

MTSU MAGAZINE

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

July 2013 Vol. 18 No. 1

From COMBAT *to* Campus

MTSU **leads the way** in
easing the transition of
veterans **from combat**
to college coursework



**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY.



Coming Into Focus

A \$100,000 donation by retired MTSU photography professor **Harold Baldwin** will support plans to develop a new photography gallery in the John Bragg Mass Communication Building.

The renovated space, to be dedicated later this year, will become the new permanent home of MTSU's photography archive—a collection that Baldwin, who created MTSU's photography program in the 1960s, pieced together over decades of service at MTSU.

While a full appraisal has never been conducted on the collection, an independent assessment that Baldwin recently funded values it “easily in excess of a million dollars,” he says. But the value could be quite a bit more. One piece in the collection is a print of Ansel Adams's most famous image, Moonrise, Hernandez, Mexico. The photographer reportedly produced only 1,300 of these prints, one of which sold at auction for more than \$600,000 in 2006.

Baldwin's gift is part of MTSU's ongoing \$80 million Centennial Campaign.

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Photo: J. Intintoli

www.mtsu.edu/MTSUMagazine

by Drew Ruble

Branding by Gridiron

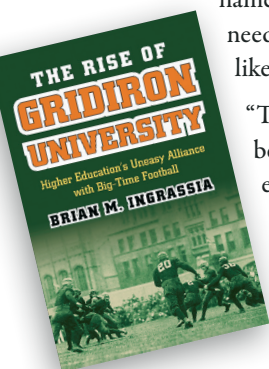
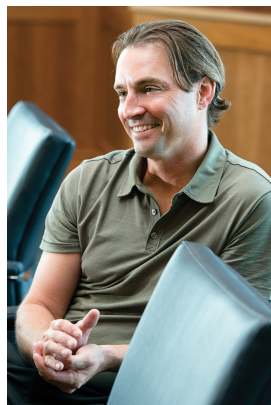
Starting this month, MTSU joins Conference USA for intercollegiate athletics. The long-awaited move to an established, nationally recognized Football Bowl Subdivision conference clearly elevates the standing, competitiveness, and stature of MTSU's athletics program. Concurrently, support for MT athletics is one of four main goals of the University's ongoing \$80 million Centennial Campaign. Success in raising new dollars for athletics will be crucial to the program's ability to attract the best student-athletes and provide adequate facilities as a member of the highly competitive C-USA.

MTSU's emphasis on growing its athletic programs is clear. Interestingly, one professor's recently published book chronicles how universities placed similar emphasis on growing their own brands through sports—particularly football—over a century ago. In *The Rise of Gridiron University*, history professor Brian M. Ingrassia explores how university presidents—including those from the Ivy League—hastened the rise of college football in America. According to Ingrassia, these academic leaders saw football as a “spectacle” useful in helping their universities “reach out to the public.” He explains that it was a way to “help show taxpayers and nonacademics” what they were doing, as well as “get their name out there” so they could “keep getting funding and the publicity needed to turn into larger institutions doing useful things for society, like research and education.”

“The late 1800s and early 1900s was a time when university scholars began to see athletics as almost like the department of public engagement,” Ingrassia concludes. (Little did they know at the time, he writes, how such athletic programs would become the fixtures on college campuses that they are today.)

The alignment of universities into athletic conferences also has historical roots. The first conference, the Big 10, formed around the turn of the last century, Ingrassia says, to “pool competitive resources” and “control and maximize revenues from the sport”—all of which is still its function today. More than a century later, MTSU's own brand potential and financial prospects are boosted by smartly tapping into C-USA—specifically the conference's significant national and regional television exposure and revenue sharing through partnerships with CBS Sports, Fox Sports, and ESPN.

The positives for students, alumni, and the community alike are clear, Ingrassia says. “Elevating sports conferences maintains good relations with alumni. Plus, students want to attend universities with big-time football and athletics, and it's also a way for the public to connect.” And even though he stresses that academic programs are a central component of a university like MTSU, Ingrassia concedes that other campus entities are unable to create a sense of community the way intercollegiate athletics do. [MTSU](#)



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University Editor

Drew Ruble

Art Director

Kara Hooper

Contributing Editors

Michael Burgin, Bill Fisher

Contributing Writers

Mike Browning, Gina Fann, Allison Gorman,
Jimmy Hart, Bill Lewis, Gina K. Logue, Randy Weiler

Design Assistance

Darrell Callis Burks, Brian Evans, Lauren Finney,
Sherry Wiser George, Micah Loyed, Martha Millsaps

University Photographers

J. Intintoli, Andy Heidt

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Deborah Belcher, Sandra Brandon, Sara Brookfield,
Darby Campbell, Suma Clark, Toney Flack,
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staff, Tara Hollins, Pat Jackson and the Audio/Visual
Services staff, Rob Janson, Miranda Megill,
Paula Morton, the MT Athletics staff, Susan Nogues,
Nick Perlick and the MTSU Development staff,
Jessica Pierson, Jack Ross, Larry Sizemore, Cindy
Speer, Malcolm Stallard, Cathy Weller, Doug Williams,
Rhonda Wimberly, Jim Williams

University President

Sidney A. McPhee

Vice President for Development and University Relations

Joe Bales

Associate Vice President for Marketing and Communications

Andrew Oppmann

Address changes should be sent to Advancement Services,
MTSU Box 109, Murfreesboro, TN 37132; alumni@mtsu.edu.
Other correspondence should be sent to *MTSU Magazine*, Drew
Ruble, 1301 E. Main St., Box 49, Murfreesboro, TN 37132.
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The #1 service
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Setting *the* Pace

Q In your recently released *Biennial Report* (available online at www.mtsu.edu/president), you reported MTSU as the top and most efficient producer of graduates among Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) universities in 2011–12, based on information supplied by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Can you elaborate?

A The 3,911 bachelor's degrees awarded by MTSU in 2011–12 were the most granted by any TBR institution.

MTSU also graduated more for less state money per graduate than any TBR university. In dividing MTSU's 2011–12 total state funding by the number of graduates that year, the state spent \$18,773 per MTSU graduate.

MTSU had the second-highest graduation rate among TBR universities based on a six-year cohort with 51.6 percent in 2011–12.

MTSU led all state universities in the production of adult graduates—defined as age 25 and older—with 1,488 degrees granted in 2011–12.

The Complete College Tennessee Act calls for colleges and universities to focus on student retention, degree completion, improvement in the areas of transfer and articulation, and institutional mission distinctiveness. These goals have long been strategic priorities for MTSU, helping us become the number-one producer of graduates for the middle Tennessee region and number two among all state schools.

Gov. Bill Haslam recently identified the state's need for more college graduates in his "Drive to 55" initiative, which calls for 55 percent of Tennessee's workforce to earn a degree. As our biennial report reflects, we are proud of the role we already play in supplying these qualified workers to our economy. Our graduation rate percentage of approximately 52

percent—a very good rate of graduation for an institution our size—is very close to the 55 percent goal set by Gov. Haslam and higher than the national and state averages for institutions our size and type.

MTSU entered its second century with a clear mission: to increase its already considerable commitment to provide quality education and, in doing so, provide even more college graduates for Tennessee's workforce.

When we say "I am True Blue," we are also reaffirming our devotion to student success. **MTSU**

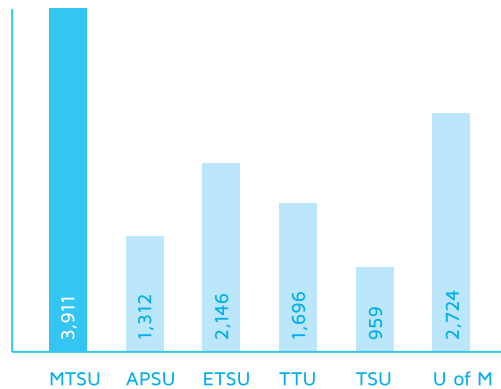


Sidney A. McPhee

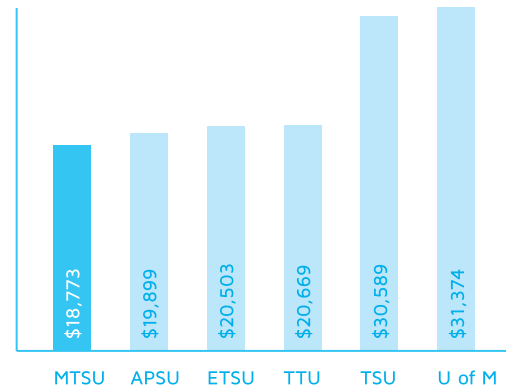
I AM *true*BLUE

photo: J. Intintoli

2011–2012 Degrees Granted (Bachelor's)*



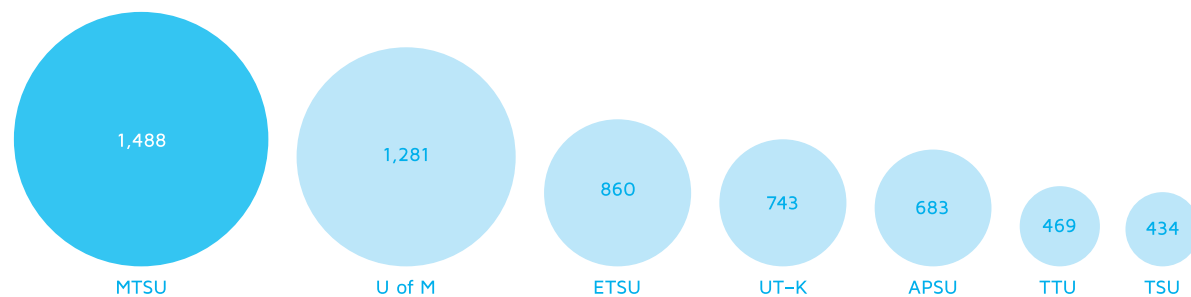
2011–2012 Cost per Graduate to State



Graduation Rate 2011–2012 (Based on 6-year cohort)*

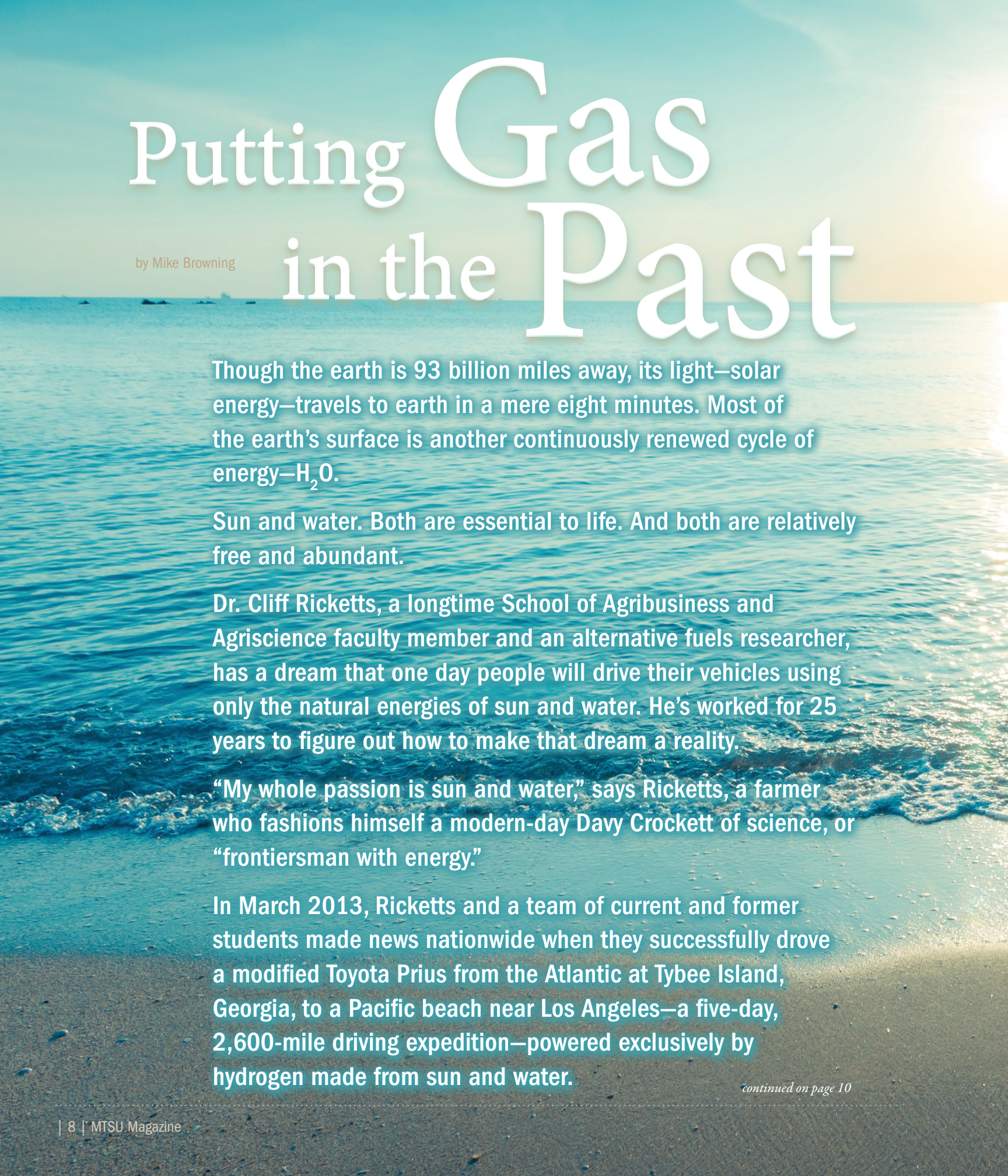


2011–2012 Adult (age 25+ at time of graduation) Degrees Granted (Bachelor's)*



*Source: Tennessee Higher Education Commission

... We are proud of the role we already play in supplying these qualified workers to our economy.



Putting Gas in the Past

by Mike Browning

Though the earth is 93 billion miles away, its light—solar energy—travels to earth in a mere eight minutes. Most of the earth's surface is another continuously renewed cycle of energy—H₂O.

Sun and water. Both are essential to life. And both are relatively free and abundant.

Dr. Cliff Ricketts, a longtime School of Agribusiness and Agriscience faculty member and an alternative fuels researcher, has a dream that one day people will drive their vehicles using only the natural energies of sun and water. He's worked for 25 years to figure out how to make that dream a reality.

"My whole passion is sun and water," says Ricketts, a farmer who fashions himself a modern-day Davy Crockett of science, or "frontiersman with energy."

In March 2013, Ricketts and a team of current and former students made news nationwide when they successfully drove a modified Toyota Prius from the Atlantic at Tybee Island, Georgia, to a Pacific beach near Los Angeles—a five-day, 2,600-mile driving expedition—powered exclusively by hydrogen made from sun and water.

continued on page 10

Unprecedented coverage of
the trip included mentions in:

Boston.com

Portland, Oregon

DISCOVERIES

Washington, D.C.

South Bend, Indiana

Huntsville, Alabama

Boise, Idaho

Los Angeles, California

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Houston, Texas

Tybee Island, Georgia

Huffington Post

Discovery Channel Canada

MTSU's "Davy Crockett of science"

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

travels from ocean to ocean on only sun and water

Columbus, Missouri

Little Rock, Arkansas

Minneapolis, Minnesota

West Palm Beach, Florida

Lansing, Michigan

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Columbus, Ohio

Greensboro, North Carolina

Salisbury, Maryland

UPI.com





Ricketts wants Americans to understand that there is a **clear alternative to high-dollar gas and dependency on foreign oil.**



The result was **a level of exposure** for Ricketts's research—and for MTSU—that the University couldn't have achieved through traditional marketing methods.

continued from page 8

Members of MTSU's News and Media Relations team, traveling with Ricketts, worked tirelessly to generate media attention for the professor and for MTSU. Months before the trip even began, the team studied Ricketts's route from Georgia to California, targeting larger cities and their media outlets with story pitches. Interviews were then arranged with journalists nationwide as the trip unfolded. Among the media outlets that covered the trip were *USA Today*/Gannett, *The Tennessean*, the Associated Press, Discovery Channel Canada, and RFD-TV. The result was a level of exposure for Ricketts's research—and for MTSU—that the University couldn't have achieved through traditional marketing methods.

It was a cumbersome but necessary task if Ricketts was to make his point—that natural and renewable resources provide a viable energy option. And make his point he did. Over and over along the 2,600-mile journey, Ricketts stopped for media interviews, telling reporter after reporter about his work at MTSU—about his expedition and about the technology—utilizing hydrogen separated from water through solar energy. Told at a time when gas prices nationally ranged between \$3.20 and \$5.19, Ricketts's story was equal parts the culmination of his life's research and a chance to talk about alternative fuels. Ricketts wants Americans to understand that there is a clear alternative to high-dollar gas and dependency on foreign oil. "I think it has a lot of implications," Ricketts says. "Time will tell."

