Legacy of the Salem Witch Trials

UH 3500-001 • TR 2:40–4:05 p.m.

Todd 129 • CRN#: 15456

Dr. Jim Williams

No single episode in American history has attracted more attention from a wider variety of scholars, writers, and ordinary folks than the Salem witch trials of 1692–93. To this day, we hear and read the phrase “witch hunt” to describe current events, and we immediately reference in our minds the victims of hysteria in Massachusetts more than 300 years ago.

This course will explore the important and lasting legacy of the Salem witch trials over the centuries since they occurred and will seek to answer the question: why do the Salem witch trials continue to fascinate us in the twenty-first century, and how do they continue to be used in American literature, politics, and film to shape our understanding of current events?

The course will be divided into two parts. The first will examine the various explanations of the causes and consequences of the trials themselves, with readings and documentary films from history, literature, science, religion, gender studies, medicine, and many other fields, in addition to some of the actual court records and other documents from the trials themselves. The second part will be an exploration of the legacy of the trials since the late 1600s, when they provoked an immediate backlash that propelled them into an everlasting part of the American collective

memory. The legacy includes the trials entering various forms of literature for children and young adults and for those interested in fictionalized accounts of the role of Africans and Native Americans in the trials.

In the final part of the course, we will scrutinize Arthur Miller’s play *The Crucible*, including his motives for writing it when he did and how filmmakers since the McCarthy era have reinvented the play as film for new political situations. We will also tease apart the use of “witch hunt” in American discourse of late and attempt to understand why the Salem witch trials have continued to fascinate so many people for so long. The trials provide an excellent example of collective memory and guilt worth understanding in our own time.

For more information, contact Dr. Jim Williams at (615) 898-2633 or Jim.Williams@mtsu.edu, or visit him in Todd Hall 128 (Gore Research Center).

Native American Cultures

UH 3500-002 •

TR 11:20 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

HONR 116 • CRN#: 17174

Dr. Tom Strawman

Students who are curious about non-Western cultures and views of the world are invited to enroll in the junior interdisciplinary seminar, Native American Cultures. Focusing on fiction by and about Native Americans, students will read novels by James Welch, Leslie Marmon Silko, Louise Erdrich, N. Scott Momaday, and Margaret Craven, as well as short fiction and oral tales from *Spider Woman’s Granddaughters*, a collection

of traditional and contemporary writing by Native American women.

Students will catch a glimpse of a strange world of power and spiritual allies as seen through the eyes of the shaman, the Yaqui sorcerer in Carlos Castaneda’s *A Separate Reality*. The class will examine the history of how Indian tribes were finally “tamed” in the West by reading Dee Brown’s *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* and will become intimately acquainted with the Pueblo people’s mythology and view of the cosmos in Frank Waters’s *Book of the Hopi*. The course will be capped by Jerry Mander’s *In the Absence of the Sacred: The Failure of Technology and the Survival of the Indian Nations*, a powerful analysis of the contrasts between Western and Native American culture.

Requirements for the course include reading quizzes, one long paper, two short papers, and a final exam. Students interested in learning new and alternative ways of looking at the world, at the human place in the world, at American history, and at preindustrial, earth-centered views of religion and ethics, may be interested in this course.

This course has been approved for English major and minor credit and will satisfy the category in American literature, gender/cultural studies, or popular literature in the major requirements.

For additional information and a tentative textbook list, email Dr. Tom Strawman at Tom.Strawman@mtsu.edu.

Honors Students Earn Lower-Division Certificates

In the spring of 2012, 32 students completed 20 or more Honors hours and received lower-division Certificates of Achievement from the Honors College, according to Karen Demonbreum, administrative assistant. The students represent a wide variety of majors.

From the College of Liberal Arts, eight students reached the 20-hour milestone, including English majors **Shannon N. Laney**, **Joseph A. Stokes**, and **Ashley A. Sweeton**. Anthropology major **Daryl R. Dunn**, global studies majors **Megan R. Rehnborg** and **Courtney A. Rodman**, speech and theatre major **Morgan M.**

Farmer, and international relations major **Robert F. Simcox** received certificates.

Three students from the College of Mass Communication earned certificates: recording industry majors **Sean P. Daniels** and **Victoria K. Laney** and mass communication major **James D. Rucker**.

Four students from the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences reached the milestone: **Gavin S. Dillinger**, a social work major; **Morgan L. Jones**, a nursing major; and psychology majors **Brandon T. Hazlett** and **Jasmine A. Russell**.

From the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, **Byron K. Starks**, an accounting major, and **Lacey J.**

Johnson, an interdisciplinary studies major from the College of Education, received certificates.

Fifteen students from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences earned certificates: physics major **Jonathan W. Herlan**; **Nicodemus J. Myhre**, an aerospace major; biochemistry major **Michael W. Lampley**; **Jin H. Kim**, a science major; **Valisa Senesavath**, a forensic science major; animal science majors **Alyssa R. Greer**, **Kendall E. Martin**, and **Victoria T. Harrison**; **Aaron M. Hauth** and **Trevor S. Nutt**, computer science majors; **Ahmed Abo-Gamiza**, a chemistry major; and biology majors **Joy N. Oduor**, **Amy A. Ridings**, **Emily S. Smith**, and **Logan M. Smith**. [H](#)



Student affiliates of the American Chemical Society (L–R) Sam Mitchell, Miguel Hurtado, and Jamie Taylor with the group's poster at the society's 243rd annual meeting in San Diego this spring. Daniel Gouger, Jacob Basham, Dima Sbenaty, Nisha Patel, and chemistry professor Gary White also attended the meeting, where each student presented research. MTSU's chemistry society received awards for green chemistry and commendable chapter activities.

Members of the Honors Student Association participated in the Big Event Saturday, March 31. Community service participants were (L–R) Thuy Huynh, Charmaine Igot, Daniel Murphy, Ashlin Harris, Jordan Hall, Chad Slaven, Haley Pimental, Mary Catherine Robinson, and Emilie Aslinger.



