

HONORS

Middle Tennessee State University *Edition*



MIDDLE TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY

HONOR | COMMITMENT | INTEGRITY | DISCIPLINE | FAITH | CURIOSITY | CHARACTER | CREATIVITY | FALL 2011

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From the Dean's Desk

I hope that most readers of this issue of Honors Edition have already had the opportunity to participate in one or more events related to MTSU's Centennial. In addition to helping with the publication of a book of poetry, *Time and Tradition*, edited by Dr. Phil Mathis, the Honors College played a major part in a book being edited by Dr. Jan Leone called *Middle Tennessee State University: A Centennial Legacy* by sponsoring a lecture series that featured many first-time presentations. The book will include a specific chapter, written by Dr. Mathis, on the history of Honors at MTSU.



Other former deans and directors continue to garner accolades: Dr. June Hall McCash won the Georgia Author of the Year Award for her first novel, *Almost to Eden*, and Dr. Ron Messier continues to uncover fascinating artifacts at his archaeological digs in Morocco. Dr. J. P. Montgomery is offering lectures on Walt Whitman, Robert Frost, Dylan Thomas, and Theodore Roethke as part of the Adventures in Learning program.

This has been a banner year for the Honors College. For the second successive year, two students (Kimberly Yarborough and Patrick Pratt) received Fulbright Scholarships for study abroad. Also, 2010-11 saw two MTSU science students (Evan Craig and Robert Ehemann) qualify for Goldwater Awards (with Lauren Rigsby receiving an honorable mention), the first time that has happened in a single year. The Honors College recently produced the first print issue of *Scientia et Humanitas: A Journal of Student Research* and is already busily recruiting submissions for the next issue. We are proud to note the contribution of Paul W. Martin Jr. for supporting this and other Honors publications this Centennial year.

Associate Dean Scott Carnicom received a distinguished ACE Fellowship Award to spend a year shadowing top administrators at Ohio's prestigious Kenyon University. Dr. Philip Phillips, of the English Department, has stepped in to take his place for the year and has been busy recruiting students for the Honors College.

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CRAIG, EHEMANN WIN Goldwater Scholarships

Two MTSU students were among eight statewide and 275 nationwide recipients of 2011 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships. Another MTSU student received an honorable mention, one of five in Tennessee.

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education program announced this spring that **Evan Matthew Craig** and **Robert Christopher Ehemann** were winners and that **Lauren A. Rigsby** received an honorable mention.

Craig, a junior Buchanan Fellow from Arlington, Tennessee, is majoring in biology. His career goals are to earn a Ph.D. in microbiology and to do research in immunology and bacteriology. He received a two-year Goldwater Scholarship.

Ehemann, a junior from Tullahoma, Tennessee, who is majoring in physics and mathematics, received a one-year scholarship for tuition, fees, and room and board. Chris plans to get a Ph.D. in theoretical astrophysics and to research exotic objects like neutron stars and black holes.

Rigsby, a senior Buchanan Fellow from Rockvale, Tennessee, is majoring in biology and physics. She plans to get a degree in medical physics and do research in radiation oncology.

The Goldwater Foundation is a federally endowed agency that was established November 14, 1986. The scholarship program, honoring former senator Barry M. Goldwater of Arizona, was designed to foster and encourage outstanding students to

pursue careers in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering. The Goldwater Scholarship is the premier undergraduate award of its type in these fields.

The Goldwater Scholars were selected on the basis of academic merit from a field of 1,095 mathematics, science, and engineering students who were nominated by the faculties of colleges and universities nationwide. One hundred seventy of the scholars are men, 105 are women, and virtually



University leaders congratulate three MTSU students who recently received recognition from the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship program. From left are Honors College dean John R. Vile, Goldwater Scholarship recipient Chris Ehemann, Goldwater honorable mention winner Lauren Rigsby, Goldwater Scholarship winner Evan Craig, Undergraduate Fellowships Office coordinator Laura Clippard, and Basic and Applied Sciences dean Tom Cheatham.

all intend to obtain Ph.D.s. Twenty-four scholars are mathematics majors, 194 are science-related majors, 52 are majoring in engineering, and 5 are computer science majors. Many have dual majors in various mathematics, science, engineering, and computer disciplines.

From the Dean's Desk cont.

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Centennials are often occasions for serious gift giving. Don and Carolyn Midgett have already designated money for a Centennial Scholarship to support an Honors student. Other alumni, friends, and board members have given generously with the Centennial celebrations in mind. A number of persons have donated to scholarships honoring Dr. Richard Hannah of the Jennings A. Jones College of Business and Dr. Tom Berg of the College of Mass Communication. Both passed away this year, and they are deeply missed.

I continue to be very proud of the Honors College. Michelle Crouch published an article in the September 2011 issue of *Reader's Digest* titled "Ten Things Every Parent Should Know about College," which summarizes the conclusions of a book on higher education by Claudia Dreifus and Andrew Hacker. In the last point Dreifus says, "**Honors Colleges at public universities can offer as fine an education as the Ivy League.**" Crouch quotes Dreifus as saying "We met students in . . . honors colleges who got into Harvard and other elite schools but said that they didn't want to burden their parents with that kind of expense. Now that's a smart kid."

This sentiment fits nicely with the mission of the MTSU Honors College, which is to provide an Ivy-League-type education to students within the setting of a public university.

—John Vile, Dean
University Honors College ●



Paul Martin Jr. visited the Honors College July 29 and made a generous donation to the college in support of its Centennial publications.

CONTINUED Goldwater from page 3

Goldwater Scholars have impressive academic qualifications that garner the attention of prestigious postgraduate fellowship programs. Recent Goldwater Scholars have been awarded 77 Rhodes Scholarships (including 4 for 2011), 108 Marshall Awards, and numerous other distinguished fellowships.

MTSU's scholarships were coordinated through the Undergraduate Fellowships Office, headed by Laura Clippard, in the Honors College. MTSU's first known recipient of the award, Taylor Barnes (2007), is now working on his Ph.D. in chemistry at California Institute of Technology, and Shannon Murphy, who received an honorable mention in 2008, is in medical school at East Tennessee State University.

Dr. John Vile, dean of the Honors College, has noted that MTSU, Vanderbilt, and the University of Tennessee-Knoxville were the only three colleges and universities in Tennessee to have more than one Goldwater Scholarship winner this year. ●

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

The Centennial Publications of the University Honors College are made possible, in part, by a gift by **Paul W. Martin Jr.** in honor of the past and present directors and deans: Dr. June Hall McCash, Dr. Ron A. Messier, Dr. John Paul Montgomery, Dr. Philip M. Mathis, and Dr. John R. Vile.

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YARBOROUGH, PRATT EARN Fulbright Scholarships

for the second consecutive year, MTSU has two recipients of Fulbright Awards. Kimberly Yarborough of Murfreesboro and Patrick Pratt of Tullahoma are the 2011 winners.

Yarborough, a May 2011 summa cum laude graduate with a double major in international relations and foreign languages (Spanish) and a minor in economics, was offered a Fulbright for an English-teaching assistantship for the 2011-12 academic year at a high school in Spain's Cantabria region.

Yarborough participated in Model UN while attending MTSU and spent the spring 2010 semester interning at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C., as part of the White House's Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans initiative. In 2008, she spent a semester studying in Argentina.

Yarborough said she plans to pursue a master's degree in foreign service at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Her career goal is eventually to work in a U.S. embassy abroad or with a nongovernmental, nonprofit, or international organization.

Pratt, an August 2010 cum laude graduate with a double major in international relations and political science and minors in African studies and geography, will spend seven months conducting poverty reduction research in Tanzania beginning in January. His Fulbright project title is "Participatory Development: Civil Society and Poverty Reduction." His project will require a combination of study at the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Dar es Salaam, independent research, and practical fieldwork.

In addition to his Fulbright Fellowship, Pratt also received a National Security Education David L. Boren African Languages Initiative (AFLI) appointment. The Boren AFLI covers the cost of a Swahili language program in Zanzibar

administered by American Councils for International Education. Pratt attended orientation in Washington, D.C., September 1 and then traveled to Zanzibar with 14 other students. They are staying with host families in Zanzibar, an island off the coast of mainland Tanzania, and studying at the Swahili Flagship Center at the State University of Zanzibar. The program lasts 14 weeks.

At MTSU, Pratt participated in Rotoract International and the Society for International Affairs. He received a Tennessee Board of Regents Washington Center Award that allowed him to intern in Washington, D.C., while attending professional development workshops, policy panels, and academic seminars. He interned with Constituency for Africa in 2009. He also received a 2009 David L. Boren Scholarship from the National Security Education Program, which allowed him to study international relations and Swahili for eight months at United States International University in Kenya.

The Fulbright Program is named for the late Arkansas senator J. William Fulbright, who introduced the legislation that funds the program. The Fulbright Program for U.S. Students offers fellowships for graduating seniors, graduate students, young professionals, and artists to study abroad for one academic year. The program also includes an English teaching assistant component.

Laura Clippard, coordinator of the Undergraduate Fellowships Office and Honors College academic advisor, assists Fulbright applicants. "One of the greatest goals of the Honors College is to see that MTSU students compete for national scholarships," said Dean John Vile. "MTSU's increased emphasis on foreign languages, multiculturalism, and study abroad programs have made students more competitive for national and international awards." ●



Meet the 2011 Freshman

Buchanan Fellows

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This fall, the University Honors College welcomed the fifth class of Buchanan Fellows, recipients of MTSU's highest academic scholarship. The group represents four states and 12 cities in Tennessee. Collectively, the students have an average high school GPA of 3.896 and an average ACT score of 32.3.

The Buchanan Fellowship is named in honor of Dr. James M. Buchanan, an alumnus of MTSU and a Nobel Prize winner in economics. The fall 2011 Buchanan Fellows, and some of their accomplishments to date, are listed here.



Elizabeth "Rhi" Brown

Elizabeth "Rhi" Brown is from Murfreesboro, where she attended Blackman High School. She was a member of the National Honor Society and the National Art Honor Society. She participated in the Boston University Summer Honors Program in 2010. A member of Blackman High's Key Club, she participated in community service projects including tutoring, recycling, Angel Tree, volunteering at the VA Hospital, and working with the Boy's and Girl's Club. She is majoring in early childhood education.



Elizabeth Chitwood

Elizabeth Chitwood is from Estill Springs and attended Franklin County High School. During high school she received the Semper Fidelis Award for Musical Excellence, the English Achievement Award, the Music Achievement Award, and the Instrumentalist Magazine Musicianship Award. She is a music major.



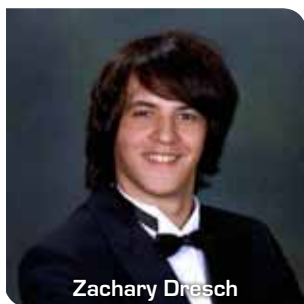
Allison Daniels

Allison Daniels attended Bearden High School in Knoxville, where she excelled at academics, soccer, and piano. She was a member of the National Honor Society and received the "Top Dawg" Award in 2010 in recognition of her athletic and academic achievements. In addition, she was named a team MVP and won the 100% Award in 2010 and was rated "Excellent" and "Superior Plus" in the National Piano Playing Auditions, Performance and Theory, in 2009. Allison tutored inner city children, taught a girls' Bible study class, and volunteered with the Friends of the Library. She is majoring in mass communication (journalism).



Carly Davis

Carly Davis, a graduate of Riverdale High School in Murfreesboro, was a Commended National Merit Scholar and a member of the National English Honors Society and the National Honor Society. She received an Advanced Honors English II Award at Riverdale and an Academic Award based on her four-year GPA. She attended Governor's School for the Humanities at UT-Martin in June 2010. She also served on the Riverdale Student Council for four years and has served as a worship leader for third and fourth graders for four years at World Outreach Church. She is majoring in accounting.



Zachary Dresch

Zachary Dresch, valedictorian at Powell Valley High School in Big Stone Gap, Virginia, was selected Most Outstanding in Math and was a VFW Voice of Democracy local winner in 2007, 2008, and 2009. He participated in the Student Government Association for two years and was listed in *Who's Who Registry of Academic Excellence* for 2008-09. Zachary has taught self-defense to women and children, has served



Garrett Ewers



Justin Hudson



Michelle Katz



Jin Kim



Thomas Knies

as a Lonesome Pine Office on Youth volunteer, and has worked as a volunteer in various capacities at East Stone Gap United Methodist Church. He is majoring in recording industry with a concentration in audio production.

Garrett Ewers is from Kingsport and attended Dobyns-Bennett High School, where he received a Robert Fanslow Scholarship Award and an AP Scholar with Honor Award. Throughout high school, he volunteered at the Education Technologies Foundation, and he has volunteered for a year at the Sullivan Baptist Association office. He is majoring in history.

Justin Hudson was valedictorian of the 2011 Hampshire Unit School graduating class in Columbia. He participated in the REACH program for academically-talented and gifted students and was a Boys' State delegate in 2010. In 2009 he was a Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership delegate and in 2008 had a first-place regional finish and a third-place state finish in the Future Business Leaders of America Business Math competition. His major is mathematics.

Michelle Katz attended Ooltewah High School in Ooltewah. She received the Senior Award and the Computer Applications Award and was a member of the National Beta Club and the National Honor Society. She was a winner in the 2009 Young Southern Student Writers Poetry Contest, and she also won an award for Spanish II academic excellence.

Jin Kim was valedictorian of the 2011 senior class at Siegel High School in Murfreesboro. He is piano accompanist for New Life Korean Church of the Nazarene. He is majoring in science on the pre-medical track.

Thomas Knies is from Winchester and is a graduate of Franklin County High School. He was a member of the National Honor Society, Beta Club, and Mu Alpha Theta. He earned 9th grade math and history awards; a 10th grade math award; and 9th, 10th, and 11th grade perfect-attendance awards. He served on the student council during his last three years of high school. He participated in Franklin County Youth Leadership, a program sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, and volunteered as an

assistant coach for the Franklin County High School Youth Soccer Camp. He is majoring in mathematics.

Jacob Lea is from Unionville and attended Riverdale High School, where he played on the football team. He was named Academic All-Conference in 11th and 12th grades, was a member of an intellectually- gifted program, and participated in the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine in Washington, D.C. He also participated in a male beauty pageant that raised \$50,000. Jacob's major is chemistry.



Jacob Lea



Tandra Martin

Tandra Martin was valedictorian of Oakland High School in Murfreesboro, where she received an International Baccalaureate diploma. She was a National Achievement Semifinalist and a People-to-People Ambassador to France, Italy, and Greece. She won Outstanding Achievement Awards in Spanish I and II, earth science, geometry, and IB European history. She is a mentor with the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization; she participated in a mission trip to the Dominican Republic; and she helped with construction of three homes for Habitat for Humanity. Tandra is majoring in international relations.



Nicodemus Myhre

Nicodemus Myhre is a graduate of Gateway Christian School in Murfreesboro. He won second place in a state tournament for Lincoln-Douglas policy debate and won the Students Choice Award for character and skill at a state tournament debate in 2008. He was a Nashville City Chess qualifier in 2007 and won third place in a midstate scholastic chess tournament. In 2009 he won Best Rookie Robotics Team Lead Engineer. He



Reid Wiggins



Nicole Wolowicz



William Wright



Layne Sanders

has served as a volunteer debate coach, a volunteer chess coach, and a registration director at "Do Hard Things" in Nashville. His major is aerospace.

Layne Sanders, a Discovery Home School graduate from Horse Shoe, North Carolina, won a Brevard College Departmental Award for Excellence in Spanish and received a maxima cum laude silver medal and certificate as a second-place winner on the National Latin Exam. She has also excelled at horse shows and swimming. Layne has participated extensively in service work in Honduras, assisting in an orphanage and medical clinics; tutoring; helping with the remodeling of a shelter for abused women; and teaching Hondurans to use a water filtration system. Her major is animal science with a concentration in horse science.



Emily Smith

Emily Smith is a graduate of Morristown-Hamblen High School in Morristown. She attended the Governor's School for Sciences and Engineering in 2010 and was invited to participate in MTSU's Honors Clarinet Choir in 2009 and 2010. She was selected AAA/AAAA Best in Show Drum Major at the Smoky Mountain Invitational. Emily received a Certificat d'honneur Laureat National on the National French Exam. She assisted in pre-event planning meetings and fundraising for Hamblen County Relay for Life events. She is a biology major.



Cassandra South

Cassandra South, a graduate of Piqua High School in Greenville, Ohio, was selected to play first chair tenor saxophone for the District 11 State of Ohio Honors Band in 2010 and received a first place (performance) in a 2008 National History Day regional competition. She also participated in the Piqua Community Band and assisted the local junior high music director in teaching music and jazz techniques. Her major is music with a concentration in instrumental music education.



Nicholas Walker

Nicholas Walker is a graduate of Ravenwood High School in Brentwood. He received the American Legion Award for Leadership Excellence in JROTC (Junior Reserve Office Training Corps) in April 2009, the Purple Heart Leadership Award in JROTC in

April 2010, and the JROTC Superior Cadet Award. Nick played baritone saxophone in the Middle Tennessee State Honor Band in January 2008 and was accepted by the Bands of America Honor Marching Band of America in the Tournament of Roses (tenor sax) in December 2008 and January 2009. His major is mathematics with a concentration in math education.

Reid Wiggins graduated from Obion County Central High School in Troy. He was in the top 10 percent of his class throughout high school and won a first-place precalculus award and a third-place algebra II award from the Tennessee Mathematics Teachers Association. He also won silver medals in essay writing and super quiz. Reid was an honorary Tennessee State Senate page for Senator Roy Herron and was a SCOPE (Student Congress on Policies in Education) delegate in Nashville. His major is computer science.

Nicole Wolowicz is a graduate of Greenbriar High School in Springfield. She won the 2010 Youth Tour Writing Contest, was grand champion winner of the Robertson County 4-H Pullet Show, and earned a Girl Scout Silver Award. She received a Certificate of Honor for the TCAP Writing Assessment and for Outstanding Achievement in Advanced English 11. She has volunteered at a local food bank and helped lead a children's church program for preschoolers. Her major is art with a concentration in graphic design.

William Wright, a graduate of Siegel High School in Murfreesboro, was a member of the National Honor Society, Beta Club, and Excalibur National Honor Society for Excellence in Science. He was a section leader in Siegel's marching band and also played in the symphonic and jazz bands. He was selected for the Express Yourself Arts Conference for original music composition and for Lipscomb University's Summer Scholars Program. He was a volunteer for Youth Empowerment through Arts and Humanities (YEAH) and participated in several community theater productions. His major is physics with a concentration in medical physics. ●

ODK Holds Spring Initiation

Omicron Delta Kappa Circle (ODK) of MTSU initiated new members Wednesday, April 27, in the amphitheater of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building.