One Small Step

The 64-year-old Ricketts traveled the length of Tennessee using only hydrogen in 2010. Then, in 2012, he and his team made it from the Georgia coast to Conway, Ark., a 700-mile trip, on hydrogen alone. Only the lack of a hydrogen fueling system infrastructure kept him from going coast-to-coast that year.

In the Prius used this spring, two hydrogen storage tanks built and attached underneath the car (alongside tanks added to the backseat and also hauled by a separate trailer) equipped Ricketts and team with the fuel necessary to complete the coast-to-coast trip. Ricketts compared his trip with no fueling stations to the plight of two brothers who revolutionized human travel more than a century ago.

"There were no airports when the Wright brothers flew the first airplane," Ricketts says. "And, of course, there weren't any hydrogen fueling stations along the way, so we brought our fueling station with us."

"I believe the government somehow will have to get involved," Ricketts adds. "We're kind of in a chicken-or-egg situation right now. We don't have hydrogen fueling stations because we don't have [hydrogen] cars, and we don't have cars because we don't have hydrogen fueling stations."

Home at Last

The end of the expedition at Long Beach, Calif., was captured on film by MTSU's media team and produced as a documentary. The professor's joy in successfully completing the trip makes for can't-miss television. The documentary can be viewed at www.MTSUNews.com, or by searching the MTSU YouTube channel.

"I feel like I've climbed Mt. Everest," Ricketts says in the film. "Putting a man on the moon has more 'wow' factor . . . but as far as helping people for hundreds or maybe thousands of years to come, I think this is planting seeds that will help [hu]mankind."





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A look at **recent awards**, events, and **accomplishments** involving the **MTSU community**

compiled by Gina A. Fann, Jimmy Hart, Gina K. Logue, Paula Morton, Drew Ruble, and Randy Weiler



Lights, Camera . . . Action!

Some of MTSU's finest student filmmakers showcased their work at the 13th Annual MTSU Student Film Festival in April. David Perauldt won first prize for *Do It All Call*. The audience favorite went to Ryan Rhenbourg for *Hobo Wicked Fix*. Nashville-area filmmaker Christopher Roberts screened his documentary *Street Paper*, which is about Nashville's successful newspaper sold by homeless citizens, the *Contributor*.

A View from the Hill

Eight MTSU undergraduate student researchers participated in the seventh annual Posters at the Capitol in February in Nashville. They included Goldwater Scholar Award recipient Jordan Dodson. Created in 2007, this year's Posters at the Capitol brought 64 undergraduate researchers from six Tennessee Board of Regents and three University of Tennessee universities to the state capitol to meet and discuss their research with state senators and representatives. Other MTSU students who participated included Adam Banach, Jacob Basham, Matt Harris, Josh Horvath, Joseph Keasler, Kevin McDaniel, and Paige Stubbs.

Jonathan W. Herlan



Going for the Gold(water)

MTSU students Robert Daniel Murphy (winner) and Jonathan W. Herlan (honorable mention) received recognition in the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program. Murphy's goal is to get his Ph.D. in atomic physics and research exotic states of matter such as Bose-Einstein condensates and degenerate Fermi gases. Herlan seeks a Ph.D. in physical acoustics and wants to conduct acoustic research and teach at the university level.

MTSU grad Kaitlen Howell recently spent 18 months in Germany conducting epidemiological research as a Fulbright scholar.



A Future So Fulbright

When MTSU was recently named by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* as a top producer of Fulbright scholars for 2012-13, it joined academic powerhouses like Duke, Stanford, and Princeton. Just 108 colleges were recognized, and no other college or university in Tennessee was listed. MTSU students have received Fulbright funding to teach or do research in a variety of fields—from philosophy to biology to international relations—in countries as diverse as Portugal, Russia, Tanzania, and Laos. MTSU has produced nine Fulbright winners since 2001. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, the Fulbright is one of the nation's most prestigious scholarships and its flagship international educational exchange program.

Distinguished Fellows

At a time when lawmakers are stressing retention and graduation in higher education in Tennessee, MTSU's May commencement ceremonies witnessed the largest graduating class ever. The ceremonies were highlighted by speeches from Gov. Bill Haslam and alumnus Pete Fisher ('87), general manager of the Grand Ole Opry.

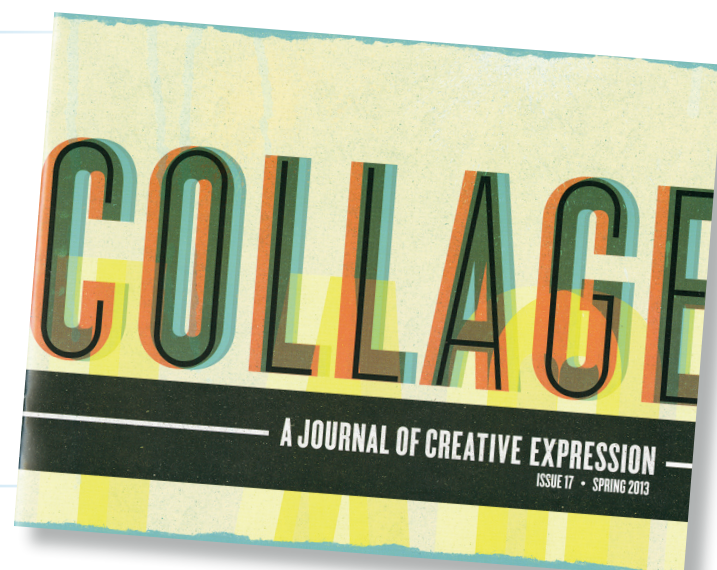


Constructing a Dynasty

An MTSU construction management team had another top-10 finish at this year's national competition in Las Vegas. Led by Jason Harrison, the six-member MTSU Land Development/Residential Building Construction Management team placed eighth out of 31 teams at the International Builders Show. MTSU, which won in 2007 and 2012, has nine top-10 and seven top-5 finishes. In this year's competition, students were given 118 acres, including an existing rock quarry, to develop on the banks of Utah Lake in Saratoga Springs, Utah.

For Art's Sake

Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression earned a Collegiate Gold Crown Award from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association for the second straight year. It was the journal's third major award in the past three years. Senior Courtney Hunter and alumna Jennifer Johnson served respectively as editor-in-chief and designer of the award-winning issues. In the recent contest, 1,344 digital, print, and hybrid magazines, newspapers, and yearbooks published during the 2011-12 academic year were eligible. Only three college print magazines received Gold Crown Awards.



On the Runway

The organization called Fashion and Design Students of MTSU, known as FaDs, displayed their talents at several places on campus during MTSU's second annual Fashion Week in April. American costumer Manuel, often called the "Rhinstone Rembrandt," whose original designs have been worn by Johnny Cash, Elvis Presley, Bob Dylan, Hank Williams, the Rolling Stones, and the Grateful Dead, was a featured speaker.

Vietnam Revisited

by Gina K. Logue

Nearly 40 years after the last American troops left Vietnam, MTSU students who were born about 20 years after the end of the war went to Southeast Asia to discover a piece of the past and a glimpse of the future.

Public Memory and the Vietnam War is the name of the class, and it challenged students to compare what they had come to believe about the conflict from American books, movies, music, and TV shows with what they discovered after being in the country for two weeks.

From March 10 to 24, students trekked through fields and jungles; scaled the heights of Hill 119, former home of the U.S. Marines' First Reconnaissance Battalion; crawled through a tunnel dug to hide civilians from American troops; and boated across the Mekong River. They witnessed Vietnamese making rice paper, coconut candy, honey, and silk; sampled cuisine ranging from elephant fish to dragonfruit; inspected the ancient ruins of the Cham Kingdom; entered a cave that was once a Viet Cong hospital but now is a room of worship inside Marble Mountain; and viewed a pagoda that is reputed to enhance fertility.

Wandering through official tourist attractions such as the War Remnants Museum in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) provoked a great deal

of thought about the nature and language of propaganda. Yet, unexpected moments that were off the itinerary reminded students that the need for human connection trumps both warfare and time. While preparing to leave the site of the 1968 77-day siege at Khe Sanh, a bus of North Vietnamese army veterans pulled up. The NVA vets, clad in green uniforms and wearing medals, immediately were greeted with smiles and handshakes from Vietnam Battlefield Tours guides, American veterans all.

By far the most poignant moment was when MTSU alumnus William "Bud" Morris ('68, '75) returned to within 1,000 yards of Quang Tri, one of the bases where he was stationed while in the Army during the war. The Murfreesboro native calls his sojourn with the University's Vietnam study-abroad class "the greatest experience of my life."

His sojourn with the university's Vietnam study-abroad class was "the greatest experience of my life."



Dr. Derek Frisby explains Ho Chi Minh's role in Vietnamese history to his study-abroad class in Pleiku, Vietnam, on March 16.

Morris, now an insurance agent who bleeds State Farm red and MTSU blue, returned to the area where he served with the First Brigade, Fifth Infantry Mechanized Division of the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war.

"I don't know that I came for closure or anything like that," Morris said. "I came to see it. I came to experience it again."

Dr. Derek Frisby, associate professor of history, who led the trip, said

Morris provided his class with an "invaluable" opportunity "to connect the environment and the terrain with an actual human story."

"Imagine what it would have been like 50 years after the Civil War to go back to the Battle of Stones River and have veterans guide you around the battlefield," Frisby said. "This is what this experience is like for our students, and it's one we can't afford to pass up."

The complicated relationship between the United States and Vietnam is as tangled as the vegetation that covers the southern hillsides of both countries. It practically cries out for a study-abroad experience of this nature: a chance to see, smell, taste, touch, and hear history and to get a sense of what life is like after the 1995 normalization of relations. MTSU can be proud to have provided that opportunity.



Talkin' Baseball

Jim Bouton, former Major League pitcher and author of the widely discussed and debated baseball diary *Ball Four*, was the guest luncheon speaker at the 18th Annual Conference on Baseball in Literature and Culture in April.



Chaz Bono

Chaz Bono, LGBT rights advocate, author, and musician, was the keynote speaker in April for MT Lambda's SpringOut! 2013 celebration, a weeklong campus pride event for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students, friends, and supporters.

Kung Fu Fighting

The Capital University of Physical Education and Sports of Beijing, China, demonstrated Chinese kung fu at Murphy Center in April. The event was presented by MTSU's Confucius Institute. Among the performers was Fengmei Li, a stuntwoman who was the choreographer for Zhang Ziyi, who starred in the movie *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.



Lady of Firsts

As part of MTSU's observance of National Women's History Month in April, Rep. Beth Harwell of Nashville, speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives and the first female House speaker in Tennessee and in the Southeast, was honored as the second Distinguished Friend of the University Honors College.



Woman of Note

Lilly Ledbetter, whose judicial battle with the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. led to the passage of federal legislation in a historic gender discrimination case, was the keynote speaker for MTSU's biennial Women's and Gender Studies Conference in April, a major part of the University's National Women's History Month celebration.



On the Pulse

Ken Paulson, a nationally recognized advocate for the First Amendment, is the new dean of the College of Mass Communication. Paulson, president and CEO of the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University and at the Newseum in Washington, D.C., replaces Roy Moore, who had been dean since 2008. Paulson was on the team of journalists that founded *USA Today* in 1982, and he was editor-in-chief from 2004 to 2009. He is now a columnist on *USA Today's* board of contributors. Paulson is active in the Nashville music community, including as vice chair of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame. He is also the author of *Freedom Sings*, a multimedia stage show celebrating the First Amendment that tours the nation's campuses.



An Urban Development

David J. Urban is the new dean of the Jennings A. Jones College of Business. Formerly executive associate dean and marketing professor in the School of Business at Virginia Commonwealth University, he replaces Jim Burton, who was dean for 13 years. Urban will guide a business program that boasts more than 125 full-time faculty members, more than 3,000 undergraduate majors, and more than 500 graduate students.

Off the Row

MTSU graduate Beverly Keel ('88), an award-winning music journalist and former recording industry executive, is now chair of the Department of Recording Industry. A longtime MTSU professor, Keel returned to the University after serving as senior vice president of media and artist relations for Universal Music Group Nashville, where she developed extensive media campaigns for a chart-topping roster including Lionel Richie, Scotty McCreery, Sugarland, Jamey Johnson, Josh Turner, Kip Moore, and many more.



Not Fiddlin' Around

MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee surprised country music legend Charlie Daniels on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry in May when he helped announce that the International Entertainment Buyers Association had established a scholarship in honor of Daniels with a \$25,000 endowment. The IEBA is a Nashville-based, nonprofit trade organization for live entertainment industry professionals. Starting in the fall of 2014, a \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded each year. Students majoring in recording industry, songwriting, audio engineering, and music business are eligible recipients.



(L. to R.) Pam Matthews, executive director of the International Entertainment Buyers Association, MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee, country music star Charlie Daniels, and MTSU recording industry student Jordan Todd.



(From left) Rutherford County Mayor Ernest Burgess; Lee Moss, chair of Medical Board of Trustees; Gordan Ferguson, MTMC president and CEO; Sidney A. McPhee, MTSU president; Murfreesboro Mayor Tommy Bragg

Campus Growth

In April, MTSU officially acquired the Middle Tennessee Medical Center property near campus. The 17.4-acre property includes the 115,000-square-foot Bell Street Building, a 143,000-square-foot parking garage, and a large green-space area that was the site of the old main hospital building. President Sidney A. McPhee has said that the University will use the Bell Street Building for academic purposes.

Fourth Estate Fame

In April, six journalists made up the inaugural induction class of the new Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame housed at MTSU. Heading the group was John Seigenthaler, chair emeritus of *The Tennessean*, founding editorial director of *USA Today*, and founder of the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt. Also honored were Dan Miller (posthumously), the longtime chief news anchor at Nashville's WSMV-TV Channel 4; William Bryant (Bill) Williams Jr., a third-generation community newspaper publisher and publisher emeritus of the Paris (Tenn.) *Post-Intelligencer*; Anne Holt, a 30-year veteran and three-time Emmy Award winner at WKRN-TV News 2 in Nashville; Chris Clark, retired chief news anchor for WTVF-TV NewsChannel 5 in Nashville (and current instructor at MTSU); and Dean Stone, editor of the *Daily Times* in Maryville.

The Firing Lane

MTSU ROTC cadets now have more opportunities to sharpen their shooting and tactical skills following an upgrade at the Military Science Department's indoor rifle range simulator. MTSU provided funding for an additional five-lane, \$116,000 trainer unit, bringing to 10 the number of lanes available at the Engagement Skills Trainer. The simulator uses computers, lasers, projectors, and pneumatic weapons to provide a realistic experience of firing a weapon, including recoil and sound.



The Middle Kingdom

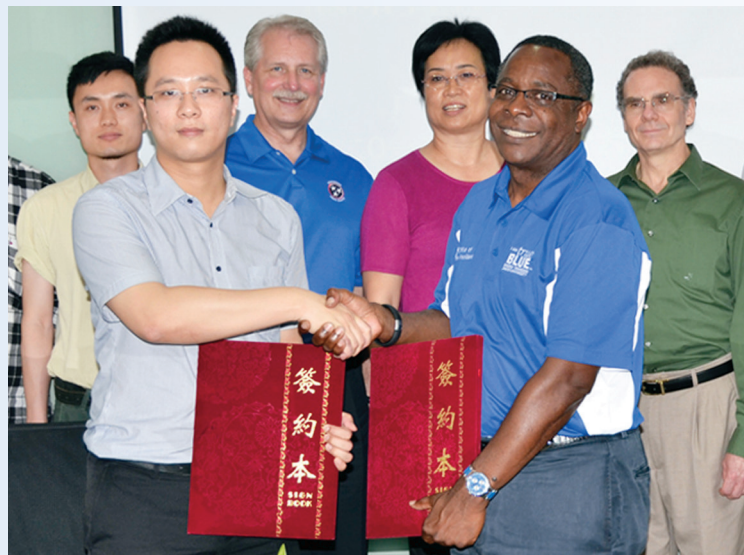
MTSU's delegation to China in May yielded several new agreements with strong potential to produce tech transfer opportunities for the University's science-related endeavors. First, MTSU's partnership in China studying modern uses of ancient herbal remedies has produced almost 40 results showing promise in the treatment of cancer, viral infections, and other ailments. Those findings were released during a visit to the Guangxi Botanical Garden of Medicinal Plants, named in 2011 as the world's largest medicinal herb garden by *Guinness World Records*. Located in Nanning in southern China, the garden features more than 7,400 medicinal plants.

President Sidney A. McPhee and Miao Jianhua, vice president of the Guangxi Academic Science Institute and garden director, celebrated the partnership's progress with the christening of an MTSU-branded Joint Research Center at the garden's new research laboratory and headquarters. The Tennessee Center for Botanical Medicine Research, based at MTSU, and the Guangxi garden are partners in an exclusive collaborative agreement that seeks to accelerate the development of Western medicines from plant extracts.

MTSU's delegation was headed by McPhee and included state senate majority caucus chair Bill Ketron, R-Murfreesboro, a 1976 graduate of the University.