Honors Students Spotted at **Scholars Day 2012**

(Left to right starting at top)

Jacob Basham, Chemistry

Stacey Bates, Psychology

Katie Bogle, Political Science

Brandon Cathey, Physics

Erica Cathey, Physics

Jordan Dodson, Chemistry

Bryan Donaphon, Chemistry

Adam Emerson, Psychology
and International Relations

Daniel Gouger,
Biochemistry and Spanish

Miguel Hurtado,
Biology and Chemistry

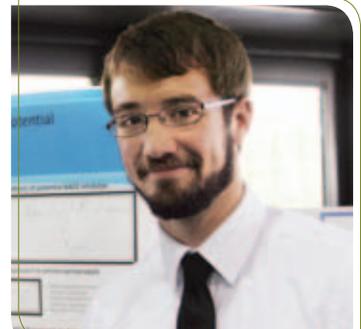
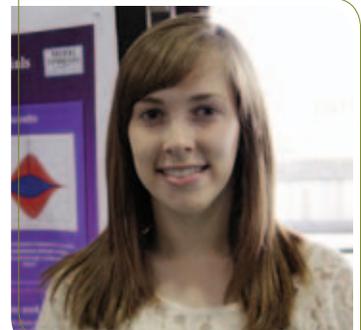
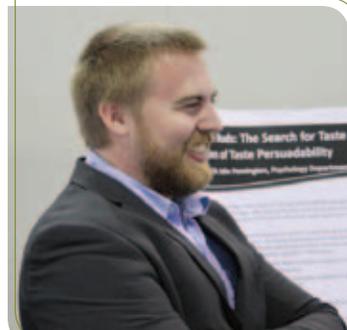
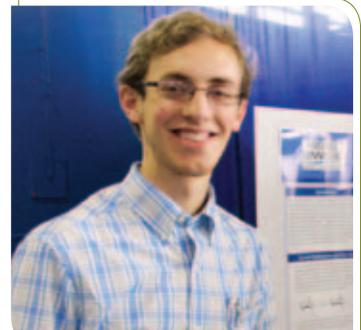
Sam Mitchell, Chemistry

Lauren Rigsby,
Physics and Biology

Dima Sbenaty, Biology

Kathryn Tackett,
Geoscience

Will Shelton, Biology 





1



2



3



4



5



6

President's Day Open House

1 Spring 2012 Honors graduate Katie Bogle answers questions about the Honors College.

2 Honors alumna Chloe Robinson staffs the Admissions Office table.

3 Daniel Gouger, a spring 2012 Honors graduate, talks about the benefits of study abroad.

4 Honors College board of visitors member Mary Lee Barnes talks with homeschooling families about the benefits of the Honors College.

5 Prospective students tour the nursing building.

6 Bonnie McCarty discusses financial aid options with open house guests. [T](#)

STEM Education Caucus:

From the Honors College to the Entire State



Dr. Preston MacDougall, left, Sen. Jim Tracy, and Dr. John Sanders plan for the launch of Tennessee's STEM Education Caucus in December 2009.

The Tennessee General Assembly launched the nation's first state-level Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Caucus January 23 in the Senate Hearing Room. The event included presentations by state and national STEM education leaders, including Sally Pardue, chair of the Tennessee STEM Education Leadership Council, and Eric Fingerhut, vice president for education and STEM learning for the Battelle Memorial Institute, the world's largest nonprofit research and development organization. It was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Preston MacDougall (Chemistry). Video of the entire event was streamed live and watched with particular interest at the Washington D.C. headquarters of the American Chemical Society (ACS) Office of Public Affairs. It has been archived by the General Assembly at http://tnga.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=154&clip_id=4710.

The caucus may have been launched in 2012 from Legislative Plaza, but the idea began in December 2009 in the conference room of the Honors College. John Sanders, a chemist and manager for Eastman Chemical, and MacDougall and Sen. Jim Tracy, the future treasurer and senior cochair of the caucus, respectively, planned the makeup and mission of the caucus during a Skype session with ACS staff in Washington.

The creation of the caucus was spurred in part by recent U.S. Labor Department ten-year employment projections, which show that of the twenty fastest-growing occupations projected for 2014, fifteen require jobseekers to have significant mathematics or science preparation to successfully compete. Key problem-solving skills, an understanding of scientific and mathematical principles, and a working knowledge of technology and computers are critical for most

jobs. Yet today, many Tennessee elementary grade students score below the basic level in science determined by the National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP, also known as the Nation's Report Card.

The Tennessee STEM Education Caucus is a bipartisan group of legislators interested in improving the workforce and college-readiness of Tennessee's students by promoting STEM education across the state at all levels. In addition to Sen. Tracy (R, 16th District), the caucus will be cochaired by Sen. Reginald Tate (D, 33rd District), along with representatives David Hawk (R, 5th District) and Brenda Gilmore (D, 54th District). Other interested legislators were invited to join the caucus, which also has an advisory committee composed of state and federal leaders in STEM education, who will work with the caucus to develop content and organize events. [H](#)

Philip Phillips Goes to Florence

Dr. Philip Phillips, interim associate dean of the University Honors College and professor of English, was invited to the *Conversazioni in Italia: Emerson, Hawthorne, and Poe International Conference*, which was held June 8–10.

The conference, jointly sponsored by the Emerson, Hawthorne, and Poe societies, drew approximately 120 participants from 19 countries and four continents to celebrate and study the works of these three great American writers at La Pietra International Conference and Events Center in Florence, Italy.

Dr. Phillips's paper, "Baudelaire's Poe in Europe," was included in a session called "Re-Imagining Poe: Adaptations and Translations," which also featured papers on the translation and reception of Poe's works into Portuguese in Portugal and Brazil. Drawing upon research conducted while he was a fellow (2010–2012) at the W. T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire and Modern French Studies at Vanderbilt University, Dr. Phillips's presentation examined Poe's reputation and reception in nineteenth-century Europe—particularly France—through Baudelaire's famous essay "Edgar Poe, sa vie et ses ouvrages" and his influential French translations of Poe's works. Digital images of rare books and materials from the Bandy Center underscored Baudelaire's profound devotion to Poe and illustrated the remarkable artistic responses of European writers, artists, and illustrators who were inspired by Baudelaire's translations of Poe's works. Dr. Phillips is creating an online exhibition on Baudelaire's translations of Poe for the Bandy Center.