Despite heavy rain and severe weather, the circle inducted six new members, including one Honors faculty member. ODK officers **Matthew Hibdon**, president; **Jennifer Johnson**, vice president; **Lee Whitwell**, treasurer; and **Kaitlin Beck**, secretary; led the ceremony.

New circle members inducted were **Dr. Kaylene Gebert**, professor of speech and theatre; juniors **Erica Paige Gober**, **Constance I. Grieves**, **Hannah Nicole Hopkins**, and **Nicholas Colt Winchester**;

and senior **Ryan Jean Hopkins**.

Dr. Gebert previously served as executive vice president and provost at MTSU. She is a member of numerous organizations and has engaged in an impressive list of public services. She serves on the Honors Council, and she made a generous donation this year to defray some of the membership costs for ODK initiates.



ODK vice president Jennifer Johnson lights candles during the spring new member initiation ceremony.

Speech and theatre major Paige Gober is a member of Alpha Psi Omega theatre honor fraternity. She is a graduate of MTSU's Institute of Leadership Excellence; has served on the literature editorial board of MTSU's arts and literary magazine, *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression*; and was a Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts volunteer.

Constance Grieves, a political science major, is a summa cum laude Honors College graduate of Nashville State Community College, where she served as both president and secretary of the Honors College Society. She was a 2010 Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Conference presenter, is a participant in MTSU's Mock Trial program, and served as a special events coordinator at Nashville Public Library.

Honors faculty member Kaylene Gebert signs the ODK membership book following her initiation as a new member of the leadership honor society.



Organizational communication major Hannah Hopkins is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and received an Academic Achievement Award in organizational communication. Her leadership experience includes working on the Alpha Omega college ministry staff, serving as an MTSU Student Ambassador, writing on staff for *Sidelines*, and participating in the MTSU Lightning Leadership Camp and Campus Crusade for Christ.

Ryan Hopkins, recipient of a Weazer Farwell Journalism Scholarship and a member of Phi Kappa Phi, is a mass communication (journalism/public relations) major. His other leadership roles have included a Scholars Week presentation, public relations work for the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network, and service as a Homer Pittard Campus School teacher's aide.



New ODK initiate Hannah Hopkins signs the Omicron Delta Kappa membership book.



ODK members at the spring initiation include (front from left) Dr. John R. Vile, Paige Gober, Kaitlin Beck, Hannah Hopkins, Jennifer Johnson, Ryan Hopkins, Gina Logue, and Dr. David Foote; (second row) Matthew Hibdon, Dr. Kaylene Gebert, Constance Grieves, Nicholas Winchester, Brandon Batts, Christen Vann; and (back) Lee Whitwell and Dr. Eric Klumpe.

Nicholas Winchester, a nursing major, has served as a Judicial Affairs PEER Educator, an MTSU CUSTOMS Student Orientation Assistant, and an SGA Court of Traffic Appeals justice. His other areas of student involvement include work as an MTTV head segment reporter and participating in the Point, the college ministry at New Vision Baptist Church.

Dr. John R. Vile, Honors College dean and faculty adviser of the ODK Circle, welcomed new initiates, ODK members, and guests to the spring initiation.

Dr. David A. Foote, ODK member, founding director of the MTSU Institute of Leadership Excellence,

professor, and assistant dean for learning improvement in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, challenged members and inductees.

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. ●

ODK President Attends CLT2 Conference

Matthew Hibdon, 2010–11 president of Omicron Delta Kappa Circle (ODK) leadership honor society, represented the MTSU circle at ODK’s seventh annual “Campus Leaders Today, Community Leaders Tomorrow” conference (CLT2). The event was held at the University of Richmond in Richmond, Virginia, March 10–13, 2011.

The purpose of the conference was to teach students about nonprofit governance and how best to serve their communities by harnessing their passions. A group of 40 members were selected from many applicants across the country and consisted of undergraduates, graduate students, and recent college graduates.

Participants received first-hand experience by meeting one-on-one with nonprofit leaders in the Richmond area and working closely with other professionals in the nonprofit sector.

Matthew and the other ODK members were divided into small groups and assigned to nonprofit organizations to work through case studies and other scenarios. Matthew summarized his experience by saying “CLT2 was truly a life-changing experience. It was amazing to see all the great things that students are doing to make the world a better place and to get to share ways that MTSU is fostering the success of student leaders who will grow into community leaders in the future.” ●



Matthew Hibdon, second from left, with other CLT2 participants at the ODK “Campus Leaders Today, Community Leaders Tomorrow” conference in Richmond, Virginia.

Inaugural Issue of New Student Journal Published

The University Honors College at Middle Tennessee State University has published the inaugural issue of *Scientia et Humanitas: A Journal of Student Research*. The issue features articles on a diverse array of subjects by eight current and former MTSU students and is designed in part to highlight the University's Centennial celebration.

The journal is a transformation of an earlier online journal called *Scientia*, which was founded by Dr. Phil Mathis, an emeritus professor of biology and former dean of the Honors College. Dr. John Dubois served as the previous faculty advisor.

The Honors College renamed the journal in order to reflect its wider scope. Dr. John Vile, dean of the college, says the new journal accepts submissions from all academic disciplines, whether in natural sciences, social sciences, or humanities.

The journal was supervised by Marsha Powers, who directs other publications for the Honors College, including its award-winning arts and literary journal (*Collage*) and newsletter (the *Honors Edition*). Students Matt Bennett and Lindsay Gates served respectively as managing and production editors; Jamie Fuston, Daniel Gouger, Cari Jennings, Sam Mitchell, and Ruben Tavakalov were on the student editorial board; and Sherry Wisner George, Marsha Powers, and John Vile served on the staff advisory board. Honors staff member Georgia Dennis designed and maintains the website. Chris Brady, a designer for Carolinas HealthCare System and former MTSU employee, created a logo for the cover.

Dr. Vile says that the journal provides opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students and recent graduates to publish their work. A number

of the contributions were based on research that students had done in connection with Honors theses or for presentations during MTSU's Scholars Week or Social Sciences Symposium.

Contributors included **Amanda Watson** (M.A., Sociology, 2009), who coauthored a paper with **Dr. Meredith Dye** (Sociology and Anthropology) and **Dr. Brian P. Hinote** (Sociology and Anthropology), on ethnic prejudice in the U.S.; **Shane McCoy** (B.A., English, 2010), who wrote an analysis of Sachville-West's *All Passion Spent*; **Lauren Easley** (B.S., Biology, 2010), who coauthored a study with **Dr. J. Angela Hart Murdock** (Mathematical Sciences) and **Dr. Don W. Morgan** (Health and Human Performance) on low back pain; **Joseph L. Keasler** (sophomore, Anthropology) and **Thomas Gildemeister** (senior, Anthropology and International Relations), who wrote a garbology study of food and alcohol consumption at tailgating events on the MTSU campus; **Matthew Bennett** (senior, Sociology and Psychology), who wrote a study of mental illness and treatment among African Americans; **Sarah Visocky** (B.S., Anthropology, 2010), who examined eating patterns among Tennessee immigrants; **Monique Richard** (B.S., Nutrition and Food Science, 2010), who studied nutrition knowledge among MTSU students; and **Andrew D. Currey** (B.S., Psychology, 2010), who coauthored a piece with **Dr. Brian P. Hinote** on the industrialization of food production.



Vile, Hodge Receive Foundation Awards

Two members of the Honors faculty, **John R. Vile** and **Shannon C. Hodge**, received MTSU Foundation Awards at the annual fall faculty meeting Friday, August 26, 2011, in Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building's Tucker Theatre.

Vile, political science professor and dean of the University Honors College, received the Career Achievement Award.

An internationally known expert on the United States Constitution, Vile received his B.A. in government from the College of William and Mary and his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. He was head of the Social Sciences Department at McNeese State University before coming to MTSU in 1989 to chair the Political Science Department. He is one of the most eminent and prolific authors on the Constitution in the world and has written eleven scholarly books and texts, including *A Companion to the United States Constitution and Its Amendments*, *Encyclopedia of Constitutional Amendments, Proposed Amendments, and Amending Issues, 1789-1995*, and *Presidential Winners and Losers: Words of Victory and Concession*.

Vile has coauthored four other scholarly works and study guides; edited four books; coedited four other books; produced and edited an interactive encyclopedia on CD-ROM; published numerous articles in a variety of journals; and has written dozens of chapters, essays, and reviews of books and journal articles. He has made hundreds of presentations worldwide and is widely sought for commentary on constitutional issues and political events. He is often quoted in local, state, and national media.

At MTSU, Vile has taught classes on the U.S. Constitution, American government, and courtroom procedure. He's observed numerous thesis

defenses, and he coaches mock trial teams. Under his leadership MTSU annually hosts one of the largest mock trial tournaments in the country. He was inducted into the American Mock Trial Association Coaches Hall of Fame in 2008.

Selected Honors dean in 2008, Vile has developed and is implementing "A Vision for the Future:

Master Plan for the Honors College, 2009-2019." He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Phi Kappa Phi and has numerous professional awards and honors including MTSU Outstanding Research awards in 1993 and 1998.

Shannon C. Hodge, assistant professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, received an Outstanding Teacher Award at the fall faculty meeting.

Hodge earned a B.A. from the University of Kansas and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Tulane University. She came to MTSU in 2006. She teaches courses in world prehistory, human osteology, the archaeology of death, and bioarchaeology. Her research interests are in paleopathology, human variation, death and mortuary practices, the bioarchaeology of the African Diaspora, and Native American cultures of the Cumberland River Valley. She has been the recipient of several research grants in recent years.

Hodge mentors anthropology students involved in senior thesis research, University Honors College theses, URECA projects, McNair program projects, and undergraduate independent research. She works closely with students to develop their professional skills and to prepare them for graduate study and careers in anthropology and related fields. ●





Institute of Leadership Excellence 2011

The Institute of Leadership Excellence (ILE) at MTSU had an outstanding class this May, with 29 students from 17 majors benefiting from lectures, discussions, activities, and outside speakers. Dr. David Foote, assistant dean for learning improvement for the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, and Dr. Earl Thomas, professor of management and marketing, led the institute, which is an intense, interdisciplinary, total-immersion experience in leadership and leadership development for promising undergraduate students from throughout the University.

This year's slate of guest speakers included Mr. Don Witherspoon, director of logistics for Pfizer Inc., retired, and member of the Honors College Board of Visitors; Dr. Deana Raffo, assistant professor of management, MTSU; Mr. Rob Lyons, city manager of Murfreesboro; Mr. Shane Reeves, partner in Reeves-Sain Family of Medical Services and member of the Honors College Board of Visitors; Ms. Christina Allen, president/owner of Caliente Consulting; Mr. David Bullock, president and cofounder of CEO Mastery Inc.; Ms. Anne Marie Lanning, captain of MTSU's women's basketball team; and Mr. Kem Hinton, founding partner (with Seab Tuck) of Tuck-Hinton Architects.

Director David Foote said, "Students who participate in and graduate from ILE gain vital life skills that significantly enhance their likelihood of success upon graduation from MTSU. They benefit substantially from the intense interaction with other students from a wide variety of disciplines (and worldviews), with the professors, and with speakers who are all accomplished in their fields. They leave ILE armed with greater self-awareness, increased self-confidence, and specific tools they can use to continue their leadership development as they finish college and move into their careers." ●

Top: Cody Smith, left, Katie Bogle, Rachel Lee, Patrick Morrison, and Callie Durham

Below left: ILE 2011 speaker Don Witherspoon

Below center: ILE speaker Shane Reeves

Below right: Katie Bogle

Bottom: ILE 2011 students





Governor Bill Haslam meets with select MTSU students in the Honors College before visiting the new education building on June 8 to sign legislation authorizing the use of Hope Scholarship funds for summer school courses.

Wells Chosen for Summer Opportunities

Kelsey Wells, one of 20 junior Buchanan Fellows, was selected for two summer adventures this year. She received a scholarship to study printmaking for two weeks at the Penland School of Crafts near Asheville, North Carolina. In addition, she accompanied the Rutherford County Cripple Creek Cloggers on an 18-day trip through southern France, performing at international folk festivals in Morcenx and LaReole and also appearing in other places.

At Penland, a national center for craft education, Kelsey took a class called Plate and Type Together. Students explored how to combine letterpress printing and copperplate etching and worked on prints, broadsides, and books. Bill Hall, of Pace Prints in New York, and Amy Pirlke, an instructor at the University of Alabama and the proprietor of Perkolater Press, taught the course.

The Cripple Creek Cloggers, known as Tennessee's only authentic Appalachian-style dance group since 1967, travel extensively throughout the U.S., Europe, Central America, Canada, and the Caribbean. The group is lead by Steve Cates, who has hosted the

International Folk Festival in Murfreesboro since 1982.

Kelsey, an award-winning fiddler, has a passion for old-time Appalachian and roots music. She is a former Uncle Dave Macon Days scholarship recipient and a 2010 Youth Scholar of the Swannanoa Gathering at Warren Wilson College in Asheville. She is an alumna of the Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra, where she played percussion and violin.

Kelsey was the valedictorian of her class at Siegel High School and attended the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts in 2007. In addition to fiddle playing, her interests include storytelling, writing, and speaking German. Kelsey is majoring in graphic design and minoring in German and mathematics. She is the daughter of Mike and Kory Wells of Murfreesboro. ●





Incredible India

by Sara Goepel | *Sara is a senior majoring in psychology and minoring in global studies.*

Caste, race, religion, language, rich, poor—however one may try to classify India, it can never reflect how beautiful and colorful the country truly is. When I stepped off the plane in Bangalore, Karnataka, I thought I knew what to expect from previous research, but talking to people and reading books can only prepare you so much. It was 3:45 a.m. when we walked out the doors of the international airport, but there were already hundreds of people outside. This was my first insight into the sheer number of people that reside in a country of over a billion.

As a developing nation, the extremes and contradictions I saw in India were many. Walking to school each morning, to my right I would pass a slum bustling with children playing and wanting to shake my hand; women doing laundry on stones outside their front doors; men setting out to give rides in rickshaws or rolling their carts full of fruits and vegetables to sell; cows meandering; chickens clucking; and goats chewing on everything in sight. On my left, a security guard stood outside a brand new Papa John's Pizza waiting to open for the day. Shops with grand pianos worth thousands of rupees sat next to a bus stop that a man named Ganaraj called home. A woman with three children sold jewelry from a dirty piece of cloth on the sidewalk next to one of the best malls in India—complete with Polo Ralph Lauren and Apple stores. Child beggars asked men clad in business suits for spare change. This was the India that managed to claim my heart in only four months.

The language barrier was possibly the hardest obstacle to overcome. Including dialects, there are over 1,000 spoken languages in India—

Kannada from Karnataka, Malayalam from Kerala, Telugu from Andhra Pradesh, and Marathi from Maharashtra—the list is incredible. As an American, Indians expected that I only knew English, but when I used the few phrases I knew in Kannada or Hindi, the smile on their faces and looks of appreciation were amazing. Trying to learn the language of the country one is visiting is something that can be easily overlooked when it is not required because people



Sara Goepel dressed for a Brahmin (Hindu) prewedding celebration for the groom.

across the world are learning English, but everyone that I encountered truly appreciated any effort that we made to learn the local language. My biggest regret was that I did not know more of the language.

I believe my most memorable experiences were from simply observing a completely different way of life than what one sees in the U.S. It is easy, as Americans, to watch a movie like *Slumdog Millionaire* and to try to put ourselves into the shoes of the

characters for two hours, but we return to our normal lives without thinking about how the people who live in those conditions on an everyday basis are surviving.

I saw some of the biggest slums in Asia during my trip, and seeing the way these people survive was incredible. They don't even just survive, though—



Sara Goepel and a friend sit in front of the Golden Temple, the most holy place for Sikhs.



Three Indian girls try to escape the heat inside an old cement mixer in an Indian slum.

they live—and happily at that. I met people who lived in shacks held up by twine and plastic, yet they invited me in for chai and offered me a seat in the only chair they had. Being able to envelop myself in a country like India that is so full of heart and is such a different experience than the United States will always be my favorite experience from college. By studying abroad, I learned how to travel to a country without falling into the role of a tourist, and that is a skill for which I am very thankful. ●

Record Number of Honors Students Study Abroad

A record number of Honors students have studied abroad in 2011, with the majority of travel occurring this summer. Seven Honors students studied abroad in the spring, seventeen during the summer, four this fall, and one is away for the entire academic year.

Spring travelers were **Erica Cathey** (Physics) and **Jordan Fey** (Physics), who studied in Scotland; **Kelsey Crews** (Foreign Languages [Spanish]) and **Tony Pritchard** (Biology), who traveled to Seville, Spain; **Lindsay Gates** (History), who presented research in India; **Sara Goepel** (Psychology), who spent the spring in Bangalore, India; and **Anna Yacovone** (Global Studies and Organizational Communication), who received a Gilman International Scholarship to study in Bangkok, Thailand.

Honors students studied in 13 countries this summer. **Eldridge Alexander** (Mass Communication [Electronic Media Communication]), **Kaela Armbrister** (English), and **Samantha Martin** (Art Education) traveled to Italy;

Laura Gormsen (Marketing), **Matthew Hibdon** (History), and **Jake Verhoeff** (Social Work) studied in France; and **Chelsea Fleet** (Speech and Theatre) and **Madeleine Sheinfeld** (Anthropology) went to Brazil. Other students abroad this summer included **Stacey Bates** (Psychology), Argentina; **Adam Emerson** (Psychology), Czech Republic; **Constance Grieves** (Political Science), Peru; **Matthew Hibdon** (History), Germany; **Taylor Hixson** (Mass Communication [Journalism]), Turkey; **Heather Hoekstra** (Early Childhood Education), Denmark; **Shelby Ragan** (English), England; **Brooke Shipley** (English), Spain; **Allie Wenisch** (Biology), Japan; and **Tyler Whitaker** (Anthropology), Austria.

Kaitlin Beck (Economics and Foreign Languages [French]) is currently studying in France; **Katlyn Krueger** (Music) is in Sweden; **Trevor Sitler** (Philosophy and English) is in Japan; and **Elizabeth Theiss** (Speech and Theatre [Communication Disorders]) is in India. **Tyler King** (International Relations) is in France for the fall and spring semesters. ●



Unexpected Lessons from the Kids of Azul Wasi

by Constance Grieves | *Constance Grieves is a transfer student from Nashville State Community College who is majoring in political science.*

Several months ago, as I was grinding my way through another spring semester with finals and countless due dates looming, I was eager for any distraction from my academic purgatory. I fantasized about lounging by the pool and picnicking in the park but knew I needed to work on my Spanish, secure an internship, volunteer, or do something more. After a word of advice from my sister and some sorely needed financial motivation, I started looking into programs abroad. Then it hit me: I should consider Peru.