MTSU established formal ties with a university known as "China's MIT" for its strong science, engineering, and biomedical programs. The agreement between MTSU and Shanghai Jiao Tong University will allow the exchange of faculty and students and allow professors to collaborate and share research. Shanghai Jiao Tong University, founded in 1896, offers three disciplines—naval architecture and ocean engineering, mechanical engineering, and clinical medicine—that are ranked first in China.

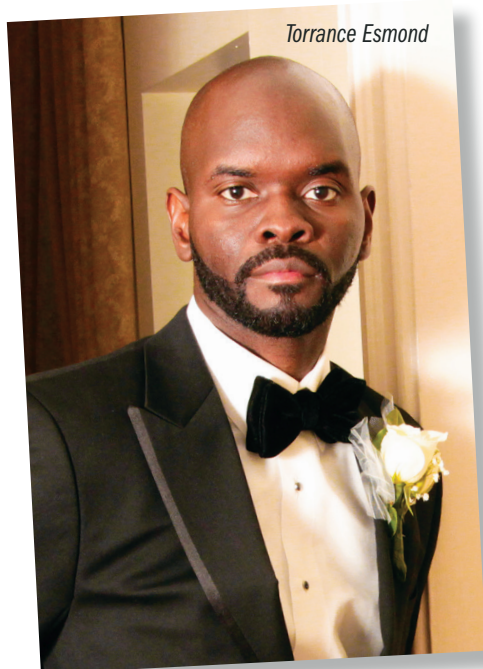
Additionally, MTSU signed a pact to become the first American university to establish formal ties with an institute in China's leading design center for



Xu Xuyan, deputy director of the Education Bureau of Shunde District, shakes hands with MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee after signing a pact. Senator Bill Ketron is pictured third from left.

household appliances and technology—the Research Institute of Industrial Design in the Shunde district.

MTSU also opened a student recruitment office at Guangxi University—the University's first overseas representative office—as part of its efforts to bolster international enrollment in master's and doctoral study. The delegation also made stops at Chongqing University of Posts and Telecommunications (one of the country's top universities for information science and technology), Communication University of China in Beijing (the country's foremost media education university), and the Confucius Institute's global headquarters, which oversees more than 350 institutes worldwide (including at MTSU).



Torrance Esmond

With a Song

MTSU alumnus Josh Kear ('96) brought home his third Country Song of the Year honor at the 55th annual Grammy Awards in 2013, winning recognition for Carrie Underwood's "Blown Away" to join his earlier wins for Lady Antebellum's "Need You Now" and Underwood's "Before He Cheats." Kear competed against fellow MTSU alumnus Eric Paslay's ('05) "Even If It Breaks Your Heart," performed by the Eli Young Band, in the Song of the Year category. Alumnus Torrance Esmond ('03), a.k.a. "Street Symphony," who is vice president of A&R at Reach Records and a songwriter and record producer, produced *Gravity* with gospel rapper Lecrae, which won the Grammy for Best Gospel Album. MTSU faculty and alumni have appeared regularly on Grammy nominee and winner lists in recent years.



Josh Kear



THE RELATIONSHIP BUILDER

Hard work and a commitment to lifelong learning propels sports advisor and MTSU doctoral student Michael Lawson

by Drew Ruble

MICHAEL LAWSON, 36, ISN'T YOUR TYPICAL MTSU STUDENT. It wouldn't be out of the ordinary for Lawson to have to step out of a class briefly to take a phone call from the National Football League Players' Association, or from the head of sports marketing at Anheuser-Busch, or from one of the men he works for, who include (arguably) the best offensive and the best defensive players in all of professional football—Tennessee Titans running back Chris Johnson and Pittsburgh Steelers defensive back Troy Polamalu.

A soon-to-graduate Ph.D. student in the Health and Human Performance program at MTSU, Lawson is a Nashville-based professional sports management advisor who has already achieved, career-wise, what other students in his classes dream of one day doing. Anyone who has seen Polamalu's and Johnson's hugely successful television commercials are familiar with Lawson's work. A nationally recognized branding and marketing expert, Lawson has also consulted for some of the largest and most successful companies in the world. They include O'Reilly Auto Parts, global soccer conglomerate FIFA, and the aforementioned Anheuser-Busch, to name a few. (Lawson does not negotiate player contracts; he directly manages the marketing, endorsement, and public relations strategies for professional athletes. He does, however, negotiate professional and collegiate coaching contracts.)

Lawson's professional success has him traveling more than 200 nights a year. He granted *MTSU Magazine* an interview the morning after he attended the 2013 Super Bowl. It's not unusual for Lawson to work 80 hours a week. And yet the father of four has somehow found a way to take 12 hours of MTSU doctoral level coursework each semester—requiring a study time commitment of about 25 hours a week.

Why does he do it? One conversation with him makes it clear that Lawson is a lifelong learner who firmly believes in the power of continuing education. He also has his eye on obtaining the academic credentials required to one day work in a university setting like MTSU, where he can share the benefit of his business experience with younger people vying to be entrepreneurs like himself. MTSU's doctoral program offers exactly what Lawson needs to make that dream a reality.

"Yes, it can be hard to come back from, for instance, New Orleans and to go straight to an advanced data analysis class from six to nine o'clock on a Tuesday night," Lawson admits. "But that's the process I signed up for. That's what I need to do to accomplish what I ultimately want to accomplish. Because any innovation or advancements that can help you understand what is happening in your profession are good. You continually apply it. It has to be about continuing education because that makes you better."

Clearly, getting better is something Lawson excels at. Consider his career path. Originally from Elkhart, Ind., and a defensive back on the Indiana State University football team, Lawson for a time harbored dreams of playing in the NFL. Instead, with a degree from the sports management program at ISU in hand, Lawson set his sights on becoming an athletic director at a major college. His first job out of college was working at West Point in marketing as a writer for their public affairs office in athletics.



It was at West Point that Lawson met the high-profile athletic director for the Louisville Cardinals, Tom Jurich. Lawson was soon hired to run the Kentucky university's athletic marketing and put together their sponsorship program. The timing was perfect. Basketball coach Rick Pitino had just been hired to coach the basketball squad. Louisville football was on the upswing nationally and was soon to become a top-10 program. Lawson helped modernize the way the university was selling sponsorships by packaging media elements like radio rights with signage and events and promotions. With Lawson's help, the university quadrupled revenues from sponsorships. He established a solid reputation in his field.

Lawson parlayed that experience into a position with Nelligan Sports, an aggregator of college properties that specializes in bundling radio, TV, and promotional rights of multiple college athletics programs in order to sell sponsorships to corporate entities like Chevrolet—as opposed to more traditional approaches like selling to individual truck dealerships. When Nelligan would ink a deal with a Ball State or Marquette for its services, Lawson would relocate to the university, assemble a team, and negotiate deals to increase marketing value. Nelligan eventually signed MTSU, the alma mater of Lawson's in-laws. So Lawson and his family moved to Nashville.

At Nelligan, Lawson got a call from Jonathan Blue, an old friend and a booster from his days with the Louisville Cardinals. Blue, an entrepreneur and private equity specialist, was busy acquiring and tying together various sports businesses—from SFX's tennis practice, which represented six of the top-10 women players in the country to pro football super-agent Joel Segal's practice, which included clients Michael Vick and Chris Johnson. Blue needed someone to put a public relations and marketing front together and to negotiate his largest endorsements. He wanted Lawson.

Lawson spent the next several years with Blue, building a particularly special bond with Titans running back Chris Johnson. While on a Nike photo shoot in Oregon, that relationship drew the attention of Steelers star Polamalu, who soon left one of the largest marketing and public relations agencies in the world to have Lawson represent him. When Blue decided to cash out of the entertainment area, Lawson continued for a short time working for the buyer, Europe's massive Lagardere Unlimited agency.

What I am really passionate about is that ability to influence and work with students . . .

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After seeing Lagardere through a transitional period, Lawson had the professional equivalent of a Jerry Maguire moment. (Remember the moment in that famous movie about a sports advisor when the character portrayed by Tom Cruise issues the famous line, “Who’s coming with me?” and hangs his own shingle?) Lawson opened his own independent, Nashville-based sports management practice, 4A Management (an allusion to his four children, whose names all start with *A*), with a roster of clients that included Johnson, Polamalu, Tampa Bay Buccaneers’ receiver Vincent Jackson, and Vanderbilt University baseball coach Tim Corbin, to name a few.

Lawson’s reputation is built on aligning his athletes with brands that well reflect the image they wish to convey. That’s why you won’t see Polamalu representing any junk food brands. Instead, he opts for lending his image to brands such as Head & Shoulders. Most recently, Polamalu agreed to become chief spokesperson for the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

Lawson’s careful handling of his clients is reciprocated with unwavering commitment from them. Take for instance a Super Bowl–week interview with Chris Johnson on national television, during which Johnson was asked to name the eight people he would take for a ride in program sponsor Hyundai’s

new eight-passenger vehicle. Johnson named Lawson among the family members he would take.

Lawson’s goals are to continue his successful sports practice, but also to use his Ph.D. to become a working professor. “What I am really passionate about is that ability to influence and work with students in a campus environment on a day-to-day basis . . . to help provide value back that maybe benefits that next wave of people.”

Lawson credits MTSU sports management program director Colby Jubenville with inspiring and pushing him to pursue the Ph.D. Jubenville, meanwhile, credits the University’s commitment to the region for attracting stars like Lawson to campus.

“Those who think MTSU isn’t serious about connecting with industry or serving the needs of the marketplace should take note of these kinds of relationships on our campus,” Jubenville says. “Look no further than Michael Lawson’s presence on campus to see that the University is in tune as an educational partner for this region and the nation . . . that we know what is good for the student, the University, the state of Tennessee, and our economy.” **MTSU**

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A man with a beard and mustache, wearing a camouflage military cap and a red t-shirt, is shown in profile, looking off to the side. He is holding a black and blue strap with "OGIO" written on it. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a white building.

An *Active*

MTSU builds on a long tradition of aiding veterans
in their transition from the battlefield to civilian life

by Allison Gorman

TONY JOHNSTON WAS NO STRANGER TO COLLEGE when he used the GI Bill to attend graduate school. But his time in the military had changed him, and suddenly he felt every bit the stranger on a campus full of 18- to 22-year-olds. "It was a culture shock," he says. "I was significantly more mature than I was as an undergraduate, and I was very mission-oriented. My objective was to get my degree and get a job so I could support my family."

Now an associate professor in the School of Agribusiness and Agriscience, Johnston says he recognizes himself in the veterans who have swelled the student ranks at MTSU over the past several years. The pullout of tens of thousands of American troops from Iraq and Afghanistan, along with a new, more generous Post-9/11 GI Bill, have led to the greatest influx of veteran students since the Vietnam War. In spring 2013, about a thousand MTSU students were attending on GI benefits. "Our veteran population has grown, and as we continue to pull out, it's going to grow even more," says Cathy Kirchner, who retired in June as registrar and was the former point of contact for veterans affairs.

Malcolm Stallard has served in the U.S. Army since 2008. He served in Iraq from 2009 to 2010.

photos: J. Intintoli

Duty

MTSU is perfectly positioned to benefit from that trend. Tennessee has changed the way it funds state colleges and universities, rewarding those with higher retention and graduation rates. So “mission-oriented” veteran students are highly desirable—as is their guaranteed, federally funded tuition. But veterans also face unusual and daunting challenges as they move into college life. It’s not just smart policy for a university to help veterans succeed in school; it’s also a moral imperative, Johnston says. “We need to do more than take their money, educate them, and kick them out the door,” he says.

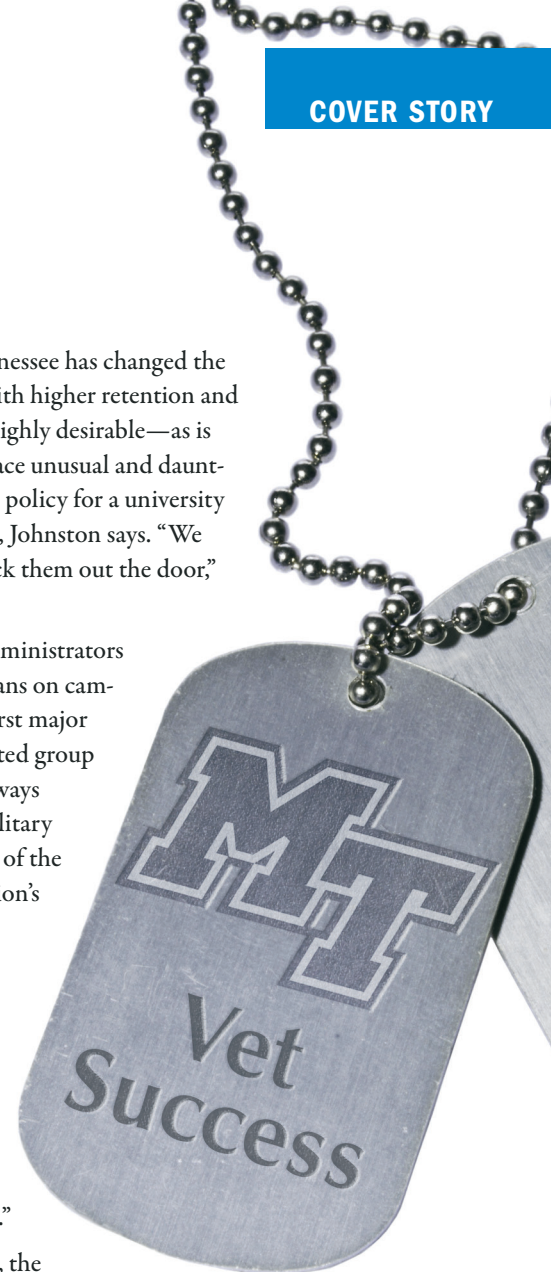
Thanks to Johnston and several other faculty members and administrators who have made it their personal mission to advocate for veterans on campus, MTSU began acting on that imperative well before the first major wave of veteran enrollees crested around 2009. As that dedicated group anticipated potential barriers for veteran students and found ways to remove them, MTSU followed their lead, establishing a military center and becoming the first institution in the state (and one of the first in the country) to partner with the Veterans Administration’s new VetSuccess on Campus program.

Tackling the Transition

Hilary Stallings, manager of recruitment and resources for the College of Liberal Arts, has been part of that core group of veteran advocates. She says her passion stems from her many family connections to the military, including her brother—who “can’t fly home in his uniform because he can’t get out of the airport without people trying to pick up his bill.”

That’s not a bad problem to have. Major General Max Haston, the state’s Adjutant General and leader of the Tennessee National Guard, who was an MTSU student at the end of Vietnam, says the veteran students he knew then flew under the radar. As they tried to transition from military to student life, they dealt with challenges on their own. “If they weren’t driven to do that,” he says, “they probably lost that [education] benefit.”

Despite the welcome change in national attitude, many of the challenges for veteran students remain. In fact, the bureaucracy surrounding admissions and registration—taken in stride by traditional students—can be overwhelming for today’s veterans, who are used to the modern military’s streamlined processes. Cathy Delametter, a veteran and coordinator of continuing education in University College, says, “In the military, you go in the front door a civilian and come out the back door a soldier. But we don’t have a central location for the process, so you end up running all over the place. If you have an issue in the military, you look at an org chart and you know who to contact—whereas in a university you might not know who to call because there’s an overlapping of duties.”



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Veteran students Malcolm Stallard (Kingsport, sophomore social work major) and Jessica Pierson (Berlin, Germany, May '13 graduate) have found the VetSuccess program at MTSU helpful for their studies and their integration into student life.

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Army veteran Marten Melchor, a junior biology major, admits he put off enrolling for a semester because he was so intimidated by the paperwork. Malcolm Stallard, a sophomore in social work and a member of the Army National Guard, says he returned from a deployment with just days to register for school.

Heather Conrad, MTSU's VetSuccess counselor, says today's veteran students go from "combat to campus"—they have almost no time to adjust to college, logistically or emotionally, because military out-processing has become so quick and efficient. That's not necessarily true of VA payments, which, if late, can mean canceled classes and couch-surfing for the student who depends on them.

Such bureaucratic burdens are compounded by the psychological stress of military service and a sense of alienation on campus, Conrad says. "The average age of a veteran coming back is 30s to early 40s, and a lot of them are dealing with post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, anxiety issues," she says. "So there's this huge shock factor—and then they're put in a class with 200 18- to 22-year-olds? That's tough."

A Vanguard for Veterans

MTSU has a reputation for accommodating nontraditional students, and, as Conrad notes, "Veterans hit that nontraditional equation in more than one way." So it shouldn't be surprising that by the time the Post-9/11 GI Bill went into effect in August 2009, some MTSU faculty and administrators were already working ahead of the curve to address these students' concerns.

"MTSU has done a very good job allowing us to be out in front of veterans' needs," Stallings says. "We anticipated years ago that we needed to do this, well before it was the popular thing to do. We understood that there were going to be issues with the new GI Bill. It wasn't approved until just right before it was to go into effect, and all the kinks weren't worked out."