Dr. Phillips is a member of the board of directors of the Poe Foundation of Boston and a member-at-large of the executive committee of the Poe Studies Association. [M](#)

Clockwise from top: Phillips in Florence, Conference at Villa la Pietra, Poe*, Baudelaire*

*Courtesy of W. T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire and Modern French Studies, Jean and Alexander Heard Library, Vanderbilt University

Pushing Forward

by Jaz Gray

I can still remember the weightlessness and excitement I felt as I listened to the Honors College bell toll for me after I successfully defended my Honors thesis in spring 2010. I knew that my research into media portrayals of underrepresented groups was yet another step in my journey of exploring the impact of media on self-image and society.

My passion for the power of media emerges from a deep love of storytelling that began as a child when I was diagnosed with a rare vascular anomaly called Arteriovenous Malformation or AVM. The physical toll of this birth defect of abnormally connected arteries and veins has included the removal of sections of my face, battles with bleeding, and challenges speaking and eating. At times, the emotional challenges—enduring over 30 procedures, spending 10th and 12th grades in and out of the hospital, and realizing that I would never have a “normal” face—would almost send me down a despairing spiral of depression.

Thankfully, I have always had faith that God has a plan for my life. I’ve had the support of my family and the ability to express my fears and hopes through writing. During my undergraduate career at MTSU, I represented the College of Mass Communication in the SGA, participated in the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program, worked my way up to editor-in-chief of *Collage*, and collected hundreds of new pairs of pajamas from our active student body for my nonprofit, Jaz’s Jammies. I was surrounded by professors and fellow students who accepted me (deformity, scars, and

all) and gave me the encouragement I needed to continue to excel. Even though I was still dealing with medical concerns related to my AVM, I was able to study abroad in Ghana and England and present my media research in China. Due in large part to these academic and extracurricular pursuits, I was blessed with a full fellowship to study television and film production at the S. I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University.

I started to get letters from people I had never met telling me that **my journey had inspired them to continue pushing forward and to share their own stories.**

When I started at Syracuse in summer 2010, my fire for telling powerful stories and uplifting people had already been kindled. But I worried that these new professors and classmates would not be as welcoming and supportive as those at MTSU. As a survivor of one of the most destructive vascular defects in the world, I have spent my life overcoming the odds and sharing my journey. Still, I wasn’t sure how I would be perceived. But, from the first day, I was able to show that what defined me most was not my deformity but my God-given purpose and my heart, open to learning and growth.

A few days after finishing my master’s in August 2011, I had to go back home to Memphis and embark on a series of three back-to-back medical procedures. At first, I felt a tinge of disappointment that, while my classmates were making moves to L.A. and New York City, for some reason I was back in Tennessee where I started. Well, the day before the second procedure, my surgeon, world-renowned physician James Suen, informed me that he was putting together a “super team” of doctors at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and Arkansas Children’s Hospital to find a cure for AVM before he retires. This news helped me to see that God may not answer my prayers the way I plan, but if I am patient, He most certainly has a plan for how He can use my life (experiences, education, and relationships) as an answered prayer for others.

In January of 2012, I began producing a film called *More Than Skin Deep* to highlight the incredible stories of some other AVM patients and document this super team’s urgent quest for a cure. I started a campaign to raise \$5,000 towards production of the documentary. I will admit, before the campaign started, I had a moment when my stomach was somersaulting with anxiety. But I knew I had overcome too many obstacles and received too many blessings to succumb to doubt. I forced myself to shut out the negative thinking.

The response was overwhelming. I received emails from different parts of the country from people who had heard about the fundraising campaign and wanted to get

involved. AVM patients and other survivors of vascular malformations in my own community also began to emerge. They said that knowing that someone was fighting to bring their stories to the public gave them courage and showed them that they were not alone. Doctors also told me that my film would help them gain the awareness needed to push for expensive research funding essential to finding a cure for AVM. After six weeks, with the help of family members, friends, and supporters I have never met, we surpassed the original goal and raised over \$10,000.

I had already planned to move to L.A. after healing from my 32nd procedure in order to pursue my

goal of becoming an executive at a film studio or TV network. So, once I got settled in Tinseltown, I focused most of my energy and time on getting an entry-level position in the industry. But I had interview after interview without landing anything. I eventually saw this as a sign that I could not just put the documentary on the back burner to focus on other dreams. I realized that I had to make the film more of a priority. Since then, God has blessed me to meet others who are intrigued by the topic of AVM and believe in my vision. We are now editing the short film version of the documentary. We are also partnering with coproducers to acquire the funding and resources

to complete the full-length film and release it internationally. Even though the documentary is at the beginning of the production process, it has gained a lot of local press throughout the country. We have a growing Facebook community and a blog on our website, Morethanskindeep.me, featuring inspiring Q&As with AVM patients.

I've learned that as students, alumni, and supporters of the Honors College, we can be confident that there is always a purpose behind our life's obstacles. We can continue pushing forward and be motivated to see our challenges as opportunities to encourage others. [\[i\]](#)



Jasmine Gray, a 2010 Honors College graduate, received a B.S. in mass communication, was editor in chief of Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression and was the winner of the MTSU President's Award and the USA Today All-USA College Academic First Team.

photos: J. Intintoli

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Amanda Terranova ('13)
Mass Communication



Teaching English Abroad: A Graduate's Journey

by Jennifer Johnson | Jennifer is a spring 2012 Honors graduate with a degree in psychology. She was a Buchanan Fellow, editor in chief of *Collage*, and vice president of Omicron Delta Kappa.