My mind started wandering an imagined ancient Inca trail to what I had heard was the awe-inspiring lost city of Machu Picchu. I never imagined that my distant dream would become a reality, but after scrambling to submit all necessary paperwork and sweet-talking my way around missed deadlines, I was on my way to the former Inca capital of Peru, Cusco.

I nervously prepared for my upcoming adventure. As I packed I did not know what to expect. I knew I would be working with children but did not know what that work would entail, so I packed everything from office attire to hiking boots. I also knew I would be living with a Spanish-speaking Peruvian family and brushed up on my Spanish.

After nearly 24 hours in airplanes and airports, I was both exhausted and exhilarated when I arrived in Cusco. I had high expectations, and the former Inca capital met them. Cusco is a virtual oasis nestled in the Andes Mountains, a small city of less than 400,000 with breathtaking natural beauty and astonishing Inca architecture.

I spent my first weekend sipping coca tea, in order to acclimate to the more than 11,000-foot elevation, and getting to know my new family. They told me to relax while I could because I would need plenty of energy when work started Monday. When I asked what I would be doing I was told I would be working with an orphanage called Azul Wasi, a term derived from Spanish and the native Quechua language that means “blue house.” I was also told that I should be prepared to get dirty.

Monday morning finally came, and decked out in my grubbiest hiking gear, I met four other American volunteers and the program director at a bus stop. We boarded a combi, which I believe is Spanish for “dangerously overcrowded bus,” and endured a harrowing journey to a tiny village called Oro Pesa. The adventure was just beginning as we set out on a long hike to our work site—an empty field. We were told that the livestock of Azul Wasi needed a new stable and that we would be digging trenches and building the stable’s foundation. We were handed shovels and pickaxes and my heart sank; surely we had not come all this way to work as manual laborers.

Despite our disbelief, we got to work striking the unyielding soil, which was hardened by the arid climate. Unaccustomed to backbreaking labor, we were exhausted by lunch, disappointed, and rather vocal about it. Then came the kids. Ranging in age from 7 to 17, they gladly took our tools and started working without complaint. They labored for hours, lacking the luxuries we enjoyed such as potable water, sunscreen, gloves, and shoes. As the blisters on their hands bubbled, they insisted that they were happy to do the work and didn’t need a break.

My discontent was silenced by their enthusiasm. I stopped complaining and embraced the opportunity to work alongside these amazing kids who had been rescued from the streets of Cusco. After five days, one bottle of Aleve, and about as much chicken and rice as I could stand, the foundation was built. The other volunteers and I then went on to teach the kids English at Azul Wasi, a job I was much happier and more prepared to do.

I went to Peru thinking that I was ready to face anything, but when I ended up in a trench and reality did not quite match my expectations, I balked in disbelief, grudgingly carrying out my duties. But after working with the kids of Azul Wasi, who have little and ask for less, I realized that we often cannot control what life brings us, but we can make the most of it. ●



Honors Students Earn Lower-Division Certificates

In June, Karen Demonbreum, Honors College administrative assistant, announced that 34 students completed 20 or more Honors hours and received Lower-Division Certificates of Achievement this spring. The 34 students represent a wide variety of majors.

From the College of Liberal Arts were foreign languages majors **Alissa K. Ruggle** and **Brooke M. Shipley**, both juniors; political science major **Michael D. Swift**, a sophomore; sociology major **Adrienne M. Fesmire**, a junior; sophomore anthropology major **Celia T. Gendron**; junior speech and theatre major **Lucy C. Estes**; music major **David L. Hull**, a junior; sophomore English major **Lorel J. Holsinger**; junior philosophy major **Stephanie L. Bagnall**; **Latashia K. Cooper**, a junior international relations major; **Samantha B. Martin**, a junior art education major; and history major **Lindsay D. Gates**, a senior.

Ten students from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences completed 20 or more Honors hours: computer science majors **Christopher L. Brigham**, a junior, and **John M. Griner**, a sophomore; junior chemistry majors **Ashlin P. Harris** and **Bryan M. Donaphon**; biology majors **Linda H. Duong**, a junior, and sophomore **Zach B. Stevens**; aerospace majors **Samantha K.**

Tankersley, a sophomore, and **Cody L. Wilkerson**, a junior; and sophomore science majors **Meredith L. Holt** and **Greta L. Jochmann**.

From the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, **Amanda E. Dunaway** and **Kaitlin R. Styer**, sophomore entrepreneurship majors, received certificates.

Other Honors students reaching the 20-hour milestone were junior **Emily P. Kubis**, from the College of Mass Communication; junior **Heather M. Hoekstra**, a major in early childhood education; **Sarah J. Basile**, an undeclared freshman; **Amber N. Burns**, a sophomore psychology major; sophomore criminal justice administration major **Heather E. Haggard**; global studies majors **Jennifer K. Isenberg**, a junior, and **Kelsey R. Young**, a senior; organizational communication major **Hannah N. Hopkins**, a junior; **Shannon Pelynio**, a junior interdisciplinary studies major; and junior nutrition and food science major **Mary C. Robinson**.

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



My Tao of Travel

by Anna Yacovone |

Anna is a senior, double majoring in global studies and organizational communication. She received a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study in Thailand in spring 2011.

Anthony Bourdain once said, “As you probably noticed, I’m not an expert on the places I visit. I’m not an authority: I’m a visitor, a traveler, an enthusiast.” With that said, I too modestly confess I am neither an expert on travel nor on the places I visited. My time in Thailand lasted for five brief months, while my trek through countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam lasted a little over one month.

However, after the numerous miles (or kilometers) I covered, I still have a few pointers I’d humbly like to share. I collected these amateur tip suggestions from watching fellow travelers let their hubris, impatience, and lack of planning keep them from having amazing adventures and friendships in countries that I strongly believe have so much to offer.

Tip #1: Do your research. As much as I like spontaneity, it’s always a given before going abroad to know your destination’s culture and geography forward and backward. Consider them side notes now, but it’s extremely important to know the country you’re stepping into when traveling abroad. For example, which type of government will you be under and when are elections? If you were just in Thailand, you would have had to endure the recent prime minister elections and experience a city, known for its vivacity, completely shut down. My point in this is [that] the more you try to decrease your uncertainty of what’s to come the fewer bumps you’ll hit and the more you’ll enjoy your experience.

Tip #2: Eat fearlessly. Though I know this pointer comes with many limitations for those with dietary needs, I think it’s important to keep an open mind when it comes to eating in another country. As I learned in my Thai Cuisine class at Thammasat University (taught by Duangporn Songvisava, the world-renowned Thai chef and owner of Bolan, a five-star restaurant in Bangkok), a country’s cuisine can reveal its history and culture. From the types of silverware to the ingredients used, consider the dinner table a perfect venue to explore different customs and to treat your taste buds to something new. And speaking from firsthand experience, it’s amazing what foods you’ll love and what your stomach can handle. And though I’ve tried many a strange dish, from fried and salted bugs to a soup containing intestines, congealed blood, and fish balls, I’ll always remember my best and oddest



Anna Yacovone, back right, rides an elephant with fellow students in Chaing Mai, Thailand.



In the Cameron Highlands of Malaysia with a villager who taught visiting students to use a blowdart.

meals abroad. Though I still cringe at the thought of fish balls, I'll never forget the first time I sampled Malay-Indian *thosai* outside the Batu Caves in Kuala Lumpur or when I savored every minute of the Balinese dish *gado-gado* in Ubud.

Tip #3: Proactively seek the locals. Recent travel literature has emphasized that there is an ongoing concern that authentic travel experiences are becoming scarce, that flipping a coin in the Trevi Fountain is about as authentic as honking your horn in city traffic. Especially with globalization increasing, I understand why the beaten path is so, well, . . . beaten. I suggest, however, to stray from it and see what the locals are up to. Yes, I know, every travel guide says this, but I'm speaking on a more interpersonal level. For example, while [I was] in Hanoi, a shy Vietnamese girl sat beside me one day while I sketched in the Hoan Kiem Lake Park. We started making small chitchat, though neither of us was fluent in the other's language. Hours later, Tao, my new Vietnamese friend, graciously gave me the grand tour of Hanoi, showed me where the locals eat (always the best!), and even helped me bargain at the night markets. Though guidebooks like *Lonely Planet* can, at best, suggest restaurants, hostels, and tourist sites, nowhere in the pages of a guidebook will you find a heading reading "people to connect with."

Tip #4: Leave your ego at Customs. Especially when traveling to Southeast Asia, there will be endless opportunities to get angry or embarrassed. Whether it's blushing at the sight of a squat-toilet or suffering from the scalding Thai peppers in your curry, it's best to consider beforehand how you'll handle culture shock. And by all means, keep your cool, or as they say in Thai, try to be *jai-yen*. I know nothing infuriates a Westerner more than being denied self-entitlement, but need I remind all the Westerners traveling to the Orient of Oz you are no longer in western Kansas anymore. So to any Dorothy-divas out there, raising your voice and handling conflicts aggressively with the locals will definitely not get you those ruby slippers.

Tip 5: Keep an open heart. Travel isn't always the prettiest of businesses, and you may even come across circumstances that will shock or mystify you. But that's okay; that's part of the experience and the changing process you undergo while traveling. If you're willing to keep an open mind, and especially an open heart, the experiences you have and the people you meet will pour effortlessly into your soul and become a part of you. And upon [your] return to the States, all of your cherished memories will replay in you like water through a fountain. ●



Top: Outside Angkor Wat in Angkor, Cambodia, during her study abroad experience in Southeast Asia.

Center: Teaching English to schoolchildren in Bangkhong Village.

Bottom: With local schoolchildren at the Hindu site of Borobudur in Java, Indonesia.

TWELVE HONORS STUDENTS SELECTED FOR Who's Who

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welve Honors students representing eleven majors were among 20 MTSU students selected for *Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges* in January.

Four spring graduates were chosen: Casey Gaddis, Caitlin Orman, Sonia Qureshi, and Lee Whitwell.

Casey Gaddis majored in anthropology and minored in Spanish and geology/earth science. Her Honors thesis was "Tam Lin: A Retelling."

Caitlin Orman majored in psychology and minored in Spanish. Her Honors thesis was "Vocabulary, Morphology, and Prosody in English Language Learners." She is now studying psychology in graduate school at MTSU.

Sonia Qureshi majored in global studies and international relations.

Lee Whitwell majored in political science with a pre-law concentration and is now attending law school in Memphis. His minor was international relations. His thesis/creative project was "Pugmeire v. Thompson: A Mock Trial Case."

Eight senior Honor students, including three transfer students, were chosen by *Who's Who*.

Katie Bogle, a transfer student from Harding University, is majoring in political science with a minor in political and civic engagement. Her thesis is "Examining the Development, Relief, and Education of [the] Allen Minors Act: The Possible Outcomes and Effects in Relation to its Implementation for the State of Tennessee."

Lana Williams, who transferred from Georgia Southern University, is majoring in special education. Her thesis is "Eugenics: Special Education of the 1920s and 1930s and Lasting Effects on Special Education in the Twenty-First Century."

Karen Yates, a transfer student from Volunteer State Community College, is majoring in mass communication with a concentration in advertising/public relations. She has minors in marketing and speech and theatre. Her thesis is "Lucky Strikes."

Jacob Basham is majoring in mathematics with a concentration in professional math. His minors are chemistry and biology.

Matthew Hibdon is a history major with a minor in leadership studies. His thesis is "McMinnville in the Civil War: Life under Occupation as Observed by L. Virginia French."

Miguel Hurtado has a double major in chemistry (with a concentration in professional chemistry) and biology (with a physiology concentration). Miguel's thesis is "Overcoming the Recalcitrance of Cellulosic Conversion of Kenaf Pulp Valuable Chemicals."

Jennifer Johnson is a psychology major with minors in French and art. Jennifer's thesis is "The Integration of Social Stories and Drawing-Based Art Therapy in Treatment of Autistic Children."

Sam Mitchell is a chemistry major with a minor in biology. His thesis is "Investigation into the Quantity and Quality of Protein-Antibody Binding Events in Porous Silica."

Who's Who also selected eight other MTSU students for membership: Katherine Barnes, Keith Bass, Teona Chapman, Amanda Cross, Emily Duck, Troy Oliver, Dmitry Terekhov, and Kolby Wyant. ●

National Merit Scholars Choose MTSU

Once again, MTSU has at least three incoming students this year who have received recognition from the National Merit Foundation for scores they received on standardized tests while in high school.

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Christopher Holford of South Carolina was a National Merit Finalist. He is planning to major in recording industry and has received MTSU's prestigious National Achievement Scholarship of \$6,000 a year.

Tandra Martin, an incoming Buchanan Fellow from Murfreesboro's Oakland High School, was a National Achievement Finalist, an award that is limited to minority students. Tandra is interested in business, international relations, and Spanish.



Michelle Katz, an incoming Buchanan Fellow from Ooltewah High School, received a yearly stipend of \$2,500 from the Reynolds American Foundation Scholarship, which is also National Merit-based. Michelle is interested in audio production, music business, and electronic media communication.



These incoming scholars will join at least two current students, Ashlin Powell Harris and Christopher T. Lowry, who were National Merit Finalists. Tyler Brooke Loucky, another National Merit Finalist who entered last year, has transferred to Washington University in St. Louis, where she will be pursuing environmental studies.

Dr. John Vile, dean of the Honors College, is especially pleased to see that two incoming Buchanan Fellows earned National Merit recognition. This is an affirmation that MTSU continues to enroll the best students from Tennessee and other states. ●



Martin Honors Building's newest neighbor, MTSU's education building, is open for classes this fall. Rapid progress is being made on another nearby building, the new student union, scheduled to open in spring 2012.

Interdisciplinary Seminar

SPRING 2012

UH 3500-001

Mythology and Film

W 2:40-5:40 | CRN# 16987 | HONR 117

Mythology and Film explores the relationship between mythological narratives and symbols and film, focusing on how film transforms mythic patterns into cinematic art. Students will begin by reading Joseph Campbell's *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* to understand Campbell's influential theory of the "monomyth" and will then study Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*.

Two films that represent very different uses of mythic narrative will be analyzed: *Troy* (2004) attempts a historical adaptation of the *Iliad*, *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* (2000) uses a modern setting and the plot of the *Odyssey* for parodic and comedic purposes.

The next unit will look at the relationship of the rational, irrational, and creative dimensions of the human psyche. The myths surrounding Apollo and

Dionysus will be studied as students read Euripides' *The Baachae* and Thomas Mann's *Death in Venice* and view Luchino Visconti's 1971 film adaptation of Mann's novel. The irrational aspects of the mythic paradigm of the "trip to the underworld" and the role of shamanism will be examined as students read selections from Mircea Eliade's *The Sacred and the Profane* and *Shamanism* and watch two films that make use of these structures: David Lynch's *Blue Velvet* (1986) and Peter Weir's *The Last Wave* (1977).

Mythology and Film will be taught by Angela Hague. As an interdisciplinary seminar, the course fulfills the Honors College requirement for interdisciplinary or upper-division Honors coursework. This course also counts as credit toward the English major and minor, fulfills Area H for the English major, and counts as credit toward the classical studies and film studies minors. Students interested in taking the course should contact Dr. Hague at ahague@mtsu.edu. ●

Local high school students toured the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building on Youth Leadership Rutherford Education Day in March.



Honors Students, McNair Scholars Win Campus Awards

MTSU's most prestigious campus award winners, each representing the Honors College and/or the McNair Scholars program, were announced in April. Honors students **Mary Crouse** and **Anna Yacovone** won the President's Award and the Community Service Award, respectively. McNair Scholar **Adrian "Nick" Mackie** won the Provost's Award, and **Joseph Quarles**, an Honors student and McNair Scholar, won the LaLance Award.



Mary Crouse, winner of the 2011 MTSU President's Award.

Mary Crouse, a May 2011 summa cum laude graduate, majored in biology and completed minors in chemistry, psychology, and Spanish. In addition to winning the University-wide President's Award, Mary won the Peter I. Karl Outstanding Senior Award from the Biology Department and the Chemistry Department's Albert L. and Ethel C. Smith Pre-Medical Scholarship.

Anna Yacovone, a double major in global studies and organizational communication, received a Benjamin A.

Gilman International Scholarship to study in Thailand. In addition to winning the Community Service Award, Anna has been very active with Rotaract, the Honors

Students Association, the Study Abroad Office, and MT Global. She also served on the search committee for the vice provost of International Affairs.

Nick Mackie graduated summa cum laude in May 2011 with majors in anthropology and international relations and a minor in Middle East studies. In addition to the Provost's Award, Nick won the Jack Justin Turner Award and the Meritorious Service Award from the Department of Political Science. He won numerous scholarships while attending MTSU, including a Critical Language Scholarship through the U.S. Department of State, a Critical Language Supplement, a Gilman Scholarship, a Clinton Scholarship, and a Dell Scholarship.

Joe Quarles, a senior English major with minors in writing and paralegal studies, is a transfer student from Motlow State Community College. His recent awards, in addition to the LaLance Award, include the Perseverance Award presented by the June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students, the Homer Pittard Writing Award, and the Martha Hixon Creative Expression Award. He also won the Ronald McNair 2011 Tennessee Association for Special Programs (TASP) Scholarship. ●

CONTINUED

Scientia from page 11

Dean Vile says the journal does not accept articles that have been published elsewhere. It does, however, allow contributors to maintain copyrights so that they may submit their work to other journals. Vile added that an increasing number of students are applying to graduate and professional schools and that having a publication in hand can be an important credential. He said the Honors College modeled its journal in part on the successful *McNair Research Review*, another MTSU journal that highlights research of students in that program, which is designed to prepare minority and first-generation college students for graduate study.

Powers noted that in reviewing, editing, and formatting articles, students had an opportunity to get a view of how the editorial process works. In addition, the staff benefited from Sherry Wiser George's assistance with layout and software issues. She also held a workshop in August to better equip the 2011-12 editorial staff in the use of page layout software.

The Honors College anticipates publishing *Scientia et Humanitas* annually and has already begun accepting submissions for the next issue. Students interested in contributing can get further information at www.mtsu.edu/~scientia. ●

Student News

Jacob H. Basham (Mathematics) was awarded the Miss Tommie Reynolds Mathematics Scholarship by the Mathematics Department in the spring.