Even as the new GI Bill was evolving in Congress, an ad hoc committee was taking shape at MTSU to guide veteran students through the admissions and registration process and remove potential roadblocks. To accommodate students whose VA payments were late, MTSU's accounting office offered vouchers so veterans wouldn't have to pay tuition out of pocket, and committee members offered to write veterans' landlords requesting extensions for late rent. "We were a small group that tried to think of all the issues that would affect veteran students," Stallings says. "Then we started addressing them head-on, so the veterans didn't have to."

In January 2009, in anticipation of the Post-9/11 Bill, Delametter drafted a proposal on behalf of the committee for a new military center at MTSU. It would recruit veteran students, provide support for them once they arrived, and help develop local internships and career placement for them. The Tennessee Board of Regents approved the center but funding remained elusive.

"We were a small group that tried to think of all the issues that would affect veteran students."

Vet Air

Undeterred, Delametter used MTSU's website to create a virtual military center; potential students could contact her, and she'd talk them through the rough spots. "Over the course of the next two and a half years, I encountered a lot of students who were just overwhelmed by the process, and we helped them get in and get established," she says. "I talked to a number of students who were academically challenged—it was too much, too fast—and so I helped them get tutoring."

The new GI Bill turned out to be far more generous than its predecessor, which paid around \$1,200 a month, Conrad says. The Post-9/11 Bill pays for tuition, books, and fees, plus about \$1,400 a month. However, it also comes with new, stricter time constraints. Depending on their years of service, veterans receive up to 36 months of educational benefits; after that, they're on their own. "The students are under a time limit," Johnston says, "and often they didn't understand the college culture. We knew we couldn't just allow them to flounder; we had to guide them through the process. They don't want to be coddled—just get them on the right track as quickly as possible, and they'll take care of the rest."

Beyond the Beachhead

In 2011, the Veterans Administration invited MTSU to become a VetSuccess campus. There were only eight others in the country at the time. In February 2012, the University signed a Memorandum of Understanding: MTSU would provide office space for a full-time VetSuccess counselor, and the VA would provide the counselor, pay her salary, and provide office equipment.

By April 2012, Conrad was working in temporary quarters in Cope Administration Building. Kirchner became Conrad's liaison to the University, setting up meetings with department heads, University services, and counseling and testing staff. "Heather talked about what she could provide for the veterans, and then she learned campus protocol, how our offices function and what we can do for students, so if there is an issue or a student of concern, we can collaborate to help," Kirchner says.

VetSuccess was created to improve the return on the government's investment in veteran students by implementing the sort of proactive, individualized strategies that Johnston, Stallings, and other ad hoc committee members had long envisioned. "Congress spent \$7 billion in Post-9/11 benefits last year," Conrad says.

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Every year, MTSU partners with the Tennessee State Veterans Home in Murfreesboro to give selected veterans a flight to remember in honor of their military service and their love for flying. MTSU aerospace professor and pilot Terry Dorris has conducted the flights in recent years from Murfreesboro Airport. Tony Johnston, a veteran himself and professor in the School of Agribusiness and Agriscience, works with Dorris and Veterans Home activity director Barbara Cochran to orchestrate the flights.

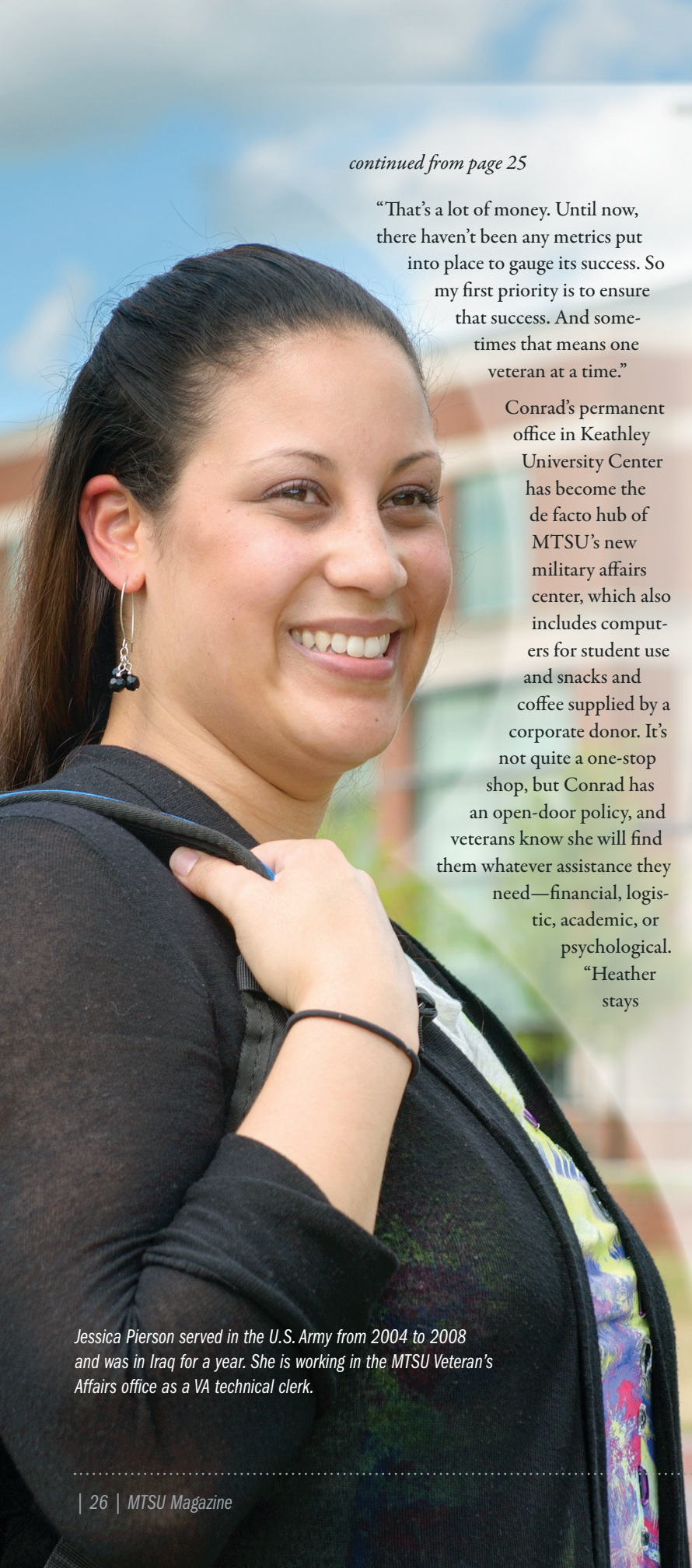
This past March, three veterans flew. Will Tuttle served more than 20 years in the U.S. Air Force as a paratrooper in the Korean and Vietnam wars. Tuttle also wrote the program for Combat Controller Training. Leticia Fort served in the U.S. Air Force during Vietnam with air emergency evacuation teams to provide medical care for troops wounded on the battlefield. And Lynn Holliday served more than 20 years in the U.S. Navy in legal administrative offices. Holliday also served during Vietnam. He studied to be a pilot but could not afford to get his license. It has always been his dream to fly.

According to Johnston, the flights began after "one of the veterans commented to the activity director that he wished he could fly one more time before he died."

Johnston said that for some veterans, the flights become a final check on their bucket lists. He recalled one veteran who passed away just two weeks after his flight.

"We're honored to be able to do this for some of our veterans," he says. [MTSU](#)





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“That’s a lot of money. Until now, there haven’t been any metrics put into place to gauge its success. So my first priority is to ensure that success. And sometimes that means one veteran at a time.”

Conrad’s permanent office in Keathley University Center has become the de facto hub of MTSU’s new military affairs center, which also includes computers for student use and snacks and coffee supplied by a corporate donor. It’s not quite a one-stop shop, but Conrad has an open-door policy, and veterans know she will find them whatever assistance they need—financial, logistic, academic, or psychological. “Heather stays

very busy,” Kirchner says. “She has a stream of veterans in and out throughout the day.”

Through VetSuccess and the military center, veterans can get help applying for VA benefits and financial aid, support in navigating admission and registration, peer tutoring, and advice on transferring military credits. Together, Conrad and Kirchner identify and contact struggling students and find them academic help. They also plan to bring in a local counselor to work in the military center. Conrad has already done plenty of crisis counseling during her first year at MTSU. “Every veteran whose head I can keep above water is one who may stay in school,” she says.

Marine veteran Sean Martin, a sophomore sociology major and member of the newly reorganized Blue Raider American Veterans Organization (BRAVO), calls VetSuccess “the number-one support structure” for helping veterans find scholarships and financial aid. “Some veterans show up to university not even understanding that they can claim student loans as well as Post-9/11 benefits,” he says. “So with VetSuccess, MTSU is definitely hitting it out of the park for us.”

A Magnet for the Military

MTSU’s longstanding commitment to its veteran students has coalesced in the past two years with VetSuccess in place, a physical military center established, and what had been a passionate ad hoc committee now a part of a larger, official Military Affairs Committee.

But institutional status hasn’t diminished the personal sense of mission felt by the many committee members who for years have taken on responsibilities far outside the scope of their paying jobs. Stallings has written several grant proposals on behalf of the military center, and Johnston traveled to Nashville to propose giving veterans priority registration because their benefits are time-sensitive. (The Tennessee legislature implemented that policy at public colleges and universities statewide.) Committee members have organized veterans-only classes and launched a teacher-training series to help faculty understand and accommodate special concerns such as a war veteran’s debilitating anxiety or a member of the National Guard who needs to balance coursework with mandatory training.

Between VetSuccess and complementary initiatives, MTSU leads the state in its commitment and service to veterans. MTSU is the first choice in higher education for Tennessee’s veterans, and for the third consecutive year, *G.I. Jobs* magazine has designated it a “military-friendly campus.”

Jessica Pierson served in the U.S. Army from 2004 to 2008 and was in Iraq for a year. She is working in the MTSU Veteran’s Affairs office as a VA technical clerk.

Answering the Call

Derek Frisby, assistant professor of military history (and another longstanding veteran advocate), says the military culture is written into the University's DNA. Murfreesboro was built on Revolutionary War land grants, and when Middle Tennessee State Normal School was established in 1911, battle damage from the Civil War was still visible on local buildings. The area around the University was used for drilling and training during World War I, and five Middle Tennessee students were killed in action, including William McConnell, who wrote the school's first alma mater.

“My first priority is to ensure that success. And sometimes that means one veteran at a time.”

During World War II, school president Q. M. Smith helped the institution recover from the Great Depression by securing valuable training contracts with the military industry. The school's pilot-training program evolved into its aerospace program, one of the best in the country. “Thanks to Smith's leadership and these war programs, the school began to take on a new identity,” Frisby says. “The government funding really boosted its reputation as well as its bottom line. And when the war was over, the people who had worked and trained here used their GI Bill, and many of them came back here.” So many veterans enrolled that the school built barracks-style housing on campus for soldiers and their families.

“Vet Village” was long gone by the sixties, but Vietnam vets still found a place at MTSU, even as universities across the country were marked by antimilitary sentiment. “The people of this community have always supported the troops,” Frisby notes. “The policies and motivations behind war have been secondary to that.”

Haston says that comes with the territory in the Volunteer State, which is seventeenth in population but has the sixth-largest National Guard and the fourth-most deployments. “We have soldiers and airmen who are deployed five and six times,” he says. “[MTSU] sits in the cradle of volunteerism. It must be in the water.”

That volunteer spirit is tangible at the Veteran's Memorial outside Tom H. Jackson Building. Begun in 2004 after two former students were killed in Iraq, the memorial was built with private funds and completed in 2010. Stallings and Frisby were instrumental in planning and fundraising.

A monument there is engraved with the names of all MTSU students known to have been killed in action. Stallings says it's “hallowed ground,” her favorite place on campus. But she is quick to correct those who call it a war memorial. “This is about our students,” she says.

And that's the goal of MTSU's outreach to veterans: to transform soldiers, airmen, sailors, and all other men and women who have served the United States into that other staple of a strong nation—college graduates. **MTSU**

Back in the Saddle

A pilot program launching this summer between the Veterans Recovery Center (part of the Murfreesboro VA hospital) and MTSU's horse science program (less than a mile away from the VA at the Miller Complex) offers veterans an alternative rehabilitation program based on the close bond that can develop between horse and veteran.

“Our aim is to offer and use horses as a therapeutic aid in helping recovering veterans,” explains MTSU horse science program director David Whitaker.

According to the VA website, certain social settings have the potential to be overwhelming for veterans. Horse program partnerships like MTSU's can help build a veteran's confidence through a relationship with a horse that may translate into skills that can be used in day-to-day life.

“The magic of the horses is that people must work to get the horse to respond in a favorable manner,” Whitaker said. “The size of horses makes achievement with them seem even a larger accomplishment than with dogs. For those who have never worked with horses, the slightest positive response from the horse brings a euphoria that is tremendous.”

Whitaker credited MTSU student and equestrian team member Miller Henard (pictured here on the cover of a previous edition of *MTSU Magazine*) with helping to make the new program a reality as a result of an internship working with the Veterans Recovery Center. **MTSU**





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2013 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

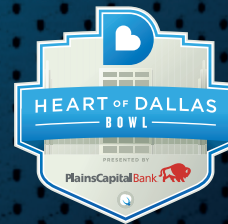
August 29	WESTERN CAROLINA	6:30 PM
September 7	at North Carolina (ACC Network)	11:30 AM
September 14	MEMPHIS (CSS) (Hall of Fame)	TBA
September 21	at Florida Atlantic University* (CSS)	TBA
September 27	at BYU	TBA
October 5	EAST CAROLINA* (Fox) (Homecoming)	TBA
October 12	at North Texas*	TBA
October 24	MARSHALL* (Fox)	6:30 PM
November 2	at UAB* (FCS)	TBA
November 9	FIU* (FCS) (Salute to Armed Services/Veterans Day)	3:00 PM
November 23	at Southern Miss* (CSS)	TBA
November 30	UTEP* (Senior Day)	TBA
December 7	C-USA Championship Game	

Home games in bold

*Conference USA Game

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FOOTBALL SINCE 2003

	C-USA	Sun Belt
Final AP Poll appearances	6	0
Bowl appearances	55	21

MEN'S BASKETBALL SINCE 2001-02

	C-USA	SBC
NCAA At-Large Berths	17	2
NCAA Tournament Wins	33	4
NCAA Tournament Record	33-28	4-14
Final Top 25 Poll appearances	13	1

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SINCE 2001-02

	C-USA	SBC
NCAA At-Large Berths	15	4
NCAA Tournament Wins	12	6
NCAA Tournament Record	12-27	6-15
Final Top 25 Poll appearances	7	2

BASEBALL SINCE 2002

	C-USA	SBC
NCAA At-Large Berths	26	17
NCAA Tournament Wins	92	29
NCAA Tournament Record	92-95	29-52
CWS appearances	6	0

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Conference USA is the only conference in the country to have broadcast agreements with FOX Sports, CBS Sports Network and ESPN.

The league began a major multi-year agreement with Fox Sports Media Group in 2011. FOX Sports Networks (FSN) will showcase a minimum of 20 regular-season football games per season, a minimum of 10 regular-season men's basketball games, five women's basketball games, and a variety of Olympic sports events.

The 2012 football schedule featured more than 85 games aired nationally or regionally (compared to only 18 for the Sun Belt), putting it on pace for the highest number in league history. National games were televised on Fox Sports Net, FX, CBS Sports Network, ABC and ESPN.

ESPN will televise the C-USA football championship game through 2015.

The Conference USA men's basketball championship game is broadcast on CBS, while more than 40 regular season games appear on the CBS Sports Network, FSN and the ESPN family of networks.

DID YOU KNOW?

The new Fox Sports 1 network will be available in more than 91 million homes. FSN programming is distributed to more than 85 million homes through more than 24 owned and affiliated regional sports networks.



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Louisiana Tech	Ruston, La.
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Rice	Houston, Texas
Tulane	New Orleans, La.
Tulsa	Tulsa, Okla.
UTEP	El Paso, Texas
UTSA	San Antonio, Texas

EAST

East Carolina	Greenville, N.C.
FIU	Miami, Fla.
Florida Atlantic	Boca Raton, Fla.
Marshall	Huntington, W.V.
Middle Tennessee	Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Southern Miss	Hattiesburg, Miss.
UAB	Birmingham, Ala.



GEOGRAPHY OF CONFERENCE USA

DID YOU KNOW?

Of the top 65 media markets in the country, 12 are home to a 2013-14 C-USA member institution.

DID YOU KNOW?

Conference USA institutions have hosted three NCAA Final Fours since 2011.

DID YOU KNOW?

There will be a 16-game schedule in basketball for 2013-14 with each school playing every team in the league once and a nearby opponent twice. Middle Tennessee's home and away opponent will be UAB. The 2014 C-USA men's and women's basketball tournaments will take place at UTEP.