Having just graduated from the MTSU Honors College, the opportunity to teach abroad presented itself at an opportune time. I was invited to participate in the Kosciuszko Foundation's Teaching English In Poland program, which is a language camp for middle and high school students that focuses on the arts. Thanks to the Honors College and its contributors, I received the financial help I needed to be able to seize this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and traveled to Poland in late June.

My contribution to this program was teaching a studio art class. We began our abbreviated study of media with a charcoal still life drawing and moved on to various paints, colored pencils, and pen and ink. The high school students told us that they had never used charcoal in art before, and I feel that introducing them to such a flexible and forgiving medium first off helped to instill some confidence in their artistic abilities that they otherwise might not have had.

In light of the harmonious historical interactions between Poland and the U.S., our efforts toward aiding in English language acquisition seem to contribute to a continued sense of collaboration between their country and ours.

My favorite part of this program was being able to interact with the kids every day and being able slowly to acquire knowledge of their personalities and their culture. The students were very grateful for instruction and receptive to artistic critiques and suggestion. One boy in particular who was extraordinarily artistically inclined was always full of odd requests and comments in reference to his work. We were drawing a still life of a suitcase, and he asked for permission to put wheels on his suitcase and to put it on a roller coaster track. We conceded to his improvisation and consequently witnessed the creation of the most original work driven by a passion for art that our classroom had seen all summer.

Overall, I believe that I learned just as much about myself during my time in Poland as I did about the culture and history of the region. I learned that in spite of my previous doubts I really do enjoy teaching at the high school level. It seems to me that in order to successfully convey information to people or to instruct them, one must first respect and understand them as individuals. I believe the students were very receptive to us because we treated them as equals and encouraged them as we would have wanted to be encouraged had we been in their position. [H](#)

Meet Members of the **Board of Visitors**



James H. Bailey III

Vice Chair
President, Johnson and Bailey Architects

Jim Bailey is a founding shareholder in Johnson and Bailey Architects, which

has clients in Rutherford, Williamson, Marshall, and Sumner counties in Tennessee and also serves National Healthcare Corporation (NHC), the largest provider of assisted living and nursing care in the southeastern United States. Bailey and his firm have received recognition for outstanding architectural design from the Tennessee School Boards Association, the National

Masonry Institute, and the Murfreesboro Architectural and Zoning Society.

Bailey completed pre-architecture studies at Central Michigan University and later earned a bachelor's in architecture from Ball State University. He has served as treasurer, vice president, and president of the middle Tennessee chapter of the American Institute of Architects and as a board director for the Tennessee chapter.

Bailey has served on several boards for the City of Murfreesboro and on the Middle Tennessee State University Industrial Studies advisory board, the MidSouth Bank advisory board, and the Union Planters Bank board of directors.

Debra H. Hopkins

Regional Vice President,
Community and Learning Solutions, HealthTeacher

Debra Hopkins earned a B.S. in mass communication from MTSU and graduated with University Honors. A French minor at MTSU, she won a graduate fellowship to study in France. In 1991, she earned an M.Ed. in reading and ESL at Texas Woman's University. Early in her career as a teacher, she was named ESL Teacher of the Year for the Dallas area. Later, she joined the faculty of the Instituto de Estudios Norteamericanos in Barcelona, where she taught EFL (English as a Foreign Language) to students of all ages.

As regional vice president/community and learning solutions for HealthTeacher, she serves as a liaison between hospital partners and school districts, supporting the development and implementation of health education initiatives across the southeast. The



HealthTeacher curriculum resource (www.HealthTeacher.com) is used in over 10,000

schools and in all 50 states and is typically underwritten by hospitals and provided at no cost to school districts.

Hopkins has extensive experience as an educator, consultant, and curriculum developer. She is frequently invited to conduct workshops at state, regional, and international conferences. Her workshops for teachers have been given in over 30 states plus Canada, Mexico, Spain, Dubai, Bahrain, Oman, and Qatar.



H. Lee Martin

Industrial Engineer

H. Lee Martin earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of

Tennessee and received the highest student honor, the Torchbearer. He received a master's in mechanical engineering from Purdue University and a Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee, earned while he was employed at Oak Ridge National Laboratory as a development engineer.

He has won two R&D 100 Awards for product development and a NASA Small Business Innovation Research Technology of the Year Award. The National Society of

Professional Engineers recognized him as National Young Engineer in 1986. He founded the company TeleRobotics International Inc., which went public on the NASDAQ exchange as iPIX in 1999. After leaving iPIX, he served as the first executive director of the Tennessee Technology Development Corporation.

Dr. Martin holds 21 U.S. patents. He has numerous publications about robotics, image processing, and electric vehicle research. He edited the collection *Teleoperated Robotics in Hazardous Environments* for the Society of Manufacturing Engineers and wrote the book *Techonomics* (CRC Press, Taylor and Francis Group, 2007). He heads the Engineering Entrepreneurship program at the University of Tennessee and is president of Mercy Health Foundation of East Tennessee. [H](#)

An **ACE** in the Hole *continued from page 43*

you live in two worlds, both as a member of an elite group worldwide who get to complete college but with roots where people don't go to college. There are sometimes misunderstandings or ignorance and sometimes jealousy about that. It's not uncommon for MTSU Honors students to be living that condition.

I have a curiosity about people's opinions about higher education. There are a lot of stereotypes. There's the nerd stereotype. The evil scientist stereotype. He's the bad guy in every single kid movie. These days think Phineas and Ferb's

evil Dr. Doofenshmirtz. It's correlational at best, but it makes you wonder when little kids see this do they automatically assume all scientists are bad? Because if so, I've become the bad guy from my childhood! But I'm not a bad guy. My work attempted to understand the roots of Parkinson's disease. So it's a recurring thing in my life trying to understand why we stereotype and pigeonhole people in higher education and why academics have such a bad reputation sometimes with the general public. [H](#)

Class Notes {students}

STUDENT AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, RECOGNITION, SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Special Recognition and Achievements

Kaela Armbrister (Mass Communication) was featured in a February 29 *Sidelines* cover story, "Express Yourself! Through Fashion." She also wrote a feature article, "Shake It, Sugaree's" that appeared in the same issue.