Katie Bogle (Political Science) interned for the Department of Justice Office of Special Counsel in Washington, D.C., for 12 weeks this summer. In April, she participated in the Campus-Capitol Connection on Capitol Hill in Nashville, an event where students observe elements of state government. Katie will serve as Speaker of the House when the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature convenes on November 17.

Brett Bornhoft (Aerospace) received the Aerospace Department's Colonel Jean Jack Aerospace Scholarship and the Frank and Harriet Hedrick Aviation Scholarship this spring.

Aubrey Boyce (Biology) won a Clay M. Chandler Outstanding Freshman Biology Award and Scholarship this spring.

Brandon Cathey (Physics and Chemistry) received the Hypercube Scholar Award from the Physics Department this spring.

Evan Craig (Biology), a sophomore Buchanan Fellow from Arlington, Tennessee, received a Goldwater Scholarship award.

Jordan Dodson (Biology) received the Ellis E. Rucker Freshman Scholarship, the L/P Drs. Elizabeth and Creighton Rhea #1 Pre-Medicine Scholarship, and the Ralph E. Sharp Outstanding Sophomore Award and Scholarship at the Basic and Applied Sciences Academic Awards ceremony in April.

Bryan Donaphon (Chemistry) was awarded the Richard and Mary Ann McClary Scholarship by the Chemistry Department this spring.

Will Duke (Music), a freshman Honors student and the recipient of a full music scholarship to attend MTSU, was featured in the *Daily News Journal* June 27. The Siegel High School graduate made the tough decision to abandon his lifelong dream of playing baseball to focus on vocal performance.

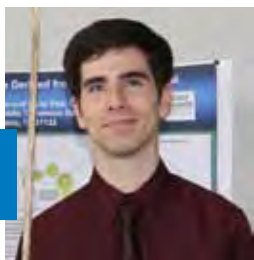
Adam Emerson (Psychology) received the Larry Morris Outstanding Senior Award from the Psychology Department in March.

Lindsay D. Gates (History) traveled to India over spring break to present research at SRM University in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. In August, she presented her research, "Dreaming Development: The Goals and Rhetoric Behind India's First Five-Year Plans," at the 12th Annual MTSU McNair Symposium.

Daniel Gouger (Biochemistry) collaborated with Jessica Taylor and Nikhil Reddy to present research in February during the sixth annual Posters at the Capitol event in Nashville. Their abstract was "Synthesis of Cyclopropyl Peptidomimetics with Potential Anti-HIV and Alzheimer's Activity." Dr. Norma Dunlap was their faculty mentor.

Kristofer Hallfrisch (Global Studies) received a Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship to study Arabic at Yarmouk University in Irbid, Jordan.

Matthew Hibdon (History), the 2010-11 president of the ODK Circle at MTSU, represented the circle at ODK's seventh annual "Campus Leaders Today, Community Leaders Tomorrow" (CLT2) at the University of Richmond in Richmond, Virginia, March 10-13. This summer, *The Circle*, the official magazine of Omicron Delta Kappa, featured Matthew and two other CLT2 2011 participants in an article about the program.



Miguel Hurtado (Chemistry and Biology) was awarded the L/P Virginia McCullough Pre-Medicine Scholarship this spring. This summer, as a result of his research on early synthesis steps of biofuel precursors, Miguel

was the only undergraduate chosen to receive one of four nationwide Ciba Travel Awards in Green Chemistry from the American Chemical Society. He presented his research at the fifteenth annual Green Chemistry and Engineering Conference in June in Washington, D.C. His poster was “Microwave-Assisted Pre-Treatment Process to Enhance the Conversion of Kenaf Cellulose to Fuels and Chemicals.” Also, as a result of a paper written by Miguel and Dr. Beng Ooi and published in the *International Journal of Molecular Science*, the pair has been asked to contribute a chapter to the forthcoming textbook *Biotechnology of Neglected and Underutilized Crops*, which is expected out in late 2012.

Kristin Johnson (Political Science and Speech and Theatre) was among the top witnesses in the opening round of the American Mock Trial Association’s National Championship Tournament March 25–27 in Memphis.

Michelle Katz (Recording Industry) received the Reynolds American Foundation Scholarship, a National Merit-based scholarship. Michelle is a freshman Buchanan Fellow.

Joey Meyer (International Relations and Global Studies), a participant in MTSU Model UN, received a commendation for his representation of Romanian delegate Gheorghe Georghiu-Dej at the Los Angeles Model United Nations Conference in April.

Sam Mitchell (Chemistry) presented research in February during the sixth annual Posters at the Capitol event in Nashville. His abstract was “Porous Silica Films as a Reliable Medium for Sensing Protein-Antibody Binding Events.” His faculty mentor was Dr. Andrienne Friedli, Undergraduate Research Center director. Sam, a member of the MTSU Chemistry Society, won the Silent Inspiration award, an MTSU Leadership and Service recognition. He also was awarded an Albert L. and Ethel C. Smith Pre-Medical Scholarship.

Omar Mohammed (Physics) received a Physics and Astronomy Alumni Scholarship in the spring.

Daniel Murphy won the Physics and Astronomy Faculty Scholarship Award in April.

Joseph Quarles (English) won the Robert C. LaLance Award in the spring and was the Ronald McNair winner of a 2011 Tennessee Association for Special Programs (TASP) Scholarship. He also received the Perseverance Award presented by the June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students this spring and won the Homer Pittard Writing Award and the Martha Hixon Creative Expression Award. His research for Scholars Week in April won him third place in the Liberal Arts category, and he was recently selected to serve on the Student Judiciary Board.

Nathan C. Reale (Computer Science) was awarded a Computer Science Scholarship this spring.

Lauren Rigsby (Physics) received a Goldwater Scholarship Honorable Mention.

Lema Sbenaty (Chemistry), a participant in MTSU Model UN, received a Best Delegate Award at the Los Angeles Model United Nations Conference in April. The Best Delegate Award is the highest honor awarded at Model UN Conferences. She won for her representation of Daniel Benjamin of the U.S. Department of State on the WikiLeaks committee. Lema also appeared in the CNN documentary *Unwelcome: The Muslims Next Door* in March.

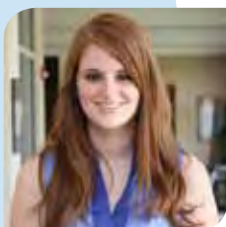
Leland Waite (Aerospace) received the Aerospace Department’s Tiara Foundation Chair Award of Excellence.

Kenneth Willoughby (Aerospace) was awarded an Excellence in Aviation Scholarship and the Harry E. Slater Memorial Scholarship this spring.

Anna Yacovone (Global Studies and Organizational Communication) received the MTSU Community Service Award in the spring. ●

SPRING 2011

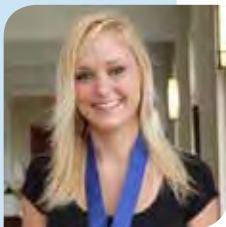
Theses Defended



Courtney Allison [Psychology]
"The Relationships among Humor, Subjective Well-Being, Relationship Dissatisfaction, and Symptoms of Stress"



Trent Brewer
[Biology and Chemistry]
"Effects of Tamoxifen, a Topoisomerase II Inhibitor, on Topoisomerase II-Mediated DNA Cleavage Induced by Etoposide, a Topoisomerase II Poison."



Chelsea Curtis
[Political Science]
"The Stoics's Critique of Adam Smith's Political Economy of Laissez-Faire: The Role of the 'Invisible Hand' in Materialistic Modern America"



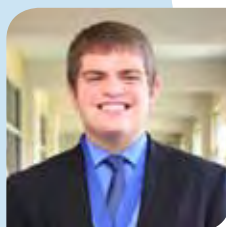
Michelle Ebel [Accounting]
"The Merging of the U.S. and International GAAP and Its Impact on American Business"



Casey Gaddis [Anthropology]
"Tam Lin: A Retelling"



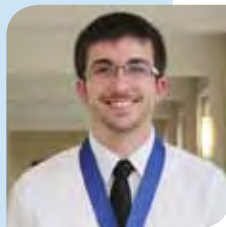
Matthew Hampton [Economics]
"A Study of the Financial Crisis Using Cross-Sectioned, Panel Data"



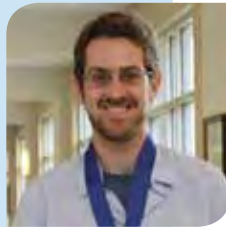
Matthew Hibdon [History]
"McMinnville in the Civil War: Life under Occupation as Observed by L. Virginia French"



Aaron Larson [Recording Industry]
"The Limonese Calypso in Context"



Aaron Scherer [Philosophy]
"Ethics: Explaining the Confusion of Modernity"



Jonathan Siler [English]
"Linguistic Crossings of the Borderland Experience in Randa Jarrar's *A Map of Home*"



Richard Skelley [Electronic Media Communication]
"Eric and the Dread Gazebo (a Short Film)"



Jessica Taylor [Chemistry]
"Synthesis of Beat-Secretase Inhibitors"



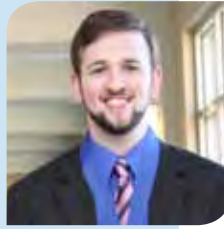
Andrew Trivette (Psychology)
"The Effects of Laugh Tracks on Perception of Humor as a Function of Informational Social Influence and Emotional Contagion"



James Urban (Recording Industry)
"What Is the Fate of the Compact Disc? From Napster to Now: The Transition into the Digital Age"



May Wai (Biology)
"Cellular Oncogene Expression during *Legionella pneumophila* Infection"



Lee Whitwell (Political Science)
"Pugmeire v. Thompson: A Mock Trial Case (a Creative Project)"



Laura Wilbanks (English)
"East of the Sun and West of the Moon: A Retelling" ●

Phi Kappa Phi Initiates Students, Recognizes Faculty

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi initiated nine Honors students and recognized one Honors faculty member at its initiation ceremony April 5 in the Tennessee Room, James Union Building.

Student initiates included aerospace major **Cody Malone**; mass communication major **Ryan Hopkins**; physics major **Robert Murphy**; **Miguel Hurtado**, a chemistry and biology major; music major **David Hull**; **Taffeta O'Neal**, an English major; global studies major **Jennifer Isenberg**; political science major **Constance Grieves**; and **Kaitlin Newman**, an international relations and philosophy major.

Dr. Preston MacDougall (Chemistry), a member of the Honors faculty, was recognized as an Influential Faculty member by the student initiates.

Dr. John R. Vile, Honors dean, is the Phi Kappa Phi fellowship coordinator and treasurer. Ms. Kathy Davis, Honors College executive aide, is the chapter's coordinator, and Dr. Wandi Ding (Mathematical Sciences), a member of the Honors faculty, is president of the chapter. Ms. Valerie Avent was chapter president for 2010–11.

The primary objective of Phi Kappa Phi is to recognize and encourage superior scholarship in all academic disciplines. To be eligible for membership, seniors and graduate students must rank in the top 10 percent of their respective colleges, and juniors must rank in the top 7.5 percent. ●



Phi Kappa Phi members Dmitry Terekhov, left, and Laurence Tumpag wrap children's books for a Phi Kappa Phi project for Habitat for Humanity this summer.

The Spring 2012 Visiting Artist's Seminar: **Music as Witness with Nathan Bell**

by Dr. Claudia Barnett



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Songwriting and social justice: you're invited to explore this time-honored tradition with our 2012 Visiting Artist, Nathan Bell.

Music as Witness will start with the blues, country, and folk and move into and up to contemporary songwriting. The class will discuss and analyze how music has consistently been a force for justice and truth. Students will study songwriting techniques, including the integration of music and lyrics. They will also learn how other art forms, including poetry, photography, and theater, can be combined with songwriting to produce a rich experience for the audience.

The final project will be a song cycle written and performed by Nathan Bell and his students. Students will choose their own subject matter under Nathan's guidance. The song cycle will include music and spoken word; it may also include visual components.

The Visiting Artist's Seminar (UH 3200), an interdisciplinary Honors course taught by a professional artist, has been offered nine times so far and has included such diverse topics as 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 participation by students.

The Visiting Artist's Seminar enhances culture and creativity on our campus and touches students' lives in an uncommon way. It is taught at an introductory level so that students from any field of study can participate; it is limited to 15 students; and the only prerequisites are upper-division standing and a 3.25 GPA.

The 2012 Visiting Artist's Seminar will meet February 20–24 (MTWRF, 3:00–5:40). Students may register through Pipeline. (If you have a scheduling conflict, please contact the other professor, get written permission to miss that week's classes, and *then* contact Kathy Davis in Honors.)

Nathan Bell and His Students in Concert: Friday, February 24, 4–6 p.m., in Tucker Theatre, with a reception to follow. Free and open to the public.

Nathan Bell's visit to MTSU is made possible by the generosity of the Distinguished Lecture Fund, the Virginia Peck Trust Fund, the University Honors College, the College of Liberal Arts, and the English Department.

For more information, contact Dr. Claudia Barnett, professor of English and coordinator of the Visiting Artist's Seminar: cbarnett@mtsu.edu or (615) 898-2887. ●

2011 Visiting Artist's Seminar Empowers Student

by Dave C. Cate

Dave Cate is an Honors student majoring in recording industry with a concentration in audio production and a minor in electroacoustics.

During what was surely the busiest week of my life, I think I learned as much as I would have from taking a regular three-credit-hour course, and compared with the other courses I've completed as an undergrad, [the Visiting Artist's Seminar] left me with such a sense of empowerment and accomplishment.

On the technical side, I learned techniques of film-making, a field I hadn't previously explored. From Jesse Epstein's explanations and handouts, I grasped how different camera shots could create certain dynamics in the film and how different styles of documentary could communicate specific messages. From my team's "director," I learned basic protocols for being part of a film crew—things like "don't cast a shadow on the person/place/thing being filmed"—as well as the basics of footage-editing software. From my own mistakes, I learned the great importance of carefully synchronizing audio recording with video recording at the time of the recording.

On the conceptual side, I learned about the nature of documentaries as an art form. Going into the class, I had idealized thoughts of documentaries as objective and informative presentations; before the end of the first meeting, I realized that documentaries can be (and often are) subjective and need not be informative. In keeping with the week's theme of "work," I learned about working in the middle ground between two team members who mix like water and oil (I won't mention their names here), and I learned from our subjects (the staff at Slick Pig Barbecue) how going the extra mile in terms of caring for and dedication to their work set their product well above the competition.

Most importantly, however, I learned that, given a willing teammate or two, I can start preproduction of a short documentary on Tuesday, shoot footage on Wednesday, and have a rough cut ready to go by Friday. I learned all that I need to do this all again sometime, if the inclination and opportunity to do so present themselves, and I've accomplished something that I think will stay with me—be it through professional credits, personal bragging rights, etc.—for the rest of my life. ●

Four Receive Gilman Scholarships

Four MTSU students working through MTSU's Office of Education Abroad and Student Exchange, headed by **Rhonda Waller**, have received Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships for fall 2011.

One Honors student, **Kristofer Hallfrisch** from Westmoreland, Tennessee, who is majoring in global studies, received \$4,500 to study Arabic at Yarmouk University in Irbid, Jordan. **Kimberly Puckett**, a mass communication (advertising) major from Nashville, received \$2,500 to enhance her study of Japanese.

Karissa Senn, from Kingston Springs, will support her international relations studies with a \$5,000 scholarship to study at the University of Hyderabad in India. **Yosaton Tugmanelatkul**, a global studies major from Nashville, received \$4,000 to study in Thailand.

Students interested in applying for Gilman Scholarships can find further information at www.iie.org/gilman. ●



Four Win Spring 2011 *Collage* Awards

Four students received Creative Expression Awards for their contributions to the spring 2011 issue of *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression*. **Steve Christopher**, **Joseph Quarles**, **Chris Donahue**, and **Betsy Ochoa** won \$50 awards for their outstanding submissions.



Christopher, a liberal studies major, received a Martha Hixon Creative Expression Award for his poem "Gift to a Black Sheep."

Quarles, an English major, won for his prose work "The Phone Call." The literary awards are named

in honor of MTSU English professor Martha Hixon, a long-time supporter of *Collage* and member of the publication's advisory board.



Donahue, a mass communication [digital media] major, received a Lon Nuell Creative Expression Award for his photograph *Traps of*



Reality. **Ochoa**, an art major, won for her etching *Reaching*. The visual awards are named in memory of art professor Lon Nuell, who died in 2008.

A staff of 22 undergraduates selected and edited the 50 works included in the journal from over 300 submissions. The nine-member *Collage* advisory board, all faculty members, chose the Creative Expression Award winners.

MTSU students may submit their creative work through the recently redesigned *Collage* website at www.mtsu.edu/~collage. A new online submission system can be used through the website.

A publication of the University Honors College, *Collage* is a student-produced, biannual magazine of creative visual and literary art and has been published by MTSU since 1968. Marsha Powers, coordinator of Special Projects and Publications for the Honors College, has been the *Collage* advisor since 2004. ●

(L-R) Honors Student Association members Kelsey Wells, Mary Catherine Robinson, and Sam Mitchell in front of a Habitat for Humanity house that the group helped build.



The 2010–2011 Honors College Awards

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The University Honors College recognized outstanding students and faculty at its annual awards program on April 20 in the amphitheater of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building.

Dr. Stephen W. Wright

(Biology) won the Outstanding Honors Faculty Award, presented by Dr. Jan C. Hayes. **Dr. Karen Petersen** (Political Science) received the award for Outstanding Recruiter for Undergraduate Fellowships Office Scholarships. Twenty-one students won Honors scholarships, four received Outstanding Student Awards, and twenty-eight students were recognized for successfully defending their theses.



The names of 2011 Goldwater Scholarship and Fulbright Scholarship winners were announced. **Chris Ehemann** and **Evan Craig** won Goldwater Awards, and **Lauren Rigsby** received honorable mention. **Kimberly Yarborough** and **Patrick Pratt** won Fulbright Awards.

Jordan G. Dodson, a biology major, received the Bart McCash Scholarship, which was presented by Dr. June Hall McCash. Dr. McCash also presented a new scholarship, the McCash Founders Award Scholarship, to **Jacob Verhoeff**, a social work major with minors in aerospace and French.

Dr. Roy Earl Thomas presented Ingram-Montgomery Research Scholarships to four students: **Adam Emerson**, a senior majoring in psychology and international relations with a minor in Russian studies; **Casey M. Gaddis**, a spring Honors graduate who majored in anthropology and minored in geology/earth science and Spanish; **Miguel Hurtado**, a pre-medical



Above: Jan Hayes and Stephen Wright
Left: Karen Petersen and Dean Vile
Below: Emma Fredrick, Philip Mathis,
and Kathryn Holden



student pursuing a double major in biology and science with a concentration in professional chemistry; and **May H. Wai**, a Burmese student majoring in biology and minoring in chemistry.