DID YOU KNOW?

Middle Tennessee's first home conference opponent in football will be the East Carolina Pirates.



Computer Science chair Chrisila Pettey, along with faculty and alumni, have set their sights on easing Tennessee's IT worker crunch and the tech sector's gender imbalances.

photo: J. Intintoli

Completing the Circuit

by Bill Lewis

Every year, more than 800 technology-related jobs go unfilled in the Nashville area, putting an unwelcome brake on the region's economy. Earlier this year, as reported by *The Tennessean*, the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce went so far as to launch a recruiting campaign aimed at solving "the nagging and persistent shortage of IT workers."

Now the tech sector is looking to MTSU (and other schools) for a solution.

Even with more than 1,300 undergraduate and graduate students in the departments of Computer Science, Engineering Technology, and Computer Information Systems, MTSU can't meet the need. To fill the gap, the University is moving to add new curricula and attract more women to the traditionally male-dominated field.

"We've got this issue of needed tech workers, and it is not just Nashville or Tennessee or the United States," says Liza Lowery Massey, former president and CEO of the Nashville Technology Council, an affiliate of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce. "It's global and it is not going away. If we want our economy to be vibrant and grow, we need to train our workforce."

"Anything academia can do to tie its efforts, spending, and investments to workforce, and especially workforce in science, technology, engineering, and math, is a positive and should be met with a positive response," she says. "The jobs of tomorrow—actually the jobs of today, already—are in that area."

That task might be easier if the region were home to a high-profile tech giant such as Facebook or Yahoo. But the jobs, many starting at \$60,000 or better, are waiting to be taken.

"We have a number of big-name companies. We don't have Google or Microsoft, but we have people go to HCA—the world's largest hospital company—and startups down the street and find good opportunities," says Chrisila Pettey, chair of the Department of Computer Science.

Knowing that the demand for computer science personnel is great not only in Tennessee but also in the U.S. and worldwide, Pettey's vision is to have MTSU supply more talented graduates to the workforce. The MTSU alumna ('81) says her goal "is to do my best to facilitate continually moving the department forward. Our discipline is a rapidly changing one, and the faculty has to work hard to stay current and keep the curriculum current."

Many of us might imagine that tech professionals spend their days designing the latest smart phone app, but old-school industries like automobile manufacturing and tire production are snapping up all the skilled graduates they can find.

"Companies like Nissan and Bridgestone are desperately seeking people and can't find people with the skills they need in automation and robotics," says Walter Boles, chair of the Department of Engineering Technology.

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“The old kind of manufacturing jobs—grease under your fingernails and your back hurts—these aren’t those kinds of jobs,” he says. “People don’t go to work in their hard hat and safety shoes.”

To ensure that graduates have the well-rounded skills in demand by advanced manufacturing companies like Siemens and others, the department has launched a new program in mechatronics, a growing field that blends mechanical, electrical, and computer engineering. The curriculum builds on existing courses and adds classes heavy in math and physics.

“Industry wants it now. They are really concerned,” Boles says.

The Bureau of Labor and Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook reports a 22 percent projected growth in computer and information systems jobs between now and 2020. It’s no wonder then that when students graduate from MTSU’s technology programs, they are quickly absorbed by companies hungry for fresh talent. The Department of Computer Information Systems graduates 30 to 40 new professionals every semester, and more than 90 percent take jobs in middle Tennessee, says the department’s chair, Stan Gambill.

We moved our business here specifically with the idea of partnering with MTSU, to have students as interns and turn them into full-time employees.

Large companies aren’t the only ones looking to MTSU for a workforce solution. Alumnus Tim Choate moved his software company, Bondware, to Murfreesboro a few years after startup to be closer to the talent pool on campus.

“We moved our business here specifically with the idea of partnering with MTSU, to have students as interns and turn them into full-time employees,” he says.

Today, about a half-dozen MTSU graduates work at Bondware, which has 15 employees in Murfreesboro and more than 30 contractors around the world. The company employs experts in online publishing, website construction, and email marketing.

Choate, who is on the University’s Computer Science Advisory Board, is also a member of the board of Mind2Marketplace,



a group of people in higher education, business, K–12 education, chambers of commerce, and government. The Murfreesboro-based consortium’s mission is to strategically link people and organizations to bring innovation and technology to the marketplace. The topic of a recent forum was 3D printing, the process of making an object from a digital model.

Before the tech workforce can expand, certain stereotypes on campus have to be overcome, Choate says.

“In the past 10 years, a mindset developed among many students that technologists were a bunch of nerds sitting around doing math and playing with Rubik’s Cubes.”

Uprooting that stereotype, especially among young women, is high on Dr. Pettey’s to-do list. “They think only people like Sheldon on the *Big Bang Theory* like technology,” she says. “You have to be a nerd and spend all your time on a computer. You can’t go out and do things.”

If women entered the technology workforce in numbers equal to their presence on campuses, it’s conceivable that there would be no worker shortage. But while women are the majority at MTSU and many other universities, nationally they earn just over 18 percent of undergraduate degrees in engineering and just slightly over 25 percent in math and computer science.

They are missing opportunities to have rewarding careers, says Judith Iriarte-Gross, director of WISTEM (Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) at MTSU.

“In STEM, they can command a higher income, and that means a better economic future,” Iriarte-Gross says.

WISTEM offers programs to capture the imaginations of women and girls, including the GRITS (Girls Raised in

Tennessee Science) initiative to encourage them to consider careers in science, technology, engineering, or math. GRITS works with PTAs, the Girls Scouts, and other organizations to interest girls in STEM at an early age.

Young women are often steered into more traditional, “feminine” careers, says Mary Thomas, an executive with the Rutherford County operation of Schneider Electric, a global energy management company. She is chair of the WISTEM board.

Thomas recalls counting engineers in one of the company’s departments. Of 150 engineers, four were women.

“As for software, I know of one female software engineer,” she says.

Numbers like those certainly don’t add up to filling available tech jobs in middle Tennessee. Nashville’s tech sector is counting on MTSU to help attract the workforce it needs—both men and women—to be successful. [MTSU](#)

Those who think they know reggae music are likely in for an education when they read *The Encyclopedia of Reggae: The Golden Age of Roots Reggae*. Written by MTSU professor Dr. Mike Alleyne, the encyclopedia provides a colorful, 352-page study of the reggae genre, covering it from A to Z and from the late 1960s up to the mid-1980s.

Alleyne's book is one of the most recent contributions from a department that is constantly working to further explore and expand its field. Beverly Keel, newly appointed chair of the Department of Recording Industry, is not bashful about the quality and reputation of the recording program. The former senior vice president of media and artist relations with Universal Music Group–Nashville, who graduated from MTSU herself in 1988, says while other institutions have emulated the University's recording industry program, "We did it first, and we did it best."

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An MTSU professor
has written the book
on reggae

A Fourth **R**

by Gina K. Logue

"It has many different facets, but it's something that is **spiritual** in many ways, very **rhythmically motivating** and very **ideologically powerful**, as well."



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“It has been the nation’s leading recording industry program,” Keel says. “And we are poised now to take it to the next level. We have some amazing faculty. We have book authors. We have Grammy winners. We have professors who write the manuals for hardware and software. As the music industry changes, we are eager to lead the way.”

As one of those authors/professors, Alleyne, who was born in London to parents who were natives of Barbados, says he wanted his book to be authoritative enough to satisfy knowledgeable lovers of the genre but accessible enough to entice casual fans to want to know more.

“It’s very difficult to get most audiences to look beyond Bob Marley,” Alleyne says. His compilation, though, is designed to help readers do just that. The work includes a timeline, best-of lists, and essays on artists, labels, and producers, along with other aspects of the genre’s influence, including Rastafarianism and marijuana. It’s not a coffee-table book in the traditional sense, but how can it be when the subject—a style of music that incorporates politics and spirituality in every beat—can hardly be called traditional.

Asked to define reggae, Alleyne says, “It has many different facets, but it’s something that is spiritual in many ways, very rhythmically motivating, and very ideologically powerful as well.”

Reggae, Alleyne says, is the first music from people considered “Third World” to penetrate major Western commercial markets. The 1970s seemed to be a halcyon era for reggae influence on Western pop hits, including Paul Simon’s “Mother and Child Reunion,” Johnny Nash’s “Stir It Up,” and Eric Clapton’s cover of Bob Marley’s “I Shot the Sheriff.” Eddy Grant’s “Electric Avenue” from 1982 is something of an anomaly because, while the hit is more of a rock track with a reggae beat, Grant had established his reggae credibility with straight reggae hits in Europe, Alleyne says.

According to Alleyne, reggae’s influence in American music is as strong now as it was then, but its visibility is not as great. He says the musical influence actually works both ways, with American music sometimes influencing reggae style, but the profitability of the music is a little more one-sided. “It’s interesting to see how a rock group can integrate reggae elements and achieve this incredible commercial success, but reggae groups who will integrate rock are never able to do that,” he says.

A case in point is a series of tribute albums to the Police’s 1997–2008 catalog that features notable reggae performers. “The artists were willing to participate in that because they

welcomed the opportunity to reinterpret the interpretation of reggae that the Police had come up with,” Alleyne says.

While insisting he is not a reggae purist (he also teaches an occasional course on Jimi Hendrix), Alleyne says he would like to see more reggae artists become as well known and widely respected as the rock artists who appreciate reggae enough to appropriate it for their own music. The ethnocentrism behind that lack of renown is irksome but not surprising to Alleyne. After all, reggae is an art form firmly planted in the anticolonial politics that led to Jamaica’s independence from Britain in 1962.

Alleyne points out that many musicians had been harassed for their Rastafarian religion and were not part of the political or economic establishment anyway. They understood the average Jamaican. Men were chased down in the street and tackled, and their dreadlocks were cut off, as much a sign of racist intimidation as cutting a Chinese man’s queue, thus putting him in bad stead with the ancestors he worships. Reggae has always been political, he explains, but the industrialized nations to which the music is exported don’t necessarily absorb its political import.

“Reggae has this aura of exoticism that isn’t always clearly connected by sectors of the audience to a harsh political and economic reality,” Alleyne says.

And yet, musicians in Jamaica seem to find a way around their economic circumstances to produce the music they love. Some of Alleyne’s encyclopedia’s most compelling photographs are of Ampex reel-to-reel machines under spartan, tin-roofed buildings.

“It’s actually quite remarkable that the music has had such great historical resonance, because it was done with the bare minimum of equipment,” Alleyne says, noting that some of reggae’s best music was made with two-track or four-track machines while recordings in wealthier nations were made with 16-track or 24-track machines.

With department experts like Alleyne, who can reveal the history, politics, religion, and circumstances behind the music, it’s no wonder Keel calls recording industry “the greatest major on campus.”

“You get this great rock-and-roll degree, if you will,” she says, “but you also get a great basic college education with English, history, science, and all the things to make you a well-rounded person.”

Thanks to Alleyne, majors in the University’s Recording Industry program can now add a fourth “R” to their college education—reggae. [MTSU](#)

Blueprint for Success

With an ambitious campaign more than three-fourths complete, the University's colleges and athletics program make plans to make the most of it

by Drew Ruble



www.mtsu.edu/supporteducation



MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

THE MOST AMBITIOUS QUEST FOR PHILANTHROPY IN MTSU history will further raise its visibility nationally and internationally and maintain its legacy as a center of higher education excellence.

More than \$67 million has already been committed toward the campaign's \$80 million goal. But how will the money be used?

Each of the six core academic colleges at MTSU and the Blue Raider athletics program has created a blueprint outlining priorities for campaign funds.

The following is a look at just one priority from each.

Reaffirming Its Roots

College of Education

Priority: Teacher Preparation

Ask someone to name the five people who had the most influence on his or her life and chances are good that a teacher will be on the list. Perhaps no profession has a more direct impact on personal and professional development than the teaching profession. From a community perspective, the same might be said for business and economic development.

At MTSU, teaching future teachers is at the very core of the institution's history. The state of Tennessee established what is today MTSU in 1911 as a Normal School, specifically to train educators. From those humble beginnings, MTSU has grown to become the largest undergraduate institution in Tennessee. Even though the University now offers dozens of fields of study, MTSU remains a primary producer of teachers and an institution on the leading edge of teacher training.

The University recently moved its College of Education into a brand-new \$30 million state-of-the-art building equipped with the newest technology and most advanced training environments. It also launched a new doctoral program in educational assessment—a first of its kind in Tennessee—aimed at improving teacher education. Perhaps most importantly, MTSU's College of Education has taken the clear lead among TBR institutions in implementing a complete overhaul of the way Tennessee universities prepare future teachers to be truly effective in the classroom.

Ready2Teach is a rigorous new teacher preparation program in Tennessee that focuses on research and best practices, strong content knowledge, and practical experiences in the field of teaching. As part of the new program, beginning in the fall of 2013, MTSU students who wish to be schoolteachers will, not unlike medical students, spend a residency year working in schools alongside highly effective teachers who have partnered with University faculty (many of whom are considered national experts) to design this course of study.

Ready2Teach merges theory and practice so that students are better prepared to student teach and are more effective when they actually begin their teaching careers. Lana Seivers, dean of the College of Education, says Centennial Campaign funds promise to strengthen this program by funding scholarships for MTSU students plus stipends, professional development, and research opportunities for K–12 teachers and MTSU faculty.

Research for Answers

College of Basic and Applied Sciences

Priority: Research Funding

The pace of scientific discovery is constantly accelerating. New products and processes that will change the world for the better are always being invented—often in academic settings.

Historically, research has not been a significant component of MTSU's mission, but that's changing rapidly. The University's new \$147 million science building, currently under construction, is a game changer for MTSU research and the College of Basic and Applied Sciences (CBAS). So too, are recent additions to the administration and staff in CBAS, including new dean Bud Fischer and new department chairs Greg Van Patten (Chemistry) and Lynn Boyd (Biology). Each has a strong research background and has received the external funding to prove it. Their presence signals a clear shift in direction toward more robust research output in the college.

But new funds will be needed to accelerate activities that promote research and push the boundaries of science. MTSU already has some very promising new centers for research. The University's latest collaboration with China has great potential to yield significant dividends for Tennessee's economy—and cure some of the world's worst illnesses. In concert with the Guangxi Botanical Garden of Medicinal Plants in Nanning,

China, MTSU now has exclusive access to a library of traditional Chinese medicinal (TCM) extracts, creating the opportunity to develop new Western medicines based on TCM's proven healing powers.

www.mtsu.edu/supportcbas

Paying Dividends

Jennings A. Jones College of Business

Priority: Endowed Faculty Positions

One high-quality leader or faculty member can make a difference to hundreds, if not thousands, of students. Getting financial assistance to hire and retain top-tier academic leaders and faculty members is a critical component of MTSU's formula for excellence and a top priority of the Jennings A. Jones College of Business.

To ensure that students have the opportunity to interact with and be guided by the nation's leading educators and practitioners, the University wishes to establish a cadre of endowed chairs and professorships to attract prestigious teachers and research scholars.

MTSU hopes to gain national attention through groundbreaking scholarship and research. The presence of these scholars will be a conspicuous example of MTSU's commitment to academic excellence and to a curriculum that actively addresses and promotes an understanding of the economic, social, and educational issues of our country.

Attracting such talent will be no easy task. Competition for high-quality faculty and academic leaders is intense. In business disciplines, particularly accounting and finance, the annual demand for new Ph.D.s exceeds the supply.

One sterling example of the effect an endowed chair can have at MTSU is the Wright Travel Chair of Entrepreneurship, made possible by a \$1.25 million commitment from alumna Pamela Wright ('73), founder and CEO of Nashville-based Wright Travel, Tennessee's largest travel agency. Establishing an endowed chair in entrepreneurship enabled the University to bring a nationally recognized expert to campus. He is not only in



Pamela Wright

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Sandy Stevens,
a postdoctoral
researcher, is
helping people
with paralysis
walk again.

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the classroom with students but also out in the Nashville area business community providing a valuable link to MTSU.

Wright, who also cochairs the Centennial Campaign, says she endowed the chair in an effort to help America compete with the developing world. “The experience they bring—the real workplace knowledge that person brings, as well as the potential for research and for community outreach in terms of enhancing the reputation of the University—it can have a transformational impact,” says Wright.

The University also seeks to expand annual funds available to reward faculty for exceptional performance in their service to students, the University, and the community, providing tangible proof of the importance MTSU places on all facets of faculty responsibility.

Not So Run of the Mill

College of Behavioral and Health Sciences
Priority: Underwater Treadmill Program

Students, faculty, and graduates of the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences (CBHS) are, essentially, community servants. That’s because CBHS—the University’s newest college—produces nurses, social workers, criminal justice and corrections workers, psychological counselors, and human service and health-related profession-

als. By preparing skilled professionals, CBHS produces a healthy return on investments made by individuals, corporations, and agencies.