Katie Bogle (Political Science) received the University President's Award this spring.

Kaitlin Beck (Economics) and **Samantha Farish** (Political Science) were chosen from more than 200 applicants for two of ten new positions at LeadAmerica, a program at Stanford University that trains students to teach mock trial in high schools. The program is designed to give students career insights into the field of law by introducing them to mock trial and is endorsed by the American Mock Trial Association. Beck spent fall 2011 studying in France, has played both attorney and witness roles on MTSU mock trial teams, and completed an Honors thesis. She was on the mock trial team that finished third in the National Championship Tournament in Minneapolis in April. Farish was one of the captains of that very successful team.

Erica Cathey (Physics) tied for third place for the College of Basic and Applied Sciences at Scholars Week with her research poster "Quantum Dot Synthesis."

Jered Chua (Industrial and Organizational Psychology) is participating in an 18-month mission trip to Kenya through the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She is providing humanitarian aid and teaching children to read.

Adam Emerson (Psychology and International Relations) received the University Provost's Award this spring and the Jack Justin Turner Award from the Department of

Political Science at the College of Liberal Arts awards reception in April.

David Hull (Music), a Buchanan Fellow, was selected as a URECA scholar this spring by the Undergraduate Research Center. He was also selected for membership in Pi Kappa Lambda Music Honors Society and was recognized for his Outstanding Achievement in Musical Composition at the spring College of Liberal Arts awards reception.

Miguel Hurtado (Chemistry) placed second during Scholars Week for the College of Basic and Applied Sciences with his research poster presentation "Analysis and Fermentation of the Sugars Derived from Kenaf Pulp."

Tandra Martin (International Relations) was selected to be a 2012–2013 MTSU Student Ambassador.

Christopher Merchant (Mass Communication) received first place during Scholars Week for the College of Mass Communication with his project "Wrecked." He also was awarded a Christopher Nathan Bell Memorial Scholarship in April from the School of Journalism.

Julie Murrell (Political Science) attended "America's First Principles of Freedom," a seminar sponsored by the Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI) held on the campus of Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, July 17–21. She was among 15 students from throughout the region who examined primary source materials under faculty leadership.

Anna Neal (Biology) wrote an article on her experiences in the Honors College for *Jonathan's Arrow*, the Middle Tennessee Home Education Association newsletter.

Lauren Rigsby (Physics, Biology) was one of five people in the nation to receive a 2012 American Association of Physicists in Medicine Undergraduate Research Fellowship. She spent the summer conducting research at the Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center.



Paul W. Martin, Sr. Honors Building—Constructed in 2004 with significant philanthropic support.

CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

As part of the MTSU Centennial Campaign, the Honors College is seeking to expand support for scholarships, student research, and domestic and international travel experiences.

To make a gift, go to mtsu.edu/supportMT

For additional information about scholarships, endowments, or supporting the Honors College through your estate plans contact Nick Perlick, nick.perlick@mtsu.edu, (615) 898-2502.



Amber Ryder (Anthropology) presented a poster, "Linking Linear Enamel Hypoplasia to Cultural Pressures in Late Mississippian Populations," at the 24th annual meeting of Current Research in Tennessee Archaeology in Nashville January 28.

Kathryn Tackett (Geosciences) received the Gem and Mineral Award at the College of Liberal Arts Awards Reception this spring and won third place for the college during Scholars Week with her poster "Using Thecamoebians as Indicators of Environmental Change within Todd's Lake, Murfreesboro, Tennessee."

Jake Verhoeff (Social Work) received the University Robert LaLance Award this spring and was accepted as one of 15 new McNair scholars for summer 2012 research. He was also selected for *Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities* for 2012.

Leland Waite (Aerospace) was hired by the MTSU Aerospace Department to work as a flight instructor in February.

Honors College Awards

SEE PAGE 12

College Awards and Scholarships

COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

David Antonelli and **Laura Morgan** (both Biology)—Elliott Dawson/BioVentures Biotechnology Scholarships.

Joe S. Ballard (Mathematical Sciences)—Miss Tommie Reynolds Mathematics Scholarship; Frances Stubblefield Calculus II Award.

Jacob Basham, Samuel Mitchell, and **Ruben Tavakalov** (Chemistry) and **Daniel Gouger** (Biochemistry)—Albert L. and Ethel C. Smith Pre-Medical Scholarship. (Basham has also been selected as a new McNair scholar.)

Brett Bornhoft (Aerospace)—Colonel Jean Jack Aerospace Scholarship.

Jordan Dodson (Chemistry, Mathematics)—L/P Drs. Elizabeth and Creighton Rhea #1 Pre-Medicine Scholarship.

Bryan M. Donaphon (Chemistry)—Dan D. Scott Chemistry Scholarship.

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Chris Ehemann (Physics)—Faculty Achievement Award in Physics.

Austin B. Ferrell and **Pedro J. Reyes** (both Computer Science)—Outstanding Freshmen.

Rachael B. Gillaspie (Mathematical Sciences)—Faculty-Alumni Mathematics Award.

Rachel Hart (Biology)—Philip M. Mathis Outstanding Junior Award and Scholarship.

Aaron M. Hauth (Computer Science)—Mack Thweatt Computer Science Scholarship.

Bradley Hornick (Aerospace)—Excellence in Aviation Scholarship; Metro Nashville Airport Authority Aviation Scholarship.

Miguel Hurtado (Chemistry)—L/P Virginia McCullough Pre-Medicine Scholarship.

Kenneth Merryman (Aerospace)—AOPA Scholarship (technology concentration).

Daniel Murphy (Physics)—Modern Physics Award for Excellence.

Nathan Reale (Physics)—Physics and Astronomy Faculty Scholarship Award; Harold S. Spraker Senior Mathematics Award; Outstanding Senior, Department of Computer Science.