Chelsea L. Fleet won the Hannah/Harris Study Abroad Scholarship, which was announced by Dr. Watson Harris. Dr. Phil Mathis presented the Marilyn M. and Philip M. Mathis Research Award to psychology majors **Emma G. Fredrick** and **Kathryn E. Holden**. Emma is minoring in French, and Kathryn's minors are communication disorders and leadership studies.

Martin Scholarship



Dr. Scott Carnicom presented the Michael Martinelli Memorial Scholarship to **Victoria Harrison**, an animal science major, and Academic Achievement Scholarships to **Daniel Gouger**, a biochemistry and foreign languages (Spanish) major with minors in business administration and leadership studies; **Matthew Hibdon**, a history major with a minor in leadership studies; and **Scott Rife**, a music major with a concentration in performance.

Paul W. Martin III awarded eight Paul W. Martin Scholarships. Recipients were **Kaela Armbrister**, a transfer student majoring in mass communication with a concentration in advertising/public relations; **Katherine Bogle**, a political science major with a minor in political and civic engagement; **Sarah Gallagher**, an English major with a concentration in writing; **Lindsay Gates**, a history major minoring in economics and French; **Amy Goldstein**, a double major in history and anthropology with a minor in Spanish; **Christopher Ranker**, an English and mass communication major; **Ruben Tavakalov**, a double major in biology and chemistry; and **Juan Zelaya**, an entrepreneurship major.

Honors advisor Laura Clippard announced this year's Outstanding Student Awards, which went to freshman **Lorel J. Holsinger**, an English major with minors in French and philosophy; sophomore **Meredith L. Holt**, a science major; junior **Jacob H. Basham**, who is majoring in mathematics and minoring in biology and chemistry; and **Chad M. Slaven**, a chemistry major on the pre-dental track who is minoring in biology and psychology. ●



Academic Scholarship



Outstanding Student Awards



Members of the spring 2011 *Collage* staff on the steps of the Martin Honors Building are (front, L—R) Jennifer Johnson, Caitlin Orman, Emily Collins; (second row, L—R) Bethany Wilson, Taylor Hixson, Casey Gaddis, Katie Bogle, Callie Durham; (third row, L—R) Jessica Harris, Courtney Polivka, Sheila Smotherman, Chris Ranker; (back, L—R) Sam Swift, E. J. Hirsch, Jonathan Siler, Martin Moran, Sean Pietzsch, Patrick Casey. Not pictured: Bethany Harris, Kaitlin Beck, Jalesa Lowe, and Fernando Ramos.



Collage Recognizes Contributors Staff

Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression recognized contributors and staff members at a program in April in the amphitheater of the Martin Honors Building.

The magazine's 2010–2011 editor-in-chief Caitlin Orman emceed the program. She recognized all staff members and contributors who were present and called them to the stage for photographs. She also recognized spring 2011 Creative Expression Award winners Steve Christopher, Joe Guarles, Chris Donahue, and Betsy Ochoa, who each received a certificate and gift card.

Following the awards presentations, seven contributors read their published submissions: Taffeta Chime read "The Mrs."; Joseph Lampley read "Affinity"; Joseph Guarles read "The Phone Call"; Ari Constantine read "The Book of Art"; Steve Christopher read "Gift to a Black Sheep"; Abigail Blythe Stroupe read "Namaste, Brother"; and Trisha Thompson read "Saturday Nights and Sunday Mornings." Chime also read "Giggling," the fall Creative Expression Award-winning poem written by Jaime Luna, who was unable to attend. A reception followed in the lobby.

Honors-Sponsored Teams Take First, Third Place in Quiz Bowl

The Buchanan Fellows team and the Omicron Delta Kappa team, both sponsored by the University Honors College, took first and third place, respectively, in the 2011 Scotty Tucker Memorial Quiz Bowl March 29.

Buchanan Fellows Troy Berry, Adam Emerson, Ashlin Harris, and Cody Malone won the eight-team competition, which took place in the Learning Resources Center TV studio. Matthew Hibdon, Christen Vann, and Lee Whitwell of the Omicron Delta Kappa team (ODK) took third place.

The Society of International Affairs team, known as the "Giant Squid," won second place. Team members were Michael Allen, David Hiller, Chris Kandt, and Michael Pollard.

Buchanan Fellows are recipients of the highest academic scholarship offered by MTSU: the Buchanan Fellowship. The Honors College selects 20 new Fellows each year from top incoming freshmen who seek the fellowship and meet its stringent requirements.

Teams fielded trivia questions from a variety of disciplines. Glenda Pipkin, an alumna of Gamma Iota Sigma, cosponsor of the competition, was this year's Quiz Bowl emcee. Ken Hollman, advisor for Gamma Iota Sigma, organized the Quiz Bowl with the help of chapter president Rachel Casillas and Valerie Avent, president of Phi Kappa Phi, the other cosponsor of the competition. The Quiz Bowl has been held on campus for 22 years. ●



(L-R) Adam Emerson, Troy Berry, Ashlin Harris, and Cody Malone won the 2011 Quiz Bowl.



The third-place Quiz Bowl team members belong to the MTSU circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society. (L-R) Lee Whitwell, 2010-11 ODK treasurer; Matthew Hibdon, 2010-11 ODK president; and member Christen Vann.

Local Productions Feature MTSU Talent

Consider This Inc., a relative newcomer to middle Tennessee theater, presented *You Can't Take It With You* in February, *Flowers for Algernon* in April, *Steel Magnolias* in June, and *The Rainmaker* in July, with casts that included numerous MTSU connections, including students, alumni, and faculty.

Matthew Forman, a spring 2011 liberal studies graduate who is director of public relations and marketing for Consider This and who also took part in the recent productions says alum **Kim Chunn** and students **Judy Owensby, Joshua Jennings, Marty Visser, Mark Bowman, Tom Bradford,** and **Jessica Wells** were involved in the plays. Accounting instructor Monica E. Davis acted in two of the spring/summer presentations, and her daughter, Madeline, and Biljana and Imran Khan, wife and son, respectively, of Zafrullah Khan, assistant professor of education, acted in a spring production. Suzanne Caum, of the School of Agrusiness and Agriscience, assisted behind the scenes.

"Working with Consider This has been a fantastic opportunity for me," Forman said. "Not only have I learned a great deal about acting and all of the behind the scenes work that goes into a production, but I have also learned much of the ins and outs of the day-to-day operations. As a community theater that emphasizes teaching, [we welcome] anyone who would like to be involved at any level... to come, learn, and become part of the theater's family."

Consider This is located in the Swan Performing Arts Center at 1203 Park Avenue in Murfreesboro and presents open-mic nights, musical programs, classes, and other entertainment opportunities. For details, visit the website at www.considerthisinc.com. ●

Students attending the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts visited the Martin Honors Building in June.



The Environment Honors Lecture Series, 2011

October 24

“The Use of Microscopic Organisms to Assess Past and Present Water Quality”

Melissa Lobegeier, Geosciences

October 31

“If It’s Green, It’s Good? Invasive Plant Pests and the Threat to Our Natural Heritage”

Kim Cleary Sadler, Biology

November 7

“Urbanizing Our World: At What Cost to Water Quality?”

John DiVincenzo, Chemistry

November 14

“Recycle, do without, or Take What Belongs to Others”

Patrick Doyle, Biology (retired)

November 21

“From Earth Day to 2011—Reflections of a Wounded Warrior”

Padgett Kelly, Biology, Center for Environmental Education

November 28

“All-Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) in Tennessee State Parks and Natural Areas and the Tennessee Naturalist Program (TNP)”

David Hill, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

December 5

Thesis Presentations (speakers TBA) ●

UH 3000 | CRN# 83625

Instructor: Dr. Philip Phillips, interim associate dean,
University Honors College

Cosponsored by the Center for Environmental Education

Mondays, 3:00–3:55 p.m.

Amphitheater, Room 106

Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building

Lecture topics are subject to change.

Honors Students and Their Research Projects, Scholars Week 2011



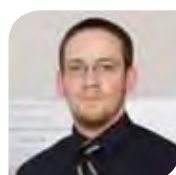
Jacob Basham, Mathematics
"Synthesis of Cyclopropyl Peptidomimetics as Potential BACE and HCV Protease Inhibitors"



Cari Jennings, Biology
"Fluorescent and Biosensor Detection of Anthrax-Simulating Spores"



Brandon Cathey,
Physics and Chemistry
"Refractive Index Sensitivity of the MTSU Biosensor"



Sam Mitchell, Chemistry
"Is Porous Silica a Superior Medium for Sensing Protein-Antibody Binding Events?"



Adam Emerson, Psychology and International Relations
"Are Memories for Taste Vulnerable to a Sensory Confirmation Bias?"



Alexander Murphy,
Mathematics
"Student Problem-Solving Strategies: Dot-Grid Area"



Emma Fredrick, Psychology
"Now You Taste It, Now You Don't: Confirmation Biases in Taste Perception"



Caitlin Orman, Psychology
"Vocabulary, Morphology, and Prosody in English Language Learners"



Lindsay Gates, History
"From Red to Green: The Progression of Indian Agriculture from Independence to the Green Revolution"



Joe Quarles, English
"Snow White: A Cinematic Study"



Daniel Gouger, Biochemistry and Foreign Languages
"Synthesis of Cyclopropyl Peptidomimetics as Potential BACE and HCV Protease Inhibitors"



Lauren Rigsby, Physics and Biology
"A New Transmission-Line Matrix Approach for Modeling Metamaterials"



Eric Guyes,
Aerospace and Physics
"New Fabrication Methods of Quantum-Dot Photovoltaic Solar Cells"



Kathryn Tackett, Geoscience
"Using Thecamoebians as Indicators of Environmental Change within Todds Lake, Murfreesboro"



Kathryn Holden, Psychology
"Now You Taste It, Now You Don't: Confirmation Biases in Taste Perception"



Jessica Taylor, Chemistry
"Synthesis of Cyclopropyl Peptidomimetics as Potential BACE and HCV Protease Inhibitors"



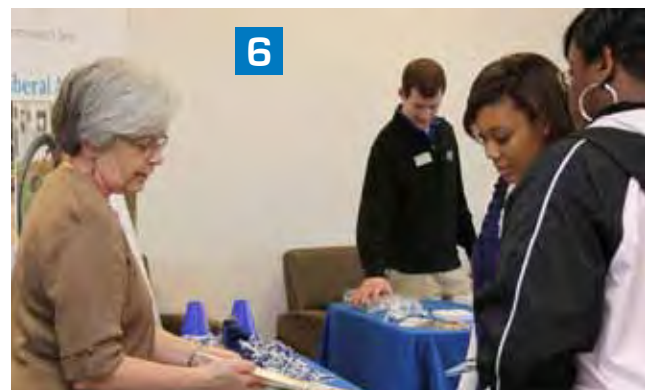
Miguel Hurtado,
Biology and Chemistry
"Fermentative Conversion of Glucose Derived from Kenaf Pulp into Ethanol"



Evan Totty, Economics
"Salary Caps and Competitive Balance in Professional Sports" ●

HONORS STUDENTS

President's Day Open House



1 Honors advisor Laura Clippard greets open house guests

2 Layne Sanders concludes her tour of the Martin Honors Building with a stop in the conference room for refreshments.

3 Admissions counselor Brian Walsh (left) assists President's Day Open House guests with admissions questions.

4 Bonnie McCarty, assistant director of scholarships, gives financial aid information to a prospective student.

5 Honors students (left to right) Juan Zelaya, Farrah Kennedy, and Immanuel Chioco welcome and assist President's Day guests.

6 Dr. Jan Leone, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts (left) advises a prospective student who is interested in the college's offerings.

Carnicom Named American Council on Education Fellow



Molly Corbett Broad, president of the American Council on Education (ACE), announced in July that Dr. Scott Carnicom, associate dean of the University Honors College and associate professor of psychology at Middle Tennessee State

University, has been named an ACE Fellow for academic year 2011–12. Nominated by MTSU’s president, Dr. Sidney McPhee, Carnicom will complete the fellowship with Dr. S. Georgia Nugent, president of Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio.

The ACE Fellows program, established in 1965, is designed to strengthen institutional capacity and build leadership in American higher education by identifying and preparing promising senior faculty and administrators for responsible positions in college and university administration. Fifty fellows, nominated by the presidents or chancellors of their institutions, were selected this year in a national competition.

Sharon A. McDade, Ed. D., director of the ACE Fellows program, said that most previous fellows have advanced into major positions in academic administration. Of the more than 1,700 participants in the first 46 years of the program, more than 300 have become chief executive officers and more than 1,100 have become provosts, vice presidents, or deans.

“We are excited to welcome the new class of fellows,” said McDade. “The program offers individualized, accelerated learning that advances leadership readiness while building institutional capacity. We are eager to embark on this transformational leadership journey with the members of the class of 2011–12.”

Each ACE Fellow will focus on an issue of concern to the nominating institution, while spending all or part of the next academic year working with a college or university president and other senior officers at a host institution. The program combines retreats, interactive learning opportunities, campus visits, and placement at another higher education institution to condense years of on-the-job experience and skills development into a single semester or year. The fellows are included in the highest level of decision making while participating in administrative activities and learning about an issue of benefit to the nominating institution.

Fellows attend three week-long retreats on higher education issues organized by ACE, read extensively in the field, and engage in other activities to advance their knowledge about the challenges and opportunities confronting higher education today.

Founded in 1918, ACE (www.acenet.edu) is the major coordinating body for all the nation’s higher education institutions, representing more than 1,600 college and university presidents and more than 200 related associations, nationwide. It provides leadership on key higher education issues and influences public policy through advocacy. ●

Dr. William “Bill” Knox, right, director of the Centennial Honors College at Western Illinois University, discusses honors education with MTSU Honors College dean John R. Vile during a June 17 visit to MTSU. Dr. Jack Thomas, former senior vice provost for academic affairs at MTSU, is now president at WIU. Dr. Vile said that it is flattering for the Honors College to be a recognized model for others who are seeking to improve their own programs and colleges.



CENTENNIAL BOOKS HAVE Honors Ties

Two of three books published for MTSU's centennial have ties to the University Honors College: *Time and Tradition*, a poetry anthology edited by Dr. Philip M. Mathis, former dean of the Honors College; and *Middle Tennessee State University: A Centennial Legacy*, a topical history of the University that began as an Honors Lecture Series.

Honors College dean John R. Vile developed the idea for the lecture series even before becoming dean in 2008. Vile wanted the Honors College to be a major participant in the University's centennial, and supporting and contributing to centennial books was the most appropriate way. Dr. Jan Leone, contributing editor of the second publication and associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts, worked closely with Honors College associate dean Scott Carnicom to choose speakers for "Blue Raider Milestones: Approaching the Centennial," the fall 2009 lecture series.

The lecture titles and content have evolved somewhat since 2009, but all nine original essays and three additional ones now make up the 12 chapters. Following the introduction, "A Remarkable Legacy" by David L. Rowe, chapters and authors are "Middle Tennessee State Normal School Comes to Murfreesboro, 1909-1911" by Janice M. Leone and John Lodl; "A History of Place" by Lorne McWatters; "Learn to Stand Alone" (women on campus) by Rebecca McIntyre and Nancy Rupprecht; "The Blue Raiders and the Gray Wizard: A Struggle with Memory and Identity" by Derek Frisby; "Student Life in the 1930s" by Reuben Kyle; "Victories and Defeats:

Intercollegiate Sports" by Fred P. Colvin; "1968 on Campus" by Jordan Kirkman; "Tyranny or Freedom? Presidential Power and Community Relations in the Firing of Philip Mankin" by James H. Williams; "From Teachers to Professors: G. M. Smith, the AAUP, and Modernizing the Faculty" by David Rowe; "Beyond the Metrics of Race: Geier and Integration, 1962-2010" by Kenneth A. Scherzer; "Getting on the Gravy Train: MTSU and World War II" by Ellen Garrison; and "Honors Education: A Story of Grand Dreams and Noble Work" by Philip M. Mathis.

All the book's authors are present or former members of the MTSU Department of History faculty with exception of John Lodl, director of the Rutherford County Archives; Reuben Kyle, an emeritus professor of economics; Jordan Kirkman, a graduate student in the History Department; and Phil Mathis. James Williams, a history professor, is also director of the Gore Research Center.

Middle Tennessee State University: A Centennial Legacy was published by Twin Oaks Press and is available in hardback for \$35 at Phillips Bookstore. For more information, contact Leone at jmleone@mtsu.edu. *Time and Tradition*, a paperback, was also published by Twin Oaks Press and is available from the Honors College for \$14.75.

Suma Clark, retired director of MTSU Publications and Graphics, wrote the official centennial book, *Traditions of Excellence: Celebrating the Centennial of Middle Tennessee State University*. Clark's 176-page book costs \$40 including sales tax. ●

Phillips Selected Interim Associate Dean

We are pleased to welcome **Philip Edward Phillips** as interim associate dean of the University Honors College. Dr. Phillips is professor of English in the College of Liberal Arts. He has taught at MTSU since 1999, and he has been a member of the Honors Faculty since 2000. Before his appointment as interim associate dean, he served as director of graduate admissions and interim graduate advisor in the Department of English.

Phillips earned his B.A. from Belmont University and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Vanderbilt. Before MTSU, he taught English and French at Battle Ground Academy in Franklin from 1992 to 1999.

The recipient of a 2007–2008 MTSU Distinguished Research Award, as well as research fellowships from Boston Athenæum and W. T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire and Modern French Studies, Dr. Phillips is a productive scholar and a dedicated mentor to undergraduate and graduate student researchers. He especially enjoys teaching research methods, early European literature (Virgil, Augustine, Boethius, and Dante), British literature, John Milton, and Edgar Allan Poe. He is the coeditor of *Carmina*

Philosophiae: Journal of the International Boethius Society, and he serves on the editorial advisory board of the *Edgar Allan Poe Review*. His major publications include *John Milton's Epic Invocations: Converting the Muse* (2000), *New Directions in Boethian Studies* (2007), *The Consolation of Queen Elizabeth I* (2009), and *A Companion to Boethius in the Middle Ages* (forthcoming in 2012).



Dr. Phillips is also founder and director of Teaching Great Books in Middle Tennessee Prisons, a public service initiative taught by MTSU faculty volunteers that offers ten-week, noncredit, college-level literature classes to inmates in three middle Tennessee prisons with the support of a partnership between MTSU, the Great Books Foundation, and the Tennessee Department of Correction. ●

Clippard Attends Fellowships Conference



Laura Clippard, Honors College advisor and Undergraduate Fellowships coordinator, attended the sixth biennial National Association of Fellowships Advisors (NAFA) conference, “Broadening Opportunities, Encouraging Diversity,” July 13–16 in Chicago.