The college is focused on research and evidence-based models to address community problems. One nationally recognized example is research being conducted at the MTSU Exercise Science laboratory by Sandy Stevens, a postdoctoral researcher who is helping people with paralysis walk again. Under her care, those with spinal cord injuries can train on an underwater treadmill and are able to stand and support themselves.

Stevens’s participants have shown a 57 percent increase in leg strength, 39 percent improvement in balance, 34 percent improvement in preferred walking speed, 61 percent improvement in rapid-walking speed, 82 percent improvement in six-minute walking distance, and a 121 percent increase in the number of steps they took in their own environments. Almost all participants report greater independence, better general health, and improved mental well-being. “If one thing has consistently changed throughout the course of treatment it is that hope has been restored,” Stevens says. “When the participants see their legs moving, they believe that anything is possible.”

Terry Whiteside, dean of the college, believes that with proper support MTSU’s reputation as a leader in underwater treadmill research could lead to an aquatic research facility, which could expand spinal cord therapy research and allow the University to become a leading voice for using aquatic exercise to reduce the national cost of conditions such as diabetes and obesity.

www.mtsu.edu/supportcbhs

Converging Worlds

College of Mass Communication
Priority: Center for Innovation in Media

It wasn’t so long ago that mainstream media—print, television, and radio—were separated. It was also true that universities reflected the divisions between journalism and radio-television schools in their academic departments. But technology has changed all that, blurring those divisions and changing the way journalists and students across the disciplines conduct business. In this new world, content is converging into one electronic location—the Internet—where news consumers demand both visual and in-depth content from one location.

As media converges, professionals in the field are forced to adjust to a new business model. They must be as comfortable writing a breaking news



Podium Power

College of Liberal Arts

Priority: Speaker Series

Student Mary Choate recalls the effect that Sandra Day O'Connor, retired associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court had on her. The first female to serve on the nation's highest court came to MTSU and gave a presentation as part of the College of Liberal Arts annual Speaker Series.

"Seeing the first woman Supreme Court justice renewed my passion for the law," Choate says. "My main goal is to become a lawyer, and hopefully one day I will be in her shoes."

It is exactly this type of inspiration that Dean Mark Byrnes sees as the reason to make the speaker series a high priority at MTSU. Byrnes believes in the power of the spoken word and is passionate about building an endowment to enable the College of Liberal Arts to bring more national and world figures to speak at the University.

"We have been very fortunate in recent years to have found

funding to host speakers such as O'Connor, author David McCullough, and musician Béla Fleck, to name a few," Byrnes says. "These are people who have helped shape their respective fields and our world. And we want to be able to continue this tradition for our students and the larger community."

According to Byrnes, a lecture series of this nature "really embodies the value of a liberal arts education—helping people become more reflective about their beliefs and choices, more creative in their problem solving, more perceptive of the world around them, and better able to inform themselves about the issues that arise in their lives."

State funding for such endeavors is increasingly hard to come by, so in order to meet Byrnes's goal, MTSU will need to find donors willing to help support an endowment.



story or Sunday feature article as they are shooting video, producing a podcast, or going on the radio. In other words, they must be comfortable creating content on multiple platforms.

MTSU's College of Mass Communication reflects this new world with its brand-new Center for Innovation in Media, where students and professionals from all media disciplines hone their skills while working under one roof with state-of-the-art equipment.

On the first floor of the John Bragg Mass Communication Building, the center combines the newsrooms for *Sidelines*, the student newspaper; WMTS-FM, the student-run radio station;

MATCH Records, the student-run record label; MTTV, the student-operated cable television station; and WMOT-FM, the college's 100,000-watt public radio station. The center reaffirms the University's commitment to maintaining its reputation for having a top national school of journalism. In 2012, the Associated Press Managing Editors (APME) awarded the new center an honorable mention in the category "Innovator of the Year for College Students" for its merging of student media and fostering of collaboration across communication platforms.

Stephan Foust, director of the center, says continued investment will be essential to ongoing operations and the best preparation of students. "With the ability to update hardware and software when needed, our students will remain knowledgeable, skilled, and in demand by mass communication industries," Foust says.

Continued investment will be essential to ongoing operations and the **best preparation** of students.

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www.mtsu.edu/supportliberalarts

www.mtsu.edu/supportmasscomm



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Getting in the Game

MT Athletics

Priority: Year-Round Training Facilities

Blue Raider athletics provides a strong link between the University, its alumni, and the community at large and increases alumni and public support for the University. But to maintain its status as an athletic powerhouse and ensure continued success in the future—especially now that MTSU has elevated its profile by joining Conference USA—student-athletes and coaches must have high-quality facilities that allow year-round training and participation regardless of weather.

The centerpiece of the athletic master plan is a comprehensive indoor practice and track competition building that will support football, soccer, baseball, and softball and provide a competition area for indoor track and field. Success in funding the project could have a domino effect, leading to improvements such as spectator suites in Murphy Center, MTSU's now 40-year-old multipurpose arena. Providing new opportunities for coaches to better interact with staff and players in a more supportive environment is another significant need. Thus, the University is seeking to build a new athletics administrative and educational center, which would house key offices and provide academic and resource space for student-athletes.

"The most gifted student-athletes are sought by universities around the world," says athletics director Chris Massaro. "If MTSU is to successfully attract the next generation of Blue Raider and Lady Raider players, it must have financial support to offer competitive student-aid packages to attract and support exceptional scholar-athletes, and, like other leading intercollegiate athletics programs, provide its student-athletes with great facilities."

A Final Note: Scholarships

For MTSU to continue as the institution of choice for Tennessee's best and brightest, it must offer competitive financial aid packages to attract and support exceptional student-scholars and make college affordable for all deserving students.

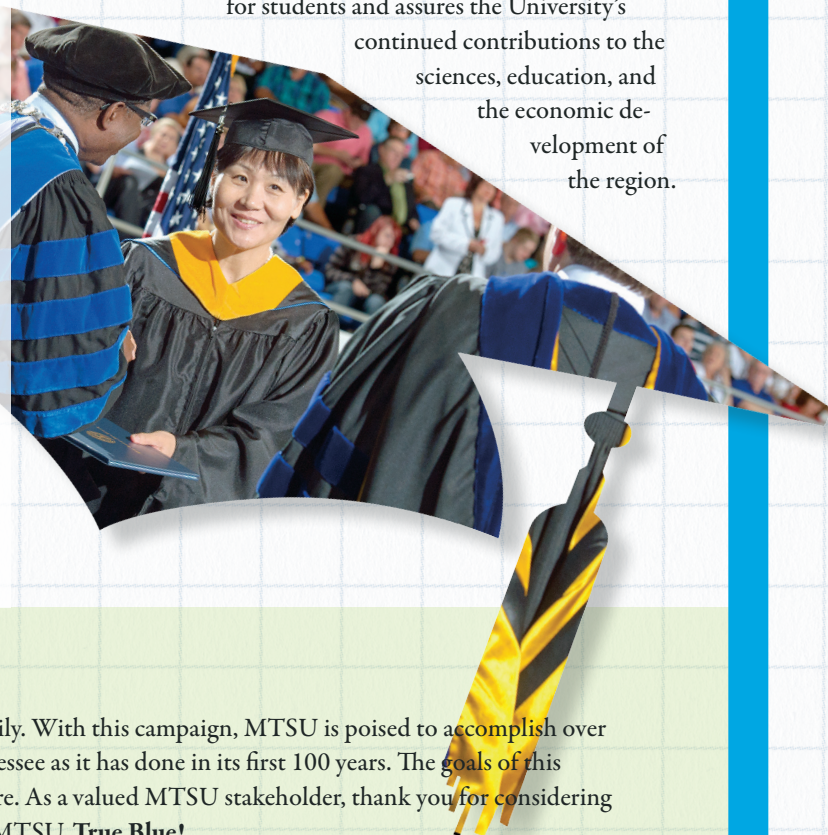
Scholarship support is the top overall priority in the Centennial Campaign. Central to this effort is the establishment of the MTSU Centennial Scholars, a distinguished scholarship program that will help the University recruit the most outstanding students in the region. In addition, increased support for merit- and need-based awards will help the University meet the financial needs of all entering students and expand educational opportunities available to citizens.

Finally, as the role of research and graduate education has become a vibrant element of our enterprise, an increased emphasis has been placed on supporting graduate students. Securing endowed and recurring stipends increases graduate opportunities for students and assures the University's continued contributions to the sciences, education, and the economic development of the region.

Conclusion

Realizing this vision will require support of the entire MTSU family. With this campaign, MTSU is poised to accomplish over the next decade as much or more for the good of the state of Tennessee as it has done in its first 100 years. The goals of this campaign clearly reflect MTSU's priorities and vision for the future. As a valued MTSU stakeholder, thank you for considering the accomplishments of the past and the promise of the future at MTSU. **True Blue!**

For more information, or to get involved in the Centennial Campaign, call the Office of Development at (615) 898-2502 or email development@mtsu.edu. **MTSU**





SUPPORT MTSU WITH A TAX-FREE GIFT

If you're 70 and a half or older, you can transfer tax-free charitable gifts of up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to MTSU until December 31, 2013.

Designate your gift for the MTSU college or department most important to you, and have a lasting impact on the future of our university.

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to learn more, or contact

Nick Perlick, nick.perlick@mtsu.edu, (615) 898-2502.

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY.

Development Office

The granting of an honorary degree,

a tradition of universities dating back to the Middle Ages, honors those with sustained records of achievement who exemplify the ideals for which a university stands. **It is a university's ultimate sign of respect.**

On May 11, 2013, during the University's commencement ceremonies, MTSU granted the first two honorary degrees in its 102-year history.



BART GORDON IS A THIRD-GENERATION Blue Raider. At MTSU, he was elected president of the Associated Student Body. He graduated with honors in 1971 and served in the Army Reserves from 1971 to 1972. He graduated from the College of Law at UT-Knoxville in 1973. From 1974 to 1983, he practiced law in Murfreesboro and worked for the Tennessee Democratic Party.

In 1984, Gordon was elected to Congress as representative of Tennessee's sixth district. During his 26-year congressional career, he developed a reputation as the undisputed bipartisan leader in innovation policy. As chair of the House Science and Technology Committee, Gordon helped pass 151 bills and resolutions, all bipartisan.

He led the effort to enact the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which increased mileage standards, improved vehicle technology, promoted alternative energy research, and improved energy efficiency in a variety of ways. He was a leading proponent of America's space program and championed the America COMPETES Act promoting federal investments in innovation to make the U.S. more competitive.

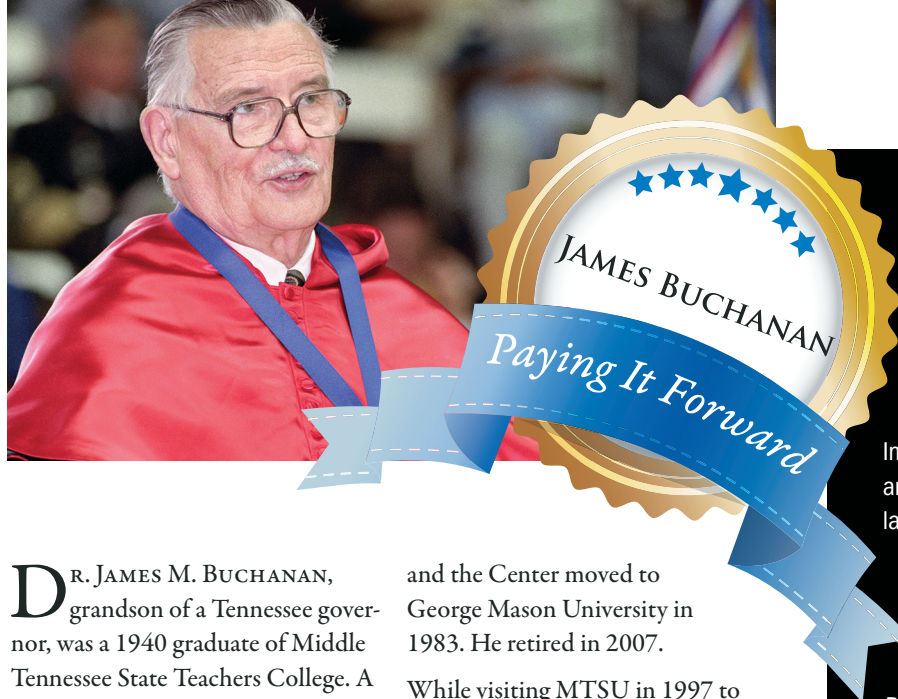
He counts the Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act, the 911 Improvement Act, and the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act (aimed

at curbing youth suicide) among his legislative achievements. Gordon cowrote the Family Medical Leave Act in 1990, which was signed into law in 1993 by President Bill Clinton. Gordon also wrote the Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act, which protects amateur athletes from abusive contract practices, and helped pass laws regulating 1-800 and 1-900 numbers for the first time.

Gordon has been a champion of expansion and improvement at Stones River National Battlefield, and he wrote legislation creating the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area. He also helped make possible the Discovery Center at Murfree Spring, Murfreesboro's greenways and improvements to Oaklands Historic House Museum.

For 20 years running, Gordon was known as "the fastest member of Congress" by virtue of his victories in the Capital Challenge, an annual three-mile race for charity.

When he retired from Congress in 2011, Gordon joined the law firm of K&L Gates as a partner. In 2012, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York. Later that year, the government of France awarded him the Legion of Honor with an added promotion by the president to the rank of *Officier*. **MTSU**



Eyes on the PRIZE

Just before the May commencement ceremony, Buchanan's family gave his Nobel Prize to MTSU on a perpetual loan basis.

In addition, a \$2.5 million bequest from Buchanan's estate was announced and earmarked for MTSU's Honors College. It is the largest donation to the Honors College. In 2002, brothers Lee and Paul Martin Jr. gave \$2 million to the University to help construct the building that bears their late father's name.

Until his death, Buchanan had been a significant financial supporter of the Honors College. His funding supported the Buchanan Fellows program, the highest scholarship offered by the University.

Stemming from the gift, MTSU and George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, will explore a potential partnership that President Sidney A. McPhee said will "create an exceptionally accessible and complete record of Dr. Buchanan's work."

A portion of the bequest will also be used to establish the James M. Buchanan Lecture Series. **MTSU**



[Editor's Note: Bill Fisher, Jimmy Hart, Randy Weiler, and Jim Williams contributed to this report.]

DR. JAMES M. BUCHANAN, grandson of a Tennessee governor, was a 1940 graduate of Middle Tennessee State Teachers College. A Rutherford County native, Buchanan received the 1986 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences.

Buchanan, who died earlier this year at age 93, is the only MTSU alumnus so far to win the honor. A stridently independent thinker, Buchanan earned the Nobel for "his development of the contractual and constitutional bases for the theory of economic and political decision making." Within the economics discipline, his contribution is known as the field of public choice, which brings the tools of economic analysis to the study of public decision making.

Buchanan once wrote, "If Jim Buchanan can get a Nobel Prize, anyone can."

Buchanan also completed a graduate fellowship at UT-Knoxville and an economics fellowship at Columbia University. Following naval service in the Pacific, he earned his doctorate from the University of Chicago. Dr. Buchanan wrote and lectured around the world into his 90s. He spent much of his academic career in Virginia, first at the University of Virginia, then at Virginia Tech, where he established the Center for the Study of Public Choice. Buchanan

and the Center moved to George Mason University in 1983. He retired in 2007.

While visiting MTSU in 1997 to address students, Buchanan said, "Economics . . . requires expository writing skills, logical structures of analysis, and a grounding in ultimate reality. And political economy, the branch of moral philosophy from which economics springs, requires philosophical coherence. I came away from Middle Tennessee with all of these."

Speaking at MTSU's commencement in May 2000, Buchanan challenged graduates to question the day's political leadership.

"An open politics makes no distinction between the Ivy Leagues and the bush leagues when it comes to telling us what we want our government to do. The people, yes, but all the people, treated as equals, and not some more equal than others."

In 2006, President Sidney A. McPhee established the Buchanan Fellowship program in the University Honors College to attract top scholars from across the state and country. Only a limited number of applicants are selected each year as Buchanan Fellows, the highest academic award given to an entering MTSU student. **MTSU**

Raiders of Industry

by Drew Ruble

A roundup of former MTSU athletes
plying their wares in the big leagues

Beyond Blue

MT athletics boasts an impressive roster of former student-athletes now playing professionally. Spotlights here is the cream of the crop—the most recognizable former Blue Raiders now making a living as professional athletes.