Katelyn Stringer (Physics)—Physics and Astronomy Alumni Scholarship.

Peter D. Schwartz (Mathematical Sciences)—Frances Stubblefield Calculus II Award.

Chad M. Slaven (Chemistry)—Aaron and Clara Todd Pre-Dental Scholarship.

Laura Vo (Chemistry)—Walter Chitwood Pre-Dental Scholarship.

Bret R. Wiggins (Computer Science)—J. C. and Judy Hankins Scholarship.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Lindsay Gates (History)—Senior Achievement Award.

Matthew Hibdon (History)—Outstanding Student in Leadership Studies; Ernest Hooper Scholarship.

Tyler Whitaker (Anthropology)—Senior Honor Award for Academic Excellence.

Bonnie Williams (English)—Virginia Derryberry Memorial Scholarship; William Connelly Writing Award.

COLLEGE OF MASS COMMUNICATION

Alex Gibson (Mass Communication)—Dorothy and Donald Line Scholarship; Electronic Media Communication Scholarship.

Emil J. Hirsch (Mass Communication)—John Seigenthaler Scholarship (School of Journalism); inducted into Kappa Tau Alpha Honor Society.

Brandee R. Kent (Mass Communication)—Weazer Farwell Scholarship (School of Journalism); inducted into Kappa Tau Alpha Honor Society.

Emily P. Kubis (Mass Communication)—John Seigenthaler Scholarship (School of Journalism); inducted into Kappa Tau Alpha Honor Society.

Amy Parks (Recording Industry)—Outstanding Audio Production Student.

Chris Ranker (Mass Communication, English)—Heather Uffelman Memorial Scholarship (Electronic Media Communication Department).

Karen M. Yates (Mass Communication)—Alice Mackey Annual Award (School of Journalism).

Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity Scholars

Cameron Crawford (Biology)

Mary J. Hayden (Biology)

Jonathan Herlan (Physics)

Kathryn Holden (Psychology)

Kelsey Wells (Mass Communication)

Class Notes {faculty and staff}

At the College of Liberal Arts awards reception in April, **Sonia Hedgepeth** (Foreign Languages and Literatures) received an award for 25 years of service to the University, **Robert Holtzclaw** (English) was named an Outstanding Advisor, and **Jim Williams** (History, Gore Center) received a 15-year service award.

Two faculty members attended the 24th annual meeting of Current Research in Tennessee Archaeology, held in Nashville on January 28. **Tanya Peres** (Sociology and Anthropology) presented a poster, "The Exploration of Turtle Shell Rattle Use in the Mississippian Period." Andrew Brown was copresenter. **Shannon Hodge** (Sociology and Anthropology) presented "The Henry County Skull: Skeletal, Cross-Cultural, and Iconographic Examinations of a Unique Tennessee Artifact." Fellow presenters were MTSU student Tiffany Saul and Aaron Deter-Wolf of the Tennessee Division of Archaeology.

Diane Miller (Mathematical Sciences) copresented two papers with doctoral student Brandon Banes at the International Congress on Mathematical Education (ICME), which is held every four years under the auspices of the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction. The twelfth congress was held in Seoul, South Korea,

July 8–15. The aim of the congress is to present the current state of mathematics education research and the practice

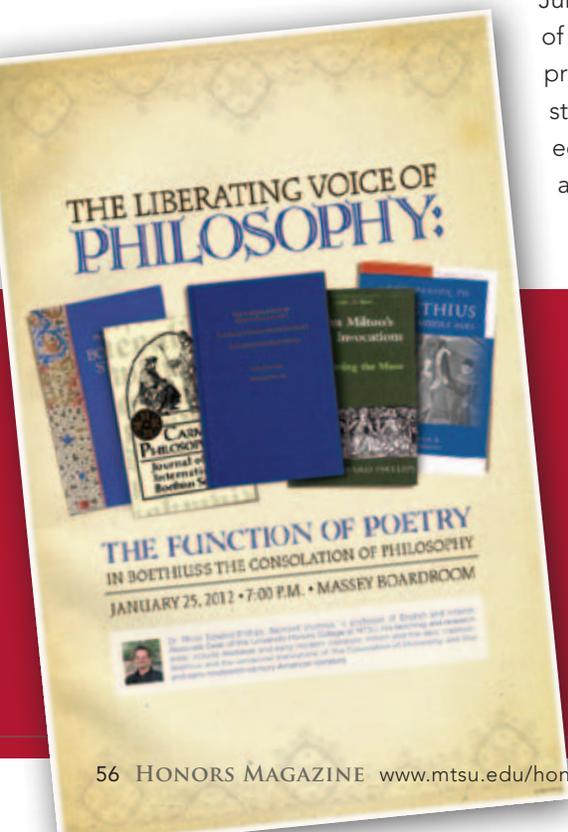
of mathematics teaching at all levels. Miller and Banes presented "Teaching Pre-service Elementary Teachers Mathematics through Problem-based Learning and Problem Solving" and "The Role of Problem-based Learning and Problem Solving in the Mathematical Preparation of Pre-service Elementary Teachers."

Bob Pondillo (Electronic Media Communication) received the LGBTQI Advocate Award from the Intercultural and Diversity Affairs Center at the MTSU True Blue Leadership annual awards banquet in April. His independent film *The Miracles on Honey Bee Hill* has been chosen as an official selection by several film festivals across the nation. The 23-minute film was screened at the Philadelphia Independent Film Festival on June 22 and at the Litchfield Hills Film Festival in Torrington, Conn., on June 30. It won the Best Achievement-Short Screenplay award at the 2010 SoCal Film Festival in Huntington Beach, Calif.

Bob Spires (Electronic Media Communication) received a Faculty Service Award for 25 years of service at the College of Mass Communication awards ceremony in April.