Clippard was the lead presenter for “Wearing Many Hats—Best Practices for Part-Time Fellowship Advisors: Time Management and Other Creative Solutions that Work.” The panel

discussed methods for accomplishing key goals and best practices in part-time fellowship advising.

Clippard also attended workshops concerning national scholarships such as Fulbright, Marshall, Mitchell, Goldwater, and Rhodes. As fellowship coordinator, Clippard directs recruitment and selection of MTSU students for these national opportunities.

The mission of NAFA is to serve higher education administrators and faculty who assist college-level students with applications for an array of nationally competitive, merit-based scholarships. ●



Honors Faculty Profile: Ron Bombardi

Dr. Bombardi is chair of the Philosophy Department and a member of the Honors faculty.

When John Adams wrote his beloved Abigail in 1780, “I must study politics and war that my sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy,” he understood the pursuit of philosophy to encompass what we should today call the natural and social sciences. English usage has since changed; disciplinary boundaries have been declared, funded, and institutionalized. Yet, as I see the role of philosophy in contemporary American education, the spirit of Adams’s aspiration remains central to our own, for we too recognize that there are two educations: one that “should teach us how to make a living, and the other how to live.” The tenor of my own teaching is grounded in this fundamental principle, that liberation of the intellect is essential to human flourishing. Intellectual freedom is, in my view, tantamount to the practice of sound scholarship—that is, to maintaining rigorous habits of organized skepticism and reasoned consensus in all collective endeavor. And because both doubt and consensus depend as much on logic and analysis as they do on data and engineering, my pursuit of the perennial goals of higher education has, for over thirty years teaching philosophy from antiquity to the latest news, been hungrily interdisciplinary.

During these years [twenty-seven spent at MTSU] I have delivered numerous papers for the Honors Lecture Series, directed several Honors theses, taught Honors classes, and served as both a member and chair of the Honors Council; and in all of these capacities, I have essayed to emphasize an understanding of our Western intellectual traditions as vast conceptual networks whose components range from mathematics and natural science to drama and literature.

Academics are supposed to have areas of specialization. Today, mine are in mathematical logic, interdisciplinary research in neuroscience, and applied philosophies of music, culture, and technology. I think my father had something to do with these interests, though I’m not sure either of us quite knows how or why.

My father loved Italian folk songs. He wanted to learn to play them on the accordion. He’d taught himself to repair automotive engines by the time he was twelve, but the accordion somehow eluded his usually ready hands and fine mechanical sense. Being brainy with machines, though, he didn’t get along so well with teachers. Maybe he belonged in a Sartre novel or something, but in any case, instead of taking lessons himself, he sent me to the celebrated studio of one Mister Tedesco, master accordionist extraordinaire and local bandleader.

There was a makeshift dance hall in the basement of Mr. T’s studio, and sometimes he’d get a bunch of us students to play ensemble accordion arrangements from the latest light classical hot-list for some hoity-toity party or other. Those were immensely enjoyable nights, though, not because we particularly liked the music we were handed—we didn’t—but because we got to watch our elders shake their swinging spines to whatever wobbly beat we fledgling showkids could muster of an evening.

Otherwise, I didn’t like the accordion much back then. But wrestling those keys and buttons into some semblance of tuneful air brought me to conclude that there are important differences between playing instruments well and making good music. I try to do both, but never to confuse accomplishing one with achieving the other, whether on stage, or by analogy, at the lectern. ●

Byrnes Chosen Dean of Liberal Arts

Longtime political science professor Mark Byrnes was chosen as the new dean of the College of Liberal Arts in April after a national search. Byrnes had served as acting and interim dean following the illness and May 2010 death of John N. McDaniel, MTSU's dean of liberal arts for 26 years.

Byrnes is a Murfreesboro native and the current chair of the Rutherford County Board of Education, to which he was first elected in 2004. He is an MTSU graduate and earned his master's and doctoral degrees at Vanderbilt University. Byrnes received an MTSU Foundation 2010 Public Service Award at the Fall Faculty Meeting in August 2010.

A member of the Honors faculty, Byrnes is a nationally recognized expert on the American presidency and Tennessee politics and has taught political science at MTSU since 1991. He has coordinated MTSU's Legislative Internship program since 1993, selecting and supervising 12 to 16 students to work with the Tennessee General Assembly each spring. He served

as associate dean of liberal arts from 2006 to 2009.

University Provost Brad Bartel said, "Dr. Byrnes has served with distinction at MTSU as a faculty member, associate dean, and interim dean . . . The entire University community respects him and looks forward to his upcoming leadership of the College of Liberal Arts."



Byrnes said, "I'm excited about the opportunity to lead the college and plan to continue its tradition of focusing on students and supporting our faculty and staff. I graduated from an MTSU liberal arts department (as a political science major) and have worked as a professor and administrator here for 20 years. I'm sure I'll enjoy this role in the college as I have the others." ●

President Sidney A. McPhee congratulates Honors College coordinator Marsha L. Powers for being selected the 2011 Administrative Employee of the Year. Powers serves as editor of *Honors Edition* and is advisor for *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression* and *Scientia et Humanitas: A Journal of Student Research*. The Employee Recognition Award Reception was held April 27 in the Tennessee Room, James Union Building.



Faculty and Staff News

Sanjay Asthana (Journalism) won a \$254,222 Qatar National Research Foundation Grant to travel to the Middle East to study how young people in Palestine use old and new media in the process of creating personal and social narratives. His destinations include Doha, West Bank, Ramallah, and Haifa.

Claudia Barnett (English) participated in Nashville's Ten-Minute Playhouse in May with her newest script, *Swimming in the Afternoon*. Four other of her short plays have recently had full productions: *Eden*, by Crack the Glass Theatre Company (Philadelphia); *I Love You Terribly*, by Stratton Players (Fitchburg, Massachusetts); *The Pretty Young Girl*, by Metropolitan Playhouse (New York); and *Sex Lessons*, by Independent Actors Theatre (Columbia, Missouri).

Robert B. Blair (Business Communication and Entrepreneurship) coauthored a chapter in the *National Business Education Association (NBEA) Yearbook 2010* titled "Professional Development on an International Scale" with Dr. Martha Balachandran. He presented sessions at the NBEA Convention, "*Instructional Supervision: Method or Mayhem? The Professional Impact of Social Networking*," and copresented a session as part of the NBEA Academy for Leadership Excellence to train regional, state, and territory president-elects from across the country. Dr. Blair also serves as chair of the NBEA National Leadership Awards Administrative Committee. During 2010–2011, Blair served as research coordinator for the National Association for Business Teacher Education (NABTE) and also as a member of the NBEA Leadership Task Force. Dr. Blair was elected president-elect of NABTE and Southern Business Education Association Representative to the NBEA board. Along with MTSU colleagues Drs. Tony Johnston (Agribusiness/

Agriscience), Jette Halladay (Speech/Theatre), Stephen D. Morris (Political Science), and Gerald Morton (Concrete Industry Management), he visited several cities in Honduras during spring break 2011 to explore interdisciplinary research and experiential/service learning opportunities for MTSU students. As one of only six professional registered parliamentarians in Tennessee, Dr. Blair spends much of his spare time serving student, professional, and community organizations as a convention parliamentarian, professional presider, script writer, meeting consultant, and parliamentary teacher/trainer. He completed his 15th year at MTSU in May 2011.

Will Brantley (English) was a featured speaker at "Carson McCullers: An Interdisciplinary Conference and 94th Birthday Celebration" in Columbus, Georgia, in February 2011. Brantley received an FRCAC summer research grant for "Letter-Writing and Authorship in the Work of Southern Women Modernists," which will appear in the *Oxford Handbook to the Literature of the U.S. South*. Brantley has also been invited to prepare the entry on Georgia writer and civil rights activist Lillian Smith for *Oxford Bibliographies Online: American Literature*. Brantley's *Feminine Sense in Southern Memoir: Smith, Glasgow, Welty, Hellman, Porter, and Hurston* (1993) was reissued by the University Press of Mississippi as part of its 40th anniversary catalog (fall 2010).

Mark Byrnes (Political Science) was chosen in the spring as the new dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

William Canak (Sociology and Anthropology) was elected chair of the executive board of Rochelle Center in Nashville. Rochelle Center is a 43-year-old nonprofit that provides comprehensive services for adults with intellectual disabilities. Canak was

also elected treasurer of Tennessee Employment Relations Research Association and was invited to join the Employment Policy Research Network. The Employment Policy Research Network is a diverse group of 120 academic researchers from more than 30 research universities around the country who share a deep interest in and concern about the state of work and employment in the U.S. and around the world. The impetus for this network was the greatest unemployment/jobs crisis of our lifetime. Additionally, Canak was elected chair of the National Chapter Advisory Committee of the Labor and Employment Relations Association. He was reappointed as contributing editor, Library of Congress, *Handbook of Latin American Studies* (30 years service).

Yuan-ling Chao (History) attended a National Endowment for the Humanities seminar on Daoist history and literature at the University of Colorado–Boulder from July 18 to August 5. The intense reading seminar included sessions on Daoist scriptures, liturgies, precept lists, and hagiographies from the early second century C.E. to modern works.

Georgia Dennis and **Marsha Powers** (Honors) attended “Photography and Photoshop CS5: From Focused to Finished” at the Nashville Convention Center in June. Kelby Training Live presented the seminar.

Wandi Ding (Mathematical Sciences) got an MTSU Instructional Evaluation and Development Grant (IED) for design and implementation of a pilot program to train undergraduates in biological and mathematical sciences. Ding received approval for a proposal to organize an American Mathematical Society (AMS) Special Session at the Joint Mathematics Meeting in Boston in January 2012. Ding also received MTSU Distinguished Lecture funding for fall 2011 to bring Dr. Glenn Webb from Vanderbilt to campus.

David Lavery (English) edited and coedited three books in 2010 and 2011: *Joss Whedon: Conversations* with Cynthia Burkhead (Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 2011); *On the Verge of Tears: Why the Movies, Television, Music, and Literature Make Us Cry* with Michele Byers (Cambridge:

Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2010); and *The Essential Sopranos Reader*, Essential Readers in Contemporary Media and Culture series (University Press of Kentucky, 2011). Lavery’s many essays and reviews in periodicals include “The ‘Television is Better Than the Movies’ Meme,” *Telegenic. Critical Studies in Television* (April 2011) <http://cstonline.tv/telegenic-5>; “Infinite Impossibilities?” *Telegenic. Critical Studies in Television* (March 2011) <http://cstonline.tv/telegenic-4>; and “Twenty Years” *Critical Studies in Television* (6.1) Spring 2011: 105–106. Lavery also wrote several essays and chapters in books. He organized two conferences in 2010 and 2011. He is coconvener with Rhonda Wilcox and Tanya Cochran of the “Fifth Slayage Conference on The Shedonverses” (University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, summer 2012) and is coconvener with Lynette Porter of “*LOST: The Conference*,” held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Popular Culture Association in the South in New Orleans in October 2011. Lavery’s conference papers and other presentations include the keynote for “A Conference on the Grotesque” (Boulder: University of Colorado); “What Was *Lost?* Where Television’s Most Extraordinary Series Came From and Where It Took Us,” a public lecture at MTSU; and “Carver Edlund: Jeremy Carver, Ben Edlund, Chuck, and *Supernatural* Authorship,” Popular Culture Association in the South (Savannah, October 2010).

Felicia Miyakawa (Music) is featured in the fall issue of *MTSU Magazine*. The “Ask an Expert” article, “Beat Generation,” describes Miyakawa’s journey to becoming an expert musicologist on the hip-hop genre. Because of her expertise, she was hired earlier this year to serve as a witness in a copyright infringement lawsuit facing Lil Wayne, a popular hip-hop performer.

Phil Oliver (Philosophy) has been promoted to associate professor.

Karen Petersen (Political Science) has been named assistant dean for the College of Liberal Arts. For more than a year, Petersen has spent part of her time coordinating the college’s efforts in student learning outcomes and assessment, vital areas for us as

IN Memoriam

dr. **Thomas Richard Berg**, an associate professor of electronic media communication and a member of the graduate faculty, the Honors faculty, and the Honors Council, died unexpectedly of natural causes on July 10, 2011, in Murfreesboro. He was 64 years old.

Berg was from Sioux City, Iowa, and earned a B.F.A. in 1970 at the University of South Dakota, an M.S. in 1974 at Iowa State University, and a Ph. D. in 1988 in mass communication from the University of Georgia.

Early in his career, Berg served as an instructor at St. Bonaventure University, Olean, New York, and the University of Texas–El Paso and as an assistant professor at Creighton University in Omaha. He had been an associate professor in the College of Mass Communication at MTSU since 1991. As a member of the Honors faculty, he taught Introduction to Electronic Media.

Berg's love of travel and teaching led him to universities in China and Germany, where he lectured as a guest professor. He was also known as "a wonderful teacher and a man with a great sense of humor," according to Dr. Roy Moore, dean of the College of Mass Communication.

During a memorial service at the Bragg Mass Communication Building July 21, numerous coworkers commented on his generosity, his booming voice, his love of laughter, and his tender heart. Coworker and friend Bob Pondillo said, "By all standards, his life was overflowing with love and laughter."

Survivors include a son, Jason Berg of Nashville; two sisters, Barbara (Larry) Dunlap-Berg of Nashville and Deb (Jeff) Sypersma of Sioux City, Iowa; and several nieces and nephews. ●



the Honors College sadly notes the passing of Dr. **Richard L. Hannah**, longtime Honors faculty member, Buchanan Fellowship faculty member, professor in the Department of Economics and Finance, and international goodwill ambassador for MTSU. Dr. Hannah, 59, died unexpectedly of natural causes on April 20.

Hannah received a B.A. in history from UT–Chattanooga, a B.A. in German and an M.A. in economics from MTSU, and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Utah. He began work at MTSU in 1992 and helped with the development of the Buchanan Fellows program in the Honors College in 2006, including teaching the first Buchanan Fellows macroeconomics course.

was important to understand the intellectual contributions of the person for whom the fellowship was named; he integrated writings by Dr. Buchanan into the Honors class he taught.

In December 2010, Hannah traveled to Bangladesh to meet with executives of the Grameen Bank, founded by former MTSU professor and Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus, to arrange for more student internships.

"Dr. Hannah believed he could inspire MTSU students by giving them examples of individuals like Dr. Buchanan and Dr. Yunus, and I believe he succeeded in this endeavor," said Honors College dean John R. Vile. "We are devastated by his loss."

Hannah is survived by his wife, Emma Burassa Hannah; sister, Patty (Ray) Stevens; brothers, Brian (Betty Jo) Hannah and Gary (Gay) Hannah; and several cousins.

Memorial gifts may be made to The Hannah/Harris Honors Study Abroad Endowed Scholarship fund. ●

The Buchanan Fellowship is named in honor of Dr. James M. Buchanan, an MTSU alumnus and Nobel Prize laureate, and is the most prestigious academic scholarship given by the University to incoming freshmen. Hannah thought it



SACS reaccreditation approaches. In recognition of her work and of the importance the university places on assessment and retention, her position has been restructured and re-titled. Although this is not a full-time administrative position and Petersen retains her faculty status, her work in this role is critical for the college. Dr. Petersen took a 10-day trip to Turkey over the summer.

Philip Edward Phillips (English) published two reviews, "Reconsidering Poe's Poetry and Its Theatrical Origins: A Review of *Stagefright, or the Broken Hearts of Edgar Allan Poe*" and "Review of Edgar Allan Poe by Kevin J. Hayes," in the *Edgar Allan Poe Review*, 12.2 (Spring 2011). His article "Poe's 1845 Boston Lyceum Appearance Reconsidered" has been accepted for inclusion in *Deciphering Poe*, a collection of essays edited by Alexandra Urakova, scheduled for publication by Lehigh University Press/Roman and Littlefield in 2012. Dr. Phillips was recently appointed

to serve a three-year term on the editorial advisory board of the *Edgar Allan Poe Review*.

Bob Pondillo (Electronic Media Communication) finished his latest short narrative film, *The Miracles on Honey Bee Hill*, over the summer of 2011. The film features an all-child cast. Kids ages 7-11 star in this story of love, acceptance, and forgiveness told fairy-tale style.



Marsha Powers (Honors) received the 2011 Administrative Employee of the Year Award on April 27.

Wayne C. Rosing (Biology) had "Additions to the Myxomycetes of Singapore" published by the University of Hawaii Press (2011) in *Pacific Science*, vol. 65, no. 3: 391-400. Coauthors are David W. Mitchell, Gabriel Moreno, and Steven L. Stephenson. ●

Almost to Eden Writer Wins Georgia Author of the Year Award

MTSU professor emerita June Hall McCash has been named the 47th annual Georgia Author of the Year for her first novel, *Almost to Eden*. The award was presented at a ceremony held at Kennesaw State University on June 11 by the Georgia Writers Association. The novel is set on Jekyll Island, Georgia, and in New York City.

The competition's judge, author Raymond Atkins, said, "*Almost to Eden* by June Hall McCash is one of those rare books that have the magical ability to transport the reader to another time and place in the world. The story follows the life of Maggie O'Brien, an Irish immigrant who comes to America during the early years of the twentieth century to start a new life . . . The characters are believable and sympathetic, and the story is uniquely fresh with a twist that few readers will see coming. Of all of the books I have read this year, only one has left tears in my eyes when I turned the final page. That book was *Almost to Eden*."

McCash was the founding director of the MTSU Honors Program (now Honors College) and also served as chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and

Literatures. During her time at MTSU, she received the Honors Outstanding Faculty Award, the Distinguished Research Award, and the Career Achievement



Award. She has also been recognized as a Distinguished Alumna by her undergraduate alma mater, Agnes Scott College. She holds a doctorate in comparative literature from Emory University. Dr. McCash is also an honorary member of the Honors College Board of Visitors.

McCash is the author of six other books, all nonfiction, including several about the coast of Georgia. She has also won awards from the Southeast Writers Association for poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. She is completing her second novel and has a new nonfiction book forthcoming from Mercer University Press. ●



Dr. Dilshod Achilov, assistant professor of political science at ETSU, presented "Can Islam and Democracy Coexist?" February 10 in the amphitheater. Dr. Achilov's research focuses on global Muslim politics, and the politics of the Middle East and Central Asia, and comparative democratization.

Dr. Elvan Aktas, associate professor of finance at Valdosta State University, presented a March lecture in the amphitheater: "Turkey: More Than You Know—Economic Development in Turkey." The lecture was jointly sponsored by the Honors College and the Society for Universal Dialogue.