Baseball

Michael McKenry
Pittsburgh Pirates

Major League Baseball fans will remember the night of July 26, 2011, when a game between the Atlanta Braves and the Pittsburgh Pirates lasted 19 innings (6 hours and 39 minutes) and ended at 1:50 a.m. ET with what some sportswriters described as the worst officiating call ever in baseball. How does this apply to MTSU? When Braves runner Julio Lugo scored from third base on the contested play at the plate that ended the game with a Braves victory, replays clearly showed that former MTSU baseball standout Michael McKenry—the Pirate catcher—made the tag for the out. The home plate umpire saw it differently. The loss sent the Pirates, who were in the thick

of a playoff hunt for the first time in decades, into a spiral. After that loss, the Pirates lost 21 of their next 29 games and fell out of contention in the National League Central. McKenry started the 2013 season in a catching rotation with former Dodger and Yankee Russell Martin. Other former Blue Raider pro baseball players playing in the minor league system include Hunter Adkins, Bryce Brentz, Brett Carroll, Alex McClure, Justin Miller, Daniel Palo, Kenneth Roberts, Will Skinner, and Coty Woods.

Alysha Clark ('09)

Seattle Storm

A. S. Ramat Hasharon
Electra

Clark, who led the NCAA in scoring and set a school record with 27.5 points per game while a senior at MTSU, got her pro career back on track last year with the Seattle Storm in the WNBA. (Clark has also played in Israel.) Clark was recently named an assistant coach for the Lady Raiders. She will remain with Seattle until their season is complete this fall.

Golf

**Chas Narramore, Rick Cochran ('09), Kent Bulle ('11),
Jason Millard ('11), and Hunter Green** could soon crack a

PGA tour event. A recent list of 10 “golfers to watch” on the 2013 National Golf Association tour (widely regarded as the number-three men’s professional golf tour in the U.S.) spotlighted Narramore, Cochran, Bulle, and Millard in particular as players who could move up to the Web.com tour or even the PGA Tour “sooner than later.” Narramore finished top-5 in NGA earnings in 2012 with four top-10 finishes. Cochran had six top-10s.



Beyond Blue

Basketball

Tom Gunn
Kis-Raba menti Takarek
Soproni KC (Hungary)

Gunn has been playing pro basketball in Europe since 2004.

Chrissy Givens ('06)
BC ICIM Arad
Givens lit up the Romanian National League earlier this year, leading in scoring at over 19 points per game and taking ICIM Arad to first place in her first season with the team.

Amber Holt ('11)
Tulsa Shock
Uniwa Euroleasing Sopron
Last season, her fifth in the WNBA, Holt started 18 games for the Tulsa Shock. (She has also played in Hungary.)

Laron Dendy ('12)
Kolossos Rodou B.C.
Dendy plays in the Greek Basketball League, averaging nearly

15 points and six rebounds per game. Currently, Dendy is a member of the world champion Miami Heat's summer league squad.

James Washington ('11)
Nassjo, Sweden
Washington averaged 20 points per game for Leitershofen, Germany, last season.

Tim Blue ('07)
Antibes, France
Blue was recently named finals MVP in the French league.

[Editor's Note: Earlier this year, Marcos Knight ('13) experienced his first NBA workout with the Brooklyn Nets in front of coaches from various NBA teams, including the Nets, Lakers, Clippers, Rockets, and Timberwolves.]

Fishing

Kendall Newson
MTSU's all-time leading receiver (1998-2001), who played receiver professionally for the Tennessee Titans and Miami Dolphins, is today a member of the American Bass Anglers Bassmaster Weekend Series circuit.

Soccer

Lisa-Marie Woods
Boston Breakers
Fortuna Hjørring
A pro player in Denmark and a member of the Norwegian Women's National Team system since 2003, Woods recently signed a contract with the Boston Breakers of the newly christened National Women's Soccer League (NWSL).

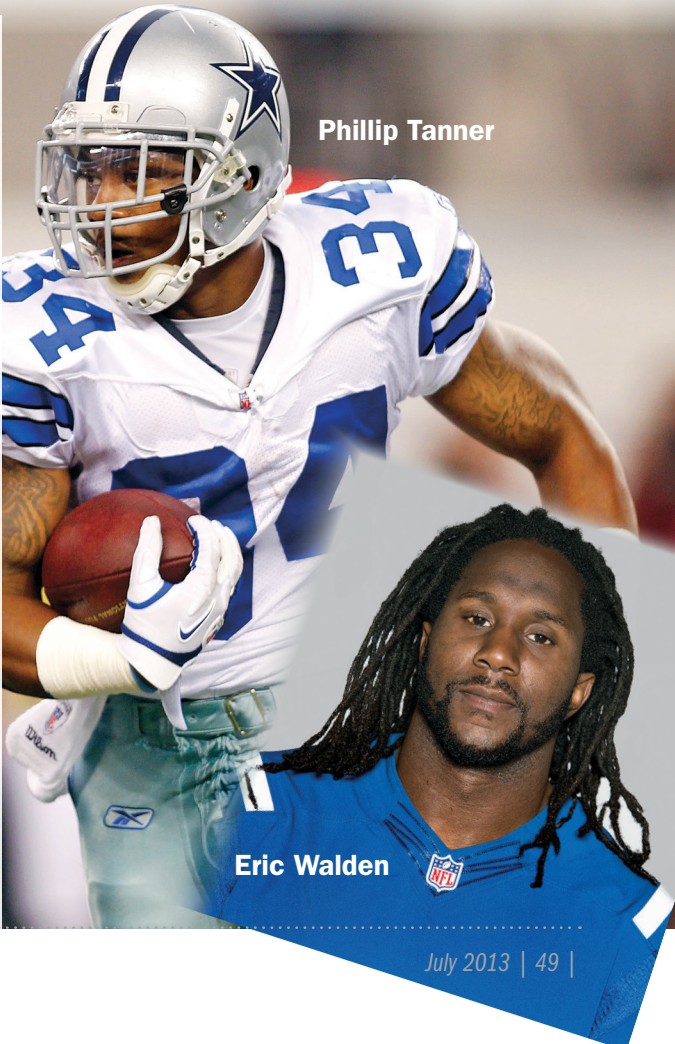
Katie Daley Sherwood
Chelsea Ladies Football Club
Sherwood is in her second season playing in England in the Football Association's Women's Super League (FAWSL).

Shan Jones ('12)
Jones was selected to the Wales Women's National Team for the 2013 Algarve Cup, a prestigious global competition between 12 national teams held in Algarve, Portugal.

Football

Eric Walden ('07)
Indianapolis Colts
Though he had just three sacks last season, Walden ranked second among Green Bay Packers defenders in quarterback hits with 24. During the off-season, the Indianapolis Colts signed Walden to a four-year, \$16 million free-agent contract.

Phillip Tanner ('10)
Dallas Cowboys
Tanner will enter the 2013 NFL season as one of the backups to starter DeMarco Murray in the backfield for the Cowboys.
[Editor's Note: Four former Middle Tennessee football players recently signed undrafted free agent contracts with NFL teams and will be working hard this summer to try to make an opening-day roster. Tailback Benny Cunningham inked a contract with the St. Louis Rams, and safety Jajuan Harley agreed to a deal with the Seattle Seahawks. Receiver Anthony Amos signed with the Dallas Cowboys, and lineman and former team captain Micah James signed with the Atlanta Falcons.]



Phillip Tanner

Eric Walden



Kent Bulle

Charlie Hughes

Charlie Hughes ('71), executive director of the Chattanooga Community Kitchen and a former football coach, has been described by Chattanooga's *Times Free Press* as "Knute Rockne for Team Homeless," who inspires those he serves to get "back onto life's gridiron—even when they've given up hope of completing their much needed, miraculous Hail Mary." Hughes began working for the kitchen in 1989 as a case manager and became director in 2000.



David Jarrard

In 2011, *O'Dwyer's* ranked Nashville-based health care public affairs firm Jarrard Phillips Cate & Hancock the 14th-fastest-growing independent public affairs firm in the nation and the fastest-growing in Tennessee for the second year running. President and CEO **David Jarrard ('85)** has led communications campaigns for hospitals and health care companies throughout the country over the last 16 years. Before starting his own

firm, Jarrard was president of the Ingram Group, vice president of communications for Whittle Communications Inc., and a partner at McNeely Pigott & Fox Public Relations. He began his career as a reporter for *The Tennessean*.

1950s

Gale Prince ('57), Murfreesboro, was inducted into the Tennessee Lions Club Hall of Fame.

1960s

The Nashville Pro Bono Program, a joint venture of the Legal Aid Society and Nashville Bar Association, honored **Perry Happell ('65)** with the Volunteer of the Year Award for 2012, a year in which Happell represented 19 clients referred to him by the Nashville Pro Bono Program. A founding partner in the Nashville law firm of Blackburn, McCune, Happell & Zenner, he practices law in the areas of bankruptcy and Social Security disability.

1970s

Pettus Read ('70), Rockvale, received the Outstanding Commitment to Tennessee Agriculture Award by the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. He was also recognized with a joint House resolution for his many years of covering and promoting rural life in Tennessee.

Gary ('72) and Terry Moore Davenport ('72), Sacramento, Calif., are now with Beijing Church of Christ in Beijing, China.

Kenneth Honeycutt ('76), Murfreesboro, is retiring after 34



Keel Hunt

Keel Hunt ('71) has written a new book, *Coup* (Vanderbilt University Press), a behind-the-scenes story of the downfall of former Tennessee governor Ray Blanton. A former city editor at *The Tennessean*, Hunt was a key member of then-gubernatorial candidate Lamar Alexander's campaign staff and later was Alexander's special assistant. Hunt, who has a master's from Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University and also attended the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, later became a strategy consultant for businesses including HCA and Pilot Oil Corp. He later served as staff director of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, leading the planning for the Partnership 2000 economic development initiative. In 1993, Hunt established his own public affairs consulting business (The Strategy Group) and has since worked for institutions including Ingram Industries, the Frist Foundation, and the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum.



Hershel “Pat” Wall

Hershel “Pat” Wall ('57) is Chancellor Emeritus at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) College of Medicine in Memphis. Wall has been special assistant to the UTHSC chancellor and special assistant to the university’s president, focusing on fund-raising, capital development, and alumni relations. A longtime UTHSC faculty member and administrator, Wall has also served as UTHSC chancellor, interim dean for the UT College of Medicine, associate dean for admissions and student affairs, and division chief of General Pediatrics. An endowed student scholarship fund has recently been created at the school in his honor.



Jamie Berry (far right) oversees on-air commentary at Goodwill.



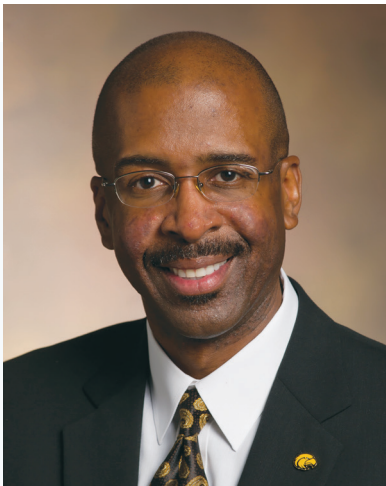
Ronald Roberts

Ronald Roberts ('84, '91) has been promoted to president and CEO of DVL Public Relations & Advertising, one of the largest and best-known public relations and advertising agencies in the Southeast. Roberts joined DVL in 1992 following stints at the Nashville Network and MTSU. He is on the boards of Citizens Bank & Trust, the Nashville Sports Council, Second Harvest Food Bank, Nashville Downtown Rotary Club, Nashville Downtown Partnership, and 100 Black Men of Middle Tennessee.



Jamie Berry

A former producer at NewsChannel 5 who spent 14 years in the news business, **Jamie Berry ('98)** found her dream job last year as the new public relations and communications manager for Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee.



Rodney Bennett

Rodney Bennett ('90, '92, '93) has become the 10th president of the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. The appointment makes Bennett the first African American to lead the university or any of the state's historically white institutions

of higher learning. Bennett most recently served as vice president of student affairs at the University of Georgia.

1970s, cont.

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years with the Murfreesboro Fire and Rescue Department.

Elizabeth Farrar Hord ('76, '82), Murfreesboro, was the honoree at the MTMC Foundation Power of Pink's inaugural Wine Around the Square event on Sept. 21, 2012.

Wayne Shanks ('76), Cookeville, is retiring after 36 years of teaching/administration to spend more time with his other passion: his family.

Russell Neal Sr., ('77), Mt. Juliet, was promoted to assurance senior manager for the Nashville firm of Decosimo Certified Public Accountants in October 2012.

Guy Wilson ('77), Greenville, N.C., is chief financial officer for Shalag US, a wholly owned subsidiary of Shalag Industries, a publicly traded Israeli corporation.

Edward Arning ('78), Murfreesboro, is the new director of Printing Services at MTSU. He will be responsible for expanding Printing Services' offerings, which will include a new retail site in the Student Union Building.

Denice Rucker ('78), Murfreesboro, retired from State Farm after 27 years.

Penny Baker ('79), Clinton, retired from the Anderson County Sheriff's Department after 32 years.

Kimberly Shadwick Savona ('79) is general manager of the Mall at Green Hills, Nashville's premier upscale retail destination. Savona has spent the past 24 years with Michigan-based Taubman Centers, which owns and/or operates 27 premium shopping centers nationwide.

1980s

Don Embry ('80, '88), Shelbyville, was named superintendent of schools for the Bedford County School District.

Kina (Steed) Mallard ('81) was promoted from vice president of academic affairs to executive vice president at Carson-Newman University in Jefferson City, where she also serves as provost.

Rob Mitchell ('82), Murfreesboro, was elected property assessor of Rutherford County in August 2012.



Steve Graham

Steve Graham ('92) was an all-conference athlete on the MTSU golf team. From 1994 into 1997, Graham played professional golf on several of the smaller U.S. tours. These days, he's general manager and director of golf (and one of the owners, including Champions Tour player Kirk Triplett) of Champions Run golf course in Rockvale, Tenn., which has a state-of-the-art practice and training center that MTSU golfers use to keep their skills sharp during the winter months.



Phil Williams ('85), Nashville, an investigative reporter for WTVF-TV, was among 20 recent initiates inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society.

Tonya Cherry ('87), senior manager in the Nashville office of accounting firm Rodefer Moss, is a Court Appointed Special Advocate in Wilson County. Volunteer advocates are assigned to juvenile abuse cases and work to expedite them through the judicial system while providing continuity and support for children. So far, Cherry has helped seven children from five families.

Molly Glover ('88), Memphis, joined the law firm of Burch,

Porter & Johnson in Memphis. She was recently listed by the Tennessee Supreme Court as a Rule 31 mediator and was selected by her peers as a Mid-South Super Lawyer in 2012.

Raymond Pryor ('88), Wartrace, was recognized by the Webb School Parents Association with the 2012 WSPA Faculty Enrichment Award. He is director of technology and a computer teacher at the Webb School.

1990s

Jonathan Cooke ('90), Brentwood, is a certified public accountant and a partner in tax services with Lattimore, Black Morgan & Cain.



You Do What?

Jennifer Stone Shaw

Jennifer Stone Shaw ('01), a textiles, merchandising, and design major is an assistant draper in the costume shop of the Los Angeles Opera, working with general director Plácido Domingo. The company hires top-notch designers from around the world, and Shaw's job is to help turn their designs into garments in which artists can perform. Shaw is shown here in one of the dresses she helped create.

Christopher Whaley ('91), Harriman, is president of Roane State Community College.

Lynn Baxter ('92), Ooltewah, was named 2012 Elementary School Teacher of the Year by the Tennessee Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance.

Melanie Hamilton Baldwin ('93), Memphis, was part of a collectively written book (along with a group

a partner in LBMC Outsourcing Services Division/Tax Services.

Mary Rickman Dayton ('93, '06), Smyrna, has been named head coach of the volleyball team at Stewarts Creek High School. She will also teach physical education.

Kelly Rollins ('93), Murfreesboro, was awarded the National Medallion of Honor by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America for his support and devoted service.

Tim Henderson ('95) is the new executive director for Humanities Tennessee, the state-based program of the National Endowment for the Humanities that operates the Southern Festival of Books. Henderson, who earned master's degrees in English and information science from MTSU, previously served as director of operations.

Gregory Milnar ('95), Franklin, has been promoted to chief financial officer at Milnar Organ Company. Greg is an affiliate broker with Forest Hills Realtors in Nashville.

Virginia K. "Ginger" Johnson ('96), Nashville, was named a partner with Seigenthaler Public Relations Inc., an award-winning communications firm with offices in Nashville, New York, and Chicago.

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Shalynn G. Ford Womack ('90), Nashville, had two books published recently—*Ice on the Wing: Essays on Life and Other Difficult Situations* (nonfiction) and *Attachment: Four Stories of Love and Loss* (fiction).

Brian Byrd ('91, '96), Murfreesboro, is the new chief financial officer for Roscoe Brown Inc., a 73-year-old HVAC company with operations throughout middle Tennessee.

of 22 other parents) called *The Thinking Mom's Revolution—Autism Beyond the Spectrum: Inspiring True Stories from Parents Fighting to Rescue Their Children*.

Paul Burris ('93), Franklin, is a certified public accountant and



A. J. Busé

A. J. Busé ('85, '97) has been named to the slate of officers for the American Advertising Federation Council of Governors, a national-level leadership position with the AAF. Busé previously served as governor of the AAF's District 7, comprising 23 local advertising clubs across the South. He started his own advertising and public relations business, Brand New Day, in 1997.