John R. Vile (Honors) was host of the *Southern Standard*-WCPI 91.3 candidate forum July 9–10 in McMinnville. The program aired live on WCPI and was devoted to candidates in the August 2 Warren County general election and the Tennessee General Assembly and U.S. House of Representatives elections. [H](#)

Philip Phillips (Honors) was named the 2012 Distinguished Visiting Scholar in Philosophy at Belmont University, where he delivered a public lecture, "The Liberating Voice of Philosophy," to a large audience on January 25. Phillips was also featured in a *Daily News Journal* story Sunday, January 29. The story, written by Drew Ruble and which also appears in the spring issue of the *MTSU Magazine*, highlights Dr. Phillips's position on the Poe Square Public Art Committee in Boston.



2011–2012 Honors Council members included (front, left to right) Larry Burris, John Vile, Alfred Lutz, (second row) Katie Bogle, Joey Gray, Kaylene Gebert, Bob Pondillo, (third row) Donald Snead, Mark Owens, Leland Waite, (back) Philip Phillips, Tony Eff, and Craig Rice. Not pictured are Teresa Davis, Norma Dunlap, Rebecca Seipelt, and Laura Clippard.



Dean John R. Vile, right, presents a personalized gavel to 2011–2012 Honors Council chair Alfred Lutz.

Welcome to
Bahrain

A visiting Fulbright Scholar in the Department of Mathematical Sciences last academic year, Dr. Thuraya Abdulla of the University of Bahrain presented “Pearl of the Gulf: A View of Bahrain” in the Honors amphitheater on February 28.



Class Notes {alumni and friends}

Eldridge Alexander (Mass Communication, 2012) is working for Google in Ann Arbor, Michigan, as a triage support technician.



Don Ash (Honors College Board of Visitors) has been appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court as one of four senior judges in the state. Ash stepped down September 1 from the bench of the 16th Judicial District, where he sat for 18 years, to take the new post.

Keta Barnes (Honors College Board of Visitors) was honored at the eighth Napier-Looby Bar Foundation banquet and awards program held at the Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel in February, where she received a 2012 J. C. Napier Trailblazer Award. Elected as presiding judge of the Smyrna Municipal/General Sessions Court in 2006, she became the city's first African-American elected official and its youngest-ever. She was also the first black female judge elected in Rutherford County.

Jolene Barto (Mass Communication, 2009) is working as an internal communications coordinator at Thomas Nelson Publishers. She administers and maintains a website called BookSneeze (www.booksneeze.com), which gives free books to bloggers who write reviews for the books they read. She also writes press releases and articles for Thomas Nelson's in-house magazine.

Stacey C. Bates (Psychology, 2012) is attending the University of Tennessee–Knoxville and is pursuing an M.S. in social work.

Troy Berry (Mass Communication, 2012) is attending graduate school at MTSU, studying leisure and sport management.

Katie Bogle (Political Science, 2012) is working as a legal assistant for Schultz & Trombly in Washington, D.C. She handles administrative aspects of 40–50 personal injury and medical malpractice lawsuits at a time.

Dani Westerman Bryson (Political Science, 2009) received a J.D. with high honors from the University of Tennessee College of Law in May. She worked on the *Tennessee Law Review*, was a member of the National Trial Team, and was elected to the Order of the Barristers. She is now a prosecutor for the 23rd Judicial District Drug Task Force.

Judge Keta J. Barnes of the Smyrna Municipal/General Sessions Court (right) chats with retired U.S. Supreme Court justice Sandra Day O'Connor before her lecture at the Windham Lecture on February 8. Barnes, a member of the Honors College board of visitors, was one of many local judges and politicians who attended the lecture.



Jordan Cox (Chemistry) began graduate coursework this fall and is working towards his doctorate in physical chemistry at the University at Buffalo–State University of New York.

Janina Crenshaw (Political Science, 2012) is attending Howard Law School in Washington, D.C., and hopes to qualify for the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps.

Holly Cunningham (Recording Industry, 2012) works for the direct-to-fan and social media marketing firm Tiny Jetpack (www.tinyjetpack.com), where she maintains and develops musician and brand social networks and helps create and execute marketing and promotion plans. She is also a freelance web designer.

Adam Emerson (Psychology and International Relations, 2012) was accepted at Stony Brook University and Washington State University and plans to attend Washington State, where he was accepted into the Ph.D. program in political science, after teaching for a year in Izhevsk, Russia through the Fulbright Scholarship program. His concentrations are international relations and political psychology.

Lindsay Gates Paturalski (History, 2012) has been accepted into the history M.A. program at Boston College.

Amy M. Goldstein (Anthropology and History, 2012) was accepted by the M.A. anthropology programs at the University of South Carolina and the University of Alabama. She chose South Carolina.

Daniel Gouger (Biochemistry) received a Fulbright Scholarship to do research in Spain.

Jasmine Gray (Mass Communication, 2010) received an M.A. in TV, radio and film from Syracuse University in December 2011.

Matthew Hibdon (History, 2012) was awarded one of 20 Omicron Delta Kappa Foundation Scholarships this summer and was nominated for the General Russell E. Dougherty ODK National Leader of the Year Award. On July 28, he presented “Ready, Set, Lead: Effective Strategies for a Clay Grant Application” at the Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Summit and Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. Matthew is attending graduate school at MTSU.

Hannah Hopkins (Organizational Communication, 2012) is attending graduate school at MTSU, studying health and human performance.

In Memoriam: William H. Holland Jr.

William Holmes Holland Jr. (Bill) was an English professor at Middle Tennessee State University until his retirement in 1993. While at MTSU, he was selected as an outstanding Honors teacher.

Holland was born June 10, 1930, and died January 23, 2012, at his home in Bastrop, Texas. He was born in Rosedale, Mississippi and attended Millsaps College in Jackson, where he was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa leadership honor society. He received a master's



degree from the University of Mississippi and a doctorate in English from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. Dr. Holland was a published poet, and his writings enjoyed critical acclaim from the writers' organizations in which he was active.