Events at Honors



In July, the Honors College hosted the 9th annual Center for Accelerated Language Acquisition (CALA) Summer Language Institute for local language teachers and community members. Brian Roberts, front, language specialist for the Department of Children's Services, taught the Spanish classes; and Dr. Shelley Thomas (front row, right), founder of CALA, taught the teacher in-service sessions.



University Provost Brad Bartel presents "The Mother-Goddess Figurine Problem of the European Paleolithic." His lecture led off the spring Honors Lecture Series, "Celebrating Creative Scholarship."



MTSU won the most awards in the 2011 Tennessee College Public Relations Association's award competition at Chattanooga State Community College in May. Out of 128 entries by 17 Tennessee higher-education institutions, MTSU was the most-recognized university, winning 11 awards, including four gold honors. The spring 2010 *Honors Edition*, the Honors College newsletter, received a gold award in the "Newsletter, Printed" category. Credit goes to Sherry Wisner George, newsletter designer, and to MTSU's offices of Creative and Visual Services and Printing Services.



Dean John R. Vile, left, and Associate Dean Scott Carnicom present a gavel to 2010-11 Honors Council chair Dr. Teresa Davis in appreciation of her service.

Dr. Ron Messier, right, former director of MTSU's Honors Program, is interviewed regarding the Gülen movement for a Turkish television network. The interview took place in the Honors Martinelli Library in July.



Whatever Happened to Medieval Aghmat?

MTSU Professor Emeritus Ron Messier has spent the last seven years trying to find out.

At one time, Aghmat was the most important city in southwestern Morocco. It was the predecessor of Marrakech. Today, it stands virtually buried, forgotten, in the vicinity of the tiny village of Jemaa Rhmat, which evolved amid the ruins of the once flourishing metropolis.

In 2005, the only recognizable surface remnants of Aghmat's medieval glory were the modern mausoleum of a medieval Spanish king who was exiled there at the end of the eleventh century, who then died and became a legend; sections of the medieval circuit wall; three square basins on the northern edge of the site along with the foundation of a house; traces of a "village"; and the hammam (public bath), whose medieval form is still recognizable but has been rapidly deteriorating.

With the permission of the Moroccan Ministry of Culture and the cooperation of the *Institut National des Sciences d'Archéologie et du Patrimoine* (INSAP), a joint Moroccan-American team under the direction of Dr. Ron Messier and his Moroccan associate, Dr. Abdallah Fili, began work in June 2005.

In four seasons of excavation, the team managed to evacuate all the debris from the interior of the hammam, thereby allowing them to establish the floor plan of the three main components of the bath: the cold bath, the medium temperature bath, and the hot bath, following the model of the traditional Roman bath.



They also uncovered the base of the walls of the annexes of the hammam, i.e., the reception hall, dressing rooms, etc. They studied the water system and the heating system. They learned that the hammam was initially built toward the end of the tenth century, that it subsequently underwent at least three major renovations, and that it was abandoned as a hammam toward the end of the fourteenth century. Later, it was taken over by a rather large-scale pottery industry for the next two or three hundred years. Removing the earth that buttressed the walls of the structure in its state of decay had a destabilizing effect on the hammam, so the project focused much of its work on stabilization, consolidation, and partial reconstruction.

An invitation poster with a parchment-like background. On the left is a detailed illustration of an Islamic architectural interior, possibly a hammam or a palace, with multiple levels, arches, and a central fountain. The text is in French and Arabic. At the bottom, there are logos for the Moroccan National Library and the Morocco-America Commission for Educational & Cultural Exchange (MACECE).

Invitation

La Bibliothèque Nationale du Royaume du Maroc
&
La Commission Maroco-américaine pour l'Echange Educatif et Culturel

Ont le plaisir de vous inviter à la journée d'étude sous le thème :

*Nouvelles Recherches en Archéologie
Islamique au Maroc*

Hommage à Ronald A. Messier

Le Mardi 24 mai 2011
Salle de conférence
BNRM

الجمعية الوطنية للمكتبة المغربية
BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE
DU ROYAUME DU MAROC

الجمعية المغربية للتبادل التعليمي والثقافي
MACECE
Morocco-America Commission for Educational & Cultural Exchange

Alumni and Friends News

Caroline Abbott (Mathematics, 2010) is guest services area supervisor at the Nashville Zoo at Grassmere.

Courtney Allison (Psychology, 2011) is attending graduate school at MTSU and studying school psychology.

Jayne Andrews-Stein (English, 2007) is communications director and website editor for notalone.com, a Nashville-based national organization that provides programs and services to military veterans and families who suffer the effects of combat stress and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Taylor A. Barnes (Chemistry, 2009) and one of his fellow graduate students from California Institute of Technology were at Bristol University, U.K., this spring doing research. The *Journal of Chemical Physics* published "Embedded Density Functional Theory for Covalently Bonded and Strongly Interacting Subsystems," written by Taylor and two fellow graduate students, in volume 134, issue 16, April 28.

Joe Boachie (Biology and Chemistry, 2010) is working as an R&D specialist for Esoterix Clinical Trials Services in Brentwood.

Trent Brewer (Biology and Chemistry, 2011) is studying medicine at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis.

Dani Westerman Bryson (Political Science, 2009) has completed her second year of law school and her duties as a second-year editor for the *Tennessee Law Review*. She competed in the Texas Young Lawyers Association National Trial Competition and worked for the Knoxville (Knox County) Attorney General's office in 2010. She is an articles editor for the *Tennessee Law Review* for 2011–12. She split her time this summer between the district attorney's office in Dickson,

her hometown, and the Nashville District Attorney General's office, Criminal Division.

Will Cade (English, 2007) is an assistant editor for American Express magazines. He writes feature articles on technology, travel, and lifestyle for *Centurion* and *Departures* magazines, exclusive publications for American Express Centurion and Platinum card members. He lives in Munich, Germany.

Mary Crouse (Biology, 2011) won the Biology Department's Peter I. Karl Outstanding Senior Award, an Albert L. and Ethel C. Smith Pre-Medical Scholarship, and the President's Award in the spring.

Mia Drudge (B.S. Psychology, 2009; M.A., Psychology, 2011) is an instructional designer at Asurion in Nashville.

Michelle Ebel (Accounting, 2011) is working for the accounting firm of Lattimore, Black, Morgan, and Cain in Brentwood.

Samantha Ferrell (Political Science, 2011) has been accepted into the University of Kentucky's Ph.D. program in political science. She received a teaching assistantship with a stipend and a full-tuition scholarship. Samantha worked full-time as an intern for the Tennessee General Assembly during its 107th session.

Teri Forsythe (Mass Communication, 2009) is development and communications coordinator for the central office of Chi Psi fraternity in Nashville.

Sara Beth Gideon (History, 2011) is attending graduate school at MTSU, studying public history. She is also working with the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation and the Heritage Center of

During the 2007 season of work, the team carried out a remote sensing survey using both ground penetrating radar and magnetometry. The data revealed subsurface images, one of which, located in the field across the road from the hammam, was a large rectangle with a smaller interior rectangle toward one end. The orientation resembled the orientation of most early mosques in Morocco. Was this the long lost Grand Mosque of medieval Aghmat? Excavations during June of 2008 suggested that that was indeed the case. However, excavations in 2009 proved otherwise. What the team was actually looking at was the governmental palace. That was the primary focus of the 2010 excavation.

The uppermost level (most recent phase of occupation) of the palace is of the 14th century. Its plan is identical to Andalusian palaces in southern Spain, similar to the Alhambra palace of Granada, only on a slightly smaller scale. It consists of a ceremonial building organized around a central courtyard adorned with a pool surrounded by gardens. Excavation of the private part of the palace has yet to be completed. What has been seen so far is a small garden, a well, and a series of rooms. In two areas of the palace, one in the public part and one in the private part, broken floors have allowed the team to go to lower levels, dating back to the 11th–12th centuries, under the palace. Future research will allow the team to know if some of the buildings still buried relate to a time when the city was the Almoravid capital of Morocco. The Almoravids are the dynasty that Dr. Messier has been studying most of his professional career and about whom he has written a book,



The Almoravids and the Meanings of Jihad.

At the very end of the 2010 season, the team found five pillars of the Grand Mosque of Aghmat. In June 2011, excavating as much of the mosque as possible was their primary objective. They succeeded in identifying significant elements of the building. The central nave is wider than the others, leading to a *mihrab* (prayer niche), where they recovered many pieces of carved stucco with both epigraphic and floral design. Just to the right of the *mihrab*, they uncovered the rails for a movable *minbar*. This last achievement is only the second time such a discovery has been made in all of Islamic archaeology. The first was in 1994, when Dr. Messier's team found the rails of the *minbar* at Sijilmassa, Morocco. Finally, they observed that the *qibla* wall (wall oriented toward Mecca) underwent a significant change in orientation, a phenomenon usually associated with the transition from Almoravid to Almohad regimes. It is yet to be determined whether or not this occurrence dates to that period.

Messier and Fili plan one more season of excavation in June 2012 before they begin to write a book about the city of Aghmat, the first capital of southern Morocco.

On May 24, 2011, Dr. Messier was honored by the Moroccans with a day-long symposium celebrating his work in Morocco over the last 42 years (see illustration on page 50). A former director of MTSU's Honors Program, Dr. Messier now serves on the college's Board of Visitors. ●



Honors Experience Impacts Career, Life

by Mallory Melton

Mallory is a 2009 Honors graduate with a degree in anthropology who is pursuing a master's of education in professional counseling.

I was recently asked to give a thesis workshop to undergraduate Honors students at the University Honors College. It was a surreal experience. The experience made me realize how much of an impact the Honors College has had on my career and my life in the last six years. I am a first-generation college graduate from Jackson, Tennessee. My parents thank their lucky stars that I had the desire to pursue an education, let alone study abroad, receive scholarship and grant funding, and complete an undergraduate thesis. I owe all my accomplishments to my experiences in the University Honors College.

I entered my freshman year without knowing what I wanted for myself upon graduating. The most wonderful thing about a large state university such as MTSU is that it gives students like me the opportunity to discover and develop different interests. The Honors College helped nurture my confidence with its close-knit community of professors and students. Not knowing anyone else at MTSU, I opted to live in the Honors living and learning community on campus. I made friends there who later become my bridesmaids, all six of them. I am still close to them today, even though we are separated by hundreds of miles; we have the shared enjoyment of memories lived together and struggles that we all encountered. I would not be who I am today without these experiences.

Likewise, my Honors experience fostered my academic confidence. The turning point in my academic career came when I took an Honors Introduction to Anthropology class with Professor Richard Pace. From that point on I knew the direction I wanted to take. I wanted to experience something outside myself, outside my comfort zone. I decided to study abroad, not once but twice, in Spanish-speaking countries. I received scholarship funding, which paid for my travels nearly in full. I was able to apply the classes I took abroad to my Honors graduation requirements, including upper-division coursework. After returning

home, it was thesis time! I faced the awe-inspiring, daunting task of producing and publishing my own research! I was terrified. All the confidence I had been stockpiling seemed to be diminished next to the task of creating a thesis.

I relied heavily on the support of my friends, who were also undertaking thesis research, and my wonderful academic advisor, Tanya Peres. Thanks to Dr. Peres, I was able to receive grant funding through the Undergraduate Research Center and was paid to do my research. The thesis was a culmination



Graduate student Mallory Melton, right, an Honors College graduate, passes out workshop materials to biology majors Mary Hayden, left, and Kirsten Farrer before a thesis workshop in the Honors amphitheater in February.

of four years worth of desire and discipline. After finishing my Honors thesis, I felt a serene sense of peace and freedom. I had done it; I had proved to my colleagues and, more importantly, to myself that I could do whatever I put my mind and heart to. The Honors thesis opened doors for me after graduation. This included acceptance into graduate school for professional counseling here at MTSU. I was also given a graduate assistantship, which pays tuition and a monthly stipend for living expenses. I did hard work in the University Honors College, and the college made it easy for me to succeed. ●

Murfreesboro and Rutherford County. An article about Sara Beth's Honors thesis, "The Grand Host: MTSU and Community Interaction through Athletic Competitions," appeared in the February edition of *Athletic Business* magazine.

Jasmine Gray (Mass Communication, 2010) is attending graduate school at Syracuse University. She interned with Turner Broadcasting in New York City this summer, working for the Cartoon Network.

Nathaniel Greene (Political Science and Economics, 2011) is attending the University of Tennessee School of Law.

Amber Hampton (Global Studies, 2010) is working with Experience Community in Murfreesboro to provide support for homeless and low-income people and is working to get nonprofit status for a group that will strive to provide housing and rehabilitation. The group's work with the homeless was highlighted in the August 3 issue of *Murfreesboro Pulse*.

Matt Hampton (Economics, 2011) received a full scholarship for the economics Ph.D. program at Emory University. He is also receiving a yearly stipend.

Raiko Henderson (Economics, 2001) and her husband, John, welcomed Rebecca Rose to their family July 5. She was 21 inches long and weighed 8 lbs., 1 oz. Rebecca's siblings are Sarah, Michael, and Samuel.

Merranda Holmes (Biology, 2010) was an alternate delegate representing the Quillen College of Medicine of East Tennessee State University at a conference of the American Medical Association in Chicago in June 2011. She also participated in a ten-day medical mission to Matagalpa, Nicaragua, in July. A team of about 30 people including pharmacists, pharmacy students, physicians, and medical students were part of the trip, which was sponsored by the Christian Medical and Dental Association—Global Health Outreach.

Debra Hopkins (Honors College Board of Visitors) recently resigned from National Geographic School Publishing to take a new position as regional vice president/community and learning solutions for HealthTeacher, an online resource for health educators and professionals. 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.

Gretchen Jenkins (Political Science, 2008) graduated from New York Law School in May.

Aaron Larson (Recording Industry, 2011) won a William J. Connelly Writing Award for best English upper-division essay of 2010 for a paper he wrote for an Honors class in fall 2010.

J. Raney Pollos Linck (Nursing, 2000) has been named chair of the baccalaureate nursing program at Globe University/Minnesota School of Business in Richfield, Minnesota. She has also been elected vice president of the Chi-at-Large chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, a nursing honor society.

Eric Little (Foreign Languages and Literatures, 2008), who received a Fulbright Award to teach in Portugal in 2010–11, was accepted by Duke Divinity School with a rare full scholarship for all three years.

June Hall McCash (Honors program founding director and professor emeritus) won the Georgia Author of the Year Award for her first novel, *Almost to Eden*, which was published in 2010.

Mika Meschievitz (Chemistry, 2009) received a scholarship to study bioelectrochemistry at Vanderbilt University. As a graduate assistant, she works with Dr. David Cliffl, an associate professor of chemistry, designing and using chemical sensors to test the effects of different stimuli on bacterial cells.

Shannon Murphy (Biology, 2010) represented the Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University at a conference of the American Medical Association in Chicago in June 2011. Joining her were **Merranda Holmes** (Biology, 2010), who was an alternate delegate, and **Jeremy Crook** (Chemistry, 2010). The conference involved training sessions and public service activities.



Alumnus Sees Changes, Gives Back

by Adam Shulman | *Adam Shulman graduated with Distinction in University Honors in 2007. A physics major, Schulman had a concentration in medical physics and a minor in mathematics.*

Since graduating from the Honors College at MTSU, my life has seen many changes. I have loved the journey that has brought me to where I am in this world and in my life today, and I look forward to the network of obstacles and opportunities that lie in front of me and the choices that will lead me in many, sometimes unpredictable, directions.

In May 2007, I obtained my B.S. in physics with a concentration in medical physics. I then attended Vanderbilt University, where I graduated with an M.S. in medical physics in May 2009.

After graduation, I married my Senegalese girlfriend, Adama, who I'd been dating for almost five years, and moved to the Jersey City waterfront, a block from the Hudson River across from New York City, to start my first job as a medical physicist at John F. Kennedy Medical Center. A medical physicist works in a radiation oncology department. Duties include radiation safety enforcement, maintenance of all radiation delivering machines and equipment to within a certain degree of error, design and oversight of unique radiation delivery plans and procedures for each patient, and troubleshooting any problems that may arise in the department. Almost a year after I began my job, however, the consulting company I worked for lost its contract with my hospital, so I was left searching for a job once again.

My wife and I decided to not let my job situation dictate our lives. We decided to travel back to her home country of Senegal in West Africa to live with her family. There, I could look for another job from afar, learn something new about life and culture, and

give back to the world as well. I contacted a physicist from Senegal had met at the American Association of Physicists in Medicine conference in California two years before and told her that I would be in Senegal soon and would love to volunteer my efforts at her hospital, L'hopital Aristide Le Dantec. Working for the only radiation oncology center in Senegal and 11 surrounding countries, she was more than happy to have me work alongside her at the facility.

Senegal is a truly amazing country; its genuine hospitality is unsurpassed. Though money and materials are scarce, there is an air of happiness that I have not seen elsewhere in the world. Despite a scarcity of food and resources in some areas, nobody goes hungry or without shelter. A room or a bed never stays empty, and meals are always prepared in abundance in case a friend or a stranger stops by to eat. Although the city and the land are not the typical ideal of beauty, there was something magnificent about the sandy streets juxtaposed against the endless blue sky and the vibrant garments that adorned the beautiful dark skin of the Senegalese. There was something very pure about this country, and I felt at home—body, mind, and soul—from the moment I arrived there.

However, the conditions at the hospital were extremely rough. I was naïve before my arrival about what I was going to have to deal with. Magatte (the physicist I had previously met) had spoken of the hardships when we met in California, but it was only after I saw first-hand what she had tried to describe that I gained real understanding.

Taffeta Chime O'Neal (English, 2011) had a book-signing event at Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville in July. She signed copies of her most recent fiction work, *The Last*, and her first book, *Stoodie*. This summer she received a Confucius Institute for Americans scholarship to study abroad at Hangzhou Normal University in China for a year. The scholarship includes full tuition, a book stipend, room and board, and monthly living expenses. She is studying the Chinese language and learning about Chinese culture and history.

Caitlin Orman (Psychology, 2011) was included in *Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges* in spring 2011. She is attending graduate school at MTSU and studying clinical psychology.

Catalin Pavel, who lectured on ancient Troy as part of the fall 2009 Honors Lecture Series, wrote a book, *Describing and Interpreting the Past—European and American Approaches to the Written Record of the Excavation*, which was published in 2010 by the University of Bucharest Press. The book contains much of the substance of his Troy lecture along with case studies and a new emphasis on archaeological recording.

Aaron Scherer (Philosophy, 2011) is working as a computer technician at Nashville State Community College.