Meagan Flippin

Meagan Flippin ('07, '09) was promoted from senior director to president and CEO of the United Way of Rutherford and Cannon Counties following a nationwide search. Past president of Murfreesboro Young Professionals and past chair of the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce's Diplomat Program, Flippin is also active with the Junior League of Murfreesboro and the Blue Raider Athletic Association. She earned her bachelor's with a concentration in advertising and public relations and her master's in professional studies in strategic leadership from MTSU. Before joining United Way in 2009, she worked for the Musicians Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville and for MTSU.



Jessica Campbell

Nashville singer-songwriter **Jessica Campbell ('03, '05)** released her second album, *The Anchor & The Sail*, in April. Fellow MTSU alum Dave Barnes (Grammy-nominated for "God Gave Me You") contributed vocals to the album. Last year, Campbell signed a worldwide copublishing agreement with Franklin-based MWS Group, owned by artist Michael W. Smith.

Skye Medley

You might say **Skye Medley ('06, '09)** travels with a fast crowd. Medley is a production manager assistant for ESPN's NASCAR coverage team who travels from race to race doing logistical planning, coordinating interview times with other networks, and seeing that producers and announcers have what they need for the broadcasts. A Mass Communications major who concentrated in electronic media journalism, Medley has also worked the Liberty Bowl, the Music City Bowl, the Winter X Games, and NFL Monday Night Football.





Parker Ray Boutté



William Owen Dean



Macon Chandler Reed



Laken Christopher Wade

BABY RAIDERS

Jaxton Edward Graham, January 15, 2013, to **Jade Edward ('94)** and Anjie Graham of Gladeville.

Emma Nicole Tolson, October 16, 2011, to **John Tolson ('96)** and Amanda Rhodes of Chesapeake, Va.

Lucas E. Nokes, November 2, 2011, to **Nicholas ('98)** and **Susan Spingler Nokes ('98)** of Liberty.

Parker Ray Boutté, June 22, 2012, to Scott and **Rae Clarke Boutté ('03)**, of Ringgold, Ga.

William Owen Dean, February 8, 2013, to William and **Colleen McEachen Dean ('04)**, of Hendersonville.

Avery Grace Smith, June 4, 2012, to **Josh ('06)** and **Katie Peek Smith ('05)** of Tullahoma.

Keely Rayann Thomas, October 12, 2011, to **Keosha Thomas ('06)** of Antioch.

Macon Chandler Reed, March 19, 2013, to **Tyler ('10)** and **Alisha King Reed ('10)** of Readyville.

Laken Christopher Wade, November 16, 2012, to **Chris ('10)** and **Holly Wade** of Tullahoma.

Connor Ryan Speck, July 19, 2012, to **Ryan ('11)** and Jenna **Speck** of Fayetteville.

Jason Brooks

Jason Brooks ('06) was recently hired as defensive secondary coach for the Florida International University Panthers after spending the previous four seasons with the Super Bowl XLVII champion Baltimore Ravens, most recently as offensive quality control assistant.

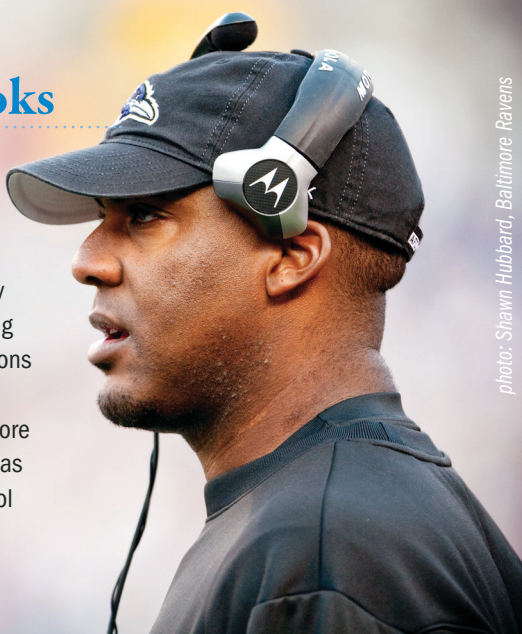


photo: Shawn Hubbard, Baltimore Ravens



Evyn Mustoe

Evyn Mustoe ('07) is creative manager at ASCAP Nashville. The nonprofit American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers is one of three performance rights organizations that work to protect the songwriter copyrights of its members by monitoring public performances of music (broadcast or live) and

compensating them accordingly. Mustoe's focus at ASCAP is on the growing pop/rock scene in Nashville and the Southeast.

► To submit class notes and pictures, go to www.MTAlumni.com, or email alumni@mtsu.edu.



Luke Paschall



Walt Bell

Luke Paschall & Walt Bell

Two former Blue Raider football players are coaches for the University of North Carolina football team. **Walt Bell** ('05, '06) is tight ends coach, and his brother, **Luke Paschall** ('06, '07), is assistant coach for special teams. MTSU plays at UNC on Sept. 7, 2013.

1990s, cont.

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Donovan Sargent ('96), College Grove, has joined LBMC Technologies as a network system engineer in its Brentwood office.

Bobby Bosko Grubic ('99), Marina del Rey, Calif., produced and directed a short film, *Change to Spare*, written by Michael Dorazio. The film was selected from among 300 entries as one of the 10 best at the 2nd Annual Debra Hill/2012 Producers Guild of America Weekend Shorts Awards held in association with New Filmmakers in Los Angeles.

2000s

Barret Albritton ('00), Signal Mountain, attorney for Leitner, Williams, Dooley and Napolitan was named Young Attorney of the Year by the Chattanooga Bar Association.

Angie Teaque Grissom ('00), Franklin, has been promoted to president of the Rainmaker Companies. She will oversee the firm's alliances, consulting, and training services.

Helen Blankenship ('01, '04), Murfreesboro, was elected to the Rutherford County School Board.

Torian Hodges-Finch ('01), Antioch, a sixth-grade teacher at Smyrna Middle School, is president of the Rutherford Education Association.

Delvecchio Rankins ('03), Hartsville, has joined First Freedom Bank as a customer service representative in the Lebanon office.

Stewart Aaron Carlton ('05), Eagleville, worked as a political/economic officer at the U.S. embassy in Kampala, Uganda, from August 2010 until August 2012 and as a reporting officer and advisor at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York City until December 2012. He is now training at the George P. Schultz Foreign Affairs Institute in Arlington, Va., preparing for his next assignment as a consular officer in Caracas, Venezuela.

Keosha Thomas ('06), Antioch, is a celebrity/entertainer journalist for the online publication Examiner.com. She is a publicist for Grammy Award-winning **Torrance Esmond** ('03).

Mark Bell ('08), Talbott, a professional journalist, won his second Malcolm Law Investigative Reporting Award from the Associated Press.

Matthew Swafford ('08, '10), Nashville, was promoted to audit senior in the audit practice at Deloitte & Touche.

Kevin Kanaskie ('09), Boalsburg, Penn., is the new head coach of boys basketball at Ottumwa High School in Ottumwa, Ill.

Silviu Ciulei

Among the latest major guitar competitions won by Romanian guitarist **Silviu Ciulei** ('08) was the open division of the third annual Indiana International Guitar Festival and Competition, held by the prestigious Indiana University Jacobs School of Music in 2012. Ciulei, who studied guitar at MTSU with William Yelverton, has since graduated with a master's in guitar performance from Florida State University, where he is now teaching and working on a doctoral degree.





Chet Overall

Chet Overall ('09) leads the Lagniappe Brass Band, based in New Orleans, which was chosen to be on the king float in the 2012 Endymion Mardi Gras parade, ferrying music superstar Kelly Clarkson (pictured here with Chet playing saxophone).

2010s

Kyle Mahoney ('10), Clarksville, graduated from the Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Program, Vance AFB, on June 29, 2012. He is continuing on to pilot B-52s at Barksdale AFB in Barksdale, La.

Michael Bolton ('11), Smyrna, is now a tax department staff member in the Brentwood office of Lattimore, Black, Morgan & Cain.

Anthony Dudley ('11) is one of the latest success stories to emerge from MTSU's graduate sports management program, directed by Dr. Colby Jubenville. Dudley earned a degree from Florida State University, but two years after graduation, he felt he was at a standstill in his professional career and enrolled at MTSU. In 2011, upon graduation with a master's, Dudley was hired by the Nashville Sports Council as marketing and development manager of the council and the Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl.

Catrice James ('11), Nashville, has joined the Brentwood office of Lattimore, Black, Morgan & Cain.

Phonethida "Tiffany" Sirikoun ('11), Smyrna, was promoted to operations project manager for the concrete manufacturer and aggregate supplier Chaney Enterprises.

November "Nova" Ford ('12), Nashville, is co-owner of Creative Capers, a copyediting/proofreading service. Ford also cowrote the award-winning short story *One Afternoon in the House of Numb*, which originally appeared in *Collage* and is included in the recently published *Attachment: Four Stories of Love and Loss* (Spearhead Press). She designed the cover for that book and also for *Ice on the Wing: Essays on Life and Other Difficult Situations*.

Elliot C. Malone ('12), Mosheim, completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. **MTSU**

In Memoriam

1940s

James Buchanan ('40), Blacksburg, Va., January 9, 2013

Eva Wilburn Fielder ('42), Waynesboro, November 29, 2012

Dalton Stroop ('42), Murfreesboro, October 1, 2012

Sandell Dalton McCrary ('45), Murfreesboro, November 2, 2012

William Shacklett ('45), Murfreesboro, October 19, 2012

Briley Adcock ('46), Florence, Ala., November 28, 2012

Joe McCrary ('46), Murfreesboro, January 11, 2013

Kathryn Kerby Tolle ('46), Keller, Texas, January 22, 2013

Beatrice Pittard White ('48), Sandy, Utah, January 22, 2013

Norman Weems ('49), Glen Cove, New York, September 8, 2012

Arsey Womack ('49), McMinnville, June 23, 2012

1950s

James Dillingham ('50), Shelbyville, October 10, 2012

Martha Powell Haun ('50), Trinidad, Colo., November 6, 2012

Solan Wheeler ('50, '52), Signal Mountain, October 2, 2012

Delmas Grammer ('51), Madison, January 8, 2013

Horace Reed ('52), Bradyville, September 5, 2012

John Adkerson ('54), Smyrna, November 12, 2012

Ervin Manning ('54), La Vergne, October 17, 2012

Thomas Cheney ('56, '58), Hermitage, February 23, 2013

Joe Hardy ('56), Winchester, November 13, 2012

Allan Welch ('56), Old Hickory, January 13, 2013

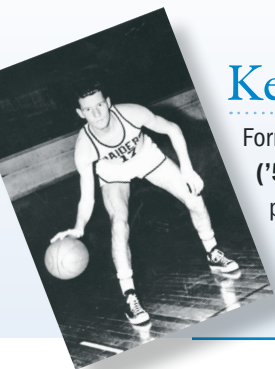
J. T. West ('56), Bethpage, September 30, 2012

Robert David ('57), Chattanooga, April 12, 2013

Ramon Nelms ('57), Nashville, September 25, 2012

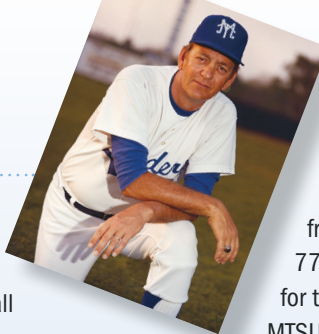
Donald Clark ('58), Huntsville, Ala., June 4, 2012

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Ken Trickey

Former MTSU athlete and head coach **Ken Trickey ('56, '62)** died last December at age 79. Trickey played basketball and baseball at MTSU from 1952 to 1955 and was MTSU's head basketball coach from 1965 to 1969.



John Stanford

John Stanford ('62, '64), a Blue Raider baseball player from 1960 to 1963, died on July 1, 2013, at the age of 77. Stanford, who pitched two seasons in the major leagues for the Washington Senators, served as baseball manager for MTSU from 1974 to 1987 and as athletic director of MTSU from 1987 until 1994.

1950s, cont.

George Duncan ('58, '70),
Nashville, January 26, 2013

Marjorie Fyke ('59, '62),
Springfield, March 20, 2013

Joe Hollis ('59), Murfreesboro,
March 31, 2013

1960s

Robert Clark ('60), Campbellsville,
Ky., April 5, 2013

George Lanning ('60),
Lawrenceburg, January 17, 2012

Reba Hill Newby ('60, '63),
McMinnville, July 13, 2012

William Youree ('60), Readyville,
February 3, 2013

Marjorie Doubleday ('61),
Hermitage, September 7, 2012

Oma Griffith ('62), Whitwell,
December 7, 2011

R. Shelton Hatcher ('62),
Hendersonville, October 10, 2012

Charlene Bentley Key ('62, '67, '92), Lebanon, February 1, 2013

Richard Brodhead ('62),
Lebanon, July 26, 2012

James Preston ('62), Memphis,
August 7, 2012

Geddes Noble Boone ('63),
Dearborn, Mich., October 5, 2012

Edward Kelly ('63), New Fairfield,
Conn., November 17, 2012

Jacqueline McClain Sherrill ('64, '89, '94), Mt. Pleasant, November 5, 2012

Richard Short ('64, '78),
Fayetteville, December 3, 2012

Albert Jones ('66), Franklin, April 4, 2013

David Stacey Jr. ('66), Lewisburg,
October 28, 2012

Mary Chamberlain Allen ('67),
Nashville, October 29, 2012

Kathleen Bryson ('67, '75),
Murfreesboro, October 18, 2012

Robert Hlodan ('67, '69),
Gardena, Calif., October 9, 2012

Talmadge Overton ('67), Lafayette,
February 15, 2013

Betty Campbell Smith ('67),
Murfreesboro, January 21, 2013

Joseph Grandstaff ('69), Old
Hickory, November 16, 2012

James Hooker ('69), Shelbyville,
December 27, 2012

Burl Kell ('69), Ringgold, Ga.,
November 19, 2012

1970s

Russell Jarrell ('70), Hixson,
November 2, 2012

Robert Lavender ('70), Memphis,
March 31, 2013

Ben Perkins ('70), Bowdon, Ga.,
October 24, 2012

Curtis Grubbs ('71), Fort Worth,
Texas, November 30, 2012

Linda O'Rear ('71), Columbia,
September 29, 2012

Kenneth Williams ('71, '72),
Lawrenceburg, June 29, 2012

Dorris Dennis Jr. ('72), College
Park, Md., December 12, 2012

Jarrett Greene ('72, '73),
Sewanee, October 27, 2012

Ivan E. Shewmake

Ivan E. Shewmake ('72, '74), died in March 2013 at age 70. A U.S. Army vet who served in Vietnam, Shewmake was MTSU's associate dean of students for men, assistant director of University Housing, student ombudsman, and director of University Housing. He retired from MTSU in 1997.

Leonard Harris ('72), Lebanon,
September 23, 2012

Ronald Potts ('72), Tullahoma, July 9, 2012

Frances Bass Cox ('73),
McMinnville, January 29, 2013

James Mullinix ('73), Livingston,
April 4, 2013

Earline Thigpin ('73), Murfreesboro,
January 17, 2013

Grace Clore Camp ('74, '79),
Tullahoma, February 28, 2013

Sandra Rubens Gardner ('74),
Rockwood, October 25, 2012

Allie Malone ('74), Watertown,
December 9, 2012

Homer Huffman Jr. ('75),
Murfreesboro, February 6, 2013

Gary Miller ('75), Chattanooga,
October 2, 2012

Barbara Shahrokhi Crowell ('76),
Jackson, October 22, 2012

Nick Dudiak ('76), Murfreesboro,
January 23, 2013

Willetta McClain ('76), Nashville,
November 3, 2012

James Pope ('76), Murfreesboro,
December 11, 2012

Martin Rooker ('76), Murfreesboro,
April 14, 2012

Randall Vanatta ('76), Lebanon,
March 30, 2013

Robert Duncan ('77), Gallatin,
April 30, 2012

Donna Edwards ('77), Belfast,
August 8, 2012

Willard Wallace Jr. ('77), Goodlettsville,
October 3, 2012

Teresa Gearlds Burnside ('78),
Cincinnati, Ohio, January 23, 2013

Richard Collins ('78), Tupelo,
Miss., November 4, 2012

Martha E. Fries ('78), Ooltewah,
February 14, 2013

John Taylor ('78), McMinnville,
July 6, 2012

Greg Bettis ('79, '91), Tullahoma,
February 3, 2013

Sheikh Faye ('79), Bakau, Gambia,
February 11, 2013

Phillip Johnson ('79), Lewisburg,
February 6, 2013

Claudetta Walls Rudolph ('79),
Goodlettsville, February 6, 2013

Thomas Ware ('79), Goodlettsville,
November 14, 2012 [MTSU](#)



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