He is survived by his wife, Anne S. Holland of Bastrop; a son, James E. Holland (Anna) of Walls, Miss.; daughters Mary T. Hatcliff (Pat) of Murfreesboro; Carolyne Raney (Eric) of Louisville, Ky.; and D'Arcy H. Simpson (Chuck) of Murfreesboro; daughter-in-law Patricia K. Holland of Murfreesboro; stepson W. M. (Matt) Holmes (Donna); sister Shirley H. Carley (C. T.) of Starkville, Miss.; 11 grandchildren; and 2 great grandchildren.

A family memorial service was held February 11. Interment was in Memorial Park Cemetery in Memphis.

Class Notes {alumni and friends}

Gretchen Jenkins (Political Science, 2008) has passed the bar exam for Illinois, New York, and Tennessee and is working as a court attorney in New York City.

Jennifer Johnson (Psychology, 2012) was awarded one of 20 Omicron Delta Kappa Foundation Scholarships this summer and was selected for a four-week term as a teaching assistant for the Kosciuszko Foundation Teaching English in Poland Program (TEIP) this summer.

Philip Mathis (professor emeritus, Biology; former Honors College dean) had a poetry book, *Wandering in the Woods* (Xlibris Corporation), published this summer. It is available as a trade book and an eBook. The poetry included in *Wandering in the Woods* captures images of woodland ecosystems and the cycles of nature.

Ed Maupin

(Murfreesboro Rotary Club) was named Rotarian of the Year for district 6760 this spring. He assisted the Honors College on many occasions by nominating students for Rotary scholarships.

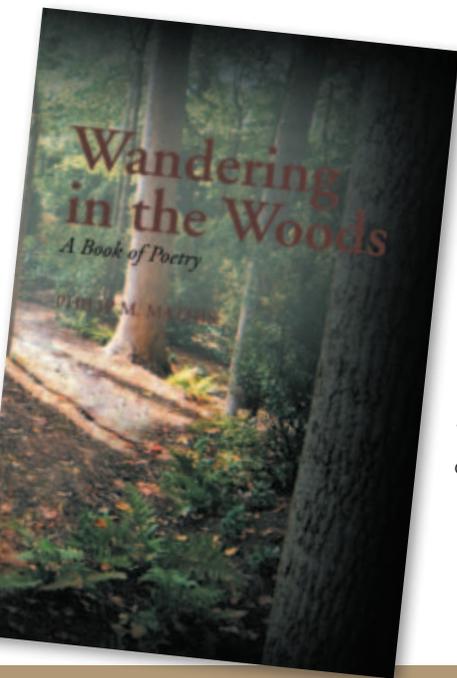


Taffy O'Neal (English, 2011) has been granted a graduate assistantship in the MTSU English Department and is seeking an M.A. in English. She is also working in the University Writing Lab.

Haley Pimental (Chemistry, 2012) is studying biology in graduate school at MTSU.

Nathan Reale (Computer Science and Mathematics, 2012) is seeking an M.S. in computer science at MTSU.

Shane Reeves (Honors College Board of Visitors) and Rick Sain, owners of the Reeves-Sain family of medical services, were named the 2011 Business People of the Year by the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce in January.



In Memoriam: Roy Burkle Martin

Roy Burkle Martin, uncle of Paul W. Martin Jr. and H. Lee Martin, was born in Memphis on November 10, 1913, and died March 9, 2012. Martin was the brother of Paul W. Martin Sr. and was an occasional visitor to the Honors College. He was initiated as a charter member of the Middle Tennessee State University Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa honor society on April 30, 2010.

Martin was a 1935 mechanical engineering graduate of the University of Tennessee–Knoxville. He served as an instructor in the Army Air Corps

Ground School during World War II. For most of his career, he was a specialist in HVAC with the consulting firm Allen & Hoshall in Memphis. He was also an entrepreneur, founding and leading Roy B. Martin Consulting Engineers for five years.

He is survived by a grandson, R. Burkle Martin III, nephew John Martin (Memphis), nephew Paul W. Martin Jr. (Knoxville) and nephew H. Lee Martin (Knoxville).

A graveside service was held at Memphis Memorial Gardens March 12.

Chloe Robinson (Family and Consumer Studies, 2011) began working for MTSU's Admissions Office as a counselor last December. She is assigned to upper east Tennessee counties and approximately 70 schools. This fall, she is traveling to east Tennessee for college fairs and to schools on recruiting visits. Chloe is a member of the Junior League, the BRAA, and the Nashville ZTA alumnae chapter.

Sheila Umayam (Professional Science, 2007) graduated with an M.S. in nursing from Vanderbilt University School of Nursing's Pediatric Primary Care program in August. Earlier this year, she was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau, the honor society of nursing, and is second author, along with Vanderbilt's Center for Quality Aging colleagues, on an article in the *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*. Sheila plans to pursue a doctorate at Vanderbilt while working in a pediatric clinic.

Virginia Vile (Political Science, 2002) is working as an assistant commonwealth attorney for the city of Newport News, Virginia.



Joseph Quarles (English, 2012) is interning with the Social Security Disability Advocate's Office. In the spring, he was awarded the Disabled Student Services Victory Award by Dr. Sidney A. McPhee.

Andrew Willoughby

(Aerospace, 2012) is working for Corporate Flight Management in Smyrna, flying corporate aircraft.

Anna Yacovone

(International Relations) received a Fulbright Scholarship to teach English in Laos.

Karen Yates

(Public Relations, 2012) is seeking an M.B.A. at MTSU. [i](#)



Honors College graduates Austin Purvis (Political Science, 2010) and Dani Westerman Bryson (Political Science, 2009), both former members of the MTSU Mock Trial team, are the University of Tennessee College of Law 2012 Ray Jenkins Intramural Mock Trial Competition champions. Austin was also named Best Attorney in the competition.

2011 CONTRIBUTOR Honor Roll

The Honors College deeply appreciates all the friends who have contributed to its success in countless ways. Philanthropic support has been integral to the college's history, most notably through the construction of our beautiful building. We are honored to recognize those who have made giving to the college a priority in 2011.

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