Aaron Shew (Global Studies and International Relations, 2011) and his wife, Natalie, are living in Iowa but will soon be going to northern Iraq to work with SALT International, a nonprofit group that seeks to improve agricultural practices in lesser-developed countries. Shew will be conducting soybean feasibility projects.

Colby Sledge (Electronic Media Communication/Foreign Languages and Literatures, 2007) works as press secretary for the Tennessee Senate Democratic Caucus. He was named a 2011

Nashville Emerging Leader by the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and Young Professionals Nashville. He is cochair of South Nashville Action People, a neighborhood nonprofit. He previously worked as a staff writer for the *Tennessean*.

Jessica Taylor (Chemistry, 2011) presented "Synthesis of Cyclopropyl Peptidomimetics with Potential Anti-HIV and Alzheimer's Activity," at Posters at the Capitol in February in Nashville. Daniel Gouger and Nikhil Reddy were collaborators, and Norma Dunlap was their faculty mentor. In the spring, Jessica was awarded the J. H. Hutchinson MTSU Chemistry Club Leadership Award and the Outstanding Senior Student Award from the Chemistry Department. She is attending Southern College of Optometry in Memphis.

Evan Totty (Economics, 2011) was accepted into the Purdue University economics Ph.D. program. He received funding as a research/teaching assistant.

James Urban (Recording Industry, 2011) is attending Vanderbilt University Law School.

Lee Whitwell (Political Science, 2011) is attending Memphis School of Law.

Kyle Wishing (Finance, 2011) is interning with Crosslin and Associates in Nashville.

Don and Hanna Witherspoon (Honors College Board of Visitors) were named 2010–11 Distinguished Alumni for their service to the University and were recognized at spring commencement. The Witherspoons, both 1964 graduates, retired in Murfreesboro ten years ago after lengthy careers in private industry in Memphis. They have dedicated their retirement to the betterment of MTSU and the local community through volunteer work and leadership positions in the Blue Raider Athletic Association, the Alumni Association, the MTSU Foundation, and University departments. They also established the Rutherford County Alumni Scholarship. ●

Meet Members of the Board of Visitors



Don Midgett

Project Manager, Arnold Engineering, retired
Chair, Honors College Board of Visitors

Murfreesboro native Don Midgett graduated from MTSU Campus School in 1956 and Central High

School in 1960 as co-aledictorian. He graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1964 with a bachelor's of engineering degree in electrical engineering. He lettered in football and golf while at Vanderbilt. He began work at AEDC in June 1964 as an electrical design engineer for ARO Inc. (later Sverdrup Technology Inc.), and retired as project manager in September 1996. In 1973, while at AEDC, he received a master's in computer science from the University of Tennessee Space Institute (UTSI). He completed all requirements but the dissertation for a Ph.D. in engineering science at UTSI. He was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi graduate Honor Society in 1975. Don is a registered professional engineer, a certified professional manager, and past-president of the AEDC Chapter of the National Management Association.

Midgett serves on the Motlow State Community College Foundation Board and the MTSU Foundation Board. He is a longtime Blue Raider Athletic Association member. A deacon at the Church of Christ at Cedar Lane in Tullahoma, he also serves as financial counselor for the church. Midgett is the son of the late E. W. (Wink) and Nell Midgett of Murfreesboro. Wink was a football, basketball, and golf coach at Middle in the 1940s. He started the Business Department and was its first department head. The Midgett Business Building, the Midgett Seminar Classroom in Martin Honors Building, and the Midgett Conference Room in Kennon Hall of Fame Building are named for him.

Don is married to Carolyn Gwaltney Midgett (B.S., 1960). They have two daughters and six grandchildren. Don is an avid golfer who has won several Tullahoma City Championships and club championships through the years. He is the 2008 Tennessee Golf Association's State Super-Senior Champion and the 2008 and 2010 Super-Senior Champion of Stones River Country Club.

Mary Lee Barnes

MTMC Clinical Education Manager



A South Carolina native, Mary Lee Arnold Barnes first came to middle Tennessee in 1963, when her father, David Arnold, accepted a teaching position in the Speech and Hearing Department at Middle Tennessee State College. In 1975, she attended nursing school at MTSU with clinicals at Middle Tennessee Medical Center. Over the next few years, Mrs. Barnes worked at MTMC while obtaining degrees from MTSU in nursing and health education and an M.S.T. in HPERs.

Although Barnes lived in Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi, she reestablished a connection with MTSU when her son, Taylor, entered the University as a 15-year-old transfer student. Two years later, Mr. and Mrs. Barnes were able to return to Tennessee, and Mrs. Barnes became the manager of clinical education at MTMC. In May 2009, Taylor graduated summa cum laude from MTSU, with Distinction from the Honors College and degrees in chemistry and physics. During his years at MTSU, Taylor won numerous awards, scholarships, and fellowships and greatly appreciated his experiences with the Honors College.

I knew the hospital's technology was many decades out of date, but upon arrival, I realized that most of what it did have only partially worked or did not work at all. The severe lack of technology, equipment, and instruments was astonishing. Magatte told me she has nightmares every night that she will go to hell because she has to treat patients with such poor equipment. Yet, she says she has no other option because it is the best that they have. Due to the lack of money, adequate hospital facilities nationwide, diagnostic abilities, and general education on disease, Senegali cancer cases were, in general, far more advanced than similar cases seen by doctors in the U.S.

The patient load for this hospital, which serves such a vast area, was roughly equal to that of one radiation oncology clinic in the U.S. (which, in general, would treat only part of a small city). So what happens to all the other victims in this part of the world who are struck by such a horrible disease? I came with big ideas and goals, but because of the lack of supplies, I left feeling somewhat defeated by my inability to accomplish what I intended.

I had to return home after three months because of another job offer in New Jersey, but I took a list of equipment and materials with me that I could gather and send back. Even items as simple as latex gloves and bedsheets are in high demand.

Since I've returned to the U.S., I have contacted Vanderbilt University and my old hospital, JFK Medical Center, to assist in supplying the necessary materials, but my goals are much larger than just supplying the goods listed on the sheet I brought back from Senegal. I would like to modernize and renovate the entire radiation oncology program in Senegal. I have big goals that would involve the joint efforts of a number of teaching institutions, medical vendors, the media, and others. At the moment, I have obtained a used linear accelerator (a radiation treatment device that could cost a few million dollars new) from my current hospital, Overlook Hospital, and am in the process of getting all the paperwork in place to have it donated to L'Hopital Aristide Le Dantec. This will be the first step of many I hope to come.

Throughout life, one continually gains knowledge, sometimes through textbooks or the wise words of a professor or mentor. But other times, lessons are not so well defined. One can learn a great deal by living if he opens his eyes to the details around him and allows himself the opportunity to experience the unknown. This is the greatest lesson I have learned, and if I can appreciate life more because of it and give back to the world along the way, then I think I will be able to accomplish more than I ever imagined. ●

Merranda Holmes, right, a 2010 Honors graduate with a major in biology, is pictured with several Nicaraguan children during her July mission trip to La Grecia, Nicaragua. She was one of approximately 30 who participated in the trip through the Christian Medical and Dental Association, Global Health Outreach. Merranda is in her second year of medical school at East Tennessee State University, Quillen College of Medicine.



Meet Members of the Board of Visitors

On October 2, 2010, Middle Tennessee Medical Center moved to its new location at 1700 Medical Center Parkway. Mrs. Barnes was a leader in preparing for the move, educating and training 1,500 employees in new processes and equipment, orienting all associates to the much-larger facility, and emphasizing safety for patients and staff.

Mrs. Barnes is also a talented flutist, vocalist, actress, writer, and director and enjoyed great accomplishment in high school and college and in community theater, winning awards for her performing, writing, and directing.



Elliott Dawson
President, BioVentures

Elliot Dawson graduated from MTSU in 1970 with a B.S. in chemistry. He served in the Medical Service Corps as an aviator flying dustoff (medical evacuation) helicopter missions in Vietnam, for which he was awarded

a Bronze Star and Air Medals. Dawson has a broad range of business and scientific experience, having been a broker-trader with Merrill Lynch, head of an immunology and a toxicology laboratory, and a partner in several businesses.

At present, Dawson serves as president of BioVentures, a Murfreesboro-based life sciences company he founded in 1988. BioVentures develops, manufactures, and supplies products to large life science companies and major academic, governmental, and pharmaceutical companies around the world. Dawson is coauthor of several scientific papers and actively collaborates with scientists at a major university to identify genetic contributions to human diseases such as hypertension. He is an

inventor or coinventor on more than fifty U.S. and foreign patents or patent applications related to molecular biology and genetics. He serves on the MTSU College of Basic and Applied Science advisory board and has established scholarships in the departments of Chemistry and Biology.

Dawson recently provided funding for a biology graduate student and professor to attend a conference at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in Laurel Hollow, New York, where they presented research.

Dawson has been married to his wife, Hope, for 30 years. His business and scientific endeavors have allowed him extensive travel abroad, which he finds both delightful and informative. His outside interests include landscaping, gardening, avid reading and photography, painting, and drawing.

Raiko Henderson
Former Investment Analyst



In 2001, Raiko Henderson graduated from MTSU with a B.B.A. in economics and minors in business administration and English. She graduated summa cum laude with Distinction in University Honors. She was a member of Beta Gamma Sigma and Phi Kappa Phi.

Between 2001 and 2005, Henderson worked for Courage Capital Management in Nashville as an investment analyst mainly focused on retail, utility, and for-profit education equities, options, and bonds. Now, she stays home with her three children, Sarah, Michael, and Samuel, and is married to John Henderson. ●



President Sidney A. McPhee, center, and Board of Visitors member Jeff Whorley, president of Student Aid Services, left, are interviewed on Higher Education Today, which was taped at the University of the District of Columbia on April 6. The men discussed financial aid and net price calculators with show host Steven Roy Goodman, an educational consultant and author. During the interview, McPhee and Whorley made several specific references to the Honors College.

Dawson Funds Research Presentation



Elliott Dawson, a Board of Visitors member, and his company, BioVentures, provided funding for biology graduate student Margaret (Maggie) Pitt and Bruce Cahoon, associate professor of biology, to attend a conference on RNA processing at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL). Pitt made a presentation about her graduate work on RNA processing in chloroplasts and the development of a RNA detection method that may be universally applicable.

An internationally renowned research institute on Long Island, New York, CSHL holds conferences and workshops throughout the year on topics related to biology. The conferences attract some of the most active, cutting-edge researchers in their fields. ●

Spring Graduates Recognized

The spring 2011 issue of *MTSU Magazine* recognized four spring Honors graduates in an article called “Crème of the Class of 2011.” **Taffeta O’Neal** (English), **Sonia Qureshi** (International Relations and Global Studies), **Meghan Davis** (Theatre), and **Michelle Ebel** (Accounting) were featured in the story, which was written by fellow Honors student **Laura Wilbanks**.

The article is “a brief look at five members of the class of 2011 who have made the most of their experience at MTSU” and also features finance major Billy Champa.

In addition to the feature article, three 2010 Honors graduates, **Jasmine Gray**, **Merranda Holmes**, and **Shannon Murphy**, were mentioned in “Class Notes” for receiving \$1,000 Foundation Scholarships for graduate study from the Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society. ●

MTSU Graduate Wins One of 22 International Awards

Waffa Shaban, daughter of Sadiq and Nassim Shaban of Murfreesboro, is one of 22 students chosen from 13 countries by the Secondary Teacher Education Programme (STEP) for a full scholarship to the University of London. This study will lead to the Master of Teaching (MTeach) and Master of Arts, Education (Muslim Societies and Civilizations), degrees. The program is part of a collaboration among the University of London's Institute of Education (IOE), the University of London, and the Institute of Ismaili Studies, also in London.

Shaban is a 2006 graduate of Siegel High School in Murfreesboro and a 2010 graduate with Honors at MTSU, where she majored in psychology and marketing, completing an Honors thesis under the direction of Gloria Hamilton in the Department of Psychology.

After graduating, Shaban attended a two-week program on Islam taught at Emory University's Oxford College by Harvard professor Ali Asani. Over the past year, Shaban has been doing graduate work at MTSU in business education.

During her graduate study in London, Shaban will participate in field trips to Cairo and Cordoba, Spain. At the end of the program, she expects to return to the U.S. to teach for three years.

John R. Vile, dean of the University Honors College, said that Shaban is just one of an increasing number of MTSU students who have received international scholarships and recognition in recent years. ●



Spring 2011 Honors graduate Taffeta Chime sells and signs copies of her books *The Last* and *Stoodie* in Martin Honors Building in April.

Experience Community Helps Homeless

Honors alumna Amber Hampton (Global Studies, 2010) and friends from the Experience Community Church gather each Sunday morning at the church's home on W. Lytle Street to prepare breakfast for Murfreesboro's homeless. They transport the prepared meal to dozens of hungry singles and families who gather at Old Fort Park each week.

"Basically, it's like having a big party with your friends," Hampton said. "We hang out and talk with them."

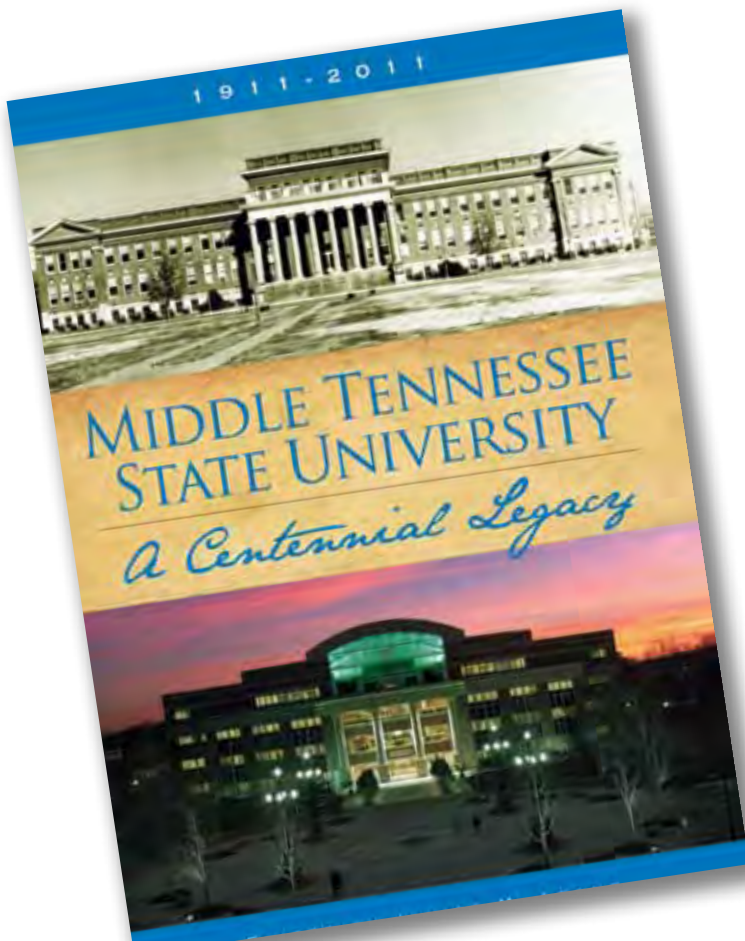
Hampton and other Experience Community members became aware of the homeless community in Murfreesboro when two homeless men, Bill and Tim, began attending the church in December. By February, Hampton and friends had committed to feeding the homeless regularly. They began with six the first Sunday and now feed more than 75 each week, and the number is constantly growing.

Experience Community member Joey Odom said, "We're commissioned [in the Bible] to feed the poor and help the needy, and that's really what we set



Members of the Experience Community Church (L-R) Judy Buck and Joey Odom and Honors alumna Amber Hampton before they prepare another Sunday morning meal for Murfreesboro's homeless.

out for." Hampton said the group does not force its beliefs on people. "We want to be different than that. Jesus never did that. We want to love by our actions and not just our words." ●



Middle Tennessee State University: A Centennial Legacy is a topical history of the university that began as an Honors lecture series, "Blue Raider Milestones: Approaching the Centennial." The lecture titles and content have evolved somewhat since the 2009 series, but all nine original essays and three additional ones now make up the book's 12 chapters.

A Centennial Legacy was published by Twin Oaks Press and is available in hardback for \$35 from Phillips Bookstore.

Ten Things You Should Know About

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
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MTSU is a destination school, the **No. 1 choice of undergraduates** in the state of Tennessee, and it has some of the highest entrance requirements of any public university in the state.

A comprehensive university, MTSU offers approximately **140 undergraduate programs** in its nine colleges: Basic and Applied Sciences; Business; Education; Behavioral and Health Sciences; University Honors, Liberal Arts; Mass Communication; the University College; and the **College of Graduate Studies**, which oversees more than **100 programs**, including doctoral study.

MTSU, located in Murfreesboro and just a few minutes down Interstate 24 from nearby Nashville, provides the region with more graduates who make middle Tennessee their home, contribute to the local economy, pay taxes, raise their families here, and help make this region a great place to live. **Seventy-eight percent of our current alumni live in Tennessee**, and 60 percent of them live within an hour's drive of Rutherford County.



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Annually, MTSU generates **\$896 million in business revenue** in the Nashville metropolitan area and is responsible for \$396 million in Rutherford County.

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In many ways, MTSU is middle Tennessee's university. With an **enrollment of more than 26,000 students**, it educates more undergraduate students than the top five Nashville-based schools—Vanderbilt, Belmont, Lipscomb, Tennessee State and Fisk universities—combined.

5

One of the finest teacher preparation institutions in the southeast, MTSU continues to be among the **top producers of teachers in Tennessee**, graduating close to 500 each year. More than 30 percent of living alumni graduated with degrees in education.



6

MTSU's College of Mass Communication, with its nationally recognized **Department of Recording Industry**, is the third-largest in the country. Its new media convergence center, opening in fall 2011, confirms its status as an educational leader in multiplatform content creation.

The **Jennings A. Jones College of Business** is one of the largest in the nation, with more than 3,600 majors and more than 400 students in the college's graduate programs, which include master's degrees in business administration, business education, and accounting/information systems and a Ph.D. in economics.

MTSU's **Department of Aerospace** is one of the nation's finest and has a fleet of 33 airplanes equipped with the latest technology.

A member of the **Sun Belt Conference**, MTSU competes at the highest level in 17 intercollegiate sports. Many Blue Raiders have gone on to compete successfully as professionals and Olympians.



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Dr. Sidney A. McPhee and Paul W. Martin Jr., center front, in front of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building September 9 with a Chinese delegation representing four universities. Guanping Zheng, director of the Confucius Institute, is back left, and Philip E. Phillips, interim associate dean of the Honors College, is front, second to left.